

MEDIA

# Six DCF workers may have lied for aid

## Weeding out errors

State reviews caught \$428,945 worth of fraud before disaster food stamp payments went out in Wilma's wake - less than one-fifth of 1 percent of benefits paid. The reviews help catch:

- Math errors
- Lies about living in the disaster area
- People who applied for benefits more than once
- People who fail to report income from verifiable sources like Social Security retirement or child support

## Accused of cheating to obtain hurricane food stamps

By KATHLEEN CHAPMAN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Six Department of Children and Families employees who applied for disaster food stamps after Hurricane Wilma may have lied to get the payments, according to a state report released this week.

Of 449 aid workers who

applied, a total of 20 were paid the wrong amounts, reviewers found. A wider survey of applications from the public found fewer mistakes — 15 out of 1,203 payments in a random sample.

The review, however, cannot catch people who lied about hurricane damage or expenses. And it cannot catch

those who lied about the income they earned, except in the case of its own employees, whose paychecks are on record with the agency.

Florida distributed \$269.7 million in emergency aid to more than 2.1 million people after Hurricane Wilma. The one-time payments, ranging from \$152 for a single person

to \$1,938 for one household of 17, were meant for families who could not afford to buy groceries after the storm.

A Palm Beach Post investigation earlier this year found few safeguards to prevent people from lying about their income, number of household members or even iden-

See FOOD STAMPS, 4B ▶

## Silence leads to dismissal of jury

A juror failed to disclose her daughter was murdered.

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The anticipated start of the high-stakes murder trial of Jeffrey Lamb ended abruptly Friday when it was learned that one of the jurors did not disclose during jury selection that her daughter was murdered five years ago.

The juror's reticence resulted in all 12 jurors and one alternate being dismissed. The panel was chosen from a pool of 120 prospective jurors after three days of painstaking questioning. Among the questions was whether anybody in the jury pool or their family members had been crime victims.

"She flat-out should be charged with perjury," said prosecutor Craig Williams. "She should be made an example of."

The Lamb trial unraveled less than two hours before attorneys were to deliver opening arguments, when a woman in the jury pool who was not selected for the panel phoned the jury administration office and the office of the trial judge, Circuit Judge Lucy Chernow Brown. She said that one juror, Dorothea Moore, had mentioned to several people that her daughter had been killed by the daughter's husband, but had not disclosed this during questioning by attorneys during jury selection.

Lamb, 33, was charged two years ago with brutally smashing Cathy Lamb in the head with a heavy tire iron in their Lake Park duplex. The motive: to collect a \$29,000 insurance policy from the Walgreens corporate office where she worked. Prosecu-

See JUROR, 4B ▶



DAMON HIGGINS/Staff Photographer

## Getting better with age

Mike Henley, 74, of Lake Worth practices water-skiing Friday at Okeehchee Park near Greenacres. Henley, who began water-skiing

in 1954, will travel to Bakersfield, Calif., in a few weeks to compete in the National Water Ski Championships for his age group.

## West Palm budget sparks debate on cutting tax rate

The city has \$14 million in new money to spend because of increases in property values.

By THOMAS R. COLLINS  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — Three new police officers, money for kids' programs and some improved parks are the highlights of the city's proposed budget for the year that will start Oct. 1.

But in a city where the

value of the property jumped by 25 percent over last year — helping to bring in about \$14 million of new money to be spent — city commissioners are gearing up for a debate on whether to decrease the tax rate.

The result of that debate

could reshape the early budget draft, which was released this week.

A budget workshop is scheduled for Aug. 24, to be followed by public hearings Sept. 6 and 18. But by the time the public hearings are held, cities traditionally don't make many significant changes.

As it stands now, here are the key new items and capital projects in the \$358 million budget.

■ \$355,000 for seven new police positions, including three new officers and four civilian staffers who will free up officers to do more actual policing.

■ \$1 million on youth programs. Mayor Lois Frankel said this is all new revenue. But she is only sure how \$400,000 of that will be spent. It's been set aside for two "youth empowerment centers" that will provide job training, help with school-

work and offer recreation for teenagers.

■ \$2.2 million on curb, street, and sidewalk repair around the city.

■ \$1 million for city road entryways and landscaping.

■ \$500,000 on park improvements, including re-vamping the ball fields at Phipps Park.

■ \$120,000 to create a strategy for redeveloping the

See BUDGET, 4B ▶

## RUMORS ABOUND AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Cuba natives here revel in notion of life after Castro

By ANA M. VALDES  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Lucia Luisa Padrón left her native Cienfuegos, Cuba, 35 years ago, but news that communist leader Fidel Castro could be ill or possibly dead still brings a smile to her face.

"I was watching television, and I said to myself, 'Fidel has died. How wonderful.' I almost danced a conga," Padrón, 73, said Friday while at dinner with relatives at the Cuban American Club, 886 Pike Road in suburban West Palm Beach.

"I don't wish death upon anybody, but he is not a good person and has killed so many people," added Padrón, who fled Cuba during the



GARY CORONADO/Staff Photographer

'I hope they bury him upside down': Hilda Araujo joins others at the Cuban American Club, where she danced Friday with her husband, Tony, in wishing the worst for Cuba's Fidel Castro.

Freedom Flights of the 1960s and since has lived in Palm Beach County.

At a nearby table in the large dining room where televisions broadcast Spanish-language programming, Hil-

da Araujo, 68, expressed similar sentiments. While eating codfish fricassee with white rice and black beans, she said she thinks Castro is either dead or on life support.

See CUBAN CLUB, 4B ▶

## Expert: Ignorance of age isn't defense in sex cases

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Even if Palm Beach money manager Jeffrey Epstein didn't know that girls who police say gave him sexual massages at his Intracoastal home were under the legal age, that alone wouldn't have exempted him from criminal charges of sexual activity with minors.

"Ignorance is not a valid defense," said Bob Dekle, a legal skills professor who was a Lake City prosecutor for nearly 30 years, half of that time specializing in sex crimes against children.

"There is no knowledge element as far as the age is concerned," Dekle said.

After an 11-month investigation, Palm Beach police said there was probable cause to charge Epstein, 53, with unlawful sex acts with a minor



Epstein: Two politicians have returned donations since he was charged with soliciting minors.

and lewd and lascivious molestation. They contend that Epstein — friend of the rich and famous and financial patron of Democratic Party organizations and candidates — committed those acts with five underage girls.

In the past week, New York Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Eliot Spitzer has returned about \$50,000 in campaign contributions he received from Epstein, and Mark Green, a candidate to replace Spitzer in

See EPSTEIN, 5B ▶

Emily J. Minor's column will return soon.

# METRO REPORT

Weather, traffic, breaking news and special reports  
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## Soccer in solo

**WEST PALM BEACH** — Luis Coria of West Palm Beach practices by himself in the noon heat on the Park soccer fields Friday. Coria says he likes the park's seclusion.

RICHARD GRAULICH  
Staff Photographer

## POLICE BLOTTER

**JUPITER** — An 18-year-old was arrested and charged with fatally stabbing a 21-year-old man during a house party melee early Friday. Jupiter police arrested Nick Armstrong, 18, and charged him with second-degree murder. He was booked into Palm Beach County Jail on Friday afternoon.



Armstrong

Armstrong got into a fight with John Collins, 21, at a party on Hampton Circle and stabbed him in the chest around 12:15 a.m., police said. Collins then stumbled to the porch of a neighbor, who called for help. Collins was taken to St. Mary's Medical Center, where he died a few hours later. Officers were already in the area because someone called police about the initial fight.

**RIVIERA BEACH** — A 20-year-old man is wanted for allegedly shooting his father and another man during a fight. James Howard Jr. is being sought on charges of attempted murder and aggravated battery with a firearm.



Howard

At about 5 p.m. on July 28, Howard got into a fight with Donte Richardson, 23, in the 800 block of West 13th Court, police said. James Howard Sr., 45, tried to break up the fight and — along with Richardson — was shot. Neither man's injuries appeared to be life-threatening. Police say Howard Jr. may be carrying a semi-automatic firearm. He is known to drive a

2000 blue Chevrolet Monte Carlo with Florida tag E31X or a beige Lexus with Florida tag G19THL. Anyone with information about Howard Jr. is asked to call Riviera Beach detectives at (561) 882-3514, extensions 15 or 24, or Crime Stoppers at (800) 458-8477.

## ELECTIONS

**Monday is the deadline to register to vote in the Sept. 5 primary elections.** The registration deadline for the Nov. 7 general election is Oct. 10. To register, applicants must be 18, U.S. citizens and legal residents of Florida. Seventeen-year-olds may pre-register and receive their cards in the mail after their 18th birthday. Registration can be handled online, at [www.pbcelections.org](http://www.pbcelections.org), or in person. Applications can be obtained in person or by phone, from the Supervisor of Elections main office, 240 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415, (561) 656-6200.

## BRIEFLY

**PALM BEACH** — Yitschak Ben Gad, the consul general of Israel to Florida, will be a guest speaker at the Palm Beach Synagogue on 7 p.m. Tuesday. The free lecture is open to the public and will be a "behind-the-scenes update on Israel's just war," according to a news release. An author and expert on the Palestinian Arab National Movement and the Middle East, Ben Gad became consul general in 2005. He holds a doctorate in political science from Dropsie University in Philadelphia. The synagogue is at 120 N. County Road. For more information, call (561) 838-9002.

# Boca council sets goal on units needed for workforce housing

By LAURA AMMERMAN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

**BOCA RATON** — City council members on Friday set a goal for the city to provide about 500 workforce housing units for people who otherwise couldn't afford to live in the city. Council members held the workshop to clear up details on the issue and work toward their goal of finalizing an ordinance by November.

The number, which council members agreed will include new construction and existing homes, is in line with the Palm Beach County Workforce Housing Needs Assessment Package. The package says the city should add that many units by 2025, but Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel said she hopes the city can reach the goal well before then.

"I hope we get it in the next five years."

The council also agreed to continue a study that must be completed before the city can impose impact fees on

## The city will need 500 more affordable homes by 2025.

developers to help pay for workforce housing. Started in July, the study was put on hold until the council could get more clear direction on the workforce housing issue.

Council members discussed about "linkage fees," which could be charged to businesses that bring more jobs into the community. Mayor Steven Abrams was in favor of the fees, but Councilman Mike Arts said they don't make sense.

"Office Depot is moving their corporate headquarters to Boca Raton and the county is giving them incentive dollars to create jobs in our community," Arts said after the meeting. "A linkage fee means that we would turn around and tax them for the jobs they're going to create in this community. That doesn't

make a lot of sense."

Several other details of the workforce housing plan are still up for debate, including how to use money in a trust fund set up to provide workforce housing. The fund now holds \$3 million, deposited in June by Stiles Corp., a developer. City Manager Leif Ahnell said the city could use the money to assist buyers or renters, for financing programs or in partnership programs with developers.

Lisa Bright, executive director of Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency and Michael Weiner, a Delray Beach attorney who often represents developers, said they hope local communities will approach workforce housing with a regional perspective. Councilman Peter Baronoff agreed.

"I hope to live long enough to see that on the regional basis, a solution was given," he said.

Staff writer Tania Valdemoro contributed to this story.

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# 15 from county in statewide drug bust

By STEPHANIE SLATER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

At least 15 Palm Beach County residents are among the 1,219 arrested recently in a statewide attack on drugs and drug-related crime, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement announced Friday.

More than \$7.5 million, 100 kilos of cocaine, 1,000 pounds of marijuana, 180,000 Ecstasy pills, and 3,000 doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone were seized during the monthlong sweep, authorities said.

Teams and task forces from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies also busted 14 methamphetamine labs, served 72 search warrants, and seized 53 guns and 28

cars.

"I hope this will send the message that Florida has zero-tolerance for drug activity," FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey said.

South Florida agencies played a significant role in the sweep, with the South Broward Drug Enforcement Unit seizing 130,035 Ecstasy pills, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department arresting 359 people and the South Florida Money Laundering Strike Force taking nearly \$4 million, authorities said.

The sweep was part of a nationwide effort by the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies.

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Local Heroes

Find out who made Student and Teacher of the Week each Thursday in Accent.

# State raises grades for three schools after appeals

## Four other schools, however, saw requests rejected

By DON JORDAN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

State education officials accepted grade appeals from three Palm Beach County schools Friday, while rejecting four others.

Orchard View Elementary, Western Academy Charter and Seminole Ridge High all moved from a D to a C with the appeals.

The grades are based on scores from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

The Department of Education rejected appeals from John I. Leonard High (D), Melaleuca Elementary (B), Glades Central High (D) and the G-STAR School of the Arts charter school (C).

Western Academy Principal Linda Terranova was ecstatic about the results.

"It's fantastic because that D was not an indication of what we had done at our school this year," she said. "I'm thrilled. I can't wait to let

the teachers and my parents know."

Terranova attributed the initial grade to a mistake made by the state's data handlers. While Western Academy scored high enough for a C, the school was dropped to a D because of poor reading improvements — only because the state had lost the previous year's scores, Terranova said.

While the school had one reason to celebrate, it had another reason to be disappointed.

The school lost its appeal to meet the "adequate yearly progress" federal standard.

The state awarded the designation to Royal Palm School, which was the only other school in the district to appeal.

The grades and the adequate yearly progress designations are required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Superintendent Art Johnson said he was not surprised by some of the rejected appeals.

"We do understand that this is part of the state's accountability

system," he said.

The state granted appeals from South Fork High in Martin County, moving the school to a B and a "provisional" status under the adequate yearly progress standard.

Schools that earn an A or B but fail to make adequate yearly progress under federal standards are labeled with the "provisional" status. Across the state, 33 schools submitted appeals and 19 were granted.

Staff writer Christina DeNardo contributed to this story  
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# Senior services takeover will stand

A court decides Ruth Rales gets the grant the Mae Volen center had.

By SUSAN R. MILLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

An appellate court has refused to stop Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services of South Palm Beach County from taking over from Mae Volen Senior Center in Boca Raton the provision of in-home services to about 400 of southern Palm Beach County's frail elderly.

The 4th District Court of Appeal on Friday denied Mae Volen's request to stop the takeover while it contested the award of a \$1.7 million-a-year, three-year state grant to Ruth Rales by the Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc.

Last week, attorneys for Mae Volen, which had the grant for 26 years, filed a motion with the appellate court arguing that the bidding process had been tainted because numerous errors had been made, rules were changed in mid-process that altered scoring and AAA gave independent bid review panel members misinformation that led to its lower score. Ruth Rales earned 371 points; Mae Volen, 365.

Mae Volen President Elizabeth Lugo said she simply wanted her case to be heard before services were transferred. On Friday, she said no decision had been made on whether to take further legal action.

The two agencies have worked together to provide the services paid for through the grant when Mae Volen held it, and they can work together now that Ruth Rales is lead agency, said Robert McFalls, AAA's chief executive.

AAA, for its part, said Ruth Rales won the grant fair and square based on a ratings scale used in previous years.

"We had a very good independent review committee that read every proposal and scored it and had the opportunity to discuss it," said Robert McFalls, AAA's chief executive, dismissing Lugo's claim that the committee simply rubber-stamped the agency's recommendation.

In the meantime, all parties have begun to work together toward what they say will be a smooth transition of services.

"We are giving 100 percent and cooperating fully," Lugo said.

Still, the change has some of Mae Volen's clients worried. Alice Kraulos, 80, of Delray Beach fears that the day-care services her husband, Andrew, receives will disappear. He suffers from Parkinson's and she from emphysema. It took her eight months from the time she applied to the time her husband got into Mae Volen's day care program.

"Before this, I was taking care of him 24/7. I got to a point where I couldn't do it anymore," Kraulos said. "It has given me back a little life."

Although Ruth Rales does not have a senior day-care center, the agency will still provide the services, possibly even contracting with Mae Volen, Ruth Rales Executive Director Jaclynn Faffer said.

"While I can't give any guarantees, we want to have the least amount of disruption in client services," she said.

Jean Kaye, 86, of Delray Beach, who receives home health service through Mae Volen, was not happy to hear about the change either, but added, "I have no choice. I just hope they don't take my home health agency away because I have a good one."

AAA, Ruth Rales and Mae Volen executives already have met once to start the transition of services, which Faffer hopes to have completed by next month, although they have six months to make it happen.

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CHRIS MATULA/Staff Photographer

## A backpack worthy of praise

DELRAY BEACH — Kailyn Graham, 4, is proud of the new pink backpack she received at the Staples store through Variety International Processing, Inc., a drug-testing company that wanted

to give back to the community. About 300 backpacks were distributed to several organizations in the city, including Christ Missionary Baptist Church, which Kailyn attends.

# Gunfire mars bikers event; deputy shoots man

By ALLYSON BIRD  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

First came hail, then came gunfire. As National Bikers Roundup vendors tried to repair their booths after bad weather Thursday at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, a biker from the Wheels of Soul motorcycle club allegedly began firing a revolver into the crowd. The situation ended when a sheriff's deputy shot a 37-year-old Chicago man in the stomach.

The man was flown to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, where he remained in critical condition Friday, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office said. The agency did not release his name because his family had not been notified.

The sheriff's office also refused to release the deputy's name, but Sheriff Ken Mascara said he is 52 years old and a 24-year veteran of the force.

Mascara said deputies did not know why the man allegedly began shooting or how many shots were fired. The sheriff said the suspect has previous weapons and burglary charges.

Florida Highway Patrol troopers escorted the rest of the man's motorcycle club — about 50 members of the Wheels of Soul — north on Interstate 95 and out of the county.

Even with the Wheels of Soul gone, several vendors packed up their trucks Friday afternoon, though the event lasts through Sunday.

David King, a local Subway restaurant owner, said the shooter ducked behind his car and the crowd trampled through his booth Thursday

night. King and other vendors hid inside a refrigerated truck until the shooting ended. Several of them insisted Friday that there was more than one shooter.

"They didn't catch the other guy, so they're going to say there's not one more," vendor Andy Schmidgall said.

Warnings about the Wheels of Soul, which Mascara said camped in an isolated corner of the fairgrounds, were given before the roundup.

A sheriff's office report on the shooting said officials knew the club had come to St. Lucie County to recruit local members for a new chapter.

"They were to be in possession of automatic firearms and possibly drugs," the report said.

But officials did not use metal detectors or search people for weapons before they entered the event.

"The logistics of searching everybody coming into the fairgrounds would have been impossible," Mascara said, though large outdoor concerts frequently use metal detectors. He added that information about bikers intending to shoot people did not come until after the roundup had begun.

But the same report stated: "On July 31st, the sheriff's office received a phone tip that several outlaw biker gangs were going to show up to the event and start shooting members of the hosting club."

The problems at the fairgrounds Thursday

night were not limited to the Wheels of Soul. An hour before the shooting, a man was stabbed in an unrelated scuffle.

Mark Alexander, 36, emerged from the melee with a bleeding stomach but told a friend that he had not been stabbed, a sheriff's report said. The report stated that Alexander, who was "very uncooperative" with investigators, was taken to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute in Fort Pierce.

Both the shooting and the stabbing happened in the food booth area.

Vendors banded together, looking for an apology. Event organizer Kevin Perry said he would work with them Sunday to discuss partial reimbursement.

Meanwhile, representatives from the roundup and St. Lucie County tried to emphasize the positive aspects of the event at a news conference. After three days without even traffic complaints, officials pointed to the money the estimated 30,000 customers brought to the county per day. Organizer Carly Laury said that previous National Bikers Roundups have left \$3.5 million to \$12 million in host counties.

Sheriff's officials said they did not plan to increase the number of deputies. But Friday afternoon, the sheriff's new armored personnel carrier — a tanklike vehicle like those used in the Iraq war — rolled through the fairgrounds, dropping the jaws of snow cone-clutching kids and leather-laden bikers alike.

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# Delray mayor distances self from commissioner

By DIANNA SMITH  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

DELRAY BEACH — Mayor Jeff Perlman wants to make two things perfectly clear to the more than 800 employees of Delray Beach.

He and Commissioner Levinson share many of the same goals and concerns. But what they don't share is the same style in which to handle city staff.

In an effort to defuse assumptions that Perlman always agrees with Levinson's scolding ways, Perlman has started to clear their air with seven months to go in his six-year term. For the first time as mayor, he is meeting with department heads and city staff in groups to stress how proud he is of them and to let them know he doesn't always see eye-to-eye with Levinson.

"I want to clarify where I stand," Perlman said this week. "I think we should be looked at as individuals. I'm a lot more diplomatic than he is. His heart is in the right place. He brings an awful lot to the commission. The one thing about Jon, you know where he stands and he speaks his mind. I can see where some people are uncomfortable with that."

Vice Mayor Rita Ellis said she attended several homeowner association meetings where people



Perlman

He's a fellow commissioner. We all want the same things."

Levinson, who was traveling and could not be reached for comment Friday, hasn't been shy about his feelings toward city staff. He's pointed out their flaws during public meetings, telling those who don't agree with the city's customer service policy to "get off the bus." Rumors that he wants to push 16-year veteran City Manager David Harden out of his job have been circulating, even to Harden's desk.

The statements, the rumors and, Perlman said, newspaper accounts linking him and Levinson have "been very hurtful for a lot of people."

Commissioners have met twice this year with a strategic planner to review goals and objectives, and they plan to meet with the planner again in October. Normally, the goals are reviewed only once a year.

comment on Levinson's demeanor.

"I'm not sure why he feels like he has to deal with people on that level," Ellis said, adding, "When they bring this up, I refuse to talk about it."

Perlman wants staff to know he cares about them and he wants them to do the best job possible.

"We're trying to create a culture where people will be honest with the commission," he said. "I want to know what's going on... how I can help. I feel I have a very good relationship with staff. I've really grown close to them over the years."

Though Harden, who oversees city staff, normally would speak to the employees about customer service and morale, Perlman said he thought it was his responsibility.

"I have worked even harder now to let them know how much I back them," he said.

This year, commissioners started a customer-service program called SPIRIT, a motivational program created to provide a positive work environment that will inspire employees to work hard and treat customers with respect. The program includes employee recognition, barbecues with games and Hula Hoops and badges employees can wear on a voluntary basis that

say, "Ask Me About SPIRIT." Commissioners formed a SPIRIT committee and though many employees publicly have said they enjoy the program and feel it helps both staff and residents, other employees have complained about the program, saying they feel forced into it.

Though Perlman supports SPIRIT, he stressed that it was not his idea. The city already offered good customer service, he said.

"It's taken on a life of its own. It's something I'm being labeled with," he said of SPIRIT. "I really see that as a management function. I didn't want to be in the business of monitoring it, implementing it."

Perlman has said that some departments are overworked. There are 16 vacancies within the fire department, and the city is continuing to lose planners, engineers and laboratory technicians to the private sector. While the commission spends the next few weeks analyzing the upcoming budget, figuring out how to fill those empty spots, Perlman said he will continue to make his rounds.

"We're able to share things with each other," Perlman said. "That's how things get better."

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# Application reviews reveal remaining cases

## ▶ FOOD STAMPS from 1B

ity in order to qualify. Federal rules allow applicants to qualify without a Social Security number, and the state allowed those without photo identification to have a friend vouch for them.

Several workers told the *Post* that it was easy for people to fudge their income and expenses, and believed that some were padding their applications with fictitious relatives and roommates in order to qualify for larger payments.

The state caught \$428,945 worth of fraud before the payments went out in November 2005, less than one-fifth of 1 percent of benefits paid. An additional 168 people who got the payments, but may have lied on their applications, were referred to the Florida Department of Law

Enforcement for investigation, according to the report.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the disaster food stamp program, requires the report to ensure states weed out those trying to cheat the system. The review catches preventable errors like payments to people who lied about living in the disaster area, who applied for benefits more than once or failed to report income from verifiable sources like Social Security retirement or child support. It also catches mathematical errors.

The review showed an accuracy rate of 98 percent for those types of mistakes.

"Overall, we're pleased with how we operated the Disaster Food Stamp Program last year," DCF spokesman Tim Bottcher said in a statement.

## DCF turned over all six to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for criminal investigation.

Three of the six DCF employees who may have lied on their application were turned in by an anonymous tip last fall. Two employees of the South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center in Miami underreported household incomes to get the benefits, the inspector general found, and an administrative assistant for DCF in Miami-Dade County failed to report her husband's wages and military pension.

Three more cases of suspected fraud were found when DCF reviewed employee applications for the federal review.

DCF turned over all six to the Florida Department of

Law Enforcement for criminal investigation.

So far, DCF has found 449 disaster food stamp applications from its employees — 282 from temporary workers and 167 from full-time employees. But the agency has not been able to double-check every application submitted by an employee because it still isn't sure who some of those employees were. The state relied on workforce agencies and temp companies, which did not keep records like date of birth or address for 2,500 disaster food stamp workers hired in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The *Post's* investigation on those who could be identified found that dozens of workers with access to applicants' personal information had records of financial crimes, including organized fraud, public-assistance fraud and identity theft. DCF officials say they plan to require background screens on employees before the next disaster aid program.

A separate report by the DCF inspector general also suggested better training for the temporary workers hired to take and screen applications.

After Hurricane Wilma, many of the workers gathered in large groups for training. Some of the instructors didn't have microphones, and not all workers could hear instructions, the report said.

Other problems included

36,700 payment cards that arrived several weeks late because of a mistake at JP-Morgan EFS, which programmed the cards for the state.

Huge numbers of applicants crowding the sites also put pressure on employees to approve the money quickly, and DCF did not have a way to prove the identity of each person who submitted each paper application.

Next time, DCF plans to have people register for disaster aid in advance online or by phone. DCF can then verify the information is complete and accurate and flag suspicious cases before people arrive to apply in person.

The state also hopes to install card readers that can scan driver licenses to confirm applicants' identities.

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## Frankel, Mitchell at odds over rate

### ▶ BUDGET from 1B

Coleman Park neighborhood in the city's north end. The city will then pursue grant money to help with the actual redeveloping.

Frankel said the budget's themes are "hometown security" and "neighborhood investment."

"It stresses the two biggest issues that I hear all the time out in the community, which is that everyone wants the community to be safer, and number two, there isn't anybody around who doesn't want their environment to be beautiful," Frankel said.

The proposal includes only the spending plan for the general departments, such as police, fire and parks. It doesn't include spending plans for the downtown and north-end districts that get to keep most of their property tax money for redevelopment projects.

The budgets for those districts will be released later and discussed at a workshop on Aug. 14.

Last month, city commissioners set the maximum tax rate at \$8.22 per \$1,000 of taxable property. The owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$1,438.50.

Commissioners can't raise that rate, but can reduce it.

And that's just what Commissioner Kimberly Mitchell, a longtime Frankel adversary, has proposed.

"You have to be mindful of people's earning capacity, not just how much you can take from them but how much they can afford," said Mitchell, who in recent years has made a habit of pushing for a lower rate. "You cannot continue to tax people just because you can."

She says a reduction of the city's tax, plus pushing for the elimination of the Downtown Development Authority tax on downtown residents — \$2 on every \$1,000 of taxable property — could have a big effect on tax bills.

But commissioners have limited pull on the DDA. While its board members are

## City commissioners set the maximum tax rate at \$8.22 per \$1,000 of taxable property. They can't raise that rate, but can reduce it.

appointed by the mayor, the DDA itself was created under state law.

After a gradual reduction from 1997 to 2003, the city's tax rate has stayed level for past three years even as property values have soared.

Reducing the rate by 10 cents per \$1,000 of value, for example, would save the owner of a \$200,000 house, with a homestead exemption, \$17.50, or about the price of two movie tickets. But it would cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city budget.

Frankel has made it clear she believes that because the city is providing better services, it makes sense to keep the rate the same.

"Do the residents want to use their money collectively for the city or do they want a few dollars back?" Frankel said.

Commissioner Bill Moss said that the city's current rate makes the city competitive with the county in attracting businesses.

And the improvements made to neighborhoods with the extra tax dollars will add value to residents' homes in the long-term, he said.

"It's probably more important right now to go ahead and fix the sidewalks, curbs, the neighborhood issues rather than giving the neighborhoods an arbitrary reduction," Moss said.

But Jeri Muoio, a commissioner just appointed in May, said the commission needs to have a full discussion on reducing the rate.

"I think we need to weigh some of the requests that come to us from the neighborhoods against a reduction in the millage rate and make a decision about it," she said. "It's not an easy decision to make."

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## Jury dismissed after member tells of killing

### ▶ JUROR from 1B

tors are seeking the death penalty if Lamb is convicted.

Attorneys would have wanted to know if Moore could be impartial in Lamb's case given the fact that he is charged with murdering his wife.

Moore, 47, of Riviera Beach admitted in court Friday that she didn't mention that her daughter, Tangie-Moore, was murdered by her husband, who then killed himself. "I felt it was none of their business," she told Brown. She denied, however, telling others in the jury pool about her daughter's death.

"I haven't spoken a word to anybody about that," she said. She repeated that assertion to reporters later.

Moore was dismissed from the jury. Other jurors were then called into Brown's courtroom one by one and asked if they had heard



UMA SANGHVI/Staff Photographer  
Dorothila Moore was a juror in the Jeffrey Lamb murder trial until it was discovered she neglected to disclose her daughter's murder.

Moore say anything about her life that had relevance to the Lamb trial.

A woman said she overheard Moore tell a group of five to seven prospective jurors about her daughter's murder. And a man dropped another bombshell: Moore told him there was no way she would impose the death penalty if Lamb was found guilty.

Prospective jurors were

asked by attorneys if they could impose the ultimate penalty. Those who said no were dismissed.

Defense attorney Richard Lubin asked Brown to dismiss the entire jury panel. "There was deception here ... that affected the entire process," he said. "I believe this jury has been tainted." Brown granted the motion to "preserve the integrity of the process."

Moore, who said she's an operations manager for a motor coach company in Lake Worth, told reporters that she could have been an impartial juror. "I would have listened to the evidence, listened to the facts and then made my judgment," she said.

Brown could find Moore in contempt of court for her actions, which carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a fine. She said she wants to review testimony before deciding what she will

do.

Prosecutor Williams didn't rule out asking the sheriff's office to investigate Moore for perjury, which carries a maximum sentence of five years. If it found probable cause that Moore committed perjury, Williams' office could then prosecute her.

In the meantime, a new round of 150 prospective jurors will be convened on Wednesday in an effort to get a new jury for the Lamb case. Those who were chosen this week looked crestfallen when told they were being dismissed.

"I was really looking forward to doing my best in the trial," said Kurt Tenaglia of Delray Beach. "This was my chance to really feel good about our justice system. It was very upsetting for all of us."

Staff researcher Amy Hanaway contributed to this story.

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## Some fear Raul Castro's leadership

### ▶ CUBAN CLUB from 1B

"And if he is dead, I hope they bury him upside down, so that he falls deeper," added Araujo, who left Cuba in 1961 and has not returned to the island.

At this weekly gathering, where locals enjoy homemade food and dance to salsa and merengue, many Cubans chatted about Castro's recent surgery for gastrointestinal bleeding. They also shared opinions on how his brother Raul has become the island's temporary leader.

Some believe he has died and the Cuban government is hiding it, while others agree it could be a rumor or simply a farce.

"Who knows? It's a mystery. Castro started working in Cuba with lies, and the lies continue," said Roberto Padrón, 81, of Lake Worth.

"But that needs to end soon."

Maria E. Izquierdo said although she was relieved to hear Castro could be dead or very ill, she fears Raul Castro's leadership.

"It makes me doubt about what is going to happen over there. Many people are going to die. But it is so important that freedom comes for the people of Cuba," said Izquierdo, 67, of West Palm Beach.

Although the crowd was made up mostly of older Cubans who fled the island decades ago, some of the younger people who recently left the island say they were surprised to hear Castro could be sick because they never imagined the leader could be weakened.

Canadian Gil Bergeron said he goes to the club every week because he likes

to dance and the "booze is cheap."

He offered a different view from those who surrounded him, saying he thought Castro had done some good work on the island, providing free health care and education. But Bergeron said he would like to see an end to the regime for the benefit of the Cuban people.

"It would be very good, so many of these Cubans can join with their families and friends," he said.

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# Lawyer: Jurors often believe adults over kids

► EPSTEIN from 1B

his current job, has returned \$10,000 to him because of the Palm Beach scandal, the *New York Daily News* has reported.

Rather than file charges, the state attorney's office presented the case to a county grand jury. The panel indicted Epstein last week on a single, less serious charge of felony solicitation of prostitution.

The case raised eyebrows because the state attorney's office rarely, if ever, kicks such charges to a grand jury. And it increases the difficulty of prosecuting child sex abuse cases, especially when the defendant is enormously wealthy and can hire high-priced, top-tier lawyers.

At least one of Epstein's alleged victims told police he knew she was underage when the two of them got naked for massages and sexual activity. She was 16 years old at the time and said Epstein asked her questions about her high school, according to police reports.

A girl who said she met Epstein when she was 15 said he told her if she told anybody what happened at his house, bad things could happen, the police reports state.

Epstein's youngest alleged victim was 14 when she says she gave him a massage that included some sexual activity. She is now 16. The girl's father says he doesn't know whether she told Epstein her age.

"My daughter has kept a lot of what happened from me because of sheer embarrassment," he said. "But she very much looked 14. Any prudent man would have had second thoughts about that."

Defense attorney Jack Goldberg maintains that not only did Epstein pass a polygraph test showing he did not know the girls were minors, but their stories weren't credible. The state attorney's office also implied that their credibility was an issue when it decided not to charge Epstein directly, but instead give the case to the grand jury.

"A prosecutor has to look at it in a much broader fashion," a state attorney's spokesman said last week.

Epstein hired Harvard law Professor Alan Dershowitz when he became aware he was under investigation, and Dershowitz gave prosecutors information that some of the alleged victims had spoke of using alcohol and marijuana on a popular Web site, according to a Palm Beach police report.

Prosecutors typically consider two things in deciding whether to charge somebody with sex-related offenses against minors — whether there is sufficient evidence and whether there is a public interest in doing so, Dekle said.

## Child sex abuse cases often are difficult to prosecute, an attorney says.

If two teens are in a sexual relationship and the boy turns 18 before the girl, he could be charged with a sex crime if the sex continues. There would be no public interest in prosecuting that, Dekle said.

But where there is a large gap in ages — and especially in cases of teachers with students — there is a public interest in prosecuting, he said. Likewise if the accused has a track record of sex with minors.

Still there is a "universal constant" in prosecuting these cases, Dekle said. Men who exploit underage children for sex often carefully choose their victims in ways that will minimize the risk to them, he said.

Victims usually are from a lower social status, and they

may suffer from psychological problems, Dekle said.

"Lots of child sexual abuse victims have been victimized by multiple people over a period of time. Then the act of abuse produces behavior in the victims that further damages their credibility." Examples include promiscuous behavior and drug abuse.

Some of the alleged victims in the Epstein case returned to his home multiple times for the massage sessions and the \$200 to \$300 he typically paid them per visit. "That would be a definite problem for the prosecutor," said Betty Resch, who prosecuted crimes against children in Palm Beach County for five years and now is in private practice in Lake Worth.

"The victim becomes less sympathetic to a jury, Resch said. "But she's a victim nevertheless. She's a kid."

Most men charged with sex crimes against minors look normal, Dekle said. A jury expecting to see a monster seldom will. And the vic-

tims' ages work against them and in favor of the defendant in a trial, Dekle said.

If a child and an adult tell different stories and both swear they're telling the truth, adult jurors are more likely to believe the adult, Dekle said.

"You have all these things working against you in a child sex abuse case. Prosecutors normally try to be very careful in filing those cases because they know what they're getting into. There is no such thing as an iron-clad child sexual abuse case."

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# Man gets 2 years for illegal transport

By KEVIN DEUTSCH  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

A suburban West Palm Beach man was sentenced this week to two years in prison and ordered to forfeit two Piper Navajo planes for illegally transporting a radioactive material and making a false statement to the government, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors said Harold J. DeGregory Jr., president of H&G Import Export in Fort Lauderdale at the time of the crimes, agreed to transport iridium-192 to and from the Bahamas, where the Bahamas Oil Refining Co. planned to use the radioactive isotope for industrial radiography.

In October 2004, DeGregory subcontracted the transportation of iridium-192 to a commercial air carrier, Amelia Airways, which flew the material from Fort Lauderdale to Freeport. He never submitted the hazardous-material

manifests required by law, prosecutors said.

The following month, authorities found more radioactive cargo in the wing compartment of DeGregory's aircraft after it flew from Freeport to Fort Lauderdale. Again, he failed to disclose the cargo, prosecutors said.

In January a federal jury convicted him of three counts of illegally transporting a radioactive material and two counts of making a materially false statement to the government.

The iridium-192 was bought from a U.S. company that legally shipped the material to Fort Lauderdale. Although the material has legitimate industrial uses, it also can pose public-health risks if not properly handled.

DeGregory was also fined \$1,000 and will have two years of supervised release once his term is up.

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# Man charged with murdering tourist who wanted directions

The Illinois salesman was visiting Miami for his son's birthday.

By NICHOLAS SPANGLER  
The Miami Herald

The man Miami police say murdered a tourist who was lost and asking for directions July 29 in Coconut Grove has turned himself in.

Brandon Anton Rolle, 22, of 3802 Day Ave. walked into downtown police headquarters around 4:20 Friday afternoon, gave his name and said: "I've come here to clear some things up. I need to talk with Homicide."

He was calm and casually dressed with a blue-and-white striped shirt and blue Dickies shorts. He is charged with first-degree murder.

Police say Rolle shot and killed Ronald Gentile, 54, around 5:30 p.m. July 29 at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Jefferson Street, near U.S. 1. Stolen: a necklace with a cross, a gold bracelet, a diamond ring and a wallet.

The shooting occurred just minutes after Gentile had dropped his 17-year-old son off for work at the Shops of Sunset Place in South Miami. Gentile, a furniture salesman from Homewood, Ill., arrived in Miami more than a week ago for his teenage son's birthday.

"This was one of those random situations where

this poor guy just took the wrong turn," Sgt. Jose Granada said. "That's all it takes, just one bad individual."

Rolle has a criminal record of cocaine possession, robbery, assault, car theft and fleeing a police officer. He was first arrested when he was 16.

"I hope it ain't true," said Lucille Rolle, Brandon's great-grandmother, reached by phone Friday afternoon. She hadn't seen him in a week, she said. "He was going straight, that's what he told me. He had a baby on the way, said he was getting a job to take care of the baby and the girl — washing dishes, doing something."

At Miami police headquarters, a woman describing herself as Rolle's girlfriend and the mother-to-be of his child said that "everything is fine. He didn't do anything."

"This is not right, in the name of Jesus, this is not right," screamed another woman before a crowd of television cameras and reporters. She later said she would "find out who did it."

Rolle's family was gone by the time police hurried him from one of the rooms upstairs through the lobby and into a patrol car. His hands were cuffed behind him. He was headed for jail.

The newsmen yelled their questions at him: "Any comment, Mr. Rolle?" "How's your family? What about the family of Mr.

Gentile?"

But Rolle said nothing, and his face bore no expression.

"Every suggestion is that he was hiding," said Miami police spokesman Delrish Moss. "He turned himself in because of the pressure."

Police say that the night Gentile and Rolle met, Gentile was probably heading back to his ex-wife's home in the Dadeland Mall area when he steered toward downtown Miami and ended up in the Grove.

Witnesses told police they saw Gentile roll down the window of his rented white Chevrolet Cobalt, then saw Rolle rob and shoot him.

Gentile was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

This week, Gentile's son and his ex-wife, Cathy Gleber-Girten, along with other relatives, distributed fliers to help police locate possible witnesses.

Relatives returned Gentile's body to Chicago this week. The wake will be Sunday; the funeral Monday.

News of an arrest brought the family — in Miami and the Chicago area — cold comfort.

"It won't bring my husband back," Colleen Gentile, 55, told the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

"No good is coming from this for anybody," said Patrick Gleber, Gleber-Girten's brother. "If he's guilty, then he should be punished."

## AREA DEATHS

### Palm Beach County

**Capps, Sandra**, 54, of Jupiter, died Friday. Tillman Funeral Home, West Palm Beach. Funeral in Chinco-teague Island, Va.

**Daniels, Bruce**, 71, of North Palm Beach, died Tuesday. Levitt-Weinstein Memorial Chapel, West Palm Beach. Funeral Sunday.

**England, Karen D.**, 44, of Loxahatchee, died Monday. All County Funeral Home and Crematory, Lake Worth.

**Farber, Irving**, 89, of Delray Beach, died Friday. Riverside-Gordon Memorial Chapel, Delray Beach.

**Haase, Albert**, 85, of West Palm Beach, died Thursday. Weiss Memorial Chapel, Boynton Beach.

**King, Dora C.**, 87, of West Palm Beach, died Tuesday. Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens Funeral Home, Lake Worth.

**Klein, Kenneth James**, 63, of Lake Worth, died Wednesday. Del Lago Funeral Home,

### Lake Worth. Funeral today.

**Maharaj, Samnarino**, 65, of West Palm Beach, died Friday. Tillman Funeral Home, West Palm Beach. Visitation today; funeral Sunday.

**Rico, Libertad**, 73, of Palm Beach Gardens, died Thursday. All County Funeral Home and Crematory, Lake Worth.

**Semon, William C.**, 91, of Greenacres, died Thursday. Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens Funeral Home, Lake Worth. Funeral today.

**Sheldon, Vivian Catherine**, 86, of West Palm Beach, died Thursday. Quattlebaum Funeral Home, West Palm Beach. Visitation Sunday; funeral Mass Monday.

**Shenberg, Bernice**, 84, of Boynton Beach, died Thursday. Boca Jewish Funerals, Boca Raton. Funeral in Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Sternthal, Solomon**, 86, of Delray Beach, died Thursday. Neptune Society, Fort Lauderdale.

### Sustin, Rose, of Lake

Worth, died Thursday. Rubin Memorial Chapel, Delray Beach.

**Thompson, W. Gene**, 87, of West Palm Beach, died Wednesday. Northwood Funeral Home and Crematory, West Palm Beach.

**Turner, Robert K. Sr.**, 84, of Riviera Beach, died Thursday. Northwood Funeral Home and Crematory, West Palm Beach.

### Martin County

**Brown, Raymond J.**, 81, of Stuart, died Tuesday. Young and Prill Funeral Home, Stuart. Funeral Monday.

**Petts, Julia Kathleen**, 91, of Stuart, died Tuesday. Young and Prill Funeral Home, Stuart.

### Okeechobee County

**Johnson, Joshua Ryan**, 20, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday. Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory. Visitation Sunday; funeral Monday.

## FUNERAL NOTICES



**PATTI ANNE ANDERSON**  
Patti Anne (Miller) Anderson, 45, of Royal Palm Beach died on August 2, 2006 after a seven year struggle with breast cancer. Born in West Palm Beach, she was a former accounting supervisor at Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan.

She is survived by her husband, Wayne, son, Sean; daughters, Lindsey and Kristin, all of Royal Palm Beach; her father, Theodore Miller and his wife Jane of Boynton Beach; her mother, Mona Miller of Royal Palm Beach; one brother, John Miller of Boynton Beach; two sisters, Sharon Bannerman of Royal Palm Beach and April Miller of Paris, Texas and several nieces, nephews and family members.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 3-6 pm at Royal Palm Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, August 6 at 11:00 am at the funeral home, interment to follow at Royal Palm Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice of Palm Beach County, Inc. 5300 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

To express condolences and/or make donations visit [PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries](http://PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries)

### RUTH CALDWELL CAMPBELL

High Point, NC-Mrs. Ruth Caldwell Campbell, 77, a former resident of Palm Springs, FL, passed away Wednesday, August 2, 2006 at the home of her daughter, Ruth was born in Holly-wood, FL, August 15, 1928, a daughter of James Eugene and Vannie Tyler Caldwell. She was employed by Southern Bell for several years and was a homemaker. She was a member of Holy Redeemer Church in Lake Worth, FL. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lionel Boyce Gator Campbell. Ruth was a selfless, fun person who enjoyed gardening and walking.

Surviving are two daughters, Candice C. Graig and her husband Steve of High Point, Rebecca C. Edwards and her husband Jon of Raleigh, a brother, James Caldwell of West Palm Beach, FL; five grandchildren, Stewart and Stanton Greig, and Kevin, Jonathan and Melissa Edwards.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, High Point, by the Rev. Chantal McKinney. The family will receive friends at the church following the service. Memorials may be directed to Hospice of the Piedmont, 1801 Westchester Dr., High Point, NC 27282. Online condolences may be made at [www.davisfuneralsandcremations.com](http://www.davisfuneralsandcremations.com)

To express condolences and/or make donations visit [PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries](http://PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries)



**CLIFFORD DEL SANTO, JR.**  
"Del"

79, of Lake Worth, FL, passed away on August 3, 2006. He was born on October 24, 1926 in Winter Haven, FL to Clifford Del Santo, Sr. and Lilian Livingston Del Santo. The family moved to West Palm Beach when Clifford was a young boy. He attended Palm Beach High School, but quit in 1944 to serve his country in the U.S. Navy. Del served in the Pacific on a destroyer escort as an Electrician's Mate and was honorably discharged in 1946. After arriving home, he completed his high school education and married Constance Elaine Horne (who preceded him in death in 1980) from Lake Worth. He went to BBEW Local 323 Apprentice School in West Palm Beach and became a Journeyman Electrician. While working for Hima Electrical and Acme Electrical he became a Master Electrician. In 1994, Del went into business where he and his wife Connie owned and operated Del Santo Electrical Inc and became one of the premier electrical contractors in the area. He retired in 1994. He was a long-time member of both the Palm Beach County Building and Zoning Board of Appeals and the Code Advisory Board, Del was a past president of the Florida East Coast Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. He was member of the West Palm Beach Golf and Country Club and was an avid golfer. Del was a member of the Poinciana Chapter of the Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach where he had many friends. Del loved to fish and hunt and was a true native Floridian sportsman. Later on in life, he became involved in the National Audubon Society and enjoyed bird watching. He was a University of Florida Gator "Boozer", long-time Gator fan and loved to go to the football games in Gainesville.

Survivors include his sons, Clifford Del Santo, III, Thomas (Heidi) Del Santo and Michael Del Santo; a daughter, Nancy (Guy) Saunders; grandchildren, CJ and Cory Del Santo, Gina Rose and Michelle Sudbury, Michael Del Santo, Jr. and Evan Saunders; a sister, Betty Lee Edwards of New Jersey; a sister-in-law, Kathy Hobens. He loved his family and will be dearly missed by all.

The Del Santo family will receive their friends from 2 PM until 5 PM on Sunday, August 6 at Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Funeral Home, 3041 Kirk Road, Lake Worth, FL. Funeral services will be held at 2 PM on Monday, August 7 at Royal Poinciana Chapel, 60 Coconut Road, Palm Beach, FL. Mr. Del Santo will be laid to rest at Lake Worth Memory Gardens following private interment services.

To express condolences and/or make donations visit [PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries](http://PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries)

### PEARL MARGUERITE BIRDSONG

86, of Marietta passed away Monday, August 1, 2006. The Funeral Service will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida on 1:00 pm, August 5 at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery. Marguerite was a member of the First Baptist Church in Greenacres, Florida and also attended Unity North Atlanta Church in Marietta, Ga.

Mrs. Birdsong is preceded in death by her loving husband, Clyde Birdsong, father and five brothers and sisters. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, C. Frank and Judith Birdsong, Marietta, daughter, Savina Rush, Marietta, GA, four grandchildren, Michaelyn Jablonowski and husband Michael, Woodstock, GA, Todd Birdsong and wife Melissa, Marietta, GA, Jessica Jenkins and husband, Marietta, GA, and two great grandchildren, Alexandria and Tristan Jenkins, Buford, GA.

Marguerite was born in Jacksonville, FL, and raised in Kissimmee, Florida. She and her husband resided in Green Acres, Florida for over 30 years. In 1964 she moved to Woodbine Station in Marietta, Georgia where she resided until her death. Marguerite retired in 1980 as the Manager of the Greenacres School Food Service Program where she worked for over 30 years. Marguerite belonged to the Eastern Star Organization, Chapter 111, in Lake Worth, FL, and she was an active member of the Palm Springs Florida Garden Club, the Orchid Society of Palm Beach and the Fern Society of Palm Beach.

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### KENNETH KLEIN

Ken died peacefully at home with his family by his side. He is preceded by his wife, Judi Martin Klein; his loving mother, Olga Klein; brother, Jim Klein; sister-in-law, Trish; nephew, James. Ken also leaves behind a multitude of friends whose main body includes the Garage Gang. After moving to Florida in 1987, his main passion in life became carpentry and the Miami Dolphins. Ken's varied interests in life included music, literature and the sea.

A viewing for family and friends will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 2-4 PM at the Del Lago Chapel located at 131 Lakeside Drive, Lake Worth. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that donations be sent to Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Ave. West Palm Bch, 33407.

To express condolences and/or make donations visit [PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries](http://PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries)

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**VIVIAN C. SHELDON, Sr.**  
86, of West Palm Beach, died Thursday, August 3, 2006 after an extended illness. Born Vivian Fitzgerald in Amityville, LI, New York on July 4, 1920, she came to West Palm Beach in 1972. During WW II, Vivian worked as a welder at Grumman Aircraft on the F4F Hellcat. Her husband Arthur J. Sheldon preceded her in death in 1975. Surviving her are a daughter Vivian Sheldon, Jr. (Francisco), a son John "Jack" Sheldon (Rita Alonso), and grandsons Robert Sheldon and Nicholas Urbe. She was a devoted wife, mother, and friend.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. on Sunday August 6, 2006 with a Wake Service at 3:00 P.M. at Quattlebaum Funeral Home, 1201 South Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, August 7, 2006, at St. Juliana Catholic Church, 4500 South Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, Florida 33405. Interment to follow at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Royal Palm Beach, FL.

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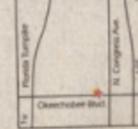
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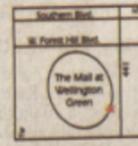
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## THE MARKET REPORT

DOW	11,240.35	-2.24
NASDAQ	2,085.05	-7.29
S&P 500	1,279.36	-0.91
RUSSELL 2000	701.26	-3.12
10-YR NOTE	4.90%	-0.06
CRUDE OIL	\$74.76	-\$0.70

## THE MORNING LINE

### Delta asks to end pilots' pensions

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines Inc. filed a formal request with bankruptcy court late Friday to terminate its pilots' pension plan, as President Bush prepared to sign a bill aimed in part at helping the struggling carrier save its other employees' pensions.

If the court in New York approves Delta's request to cancel its pilots' pensions effective Sept. 2, the government's pension insurer would take over the plan and pay pilots a reduced benefit based on when they retire and other factors.

The 6,000 pilots, as part of a \$280 million concessions agreement with the company first reached in April, have agreed not to oppose the pension termination request, though other groups may oppose it.

### Threat eases, oil prices dip

NEW YORK — Oil prices slipped below \$75 a barrel Friday as supply concerns eased after a storm in the Caribbean weakened and appeared to no longer threaten Gulf Coast oil facilities.

Light sweet crude for September delivery dropped 70 cents to settle at \$74.76 a barrel Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

### U.S. firms' profits up 19%

DETROIT — U.S. companies' second-quarter earnings rose by an average of 19 percent as record oil prices, bolstered by record oil prices, regained their standing as the fastest-growing industry group.

Profit for members of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index climbed more than 10 percent for the 12th straight quarter, matching the longest streak since 1950, according to Thomson Financial. Oil and gas companies averaged a 45 percent increase on average, the largest among the index's 10 main industry groups.

### Record for ringtones set

NEW YORK — Universal Music Group, the world's largest music company, sold a record 3 million ringtones from a song by rapper Chamillionaire, illustrating the growing importance of mobile-phone downloads to U.S. music companies.

The sales, at about \$2.50 a pop, imply revenue of as much as \$7.5 million for the track *Ridin'*. Music companies get about \$1 to \$1.50 each for the ringtone.

### JetBlue plans D.C. nonstop

JetBlue Airways (Nasdaq: JBLU, \$10.99) will start nonstop service between West Palm Beach and Dulles International Airport outside of Washington, D.C., with one daily round-trip flight beginning Oct. 3.

No other airline at Palm Beach International Airport currently offers nonstop flights to Dulles, according to the airport's flight schedule. An introductory fare of \$79 each way is available on flights booked by Aug. 15 for travel through Nov. 15. Regular fare will be between \$99 and \$299 one way.

### Mellon Bank Building sold

Two new building affiliates of New York-based RFR Holding LLC have bought the Mellon Bank Building at 1645 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. and the Horizon Office Center at 1401 Forum Way just off the well-traveled boulevard for a combined \$28.3 million.

One of the selling features of the West Palm Beach properties is "virtually no new competitive office development ongoing or planned" in that area, said Holliday Fenoglio Fowler L.P.'s managing director, Hermen Rodriguez, who represented the seller, Palm Beach-based Tricony Florida.

### Work on Boca center starts

Developer Marvin Chaney has broken ground on Boca Raton Commerce Center, a 46-unit warehouse condominium located on Boca Rio Road, just south of Glades Road on the west side of Florida's Turnpike. Spaces will average 1,500 square feet, and prices begin at \$215 per square foot. Occupancy is slated for next year.

— Palm Beach Post staff and wire reports

# U.S. job growth slows

## Markets slip on fears Fed will hike rates anyway

By JEANNINE AVERSA  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gripped by caution, employers slowed hiring in July, pushing the nation's unemployment rate to a five-month high.

But while Wall Street got what it wanted — Labor Department data showing slower job growth — cautious investors pushed stocks modestly lower, unwilling to trust that the report was enough to keep the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates next week.

The major indexes closed out the week little changed. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.24, or 0.02 percent, to 11,240.35 — a 104-point

swing from its intraday high early in the session. Broader stock indicators also lost ground.

Friday's report showed that employers added just 113,000 new jobs in July, down from 124,000 in June — the latest in a string of mediocre job gains in recent months.

With companies wary of increasing work forces in a slowing economy, the civilian unemployment rate jumped from 4.6 percent in June to 4.8 percent, matching the rate of last February. The last time the jobless rate was higher was in December, at 4.9 percent.

"Companies are feeling the strain of rising costs for energy and raw mate-

rials as well as higher interest rates. They also remain uncertain about the economy's prospects for the balance of the year. Therefore, they are reluctant to aggressively bulk up their payrolls," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Bank of America's Investment Strategies Group.

For blacks, the unemployment rate rose from 9 percent in June to 9.5 percent in July, the highest in eight months. The jobless rate for Hispanics, however, held steady at 5.3 percent.

It's a challenging time for certain job-seekers.

Job cuts were reported at factories as well as in other sectors. See ECONOMY, 15B ▶

## Unemployment

The monthly unemployment rate for the past 13 months:



After a hurricane, when most resources focus on human life, the rescue of animals and agriculture falls to a growing Florida network.



JOE RAEDLE/Getty Images

The State Agricultural Response Team, whose veterinarians and equipment rescue large animals after storms, was a fledgling group before 2004. Now it has 432 members.

# SAVING FARMS FROM HARM

A State Agricultural Response Team program takes root in Palm Beach County.

## State Agricultural Response Team

By SUSAN SALSBURY  
 Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

### What is it?

A coordination agency consisting of governmental and private groups.

### What does it do?

Handles disaster preparedness and response for animals and agriculture.

### Contact info

Visit [www.flart.org](http://www.flart.org) or call the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at (850) 410-0900.

WEST PALM BEACH — Imagine horses in Wellington stranded in a flooded pasture, or loose in the roads, after a hurricane. Or cattle in Okeechobee up to their noses in water with no food in sight. Or even a hot and hungry puppy left by its owners to fend for itself.

The rescue of these animals after a disaster, when human life is the focus and direction of most resources, falls to the State Agricultural Response Team. It's a multi-agency coordination group in which government and private entities focus on disaster preparedness and recovery for Florida's animal and agriculture sectors, said David Perry, a response team specialist with the state Department of Agriculture.

Perry was in West Palm Beach on Friday for a hurricane-preparedness meeting sponsored by Farm Credit of South Florida. All emergencies should handled

locally if possible, but counties can turn to the team's network for help, Perry said during the meeting at the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service.

The 25 sponsoring organizations include the Florida Cattle-men's Association, the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, the Humane Society of the United States, the Sunshine State Horse Council and the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association.

The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, also a sponsor of the response team, has veterinarians and equipment needed to rescue large animals, Perry said. In Palm Beach County, which has about 6,000 horses year-round and as many as 14,000 in the winter, those services could someday be needed.

After Katrina, nine team members from Florida traveled to Hattiesburg, Miss., where they organized aid for large animals, includ-

ing feed and hay receiving, veterinary treatment and housing.

"In a hurricane response, companion animals are one of our largest responses to deal with," Perry said. "Some have been left behind, or like in Katrina, they got displaced."

Palm Beach County is among the one-third of Florida's 67 counties setting up response team programs, said Julie Hinote, an Okeechobee-based Agriculture Department inspector who also works with the team.

The program works through a county-based team coordinator who is based at the local emergency operations center during a disaster.

"The idea is that there is strength in numbers. It's about information and sharing," said Lyn Cacella, vice president for marketing at Lake Worth-based Farm Credit. "It's also for vegetable

See RESPONSE, 15B ▶

## Pension bill good news for younger workers

By JIM ABRAMS  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Young workers, Wall Street, a couple of airlines and U.S. taxpayers could come out as winners in the pension changes made by Congress.

Some older employees and construction workers hoping to retire early, might not fare as well.

The legislation passed by the Senate late Thursday and sent to the president will, if successful, prod companies to fund their pension plans properly and ensure that workers get the retirement benefits they deserve.

But the bill also reflects the reality that the traditional defined-benefit pen-

sion plan system is in decline, and the transition to new, defined-contribution-style savings plans won't be easy.

Here's how some of the major players in the legislation may be affected:

The 30,000 defined-benefit plans run by employers are now underfunded by \$450 billion, and the bill requires plans to reach 100 percent funding levels in seven years. Seriously underfunded "at-risk" companies must contribute at an accelerated rate.

The American Benefits Council, which represents companies with traditional pension plans, said the bill was a "mixed bag," that promotes saving but could

See PENSIONS, 15B ▶



The possibility that improper handling of employee stock option; might erase some past profits or plunge CEO Steve Jobs into a legal morass spooked some investors.

## Apple's fame may help, hurt amid option woes

By MICHAEL LUEDTKE  
 The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — As the stock option cloud over Apple Computer Inc. darkened, investors tried to determine Friday whether the company's popular products are powerful enough to overcome the potential accounting and legal risks facing the maker of the iPod and the Macintosh.

The possibility that the improper handling of employee stock options might erase some of Apple's past profits or, even worse, plunge its renowned CEO, Steve Jobs, into a legal morass spooked some investors. Apple shares (Nasdaq: AAPL) fell as much as 6.7 percent during Friday's trading before rebounding to close at \$68.30, down \$1.29, or 1.9

percent. "You can't spin this as good news," Standard & Poor's analyst Richard Stice said Friday.

Besides jumbling its past earnings and raising worries about Jobs' possible role in the scandal, Apple's stock option troubles could lead to other complications.

While it reviews possible revisions to its past profits, Apple expects to miss a deadline for filing its most recent quarterly report with the Securities and Exchange Commission. If the delay is long enough, regulators could try to delist Apple's stock from Nasdaq, although the chances of that happening are considered slim.

See APPLE, 15B ▶

COMING SUNDAY: Genetic breakthroughs pave the way for customized medical treatment.

## EARNINGS SBA losses continue to widen

**Palm Beach Post Staff  
and Wire Reports**

BOCA RATON — SBA Communications Corp.'s (Nasdaq: SBAC, \$23.53) second-quarter loss widened to \$75.6 million, or 77 cents a share, from a year-earlier loss of \$26.3 million, or 38 cents a share, as the company booked an acquisition-related charge of \$53.8 million for the write-off of deferred financing fees and a debt extinguishment.

The Boca Raton wireless communications infrastructure company's loss from continuing operations deepened to 77 cents a share from 38 cents a share.

Revenue rose 38 percent to \$87.4 million from \$63.2 million.

Analysts, on average, expected the company to post a loss of 15 cents a share and revenue of \$83 million.

SBA expects third-quarter revenue of \$93 million to \$96.5 million and full-year revenue of \$345 million to \$353.5 million.

# Sales boost Toyota's first quarter profit 39%

**By YURI KAGEYAMA  
The Associated Press**

TOKYO — Toyota reported a 39 percent jump in profit in its fiscal first quarter, with strong vehicle sales around the world keeping the company on a pace to possibly overtake General Motors as the world's No. 1 automaker.

Toyota's reputation for fuel-efficient cars was proving a boon at a time of soaring gas prices, analysts said.

Toyota Motor Corp. (NYSE: TM, \$108.14), the world's second biggest automaker, is among a clutch of Japanese vehicle companies reporting robust results lately in contrast to U.S. automakers.

Endo said that in addition to robust sales of Toyota's smaller models such as the Corolla, the company's light trucks and Lexus luxury models — which tend to produce healthier profit margins per vehicle — have also been doing well, boosted by the perception that they're more fuel efficient than rivals.

Toyota's profit in April-June totaled 371.5 billion yen (\$3.2 billion), up from 266.9 billion yen the same period the previous year, as a weaker yen also helped earnings, adding 100 billion yen (\$871 million) to operating profit.

Quarterly sales surged 13 percent to 5.6 trillion yen (\$49 billion) from 4.98 trillion yen a year earlier, according to the manufacturer, based in Toyota city in central Japan.

Some analysts believe Toyota will overtake GM as the world's No. 1 automaker in a few years if the current pace continues.

In July, Toyota for the first time beat Ford Motor Co. in U.S. vehicle market share, outselling Ford to be No. 2 after GM, although Ford's year-to-date sales are still ahead of Toyota's.



AirTran, which currently employs 7,700 people, expects to add about 500 jobs a year through 2010.

## AirTran spreads wings as employer while rival Delta still struggles

**By RUSSELL GRANTHAM  
Palm Beach Post-Cox News Service**

ATLANTA — It's almost midnight and Brad Brown, 30, is overseeing a crew of 10 mechanics giving an AirTran Airways Boeing 717 a thorough once-over known as an "A check."

Two mechanics at the rear of the 124-foot jet replace filters and do other routine engine chores. Another worker opens wing panels.

Some are inside the plane, while an inspector points out a chafed wing area that he wants buffed smooth.

In other parts of AirTran's flood-lit hangar at Atlanta's airport, mechanics work with quiet intensity on 21 jets that will have to be back in business before the sun rises.

The busy scene represents a new dawn of another sort for Brown and several of his compatriots. They are part of a group of about 75 AirTran employees who used to do similar work for archrival Delta Air Lines.

Since joining fast-growing AirTran a little over a year ago, three days after he was furloughed from Delta, Brown has been promoted to supervisor. He's also become a dad and started house-

shopping — "something I can do when I have job security," he said.

Perhaps nothing more aptly symbolizes the two rivals' reversed fortunes of recent years. In the minds of many, AirTran is now the safe haven airline employer in town.

Indeed, it's one of the few economic bright spots lately on the southside of Atlanta. At a news conference in June in the same Atlanta hangar, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue trumpeted the 7,700-employee airline's projected growth of about 500 jobs a year in the state through 2010.

Otherwise, the Atlanta airport's neighborhood is bracketed by disappointments, including the announced closings of the Ford assembly plant off the east end of the runways and the Army's Fort McPherson a few miles away. Delta, which filed for Chapter 11 protection last September, has cut almost 30,000 jobs since 2001.

The pay gap between Delta and AirTran (NYSE: AAL, \$12.88) employees has also shrunk and in some cases been reversed — at least for similarly experienced employees — after Delta cut

most employees' pay twice since 2004.

Delta told arbitrators weighing pilot pay cuts earlier this year that its pay scale for many employees was already lower than pay for similarly experienced employees at AirTran and other carriers.

After Delta pilots agreed to a 14 percent pay cut in April — their second since 2004 — AirTran pilots now make about the same money as Delta pilots flying similar-sized jets.

According to Air Inc., a pilot career service based in Atlanta, Delta's pilot pay ranges from about \$43,000 a year for new hires to \$167,000 for senior captains flying the biggest jets. AirTran's pilots make \$35,500 to \$147,000 a year.

✉ russell\_grantham@ajc.com

## Sirius, XM get static over leaking signals

**By CHRISTOPHER STERN  
and DON JEFFREY  
Bloomberg News**

Todd Murphy is fed up with satellite radio, and he isn't even a customer.

During morning commutes, Murphy says, his National Public Radio station begins blaring out foul-mouthed talk show host Howard Stern.

"I'm sitting at a traffic light and all of a sudden I'm listening to a different radio station," said Murphy, 40, a real estate developer in Whitehouse Station, N.J.

Complaints by Murphy and other drivers are adding to the woes of Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. and XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc., the world's two biggest satellite radio companies.

Drivers said the signals sometimes "leak" and overpower those of stations playing in nearby vehicles.

The Federal Communications Commission in April said the radios don't comply with its power rules, prompting the companies to pull some of them off the market. XM last month cut its subscriber forecast because of the ruling and said it may not have enough devices in stores for the holidays.

"By Christmas time, it could be a huge issue," said David Kestenbaum, an analyst at Morgan Joseph & Co. in New York who has a "hold" rating on XM shares and recommends buying Sirius.

"It's a problem for both of them."

After surging more than 10-fold in 2002 to 2005 on optimism they might become profitable, shares of

Washington-based XM, the largest operator, and New York-based Sirius have plunged. XM (Nasdaq: XMSR, \$12.02) is down about 57 percent this year. Sirius (Nasdaq: SIRI, \$3.94), has declined roughly 41 percent.

XM last week cut its forecast for subscribers to 7.7 million to 8.2 million, below the 8.5 million predicted in early July and the 9 million originally estimated. While Sirius said it will have 6.3 million subscribers by year-end, Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst Laraine Mancini cut her target on the stock to \$7 from \$9, citing the "uncertainty" surrounding the car radios.

The signal interference occurs with portable receivers that use a wireless connection to beam satellite signals to a dashboard radio, so programs can be heard over car speakers.

The signal should be just powerful enough to reach the car's radio inches away. If it's too strong, satellite programs bleed into nearby car radios. Satellite receivers that use wires to connect with the stereos and those installed in new vehicles don't affect others.

Sirius said July 21 that it stopped selling radios that didn't comply with FCC regulations and conceded in a regulatory filing that some employees had asked manufacturers to make receivers that breached the rules.

Redesigning the radios costs \$4 per new subscriber, an amount that may increase, XM Chief Executive Officer Hugh Panero said last week.

### Goodyear

AKRON, Ohio — Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s (NYSE: GT, \$11.79) profit dropped 97 percent in the second quarter compared with a year ago because of charges tied to previously disclosed plant closings and higher materials costs. The nation's biggest tire maker said net income slumped to \$2 million, or 1 cent per share, in the three months ended June 30 from \$69 million, or 34 cents per share, in the year-ago period. Sales rose 3 percent to \$5.1 billion, a record for any quarter at Goodyear, from \$5 billion a year ago.

### Occidental

LOS ANGELES — Oil and gas producer Occidental Petroleum Corp. (NYSE: OXY, \$105.24) said its second-quarter income declined. Occidental recorded an after-tax loss of \$347 million. That loss offset gains the company saw from higher production and gas and oil prices in the quarter. The company reported net income of \$857 million, or 1.97 per share, for the quarter ended June 30, compared with \$1.54 billion, or \$3.77 per share, a year ago. Revenue jumped \$4.6 billion from \$3.39 billion.

### Swiss Re

ZURICH, Switzerland — Swiss Reinsurance, one of the world's largest reinsurance companies, said its first-half profit rose 16 percent. Swiss Re said net profit rose to 1.57 billion Swiss francs (\$1.27 billion) from 1.35 billion francs in the first half of 2005. The company does not break out quarterly figures.

### Medco Health

TRENTON, N.J. — Medco Health Solutions Inc. (NYSE: MHS, \$60.65) one of the country's largest prescription benefit managers, said its second-quarter profit jumped 24 percent. Frank-lyn Lakes-based Medco said net income for the quarter ended July 1 rose to \$170.9 million, or 56 cents per share, from \$137.4 million, or 48 cents per share, a year earlier. Total revenue climbed 18 percent to \$10.59 billion from \$9 billion.

### Applied Digital

DELRAY BEACH — Applied Digital (Nasdaq: ADSX, \$1.64) reported a net loss Thursday for the second quarter of 2006 of \$3.3 million, or 5 cents a share, compared with a loss of \$3.4 million, or 6 cents a share, for the second quarter of 2005. The Delray Beach-based maker of implantable chips for identification and security purposes had revenue of \$29.9 million compared with \$29.4 million, quarter over quarter.

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**The Palm Beach Post**

Market profile

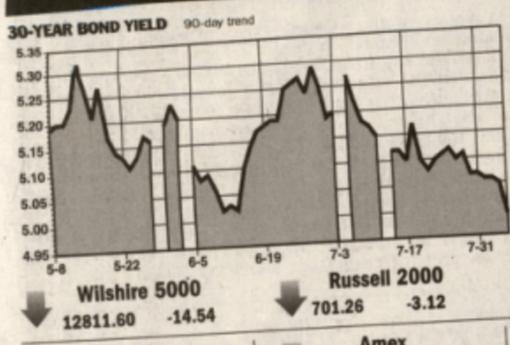


Table with columns: Trading Yields, Action Dates, Last Friday's closing price. Rows include 30-Year (4.99%), 10-Year (4.90%), 2-Year (4.91%), 6-month (5.15%), 3-month (5.08%), 1-month (5.16%).

How to read the stock listings

Explanatory text and examples for reading stock listings. Includes a table with columns: Name, Exch., Last, Friday Chg, Weekly Chg. Example: AB Wat Q 20.50 -0.63 -2.5.

Want more stock information? Order Weekend Stocks, a 22-page supplement of stock listings and related stories. Weekend Stocks is delivered each Saturday at an additional charge of 25¢ to all Palm Beach Post subscribers who request it.

Table for NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq. Columns: NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq. Rows: 8270.92 +8.48, 1990.90 -2.54, 2085.05 -7.29.

Table for Toronto and Nasdaq. Columns: Toronto, Nasdaq. Rows: 11,936.68 +0.2, 2085.05 -7.29.

Table for Bell stocks. Columns: 52 Week, Stock, Div, Yld, PE, High, Low, Last, Chg. Rows: 30.93 21.75 AT&T Inc, 40.44 24.32 BellSouth, 3.49 1.99 Lucent.

Table for Dow Jones. Columns: 30 Indus, 20 Trans, 15 Util, 65 Stocks. Rows: 11,344.17 11,917.36 112,405.24, 4560.46 4,345.46 67,875.06, 456.83 434.05 .96, 3,994.48 3,812.91 3,831.28.

Table for Treasury bills. Columns: Issue, Bid, Ask, Yield, Bid, Ask, Yield. Rows: Aug 10 06 4.98 4.79 4.86, Nov 16 06 4.94 4.92 5.07, Nov 24 06 4.98 5.05 5.07.

Table for NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq Stock Exchanges. Columns: NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq. Rows: 8270.92 +8.48, 1990.90 -2.54, 2085.05 -7.29.

Table for Most Active NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq. Columns: Name, Volume, Last, Chg. Rows: Lucant 11,837.00 2.08 -.01, SpiritWx 48,100.00 17.54 -.41, BNYQ 36,884.50 22.75 -1.04.

Stocks of local interest

Table for Stocks of local interest. Columns: Name, Exch., Last, Chg. Rows: Microsoft Q 24.29 24.25 3457 -.04, DuPont Q 25.43 25.43 2500 0.00, SPDR A 128.20 128.23 2219 .03.

After-hours trading

Top 50 by volume. N = NYSE, Q = NASDAQ, A = AMEX. Preliminary close figures for NYSE and Amex as of 4:35 p.m. Eastern. Nasdaq is 4 p.m. Some preliminary close figures for Nasdaq stocks could reflect corrections or other changes and could be different than figures in main stock tables.

Table for After-hours trading. Columns: Name, Exch., Prev. Cl., After-Hours Last, After-Hours Chg. Rows: Microsoft Q 24.29 24.25 3457 -.04, DuPont Q 25.43 25.43 2500 0.00, SPDR A 128.20 128.23 2219 .03.

Table for Standard and Poor's 500. Columns: S&P 500, Last, Chg. Rows: S&P 500 1280.26 1292.92 173.82 1279.36 -.91, S&P MidCap 746.27 796.35 738.47 743.06 -.91.

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Main table containing stock market data with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes. Includes sections for 'Dow Jones Industrial Average', 'NASDAQ Composite', and various individual stock listings.

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NYSE, Nasdaq Stock Exchange from previous page

Main table of stock market data with columns for Name, Exch, Last, Bid, Ask, and various price/percentage values. Includes sub-sections for 'K' and 'P-Q'.



Main financial table with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Includes sections for Toronto Stocks, Dividends, Commodities and futures, and Foreign exchange.

Toronto Stocks 11,936.68 +0.2

Table of Toronto Stocks with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg.

Dividends

Table of Dividends with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg.

Commodities and futures

Table of Commodities and futures with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg.

Financial Markets & Money

Table of Financial Markets & Money with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg.

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Foreign exchange

Table of Foreign exchange with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg.

# Some fear bill will spur decline of defined-benefits plans

## ► PENSIONS from 8B

make funding requirements more unpredictable, giving plan sponsors thinking of freezing their plans another reason for doing so.

The council's vice president, Lynn Dudley, said the bill shifts saving responsibilities onto the individual by promoting 401(k) and other defined-contribution plans. "Defined-benefit plans were sacrificed in the process, and for that we are disappointed."

Frank McArdle, manager of the Washington office of

Hewitt Associates, a human resources consulting firm, didn't think the funding rules would contribute to more ditched plans. "We think in the end companies will figure out a way to work with them."

The Congressional Budget Office concluded that companies will contribute less to plans over the next few years as the new funding rules are phased in, but will start making higher contributions in about five years.

The bill, while stabilizing a shaky system, does not ensure there will be a defined-

benefit plan in a worker's retirement future. Half the workers in private industry have no pensions, and the legislation "doesn't do anything for that," said Karen Friedman, policy director of the Pension Rights Center.

A Hewitt Associates survey of 227 employers last year found 29 percent were very or somewhat likely to close participation in defined-benefit plans during the year.

The AARP said workers get shortchanged in a provision that adds legal certainty to cash balance plans,

"hybrids" currently in legal limbo because of a lawsuit against IBM filed by employees claiming age discrimination. The bill, said the AARP's David Sloane, "may lead to discriminatory plan designs that stop or reduce benefits for older workers."

Experts agree that young workers in particular will be big winners from provisions promoting automatic enrollment into 401(k) programs. Research by the Investment Company Institute and the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 401(k) participation rates among

low-income workers would more than double, from 42 percent to 91 percent, under automatic enrollment plans.

The bill also encourages savings by making permanent a 2001 law allowing for increased contribution limits to individual retirement accounts. This would benefit higher-income households.

All this will be a boon to Wall Street firms, which will see a rise in investors.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the federal agency that insures pension plans, has racked up deficits

of \$22.8 billion, mainly from taking over defunct steel and airline plans. The PBGC now operates on premiums and interest earnings, but the concern is that a rash of terminations could result in a massive taxpayer bailout.

Most experts discount comparisons to the bailout for the savings and loan industry, noting that PBGC liabilities can be stretched out over 30 or 40 years.

If the legislation just keeps airline pensions afloat, the PBGC, and the taxpayer, come out winners.

## MORTGAGE RATES AND TRENDS

By Bankrate.com

Palm Beach County mortgage rates are down this week. The average 30-year fixed-rate loan is down from 6.61 percent to 6.49 percent and the 15-year fixed-rate loan decreased from 6.29 percent to 6.17 percent. The one-year ARM is down from 5.90 percent to 5.86 percent.

The housing bust is hitting the mortgage market, too. Rates on long-term mortgages have dropped to their lowest level since April this week as loan applications dried up. Fewer people are applying for home loans than at any time since May 2002, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. The association's market composite index, a measure of loan application volume, is down 29 percent from a year ago.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 12 basis points to 6.65 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.3 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 5.91 percent. Four weeks ago, it was 6.91 percent, and it was 6.89 percent two weeks ago.

The 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 9 basis points to 6.3 percent. The 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 11 basis points to 6.36 percent.

A number of factors contribute to the falling of rates. Lenders compete vigorously for slices of the shrinking pie. People all over the world buy U.S. Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities as safe investments during wartime, pushing down the yields of those financial instruments. The bond market awaits next week's Federal Reserve rate-policy meeting. The government reports that the economy slowed in the second quarter of the year.

### Core PCE catches economists' eyes

Bond investors paid less attention to another part of the GDP report: a measure of inflation called the core personal consumption expenditures price index. If you want to impress an economist, just call it the core PCE index. It showed that prices for items, excluding food and energy, were up 2.4 percent from the second quarter of 2005. That's higher than the Fed wants inflation to be. What's worse, core PCE rose at an annual rate of 2.9 percent in the second quarter — a sign that inflation was accelerating.

As an analogy, think of the economy as a car that's going down a 60-mile stretch of road in which there are checkpoints every 15 miles. The Fed wants the car to take at least an hour to travel the 60 miles. The car passes the third checkpoint at the 45-minute mark, but clears the last 15 miles in just 10 minutes. Time to hit the flashing red lights.

## What Banks and Thrifts Charge

Here are rates Palm Beach and Martin County banks and thrifts were charging for 15-year fixed-rate, 30-year fixed-rate and one-year adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) on August 4, 2006. In almost all cases, rate is based on a lock-in period of 30-60 days. On a one-year ARM, the rate is subject to change annually based on index fluctuations. Borrower should review how the rate is calculated and inquire about additional closing costs, such as an appraisal and title search. Rates are based on a loan amount of \$165,000-417,000 with a 20 percent down payment. Rates cover single-family, owner-occupied homes up to the Federal National Mortgage Association limit of \$417,000, but may vary by branch location. Phone numbers were provided by the lenders, and there may be a toll for the call.

Banks	Phone	15-YR. Fixed		30-YR. Fixed		ONE-YEAR ADJUSTABLE				
		Rate	PTS.	Rate	PTS.	Indexed	Rate	PTS.	Cap	Index + Margin
Banco Popular	800-377-0800	6.07	1.00	6.48	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Bank of America Mortgage	800-833-5363	6.13	0.23	6.50	0.18	6.88	7.59	0.02	2%/2%/6%	L+2.00%
BBAT	561-627-8870	5.88	1.00	6.25	1.00	6.25	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Chase Manhattan Mtg	800-826-8944	5.75	1.00	6.13	1.00	5.75	7.84	1.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
Colonial Bank	954-839-1000	6.25	0.00	6.50	0.00	6.50	7.87	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.50%
Comerica Bank	800-453-8389	6.00	1.00	6.25	1.00	5.25	7.82	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Commerce Bank NA	561-684-5515	6.25	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Fifth Third Bank	561-347-7443	6.25	0.25	6.63	0.13	6.25	7.59	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.00%
Grand Bank & Trust	561-615-5000	6.25	0.00	6.50	0.00	6.50	8.05	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.88%
Harrie Bank	561-366-4207	6.38	0.00	6.88	0.00	5.50	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Home 123 Corp.	561-630-2317	5.88	1.00	6.25	1.00	5.38	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Ocean Bank	305-442-2660	6.25	1.00	6.75	1.00	6.00	7.67	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.50%
Regent Bank	561-630-2317	5.88	1.00	6.25	1.00	5.38	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Regions Bk Mtg Co	561-750-2400	5.88	1.38	6.25	1.50	5.88	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Riverside NB of FL	561-719-3643	6.38	0.00	6.50	0.00	6.25	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Seacoast National Bank	772-287-4000	6.25	0.00	6.38	0.00	6.63	8.17	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+3.00%
Sterling Bank	561-968-1000	6.38	0.00	6.63	0.00	5.63	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
SunTrust Bank	877-887-5240	6.13	1.00	6.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Wachovia Bank NA	561-638-5820	6.38	0.00	6.63	0.00	6.38	7.84	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
Wilmington Trust FSB	800-814-3429	6.13	0.00	6.75	0.00	5.62	7.67	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.50%

Thrifts	Phone	15-YR. Fixed		30-YR. Fixed		ONE-YEAR ADJUSTABLE				
		Rate	PTS.	Rate	PTS.	Indexed	Rate	PTS.	Cap	Index + Margin
AmTrust Bank	888-696-4444	6.13	0.00	6.50	0.00	5.38	7.84	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
BankAtlantic	800-741-1700	6.20	0.00	6.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Citibank	800-879-1944	6.38	0.00	6.63	0.13	6.25	7.59	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.00%
Fidelity Federal B&T	561-603-9690	6.13	0.00	6.63	0.00	5.13	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Mackinac Savings Bank	800-829-9259	5.88	0.00	6.25	0.00	5.60	7.84	0.75	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
R-G Crown Bank	561-641-9414	6.50	0.00	6.88	0.00	6.25	7.84	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
SouthBank	561-627-7100	5.88	0.00	6.13	0.00	4.50	7.84	1.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
State Farm Bank, FSB	877-SF4-BANK	6.50	0.00	6.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Third Federal S&LA	888-844-7333	5.90	0.00	6.40	0.00	5.50	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
VirtualBank	877-998-2285	6.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Washington Mutual Bank	800-788-7000	6.38	0.13	6.63	0.00	6.00	7.84	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.25%
World Savings Bank	561-482-6290	6.40	0.00	6.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>PB/Martin County Average</b>		<b>6.17</b>		<b>6.49</b>		<b>5.86</b>				
<b>BBM National Average</b>		<b>6.30</b>		<b>6.65</b>		<b>6.03</b>				

## What Some Other Lenders/Brokers Charge

Following are rates offered by a sampling of some mortgage companies in Palm Beach and Martin Counties on August 4, 2006. The listing will change week by week. Companies wanting to have their mortgage rates considered for publication should write to Bankrate.com, 11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 500, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Abbreviations: T = One-Year Treasury Yield; L = One-Year LIBOR Rate.

Lenders	Phone	15-YR. Fixed		30-YR. Fixed		ONE-YEAR ADJUSTABLE				
		Rate	PTS.	Rate	PTS.	Indexed	Rate	PTS.	Cap	Index + Margin
AAAX Discount Mortgage	877-728-2669	5.75	0.00	6.00	0.00	4.63	8.09	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.50%
American Mortgage & Inv	561-744-1210	5.88	0.00	6.13	0.00	4.50	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Amicus Mortgage Group	877-385-4238	6.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Atlantic States Mortgage	888-439-5828	5.62	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
BrightStar Credit Union	800-637-2728	6.00	2.00	6.38	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Ditech.com	800-616-8208	5.75	2.00	6.13	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Howell Mortgage	561-395-5712	5.75	1.00	6.13	1.00	5.13	7.92	1.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
HSBC Mtg Corp.	800-537-8705	6.13	0.00	6.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Merrill Hill Mtg. Co./Stuart	772-219-3700	6.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	6.00	7.92	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.75%
Orion Residential Finance	813-868-1420	5.75	0.00	6.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Quick Quote Mortgage	866-584-4850	5.75	0.00	6.00	0.00	4.50	7.67	0.00	2%/2%/6%	T+2.50%
Redwood Mortgage	800-354-9554	6.13	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Seacoast Mortgage Group	877-799-2727	6.00	0.00	6.38	0.00	5.13	8.09	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.50%
The Money Store	888-562-5667	5.63	0.00	6.00	0.00	5.50	8.09	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.50%
United Mutual Funding Corp	800-752-5116	5.75	0.00	6.00	0.00	5.13	8.09	0.00	2%/2%/6%	L+2.50%
Wellington Mortgage Corp	561-624-8888	6.00	0.00	6.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

For The Most Current Rates & Information Visit Us Online At: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/realestate>

## Payment Calculator

When shopping 30-year mortgages, you can estimate your monthly payment using the following figures. They show what your principal and interest payments would be on each \$1,000 borrowed. For example, the payment on an 8% rate is \$7.338 per month per \$1,000 borrowed. If you borrowed \$50,000, your monthly payment would be \$366.90. Escrow payments on taxes and mortgage and hazard insurance would be additional. Here are other loan payment factors based on rates currently being charged: 6 1/4% \$7.689, 6 1/2% \$7.513, 7% \$7.164, 7 1/4% \$6.992, 7 3/4% \$6.822, 8% \$6.653, 8 1/4% \$6.486, 8 1/2% \$6.321, 9% \$6.157, 9 1/4% \$5.996, 9 1/2% \$5.836, 9 3/4% \$5.678, 10% \$5.522, 10 1/4% \$5.368, 10 1/2% \$5.217, 10 3/4% \$5.067, 11% \$4.919, 11 1/4% \$4.774.

The indexes to which rates on adjustable-rate mortgages are tied change periodically. Following is a history of four of the most-common indexes:

Rates (%) on adjustable indexes

### Adjustable Indexes

Index	Latest	Prev.	One Year Ago	Five Years Ago
One-Year Treasury Constant Maturity (07/28)	5.17	5.22	3.77	3.59
11th District Cost of Funds (June)	4.090	3.884	2.676	4.498
OTS National Median Cost of Funds (May)	3.21	3.11	2.43	4.90
WSJ Prime Rate (06/29)	8.25	8.00	6.25	6.75

\*Changes monthly

SOURCE: Bankrate.com, a publication of Bankrate, Inc., North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Internet: [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com)

## Big names on board could draw publicity

### ► APPLE from 8B

The deepening problems also expose Apple to legal hassles that extend beyond Jobs, who is widely regarded as key to the company's success.

Depending on the nature of the possible stock option abuses, class-action lawyers and prosecutors could target Apple's board for alleged misconduct. The directors include several well-known leaders who would attract intense media attention if they are dragged into the stock option mess.

Apple's current compensation committee consists of former Vice President Al Gore, who has been on the board since 2003; Intuit Inc. Chairman William Campbell, on the board since 1997; and J. Crew Group Inc. CEO Millard "Mickey" Drexler, on since 1999. Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison, who calls Jobs his best friend, sat on Apple's board for five years before stepping down in September 2002.

Friday's backlash against Apple was not as severe as Wall Street's treatment of several other

companies that have recently raised doubts about the accuracy of their past financial statements because insiders mishandled stock option awards.

More than 80 other companies nationwide are entangled in the stock option imbroglio. But Apple's ubiquitous brand makes it stand out from the rest of the pack.

"Many will be watching this case because... Apple may be the closest to a household name," predicted former federal prosecutor Michael Koenig, who is now in private practice in Washington.

Investors may be more forgiving with Apple because the iPod's success has propelled the Cupertino, Calif.-based company on a hugely profitable streak that most analysts expect to continue for at least the next few years.

Despite Friday's downturn, Apple's stock remained 16 percent above its value before the company's late June disclosure of "irregularities" in the handling of options given to employees between 1997 and 2001.

## Two busy storm seasons lifted team membership

### ► RESPONSE from 8B

farms and nurseries, if they need help with anything. It's across the board."

The response team was founded in North Carolina in 1999 after Hurricane Floyd that September caused the loss of more than 3,000 farm animals. In Florida, the group has expanded beyond aiding animals and livestock to include all agricultural producers such as nurseries and vegetable growers.

Before Hurricane Charley in 2004, the team was a fledgling group in Florida, but it has grown to 432 members after two hard hurricane seasons, Perry

said. David Englert, president of Country Joe's Nursery Inc. west of Lake Worth, said that after the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, the nurseries' biggest problems amounted to trying to repair and replace damaged screen houses and fix the pipes needed to water the plants.

The response team's value lies in the coordination of relief measures and getting information out, he said.

"If I have a reserve generator I don't need, then maybe someone else can use it," Englert said.

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## Stores, builders cut jobs; hotels, health firms add

### ► ECONOMY from 8B

ries, department stores and telecommunications firms. Real-estate companies and specialty home-building contractors also shed jobs, reflecting the cooling in the once-hot housing market. Those employment losses tempered overall job growth.

Health-care firms, computer designers, hotels and motels and food-service companies were among those boosting employment.

The overall picture, though, was of a job market losing more momentum than many analysts had anticipated.

The Fed's Open Market committee meets Tuesday to weigh whether the nation's benchmark rate should be increased by a quarter percentage point to 5.5 percent. Some economists believe the

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954-431-6220

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## Another Outrageous Legal Situation in Florida

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

By Bill O'Reilly

### FOX NEWS

This incredible story involves **Rush Limbaugh**, the prosecutor who made his life miserable, a wealthy Democrat suspected of having sex with a minor, and the **Palm Beach** police chief who believes the aforementioned prosecutor is protecting the suspect.

We'll begin at the beginning. Florida State Attorney Barry Krischer of Palm Beach County aggressively prosecuted Rush Limbaugh for illegally obtaining prescription drugs, at one time even demanding Limbaugh's private medical records. Subsequently a treatment option settled the case.

Then Palm Beach authorities embarrassed Limbaugh by publicizing a legal medical prescription he held which was discovered by authorities checking him after a private plane flight.

Now some people, including me, believe malice was involved in the Limbaugh situation and suspicion falls on Krischer, a committed Democrat. Now the prosecutor is in the middle of a far more serious controversy. Palm Beach police chief Michael Reiter has asked Krischer to remove himself from the case of suspected sex offender **Jeffrey Epstein**.

Chief Reiter believes that Krischer is in the tank for Epstein, a very wealthy businessman who has donated more than \$100,000 to Democrat candidates including **Hillary Clinton** and **Chuck Schumer**.

Reiter wants to charge Epstein with four counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. Police believe Epstein brought girls as young as 14 to his mansion for sex and when they raided his home they found hidden cameras, pictures of underage girls and a girl's high school transcript.

But state attorney Krischer rejected chief Reiter's suggestion and brought the case to a grand jury which returned only a prostitute charge against Epstein. Chief Reiter is outraged. Krischer denies any wrongdoing but surely he knows that Epstein has hired a batter of attorneys including Alan Dershowitz to try and discredit the young girls who are accusing him. The dirt is flying in Palm Beach.

As for Chief Reiter, he has handed his evidence over to the FBI because he believes Krischer will not prosecute the case honestly. This whole thing reminds us of Florida State Attorney Brad King who would not prosecute the people who aided the killer of **Jessica Lunsford**, John Couey.

Politics does play a role in local prosecutions, no question about it. And when you examine how much time and effort state attorney Krischer put into trying to ruin Rush Limbaugh as opposed to what he's doing now in the far more serious case of Jeffrey Epstein? Many, many questions come to mind and none of those questions reflect well on Barry Krischer.



And that's "The Memo."

### The Most Ridiculous Item of the Day

A new [Zogby poll](#) asked Americans a number of questions about pop culture as opposed to how the country works.

The results were predictably not pretty. Here's the best example. Seventy-four percent of us can identify the long-dead **Three Stooges**: Moe, Larry and Curly. But only 42 percent of Americans could name the three branches of government: the executive, the president; legislative, Congress; and judicial, the courts.

Ridiculous? Well, some might say the Three Stooges are well represented in our branch of government. You make the call.

—You can catch Bill O'Reilly's "Talking Points Memo" and "Most Ridiculous Item" weeknights at 8 and 11 p.m. ET on the FOX News Channel and any time on [foxnews.com/oreilly](http://foxnews.com/oreilly). Send your comments to: [oreilly@foxnews.com](mailto:oreilly@foxnews.com)

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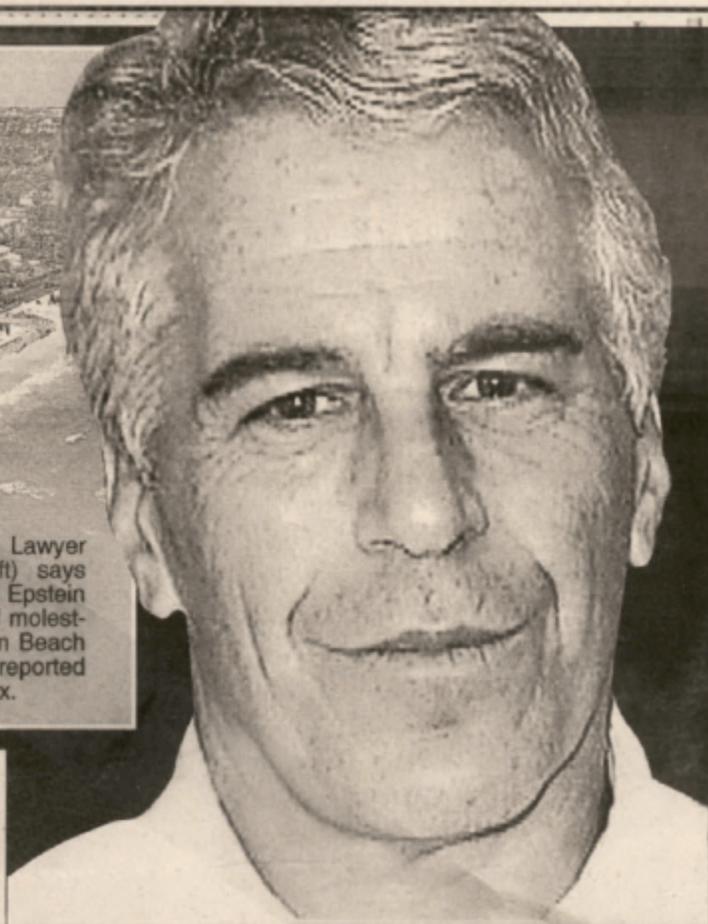
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**BEACH BABIES:** Lawyer Gerald Lelcourt (left) says money man Jeffrey Epstein (right) is not guilty of molesting teens at his Palm Beach mansion — charges reported last month in Page Six.

# Magazine mogul in sex bust

## Page Six

THESE were no happy endings for magazine mogul New York financier Jeffrey Epstein over the weekend — the accusers, three New York teenagers, were indicted on a sex charge. Epstein, once named by Page Six as one of the Big Apple's most eligible bachelors, was indicted for soliciting a prostitute at his mansion home in Palm Beach. "He asked for a prostitute," a friend of the money man told Page Six. "It's believed that one prostitute acted on it."

Epstein was released on \$1,000 bond after being high-profiled West Palm Beach attorney Jack Goldberg. Goldberg, Epstein was charged with a third-degree felony instead of a misdemeanor — the more serious charge usually being lodged when a defendant has at least two prior misdemeanor convictions, although Epstein has no previous basis for soliciting.

But, which said he'd been tested in 1991 for AIDS, his wife's maid, convicted of grand larceny, and given five years probation. It turns out that was a different Jeffrey Epstein, and the paper fixed the error in later editions. The best is the latest strange twist in the life of a man whose rise to fabulous wealth is somewhat of a mystery.

that, over time, she brought six girls, who were between 14 and 16, to Epstein's house, the police records state.

Police allege Epstein's comely [redacted] helped arrange the sessions.

Several girls allege [redacted] led them to Epstein's master bedroom, where she would set up a massage table and give them oils to rub on Epstein.

Cops wanted to charge Robson and [redacted] for their roles in procuring the girls, but the grand jury did not indict either woman.

[redacted] declined to comment for this story, and [redacted] could not be reached for comment.

According to one girl, "Epstein asked for her real age, [and she] stated she was 16. Epstein advised her not to tell anyone her real age," the records say.

The girl alleged Epstein paid her to have sex with his [redacted] police records state.

Epstein would then watch the women have sex and take photos of their trysts to display at home, records claim.

[redacted] declined to comment.

The teen told cops she always refused to have intercourse with Epstein, the report states.

But one time, she told cops, Epstein allegedly grabbed her and forced himself on her.

When the girl became upset and screamed, "No!" Epstein apologized and later paid her \$1,000 for the visit, the records allege.

Palm Beach cops prepared an arrest warrant request proposing that Epstein be charged with unlawful sexual activity with certain

minors, and lewd and lascivious molestation.

Instead, in a rare move, prosecutors brought the evidence to a grand jury, which indicted Epstein only on the prostitution charge.

The frustrated police now have given their evidence to FBI's

Miami division, which is considering whether to investigate Epstein for possible federal crimes involving underage girls, said [redacted]

dan.mangan@nypost.com

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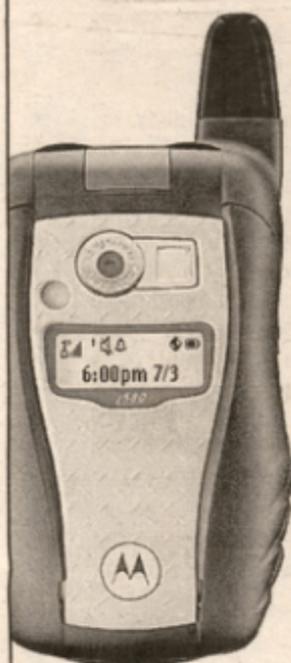
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# \$izzling 'Nights'



## 'Will' power

How top movies fared in the U.S.:

Title	Weekend
① "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby"	\$23M
② "Step Up"	\$21.1M
③ "World Trade Center"	\$19M
④ "Barnyard: The Original Party Animals"	\$10.1M
⑤ "Pulse"	\$8.5M

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## Ferrell No. 1 again

By DAVID K. LI

Will Ferrell's "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" captured its second box-office checkered flag this weekend, while Oliver Stone's 9/11 drama, "World Trade Center," finished in a respectable third place.

"Talladega Nights," from Sony Pictures Entertainment, raked in about \$23 million in North American ticket sales Friday through Sunday, following its box-office victory the previous weekend, according to industry estimates.

"WTC," Hollywood's first big-budget retelling of the 9/11 attacks, grossed almost \$27 million since opening on Wednesday, including a \$19 million weekend take.

Disney's "Step Up"

danced its way to a surprisingly strong No. 2 performance, with weekend ticket sales of \$21.1 million.

Stone's "WTC" stars Nicolas Cage and Michael Peña as Port Authority cops Sgt. John McLoughlin and Will Jimeno, who were the only rescuers pulled alive from the wreckage, after being miraculously located by Marine Staff Sgt. David Karnes and Sgt. Jason Thomas.

"It's excellent, at the high end of studio expectations," "WTC" producer Michael Shamberg told The Post.

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" slipped to sixth place, with \$7.2 million, but still remained on top in year-to-date totals, having grossed \$392.4 million.

david.li@nypost.com

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## Dead ducks spur flu fear

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — A village where 1,200 ducks have died of bird flu this month will be monitored for 30 days, and poultry samples will be taken within a two-mile radius, a Cambodian animal-health official announced yesterday.

Plus, another 400 of the 1,600 ducks on the farm where the outbreak began have been killed, he said.

The H5N1-virus outbreak was confirmed Saturday. Ducks have been falling ill since Aug. 2, but there's no sign of infected villagers. The virus is already blamed for six deaths in Cambodia. AP

# Bosox finish sweep

By HOWARD ULMAN

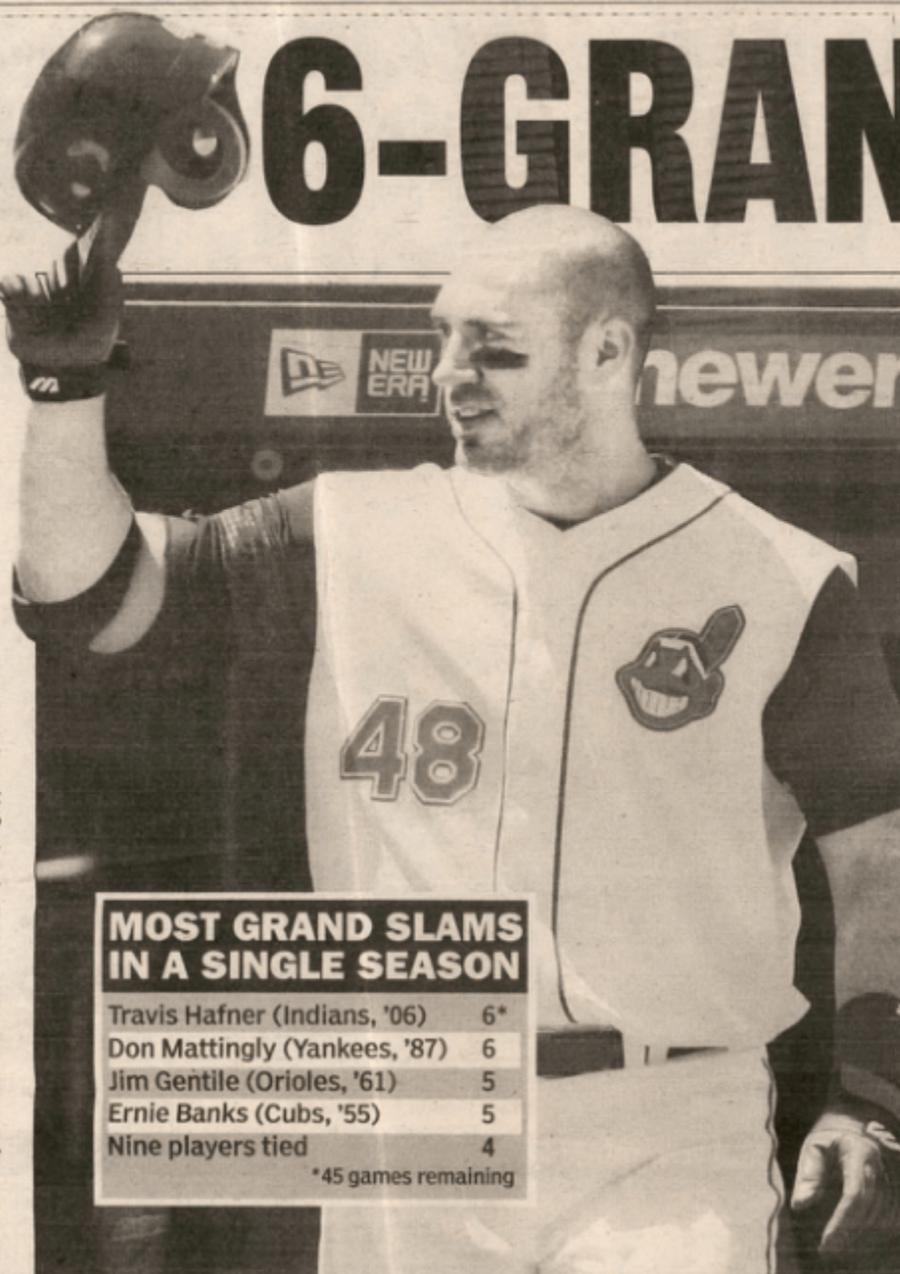
BOSTON — Mike Lowell hit a grand slam in the first inning and made a game-saving play for the final out, helping the Red Sox hold off the Orioles 11-9 yesterday for a three-game sweep.

Boston's Manny Ramirez had his hitting streak end at 27 games. He might've been credited with an infield single, but jogged down the line on a play ruled an error.

Jonathan Papelbon got his 31st save in 36 chances, thanks to Lowell. The Orioles scored twice in the ninth, on an error by shortstop Alex Cora and a bases-loaded walk to Brian Roberts, but Lowell backhanded Melvin Mora's sharp grounder down the third-base line and threw him out with the bases loaded.

David Ortiz, topping the majors in RBIs and tied for the home run lead, sat out his second game of the season to rest before a three-game series against AL Central-leading Detroit and the big set with the Yankees.

The Red Sox had lost five straight before facing Baltimore. — AP



## MOST GRAND SLAMS IN A SINGLE SEASON

Travis Hafner (Indians, '06)	6*
Don Mattingly (Yankees, '87)	6
Jim Gentile (Orioles, '61)	5
Ernie Banks (Cubs, '55)	5
Nine players tied	4

\*45 games remaining

**SLAMMIN' TRAVIS:** The Indians' Travis Hafner acknowledges the Cleveland crowd after hitting his sixth grand slam of the season during the first inning of yesterday's 13-0 win over Kansas City. AP

# 6-GRAND MAN

## Hafner blast ties Mattingly's mark

Post wire reports

As a youngster, Travis Hafner was a Don Mattingly fan. Now, he's matched his grand slam record.

Hafner hit his sixth grand slam in Cleveland's 11-run first inning to tie Mattingly's single-season record and the Indians routed the Royals 13-0 yesterday in Cleveland.

"It's pretty cool to tie a major league record," Hafner said. "Mattingly was one of the best hitters in the game. I liked to watch him on TV when I was young."

Hafner put Cleveland ahead 11-0 with his 35th homer of the season and tied Mattingly's mark set with the Yankees in 1987.

### White Sox 7, Tigers 3

In Chicago, Freddy Garcia won for the first time in six weeks, Alex Cintron drove in three runs and the White Sox completed a three-game sweep to move within 5½ games of AL Central leader Detroit.

A sellout crowd chanted "Sweep! Sweep!" as it saw a White Sox team that was a season-high 10 games be-

## AL ROUNDUP

hind Detroit on Monday win its fourth straight.

The Tigers, still with the best record in the majors, have lost five in a row for the first time this year. Chicago is 9-3 against Detroit this season, with the teams meeting seven more times.

### Twins 5, Blue Jays 0

In Minneapolis, Brad Radke pitched seven innings and Jason Tyner had three hits and two RBIs to lead the Twins. Michael Cuddyer also hit his 17th homer for the Twins, who had lost three straight overall and five consecutive games at home.

Minnesota had been outscored 45-3 over its last five home games and managed only one run in the first three games against Toronto.

### A's 3, Devil Rays 1

In Oakland, Eric Chavez hit his first homer in nearly a month, a two-run shot in the seventh inning that sent Esteban Loaiza and the Athletics to a three-game sweep.

# Bad run of Cards: St. Louis swept by Pirates

Post wire reports

Paul Maholm pitched 6½ shutout innings, Jason Bay and Joe Randa hit consecutive homers and the last-place Pirates finished off a three-game home sweep of division leader St. Louis, beating the Cardinals 7-0 yesterday.

The Cardinals, outscored 17-3 in the series, lead Cincinnati by 1½ games in the NL Central following the Reds' victory.

## NL ROUNDUP

### Braves 7, Brewers 4

In Atlanta, Brian McCann homered and drove in four runs to help the Braves. Chipper Jones, returning from the disabled list, hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh and Jeff Francoeur hit his 22nd homer for Atlanta, which took two of three in the se-

ries. Tony Graffanino hit a two-run double in the top of the seventh to help the Brewers rally from a 4-1 deficit to tie it, but his error in the bottom half helped the Braves take the lead with three unearned runs.

### Padres 7, Astros 2

In Houston, Woody Williams pitched seven strong innings in another successful homecoming to lead the

Padres. Mike Cameron hit a two-run homer and finished with three hits for the second straight game for San Diego, which won two of three in the weekend series.

Williams (5-4), who was born in Houston, scattered eight hits, struck out three and walked none.

### Reds 7, Phillies 5 (11)

In Philadelphia, Juan Castro and Ken Griffey Jr.

drove in runs in the 11th inning and Cincinnati recovered from blowing a late lead. Ryan Howard tied it with two outs in the Phillies' ninth, hitting an RBI single that made it 5-all. He earlier hit his 41st home run, matching him with Boston's David Ortiz for the major league lead.

### Cubs 8, Rockies 7

In Denver, pinch-hitter Ryan Theriot hit a three-

run double in the eighth inning and the Cubs overcame 10 walks to snap a four-game losing streak.

### Marlins 6, D'backs 5

In Phoenix, Miguel Cabrera hit his 18th homer and drove in four runs during his seventh consecutive multi-hit game.

Dan Uggla doubled, tripled and scored three runs for the Marlins, who took two of three.

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# TRAINING2006CAMP



# CHAD: FULL-GO, BABY

## Pennington takes full reps, says he 'proved durability'

By BRIAN LEWIS

With published reports that Chad Pennington might have re-injured his twice-

repaired shoulder and tried to hide getting treatment Friday in Tampa, and breathless TV reports that nearly eulo-

gized his career, both the Jets and their quarterback vehemently insisted yesterday that he's perfectly fine.

Pennington took reps with the first unit at yesterday's practice, wasn't forced to miss a single snap, and proclaimed himself "full-go, baby!" Which is encouraging, because he had some doubts how his body would respond to an arm-yanking sack like the one Calvin Pearson put on him Friday.

"I wasn't for sure. You really don't know how your body is going to

respond, and it responded nicely. That's a positive step," Pennington said. "To be honest, I didn't know how my body was going to

respond. I didn't know what to expect.

"That hit proves my shoulder can take those type of hits. It wasn't the same as last year but it was similar. My arm was going in motion and it was jerked back. I was pleased to see how it responded. I didn't know what to expect, didn't know if I'd come out and be sore, but everything worked out well. I took a step forward in being able to prove my durability."

Pennington chose to dress in the trainer's room, away from the press. The unusually-long 45-minute lag before meeting the media prompted some to surmise that he was hiding an injury, or at least getting treatment. But Eric Mangini revealed yesterday that he had been chatting up his QB, dis-

cussing the game.

"Chad's fine," Mangini said. "This was my first ground. Right after the game I wanted to talk to Chad, get feedback while it was fresh in his mind, fresh in my mind. He was late talking to (the press), and the buses left later, but I wanted to ... talk through that stuff. It was important we do it at that point."

Why the clandestine cloak-and-dagger routine?

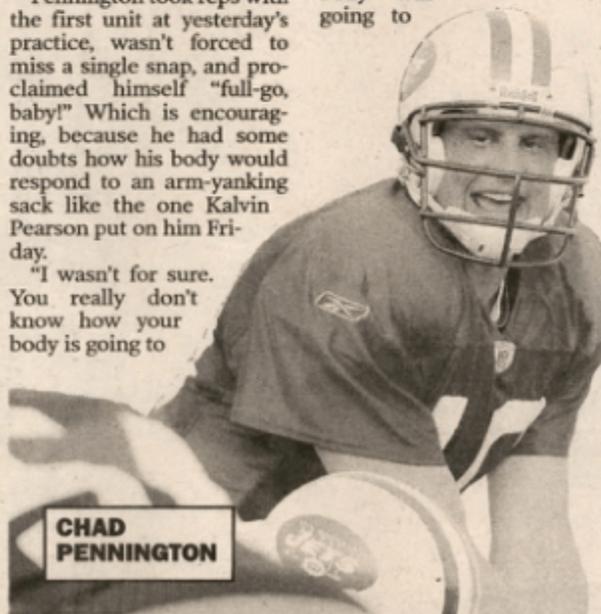
"I said I wasn't getting treatment and I was being honest: I wasn't getting treatment," Pennington said, seemingly vexed by being doubted. "I didn't mention what was going on because it was a private conversation and I was going to let coach handle that before I stepped out of my bounds. We were talking about the game, it being his first as coach and my first playing under him."

It wasn't a spectacular game by any stretch, a 16-3 loss in which Pennington went 9-for-14, but threw for just 54 yards and missed his only downfield attempt of the night. Pennington chalked that up to the Bucs' fast pass rush and two-deep zone, but said the important thing is he's healthy.

"Chad went through the same process everybody else did," Mangini said. "He had some soreness, but there was nothing different there, just typical soreness."

Even though neither Mangini nor Pennington were willing to acknowledge him as the starter, for the second straight opportunity the veteran worked with the first team unit — throwing a nice out-route TD to Laveranues Coles.

brian.lewis@nypost.com



CHAD PENNINGTON

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## TRAINING2006CAMP

# Running on empty: RBs not being Curt

By BRIAN LEWIS

Because Curtis Martin quietly churned out 1,000-yards seasons without making waves or getting hurt, people tended to take him for granted, overlook his play and underestimate his value. Until now.

The injured Martin's absence was underscored by the Jets' putrid running game Friday, a 16-carry, 44-yard effort that didn't engender much faith in Derrick Blaylock, Leon Washington and Cedric Houston — who got jumped over by Calvin Pearson on the arm-wrenching sack of Chad Pennington.

"The running game is going to come down to 11 guys blocking the right people and executing," said Eric Mangini, whose team carried three times for three yards behind the backup line in the second half. "The second half more than the first, if you can't execute the core assignments, that's the issue."

### JET NOTES

When asked about losing DLs Monsanto Pope and Sione Pouha, Mangini tellingly volunteered, "With every position we're looking to improve. We've talked running back, defensive line, a lot of areas. We evaluate nightly and see what our opportunities are."

To that end, they inked FB Jamar Martin off waivers from the Saints, but their halfback opportunities are thin, perhaps Chris Brown or Thomas Jones. If Martin can't return from the arthroscopic surgery that has kept him out for the past eight months, the Jets' offseason strategy will be criticized.

After the 33-year-old reportedly advised them to draft a back, they handed a \$3.2 million signing bonus to the 5-foot-9 Blaylock — who'd run behind three Pro Bowlers in Kansas City — and waited until the fourth-

round to draft the 5-8 Washington. It begs the question if they have enough to get the job done.

"Sure. We have the keys, we just have to get the little things done. We can be productive," Blaylock said. "We know it's going to get better. We just need more focus and concentration. (The holes) were there; we missed some of them."

The team didn't have a carry longer than six yards, with Houston averaging just 3.4 yards a carry, Blaylock two yards and Washington one.

The team put Pouha on the LR, and waived WR Jovan Witherspoon yesterday. ... Mangini lauded the play of Washington, Brad Smith and rookie OLs D'Brickasaw Ferguson and Nick Mangold. He also said DLs Dewayne Robertson, Shaun Ellis and Kimo von Oelhoffen all played multiple positions Friday in an effort to build versatility.

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# LIBS PUT ON GREAT SHOE

## Honor fans after win in finale

By ANDREW MARCHAND

After the Liberty's 93-81 season-finale victory over the Mystics yesterday, Becky Hammon gave the enthusiastic, but sparse, Madison Square Garden crowd what appeared to be — at least to them — the ultimate going

**Liberty 93**  
**Mystics 81**

away present.

Sweaty, game-worn sneakers.

The Liberty finished the season a disappointing 11-23, but the announced crowd of 11,907 didn't seem to mind. Following the victory, the Liberty thanked the crowd by having 13 fans come down to midcourt and accept a Liberty uniform from a player. Then Hammon, who finished with 21 points and six-assists yesterday, took over.

She ended the festivities by removing her Liberty sea-foam green, white, blue and orange No. 25 Nikes. She walked to the courtside seats as the fans begged for her



**ATTAWAY:** Becky Hammon (right) and Ashley Battle celebrate the Liberty's season-ending 93-81 triumph over the Mystics yesterday at the Garden. The Libs won seven of their last 10, but still finished 11-23.

shoes as if they were made of gold. She fired one near the Liberty's bench before flipping the other to the opposite stands.

For good measure, Hammon even hurled one of her just-worn sweatbands into the stands.

"I thought it was such a great way to end the season

on a win in front of this kind of crowd," Hammon said. "It is something to give back."

Hammon led the Liberty, along with Catherine Kraayeveld and Shameka Christon, who both had a team-high 22.

After losing a franchise-record 11-straight games, the Liberty finished strong, winning seven of their final 10.

"I'm proud they didn't quit," Liberty coach Pat Coyle said.

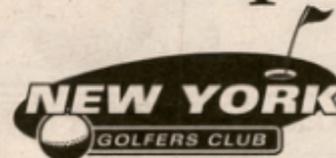
Still, the interest in the team diminished to the point that yesterday's game was dropped by ABC and wasn't even picked up by the Garden's own network, MSG.

Yesterday, the Liberty went into the locker room at halftime up 42-41, thanks to 13 points from Kraayeveld. The Liberty then controlled the second half.

In the end, the Liberty were disappointed in their season, but the fans at the Garden yesterday seemed satisfied. A lucky few even walked away with some sweaty shoes and a sweatband.

"You just want to go out on a positive note," Hammon said.

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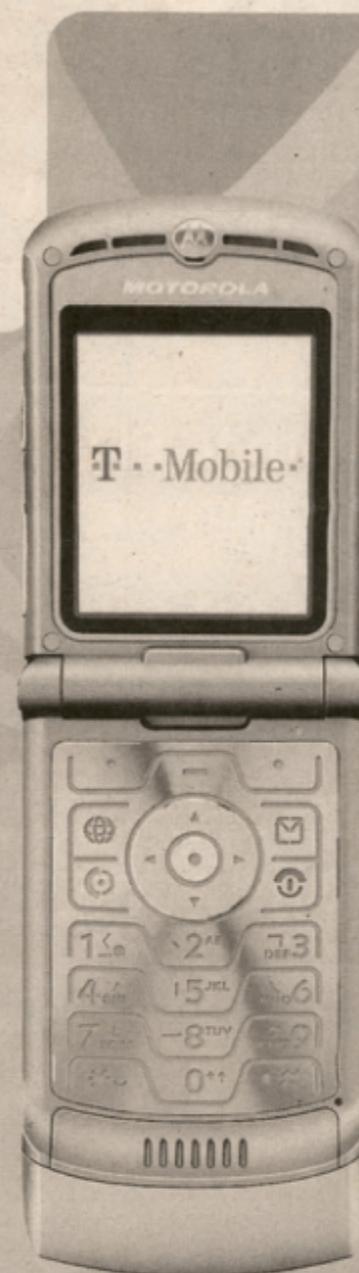
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## Hate raps in attack on teens

Two white men face hate-crime charges after attacking four Asian-Americans and maybe breaking one's skull, the Queens DA said.

Two arresting officers were also injured, DA Richard Brown said.

The victims were in a white Lexus in Douglaston at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday when Kevin Brown, 19, of Flushing, and Paul Heavey, 20, of Little Neck, pulled alongside, yelled racial slurs, then rammed them from behind with their Toyota, the DA said.

Reynold Liang, 19, tried to drive away, but when he pulled over and John Lu, 19, got out to inspect the damage, the Toyota reappeared, the DA said. Brown and Heavey got out and attacked Lu, loosening several teeth, prosecutors said, and when Liang went to his aid, they punched and kicked him. Liang grabbed a steering-wheel lock, but one thug took it and hit him in the head with it, the DA said.

When cops caught up with the two in Bayside, Brown hit the squad car with his car, then closed a door on Officer Graziano Cillo's head and arm, the DA said. AP

By DAN MANGAN

For years, a media-dodging financial adviser who owns Manhattan's largest pad has cultivated his mysterious image, suggesting he creates big investment profits for billionaire clients without revealing how he does it or whose portfolios he handles.

But now, investment whiz Jeffrey Epstein's darkest personal secrets have allegedly been bared in an explosive, seamy prostitution case involving underage girls.

Instead of marveling at his stock-market acumen, Epstein's celebrity friends are now hearing sordid stories about his alleged obsession with getting massages in his Florida mansion from young girls — one allegedly just 14 years old.

The tawdry tale came to light when Epstein, 53, was busted in Florida on July 23 after a grand jury indicted him on a single felony charge of solicitation of prostitution. The grand jury declined to indict the silver-haired money man on charges of sexual contact with minors.

But a bitter rift between Palm Beach cops and prosecutors over how to handle the case has put Epstein at risk of more serious charges. The FBI now is weighing whether to investigate his alleged contacts with underage girls.

Gerald Lefcourt, one of Epstein's high-powered lawyers, said his client is innocent and that his polygraph test helps prove it.

"There was no sexual contact with anyone underage," Lefcourt said, arguing that that has been "proved beyond a reasonable doubt" by evidence lawyers gave authorities.

Epstein owns what reportedly is Manhattan's largest home — a

# Mystery mogul's teen-sex secret bared in probe

51,000-square-foot Upper East Side house — plus a sprawling New Mexico ranch and a 100-acre private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

He also owns a two-story pink mansion in Palm Beach, which became the focus of a nearly yearlong police investigation.

Palm Beach police records show that on March 15, 2005, a 14-year-old girl alleged she had visited Epstein's house a month before at the behest of an older friend. The girl said that while at Epstein's pad, she partially stripped and gave Epstein a massage.

At one point, "Epstein then pulled out a purple vibrator" and used it on her, police records claim.

Epstein eventually paid the girl \$300 and she left, the records allege.

The allegation ignited a probe that ultimately led to five young women who said Epstein masturbated and touched their genitals during massages, the records state.

Some girls initially were recruited by a woman named [REDACTED] documents say.

When cops confronted the 20-year-old [REDACTED] the records show, she admitted that she had

been recruited at age 17 by a friend to give Epstein a massage while she was naked.

"He tried to touch me, and I stopped him," [REDACTED] alleged. Epstein allegedly paid her \$200 for the rubdown.

After the massage, Epstein told her that he understood she wasn't comfortable but that "he would pay her if she brought over some girls," the police records state.

"He told her the younger the better," the records claim.

[REDACTED] — who described herself as "like a Heidi Fleiss" — alleges

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# The Palm Beach Post

Monday, August 14, 2006

Final Edition • PalmBeachPost.com

50 cents

## Authorities ease some air travel rules, tighten others

### Keeping the rules straight

#### Allowed

- Up to 4 ounces of liquid nonprescription medicine
- Low blood sugar treatments, including glucose gel for diabetics
- Solid lipstick
- Baby food

#### Not allowed

- Aerosol sprays
- Mascara
- Baby teething with gel or liquid inside
- Children's toys with gel inside
- Gel candles

By JOHN HEILPRIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration issued modified rules for air travelers Sunday, allowing small amounts of liquid nonprescription medicine to be carried onto planes and requiring that all passengers remove their shoes during security checks.

Those were among several measures ordered Sunday in response to the thwarted terror plot in Britain involving U.S.-bound airplanes. Authorities said the alleged conspirators had planned to use liquid explo-

■ Official says U.K. terror threat still high, 5A  
■ Executive fliers adjust plans. Business, 1F

sives, which the agency's security equipment cannot detect in carry-on luggage.

Initially, the TSA allowed only liquid prescription medicine. Now it will allow up to 4 ounces of liquid nonprescription medicine.

In other measures, the agency said it would allow fliers to carry on low blood sugar treatments, including glucose gel for diabetics; solid lipstick; and baby food.

On Saturday, the TSA added mascara to the list of banned items, which includes baby teething with gel or liquid inside, children's toys with gel inside, and gel candles.

"I don't see us moving to a total ban on hand baggage at this point," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Sunday on ABC's *This Week*.

Chertoff said the government was putting "less emphasis on the nail clippers and the nail scissors" and more on training ad-

See RULES, 5A ▶

## The man who had everything



Epstein's Palm Beach mansion at 358 El Brillo Way.

### Jeffrey Epstein craved big homes, elite friends and, investigators say, underage girls

By ANDREW MARRA, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

**WINGED GARGOYLES** guarded the gate at Jeffrey Epstein's Palm Beach mansion. Inside, hidden cameras trolled two rooms, while the girls came and went.

For the police detectives who sifted through the garbage outside and kept records of visitors, it was the lair of a troubling target.

Epstein, one of the most mysterious of the country's mega-rich, was known as much for his secrecy as for his love of fine things: magnificent homes, private jets, beautiful women, friendships with the world's elite.

But at Palm Beach police headquarters, he was becoming known for something

else: the regular arrival of teenage girls he hired to give him massages and, police say, perform sexual favors.

Epstein was different from most sexual abuse suspects; he was far more powerful. He counted among his friends former President Bill Clinton, Donald Trump and Prince Andrew, along with some of the most prominent legal, scientific and business minds in the country.

When detectives started

See EPSTEIN, 6A ▶



Epstein's mysterious lifestyle began to unravel after claims of sexual activity with minors.

■ Epstein's lawyers take on Palm Beach police chief. Local, 1B



ESTUDIOS REVOLUCION via The Associated Press. This unauthenticated photo shows Fidel Castro holding a Saturday issue of *Granma* headlined 'Absolved by history.'

## Castro cautions Cuba 'to be ready'

His recovery could be long and risky, the president warns in his birthday greeting.

By ANITA SNOW  
The Associated Press

HAVANA — President Fidel Castro sent Cubans a sober greeting on his 80th birthday Sunday, saying he faces a long recovery from surgery and warning that they should prepare for "adverse news."

But he encouraged them to be optimistic, saying Cuba "will continue marching on perfectly well."

As a newspaper published the first pictures of Castro since his illness, his younger brother Raul — making his first public appearance as Cuba's acting president — greeted Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on his arrival to celebrate Fidel's birthday.

Fidel Castro, who underwent surgery for an unspecified intestinal ailment that forced him to step aside as president two weeks ago, said in a statement that his health had improved, but stressed that he still faced risks.

"To affirm that the recovery period will take a short time and that there is no risk would be absolutely incorrect," read the statement in the Communist Youth newspaper, *Juventud Rebelde*. "I ask you all to be optimistic, and at the same time to be ready to face any adverse news."

The Communist Party newspaper, *Granma*, had offered a rosier picture of Castro's condition Saturday, saying he was walking, talking and even working a bit. It compared him to a resistant tropical

See CASTRO, 5A ▶

## State suspends Boynton doctor, says he violated previous order

By STACEY SINGER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Mondays are supposed to be scalpel days for Boynton Beach plastic surgeon Mark D. Schreiber. But not today.

The Florida Department of Health issued an emergency suspension order against the doctor late Friday, saying it believed that the last time the state suspended Schreiber's license, he continued to operate, performing liposuction and lip enhancement in 2005 during a month he was forbidden to practice.

On hearing of the suspension order, Schreiber's

See SUSPENSION, 9A ▶



**Schreiber:**  
Awaits action on a death and a criminal case.

## Hostilities escalate ahead of cease-fire

Lebanon's Cabinet seems torn over Hezbollah disarmament.

By HENRY CHU and BORZOU DARAGAH  
Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT — By air and on land, Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters battled fiercely to maximize their positions Sunday in a last-minute surge of bloodletting before an official cease-fire was to go into effect this morning.

The violence came amid signs of potentially serious snags in the Leb-

anese government's implementation of the U.N.-brokered truce. On Sunday, after sharp debate, the Israeli Cabinet formally approved the United Nations resolution calling for a cease-fire.

Throughout the day and into the night, Israeli warplanes and gunboats hammered southern Lebanon, leveling buildings and bombing other infrastructure around the coastal

city of Tyre.

In south Beirut, just outside Hezbollah-controlled suburbs, 20 explosions were heard in the space of three minutes. The blasts destroyed a complex of shops, apartments and offices less than an hour after the Israeli Cabinet voted to accept the cease-fire.

At least 18 people were reported killed in the various strikes.

Hezbollah guerrillas unleashed

See MIDEAST, 12A ▶



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Storms.  
High 90,  
low 77.  
FORECAST ON  
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DEAR ABBY 2D  
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COMICS 6D  
CROSSWORD 5D  
CROSSWORD 5E  
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EDITORIALS 14A

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PEOPLE 13A  
POLITICS 10A  
SCORES 10C  
THEATERS 4D  
TV LISTINGS 5D  
WEATHER 12C



MARLINS  
6  
D'BACKS  
5

**Tradition and beauty**  
A slide show features an ancestral celebration at the Morikami Museum.  
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# Mayhem mounts despite added troops

Five bombings kill 57 civilians in a Shiite area of Baghdad.

*The New York Times*  
 BAGHDAD — As U.S. forces conducted a new security sweep in western Baghdad on Sunday, five apparently coordinated bombings in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood on the city's south side killed at least 57 people and wounded 148, an Iraqi government official said.

ern Baghdad occurred in two waves about an hour apart on Sunday evening, an Interior Ministry official said.  
 At 7:30 p.m., the first of three successive blasts rocked an apartment building, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Shortly thereafter, in a market about 60 yards away, a car bomb detonated, killing people involved in rescuing victims of the first blast, the official said. The third explosion, minutes later, occurred on a road near the building as a police patrol sped toward the scene, the official said.

Then, at 8:30 p.m., about 300 yards from the scene of the first three explosions, a bomb rigged to a motorcycle blew up after neighbors confronted its driver, who was trying to park on the street, the Interior Ministry official said. Two minutes later, the official added, a fifth bomb exploded near the wreckage left by the motorcycle bomb, killing bystanders.

The new U.S.-led security operation here is intended "to reduce the level of murders, kidnappings, assassinations, terrorism and sectarian violence in northwest Baghdad and to reinforce the Iraqi government's control in Iraq's capital city," according to a statement released by the U.S. military on Sunday evening.

The raid on the Health Ministry, which began about 2:30 a.m. after a tip from a local resident, did not turn up any kidnapping victims. It did draw a vehement reaction from the health minister, Ali al-Shimari, a Shiite who is closely aligned with Muqtada al-Sadr, the anti-American cleric, and the powerful Shiite militia he commands, the



Security guards protest on Sunday the arrest of colleagues at the Health Ministry by U.S. and Iraqi troops looking for kidnapping victims.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

Total since March 2003	2,600
In combat	2,057
Other causes	543

## No casualties identified Sunday

## Wounded in Iraq

Total since March 2003	19,387
Returned to duty	10,547
Not returned to duty	8,840

Note: The Pentagon updates the number of wounded each Tuesday  
 Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Mahdi Army.  
 "They broke into all the floors, especially the ninth floor, stole some money, which was the salaries of the security workers, and they kidnapped five of our staff,"

# Ex-hostage reporter tells of plea for quick death

"I don't want the knife," she recalls telling her Iraqi abductors.

*The Associated Press*  
 BOSTON — At one of the most desperate moments of her captivity in Iraq, fearing she was about to be beheaded, reporter Jill Carroll pleaded with one of her captors for a quick death by pistol, saying: "I don't want the knife."

In her first public account of her 82-day hostage ordeal, Carroll said she had feared the worst when her captors said they planned to use her in a second propaganda video. The kidnapers, however, seemed confused when she made her request and said they didn't plan to kill her.

Carroll describes the terror she felt, even at times her captors were civil to her, in the first segment of an 11-part series. It was published Sunday on the Web site of *The Christian Science Monitor*, where she is a staff writer.

Carroll said that, within hours of her abduction at gunpoint in Baghdad, she was taken to two homes, dressed in new clothes, fed a chicken and rice meal and invited to watch television with the family of one of her captors.

"They all seemed concerned that I think they were good, or at least that they were treating me well," Carroll wrote.

"It sounds hospitable. But in my mind every second was a test — the choice of food, TV program, everything — and they would kill me if I gave the wrong answer."

The 28-year-old journalist was kidnapped Jan. 7 and her Iraqi interpreter, Alan Enwiya, was shot dead. She was released near a Sunni Arab political party office in Baghdad 82 days later and returned to the United States on April 2. Last week, the Pentagon announced that U.S. troops had arrested four Iraqi men in connection to her kidnapping.



Carroll

The Web site also contains video clips of Carroll describing her abduction, detention and survival. It's the first time Carroll, who was a freelance writer when she was abducted, has told her story.

"In the first few minutes after my abduction, my captors peppered me with questions in Arabic," she wrote. "I played dumb, fearful that they would think I understood too much and kill me."

She attracted a huge amount of sympathy during her ordeal, and a wide variety of groups in the Middle East, including the Islamic militant group Hamas, appealed for her release.

# Bush gone; protests near ranch to continue

*The Associated Press*  
 CRAWFORD, Texas — Anti-war demonstrators said Sunday they hope the president Bush's ranch vacation doesn't hurt attendance at their protest during the rest of the summer.

Their urged opponents of the war in Iraq to come to the 5-acre campsite purchased last month by Cindy Sheehan, who resumed her protest a week ago.

Sheehan's first trek to Crawford, one year ago during Bush's monthlong vacation, turned into a 26-day vigil that drew more than 10,000 people and spurred counterprotests by

Bush supporters.  
 On Sunday, only about 100 protesters were camped on their land near downtown, about 7 miles from the ranch.

Bush arrived at his ranch Aug. 3 and returned to Washington on Sunday.  
 Sheehan, 49, returned to the camp for an interfaith service Sunday after being hospitalized for two nights.

"Even though George Bush isn't here, it's important still to get together and not just show him but show the world that there are Americans who want the violence in the Middle East to stop," she said.

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# 'The transfer is under way,' expert on Cuba says

► CASTRO from 1A

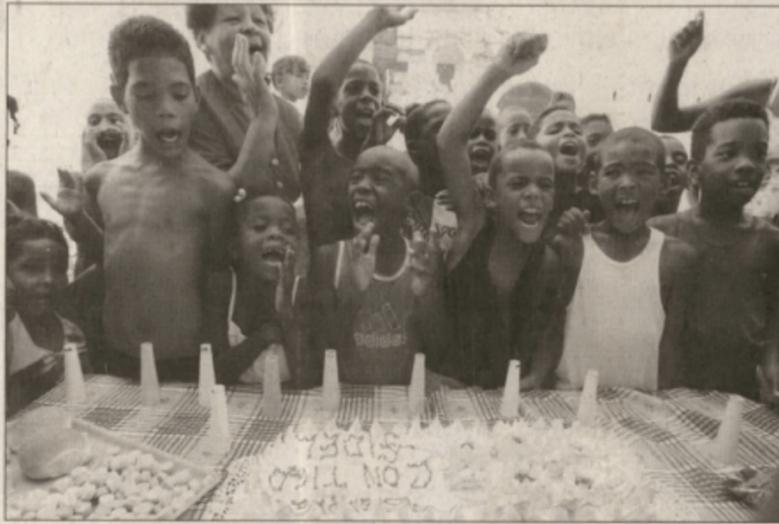
hardwood tree found in eastern Cuba, where he was born. *Juventud Rebelde* also published four photographs of Castro, giving the first view of the leader since July 26, when he gave two speeches in eastern Cuba. One shows him in a chair sitting in front of a bed with a white spread in what appears to be a home. He holds a special supplement of *Granma* published Saturday as an homage to him.

The photos were credited to Estudios Revolucion, a division of Castro's personal support group that collects historic documents and images. Although some anti-Castro groups in the United States claimed the photos were fake, many Cubans celebrated the images.

"What happiness I received!" Margot Gomez said after seeing the newspaper during a morning walk in Havana. "Long live Fidel, and long live the revolution. He knows what to do to convert setbacks into victories."

Dozens of children in the Old Havana neighborhood celebrated Castro's birthday with games and a cake that read: "Always With You Fidel." The boys and girls shouted, "Long live Fidel!" after singing *Happy Birthday* for the Cuban leader.

Raul Castro, the defense minister who is serving as provisional president during



Children in the Belen neighborhood of Havana surround a cake Sunday while singing *Happy Birthday* to President Fidel Castro. Many Cubans celebrated a newspaper's publication of four images of the ailing leader.

his brother's recovery, saluted and hugged Chavez when he arrived at midday for a meeting with the elder Castro, his friend and ally in opposing U.S. policies and influence.

The state television broadcast was the first time the younger Castro had been seen publicly since becoming interim president.

Neither man commented during the broadcast, but Chavez told reporters Saturday that he was going to "take

him a nice gift, a good cake, and we'll be celebrating the 80 years of this great figure of America and our history."

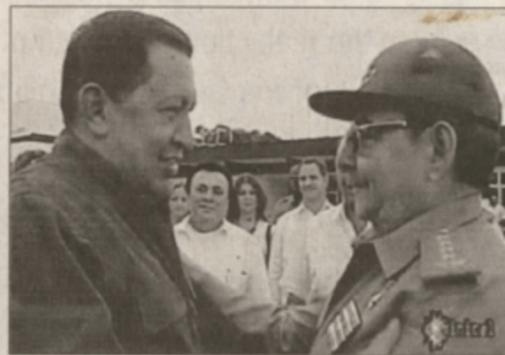
Just outside the capital, the government's minister for the sugar industry, Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, reiterated his support for the Castro brothers.

"After Fidel, Raul is the man who is in the best condition to direct the destinies of this nation, either at Fidel's side or when he is no longer here," he said.

The sugar minister was directing a crew of Foreign Ministry officials as they worked in the fields to show their support for Castro on his birthday.

In his statement, Fidel Castro said: "I feel very happy. For all those who care about my health, I promise to fight for it."

His stability has "considerably improved," he said. "To the people of Cuba, infinite gratitude for your loving support. The country is



A televised image shows Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez greeting provisional Cuban President Raul Castro on Sunday in Havana.

marching on and will continue marching on perfectly well."

Castro made no vows to return to office. Julia Sweig, an expert on Cuba at the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonpartisan organization, predicted he would not. But rather than make an abrupt departure from power, she said, he has begun a draw-out campaign aimed at keeping the country stable while his aides work out the details of a transition.

"I think they are signaling to domestic and international publics that the duration of Fidel's absence may be much longer than the provisional nature he initially stated," she said. "The transfer is under way."

Russian President

## Eye on Cuba

- Photos from Castro's reign.
  - Audio slide show on Miami's Little Havana.
  - Timeline of Castro's Cuba.
  - Submit your comments.
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Vladimir Putin joined the Cuban leader and wished him a speedy recovery. The Kremlin said Putin also promised that Russia and Cuba would continue to be "active partners."

Putin's government has sought to revive relations with the island, which has weakened after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The *New York Times* contributed to this story.

## U.K. investigating other terror plots

More suspects may be at large, Britain's security head implies.

The *New York Times*

LONDON — Britain's highest-ranking law enforcement official said Sunday that the threat of a terrorist attack here remains "very substantial," disclosing that about two dozen major terrorist conspiracies were under investigation.

"There are still people out there who would carry out such attacks," Home Secretary John Reid said. "The threat of a terrorist attack in the U.K. is still very substantial."

Reid made his statements as Britain lowered its security threat level to severe, from critical, where it had been set Thursday after British authorities announced they had disrupted a plot to use liquid explosives to bomb up to 10 U.S.-bound passenger jets.

Four days later, Britain's airports were still in pandemonium because of heightened security measures.

In early-morning raids last week, police rounded up 24 suspects and later freed one of them, leaving 23 in custody under counterterrorism laws permitting 28-day detentions without charge. Of those, 22 were being questioned Sunday while the status of the 23rd awaited a court ruling today.

In a BBC interview, Reid did not give details of any of the other conspiracies but echoed earlier police assessments that British authorities had foiled four other plots since the July 7 London bombings last year.

The figure of 24 continuing investigations into other plots — far higher than had been made known — seemed bound to alarm many people whose lives already had been reshaped by new security regimes and what Prime Minister

Tony Blair has called an "elemental" battle with radical Islam.

Apparently seeking to bolster official denials of a link between terrorism and Britain's alliance with the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq, Reid said it was now known that Al-Qaeda first tried to attack a British target in 2000.

"So this has been a long-going threat, but it is a chronic one and it is a severe one," he said. "We now think in retrospect that the first Al-Qaeda plot ... against this country preceded by quite a while our intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan and actually preceded 9/11."

The remark seemed to be an indirect confirmation, for the first time, that the government saw the hand of Al-Qaeda in the latest conspiracy, echoing stronger assertions by Pakistani officials.

Reid did not give details about the purported conspiracy in 2000 beyond saying it was uncovered in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city, which figured in the latest wave of arrests. One man seized there, Tayib Rauf, was said to be the brother of Rashid Rauf, a man captured by police in Pakistan whose arrest reportedly set off last week's roundup of suspects.

Asked about a report in *The Observer* newspaper that police were hunting "two dozen" terror cells in Britain, Reid said: "I'm not going to confirm an exact number, but I wouldn't deny that that would indicate the number of major conspiracies that we are trying to look at. There would be more which are not at the center of our considerations, and there may be more that we don't know about at all."

He also appeared to suggest that some conspirators associated with last week's alleged plot to use liquid explosives in waves of attacks may be at large. "We believe it was a major, major plot," he said.

## Chertoff, agency draw praise for quick response

The *New York Times*

WASHINGTON — Right after Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast last year, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff flew to Atlanta for a conference on bird flu, then spent months parrying criticism that his department had flunked the first big test of its existence.

Last week, the department confronted a second major test, the arrests in Britain of 24 men alleged to have been plotting to blow up a airlines bound for the United States.



Chertoff

In this case, the initial reviews of Chertoff's performance, and of his department's ability to respond quickly to impose new security measures, have been largely positive. Although questions remain about Homeland Security's unwieldy bureaucracy and its ability to anticipate threats rather than just react to them, it is notable that Chertoff is being praised by some people who bitterly chastised him in the past.

"Until this threat, the department had fallen short of the promise that its creation held," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said Sunday. "This time we saw a crisp, confident and competent response and Secretary Chertoff was clearly front and center."

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., minority leader on the House Committee on Homeland Security, said: "He did a credible job. He did not create hysteria among the traveling public, he provided a clear message to the traveling public and that is positive."

Chertoff and his agencies — which include the Transportation Security Administration, air marshals, Customs

and Border Protection and others who have been involved in the response to the British plot — did not play a role in apprehending the suspected terrorists.

But since Chertoff learned that a plot to bomb planes headed to the U.S. might unfold before the end of August, his agency has been at the center of the nation's effort to prevent such an attack.

The work started in secret, at Homeland Security headquarters, where Chertoff and his top aides met to devise two basic plans: What to do if the plot were successful and planes started to blow up, and what to do if arrests took place before such a catastrophe unfolded.

The first plan involved a protocol for shutting down national airspace, similar to what happened after the 2001 attacks. The second plan included imposing the no-liquids rule at airports and deploying more federal air marshals on planes headed to the U.S.

For Chertoff, there was never any question that he would need to be at the center of either effort. But he acknowledged that the Katrina experience made this even more critical.

"There were obvious frustrations in Katrina that I relied on others to do something and that turned out that that reliance was misplaced," he said Sunday. "So I guess to some extent, I have incorporated some of that lesson into what I do going forward."

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., who has been a critic of Chertoff, said that Homeland Security's ability to rapidly institute such a drastic change in checkpoint procedures reflected a department that appears to have matured.

"We will have to wait and see, but my impression right now is, with the team in place, the progress will now be geometric," said King, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

## All passengers will be required to remove shoes

► RULES from 1A

ditional screeners specifically to look for modern-type detonation equipment.

The TSA said it wanted to remove any ambiguity from its procedures, particularly over the handling of shoes.

Until now, the agency has strongly suggested removing shoes before boarding but hasn't required it. Now, all shoes will have to be placed on an X-ray belt for screen-

### Tightened security

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ing.

Fliers can continue to wear shoes containing gel heels, but they must remove any type of gel sole insert and put those into checked baggage.

Airport travelers also should expect to see more police-trained sniffing dogs, random gate inspections and bag searches. But the TSA is limited by law to 45,000 screeners at the 450 commercial airports.

Agency chief Kip Hawley said the changes were based on feedback from security officers and the public.

"We are maintaining the same level of security while clarifying interpretations in

the field," he said. "These tweaks are aimed at making a smoother process at the checkpoint."

Passengers are asked to arrive at least two hours before their flights to allow for the additional screening. Those traveling to the United Kingdom should check with their airlines about any extra security measures.

Laptop computers, mobile phones and iPods are among items banned on British flights.

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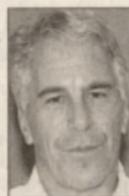
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## Jeffrey Epstein has donated more than \$100,000

to Democratic candidates' campaigns, including John Kerry's presidential bid, the reelection campaign of New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and the Senate bids of Joe Lieberman, Hillary Clinton, Christopher Dodd and Charles Schumer.



# Powerful legal team stymies detectives

► EPSTEIN from 1A

asking questions and teenage girls started talking, a wave of legal resistance followed.

If Palm Beach police didn't know quite who Jeffrey Epstein was, they found out soon enough.

Epstein, now 53, was a quintessential man of mystery. He amassed his fortune and friends quietly, always in the background as he navigated New York high society.

When he first attracted notice in the early 1990s, it was on account of the woman he was dating: Ghislaine Maxwell, daughter of the late British media tycoon Robert Maxwell.

In a lengthy article, headlined "The Mystery of Ghislaine Maxwell's Secret Love," the British *Mail on Sunday* tabloid laid out speculative stories that the socialite's beau was a CIA spook, a math teacher, a concert pianist or a corporate headhunter.

"But what is the truth about him?" the newspaper wondered. "Like Maxwell, Epstein is both flamboyant and intensely private."

The media frenzy did not begin in full until a decade later. In September 2002, Epstein was flung into the limelight when he flew Clinton and actors Kevin Spacey and Chris Tucker to Africa on his private jet.

Suddenly everyone wanted to know who Epstein was. *New York* magazine and *Vanity Fair* published lengthy profiles. The *New York Post* listed him as one of the city's most eligible bachelors and began describing him in its gossip columns with adjectives such as "mysterious" and "reclusive."

Although Epstein gave no interviews, the broad strokes of his past started to come into focus.

### Building a life of extravagance

He was born blue-collar in 1953, the son of a New York City parks department employee, and raised in Brooklyn's Coney Island neighborhood. He left college without a bachelor's degree but became a math teacher at the prestigious Dalton School in Manhattan.

The story goes that the father of one of Epstein's students was so impressed with the man that he put him in touch with a senior partner at Bear Stearns, the global investment bank and securities firm.

In 1976, Epstein left Dalton for a job at Bear Stearns. By the early 1980s, he had started J. Epstein and Co. That is when he began making his millions in earnest.

Little is known or said about Epstein's business except this: He manages money for the extremely wealthy. He is said to handle accounts only of \$1 billion or greater.

It has been estimated he has roughly 15 clients, but their identities are the subject of only speculation. All except for one: Leslie Wexner, founder of The Limited retail chain and a former Palm Beacher who is said to have been a mentor to Epstein.

Wexner sold Epstein one of his most lavish residences: a massive townhouse that dominates a block on Manhattan's Upper East Side. It is reported to have, among its finer features, closed-circuit television and a heated sidewalk to melt away fallen snow.

That townhouse, thought to be the largest private residence in Manhattan, is only a piece of the extravagant world Epstein built over time.

In New Mexico, he constructed a 27,000-square-foot hilltop mansion on a 10,000-acre ranch outside Santa Fe. Many believed it to be the largest home in the state.

In Palm Beach, he bought a waterfront home on El Brillo Way. And he owns a 100-acre private island in the Virgin Islands.

Perhaps as remarkable as his lavish homes is his extensive network of friends and associates at the highest echelons of power. This includes not only socialites but also business tycoons, media moguls, politicians, royalty and Nobel Prize-winning scientists whose research he often funds.

"Just like other people collect art, he collects scientists," said Martin Nowak, who directs the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University and was reportedly the recipient of a \$30 million research donation from Epstein.

Epstein is said to have befriended former Harvard President Larry Summers, prominent law Professor Alan Dershowitz, Donald Trump and *New York Daily News* Publisher Mort Zuckerman.

And yet he managed for decades to maintain a low profile. He avoids eating out and was rarely photographed.

### A life of luxury and secrecy



Jeffrey Epstein's Manhattan townhouse dominates a block on the Upper East Side. Thought to be the largest private residence in Manhattan, it is reported to have closed-circuit television and a heated sidewalk to melt fallen snow.

### Women in his life



Ghislaine Maxwell, a fixture at elite parties and the intensely private daughter of a media tycoon, dated Epstein in the 1990s.



"I'm like a Heidi Fleiss," [redacted] told police she took at least six girls to visit Epstein, all between the ages of 14 and 16.

PalmBeachPost.com

Read previous stories on the Epstein investigation.

"The odd thing is I never met him," said Dominick Dunne, the famous chronicler of the trials and tribulations of the very rich. "I wasn't even aware of him," except for a *Vanity Fair* article.

Epstein's friendship with Clinton has attracted the most attention.

Epstein met Clinton as early as 1995, when he paid tens of thousands of dollars to join him at an intimate fund-raising dinner in Palm Beach. But from all appearances, they did not become close friends until after Clinton left the Oval Office and moved to New York.

Epstein has donated more than \$100,000 to Democratic candidates' campaigns, including John Kerry's presidential bid, the reelection campaign of New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and the Senate bids of Joe Lieberman, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Christopher Dodd and Charles Schumer.

### Powerful friends and enemies

A *Vanity Fair* profile found cracks in the veneer of Epstein's life story. The 2003 article said he left Bear Stearns in the wake of a federal probe and a possible Securities and Exchange Commission violation. It also pointed out that Citibank once sued him for defaulting on a \$20 million loan.

The article suggested that one of his business mentors and previous employers was Steven Hoffenberg, now serving a prison term after "bilking investors out of more than \$450 million in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in American history."

As he amassed his wealth, Epstein made enemies in disputes both large and small. He sued the man who in 1990 sold him his multimillion-dollar Palm Beach home over a dispute about less than \$16,000 in furnishings.

A former friend claimed Epstein backed out of a promise to reimburse him hundreds of thousands of dollars after their failed investment in Texas oil wells. A judge decided Epstein owed him nothing.

"It's a bad memory. I would rather not have ever met Jeffrey Epstein," said Michael Stroll, the retired former president of Williams Electronics and Sega Corp. "Suffice it to say I have nothing good to say about him."

Among the characteristics most attributed to Epstein is a penchant for women.

He has been linked to Maxwell, a fixture on the high-society party circuits in both New York and London. Previous girlfriends are said to include a former Ms. Sweden and a Romanian model.

"He's a lot of fun to be with," Donald Trump told *New York* magazine in 2002. "It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it, Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

### Investigation leads to Epstein

Although he was not a frequenter of the Palm Beach social scene, he made his presence felt. Among his charitable donations, he gave \$90,000 to the Palm Beach Police Department and \$100,000 to Ballet Florida.

In Palm Beach, he lived in luxury. Three black Mercedes sat in his garage, alongside a green Harley-Davidson. His jet waited at a hangar at Palm Beach International Airport. At home, a private chef and a small staff stood at the ready. From a window in his mansion, he could look out on the Intracoastal Waterway and the West Palm Beach skyline. He seemed to be a man who had everything.

But extraordinary wealth can

fuel extraordinary desires.

In March 2005, a worried mother contacted Palm Beach police. She said another parent had overheard a conversation between their children.

Now the mother was afraid her 14-year-old daughter had been molested by a man on the island.

The phone call triggered an extensive investigation, one that would lead detectives to Epstein but leave them frustrated.

Palm Beach police and the state attorney's office have declined to discuss the case. But a Palm Beach police report detailing the criminal probe offers a window into what detectives faced as they sought to close in on Epstein.

Detectives interviewed the girl, who told them a friend had invited her to a rich man's house to perform a massage. She said the friend told her to say she was 18 if asked. At the house, she said she was paid \$300 after stripping to her panties and massaging the man while he masturbated.

### Police interview 5 alleged victims

The investigation began in full after the girl identified Epstein in a photo as the man who had paid her. Police arranged for garbage trucks to set aside Epstein's trash so police could sift through it. They set up a video camera to record the comings and goings at his home. They monitored an airport hangar for signs of his private jet's arrivals and departures.

They quickly learned that the woman who took the 14-year-old girl to Epstein's house was [redacted]

[redacted] In a sworn statement at police headquarters, [redacted] admitted she had taken at least six girls to visit Epstein, all between the ages of 14 and 16. Epstein paid her for each visit, she said.

During the drive back to her house, [redacted] told detectives, "I'm like a Heidi Fleiss."

Police interviewed five alleged victims and 17 witnesses. Their report shows some of the girls said they had been instructed to have sex with another woman in front of Epstein, and one said she had direct intercourse with him.

In October, police searched the Palm Beach mansion. They discovered photos of naked, young-looking females, just as several of the girls had described in interviews. Hidden cameras were found in the garage area and inside a clock on Epstein's desk, alongside a girl's high school transcript.

Two of Epstein's former employees told investigators that young-looking girls showed up to perform massages two or three times a day when Epstein was in town.

They said the girls were permitted many indulgences. A chef cooked for them. Workers gave them rides and handed out hundreds of dollars at a time.

One employee told detectives he was told to send a dozen roses to one teenage girl after a high school drama performance. Others were given rental cars. One, according to police, received a \$200 Christmas bonus.

The cops moved to cement their case. But as they tried to tighten the noose, they encountered other forces at work.

In Orlando they interviewed a possible victim who told them nothing inappropriate had happened between her and Epstein. They asked her whether she had spoken to anyone else. She said yes, a private investigator had asked her the same questions.

When they subpoenaed one of Epstein's former employees, he told them the same thing. He and a private eye had met at a restaurant days earlier to go over what the man would tell investigators.

Detectives received complaints that private eyes were posing as police officers. When they told Epstein's local attorney, Guy Frons-tin, he said the investigators worked for Roy Black, the high-powered Miami lawyer who has defended the likes of Rush Limbaugh and William Kennedy Smith.

While the private eyes were conducting a parallel investigation, Dershowitz, the Harvard law professor, traveled to West Palm Beach with information about the girls. From their own profiles on the popular Web site MySpace.com, he obtained copies of their discussions about their use of alcohol and marijuana.

He took his research to a meeting with prosecutors in early 2006, where he sought to cast doubt on the teens' reliability.

The private eyes had dug up

enough dirt on the girls to make prosecutors skeptical. Not only did some of the girls have issues with drugs or alcohol but also some had criminal records and other troubles, Epstein's legal team claimed. And at least one of them, they said, lied when she told police she was younger than 18 when she started performing massages for Epstein.

After the meeting, prosecutors postponed their decision to take the case to a grand jury.

In the following weeks, police received complaints that two of the victims or their families had been harassed or threatened. Epstein's legal team maintains that its private investigators did nothing illegal or unethical during their research.

By then, relations between police and prosecutors were fraying. At a key meeting with prosecutors and the defense, Detective [redacted] the lead investigator, was a no-show, according to Epstein's attorney.

"The embarrassment on the prosecutor's face was evident when the police officer never showed up for the meeting," attorney Jack Goldberger said.

Later in April, [redacted] walked into a prosecutor's office at the state attorney's office and learned the case was taking an unexpected turn.

The prosecutor, [redacted] told [redacted] the state attorney's office had offered Epstein a plea deal that would not require him to serve jail time or receive a felony conviction.

[redacted] told her he disapproved of the plea offer.

The deal never came to pass, however.

### Future unclear after charge

On May 1, the department asked prosecutors to approve warrants to arrest Epstein on four counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor and to charge his personal assistant, [redacted] now 27, for her alleged role in arranging the visits. Police officials also wanted to charge [redacted] the self-described Heidi Fleiss, with lewd and lascivious acts.

By then, the department was frustrated with the way the state attorney's office had handled the case. On the same day the warrants were requested, Palm Beach Police Chief Michael Reiter wrote a letter to State Attorney Barry Krischer suggesting he disqualify himself from the case if he would not act.

Two weeks later, Recarey was told that prosecutors had decided once again to take the case to the grand jury.

It is not known how many of the girls testified before the grand jury. But Epstein's defense team said one girl who was subpoenaed — the one who said she had sexual intercourse with Epstein — never showed up.

The grand jury's indictment was handed down in July. It was not the one the police department had wanted.

Instead of being slapped with a charge of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, Epstein was charged with one count of felony solicitation of prostitution, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. He was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail early July 23 and released hours later.

Epstein's legal team "doesn't dispute that he had girls over for massages," Goldberger said. But he said their claims that they had sexual encounters with him lack credibility.

"They are incapable of being believed," he said. "They had criminal records. They had accusations of theft made against them by their employers. There was evidence of drug use by some of them."

What remains for Epstein is yet to be seen.

The Palm Beach Police Department has asked the FBI to investigate the case. It also has returned the \$90,000 Epstein donated in 2004.

In New York, candidates for governor and state attorney general have vowed to return a total of at least \$60,000 in campaign contributions from Epstein. Meanwhile, Epstein's powerful friends have remained silent as tabloids and Internet blogs feast on the public details of the police investigation.

Goldberger maintains Epstein's innocence but says the legal team has not ruled out a future plea deal. He insists Epstein will emerge in the end with his reputation untarnished.

"He will recover from this," he said.

Staff writer Larry Keller and staff researchers Bridget Bulger, Angelica Cortez, Amy Hanaway and Melanie Mena contributed to this story.

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# Rhode Island holiday debated

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Church bells rang. Whistles at fire stations and mill factories sounded. People poured into the streets, waving flags and honking car horns.

It was Aug. 14, 1945: the day Americans learned that Japan had surrendered, ending the costliest conflict in human history.

"It was pandemonium with happiness," remembered John Lucas, a World War II veteran and executive secretary of the Pawtucket Veterans Council.

Today, Rhode Island again will observe the end of World War II, the only state still celebrating Victory Day, commonly referred to as Victory over Japan Day, or V-J Day.

Critics say it's discriminatory, and they would like to eliminate the holiday or at least remove its reference to Japan.

They point out that Rhode Islanders do not celebrate the U.S. victory over Germany, which was defeated three months earlier.

"This is a stigma against the Japanese, whom we do business with and are allies," said George Lima, a former state representative who worked on a failed attempt to eliminate the holiday in the 1980s.

Veterans groups remain committed to the holiday, celebrated on the second Monday of August.

"This is the way the veterans feel about it in Rhode Island," said George Panichas, a former legislator who was a gunner on a B-17 bomber during World War II. "They fought against the Japanese, and they just don't forget it."

There have been several attempts to change the holiday's name, but each time lawmakers met overwhelming opposition, state Sen. Rhoda Perry said. She introduced bills in 1992, 1994 and 1995 to change the

## Critics say Victory over Japan Day, or V-J Day, is discriminatory.

holiday to Rhode Island Veterans Day. A second 1995 bill would have changed its name to Peace and Remembrance Day.

Perry said she received "vitriolic" mail from veterans.

"It was absolutely a no-winner," she said. "I did not have support, period."

However, the General Assembly passed a 1990 resolution stating that Victory Day is not a day to express satisfaction in the destruction and deaths caused by nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

People need the holiday to remember the sacrifices that veterans made during the war, said James Brennan, a survivor of the 1942 Bataan Death March, in which Japanese soldiers tortured and killed thousands of American and Filipino prisoners.

However, Brennan said he does not harbor ill feelings toward the Japanese and does not believe the holiday incites racism or hatred.

"July 4 is our national holiday because we defeated England. Do we hate the English? No," he said. "It's the same with V-J Day. We are the ones who won the war."

Mikki Lima, a Japanese-American who runs the Rhode Island Japan Society in Providence, said she is working to educate younger Americans about Japanese culture. If the holiday cannot be eliminated, she hopes it at least can be celebrated under a new name because of Victory Day's implicit reference to the victory over Japan.

"Someday, this foolish holiday's name will be changed," Lima said.

# Expected war shrine visit sparks protests

The Associated Press

TOKYO — An expected visit by Japan's leader to a war shrine reviled by other Asian nations heightened tensions Sunday, with South Korea warning it would take diplomatic action and protesters in Tokyo rallying against the shrine for the third straight day.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who intends to step down next month, is expected to make a pilgrimage to Yasukuni Shrine on Tuesday, the anniversary of the end of World War II in Asia.

Visiting on such a sensitive date likely will worsen already strained relations with Japan's neighbors China and South Korea, which bore the brunt of 20th-century Japanese aggression and have repeatedly demanded that Koizumi halt his visits.

Chinese and South Korean officials Sunday denied a news report that they agreed to accept visits to the shrine by future Japanese leaders if Koizumi stays away for the rest of his term.

Kyodo News service reported Sunday that the nations would accept one visit a year from future Japanese prime ministers if Koizumi stays away. But a Chinese Embassy spokesman denied the report as "totally groundless," Kyodo said. A Korean official also denied the report.

The Yasukuni Shrine honors Japan's 2.5 million war dead, including war criminals executed after World War II. It played a role in promoting wartime na-



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/The Associated Press

Veterans in Japanese Imperial Army uniforms parade Sunday at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo after paying respects to the fallen soldiers there.

tionalism, with Japanese soldiers commonly pledging to fight to the death with the promise to "meet at Yasukuni." It is located in Tokyo and was founded in 1869.

It also hosts a museum attempting to justify Japan's militarist past. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Schieffer has said the museum, which paints the secret air attack on Pearl Harbor as an act of self-defense, is "very disturbing."

About 1,000 protesters marched near the shrine Sunday evening, chanting for Japan to repent more sincerely for its invasion and occupation of Asian lands in the early 20th century.

The rally followed similar but smaller candlelight vigils

Friday and Saturday and drew demonstrators from Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

"This is important to show other Japanese people that Yasukuni Shrine is a symbol of war and aggression," said protester Emiko Suyehiro, 42. "It completely glorifies the war."

Koizumi has visited the shrine five times since taking office in 2001, and has dropped repeated hints that he will go again Tuesday. He insists his pilgrimages reaffirm Japan's commitment to peace and honor the souls of those who died for the nation.

South Korean officials warned Sunday that Seoul will file an immediate protest to Tokyo if Koizumi goes.

# Cambodian village monitored over bird flu fears

The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — A Cambodian village where 1,200 ducks dropped dead in a new outbreak of bird flu will be closely monitored for 30 days to prevent the disease from spreading, an official said Sunday.

Animal-health officials will continue collecting samples from poultry in the village and inside a 2-mile radius around it to test for bird

flu, said Kao Phal, director of the Agriculture Ministry's animal health department.

He said an additional 400 ducks were killed by health authorities, part of the 1,600 on the small village farm where the outbreak began.

The ministry on Saturday confirmed the outbreak of H5N1 virus among ducks in Rokar Chour Timuoy village in Prey Veng province, 30 miles southeast of the capital,

Phnom Penh. Some of the ducks began falling sick on Aug. 2.

This latest outbreak prompted Agriculture Minister Chan Sarun to urge people across the country to be on "high alert" for bird flu. In a nationwide broadcast, he ordered strict enforcement of the ban on poultry imports from neighboring countries and on poultry trade near the stricken village.

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# Israeli novelist's son killed in battle

The noted peace activist had called for Israel to end the war.

**The Associated Press**

JERUSALEM — The son of Israeli novelist and peace activist David Grossman has been killed in southern Lebanon, the army said Sunday, just days after the author urged the government to end the war with Hezbollah guerrillas.

Staff Sgt. Uri Grossman, who served in an armored unit, was killed Saturday when an anti-tank missile hit his tank. He was 20.

The unit was participating in Israel's final push deep into Lebanon aimed at maximizing Israeli gains against Hezbollah guerrillas before a U.N.-ordered cease-fire was to take effect.

Tearful friends and relatives gathered Sunday morning at the Grossman home in the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion.

A statement from the family

described Uri as a young man with a wonderful sense of humor who planned to travel and study theater after his scheduled release from the army in November.

Twenty-four Israelis were killed in Lebanon on Saturday, but Uri Grossman's death evoked particular national pathos.

His father, whose novels and political essays have been translated into 20 languages, is an outspoken advocate of conciliation with the Arabs and of ending Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

But, like most Israelis, David Grossman supported Israel's retaliation when Hezbollah fighters attacked an army patrol inside Israel on July 12 and unleashed a barrage of rockets on civilians in the north.

By Thursday, he said the war had gone on long enough.

The turning point for Grossman



D. Grossman

came when the government planned to launch an 11th-hour campaign to inflict a devastating blow to the guerrillas. In a joint news conference with fellow novelists Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua, Grossman denounced the plan as dangerous and counterproductive.

"Out of concern for the future of Israel and our place here, the fighting should be stopped now, to give a chance to negotiations," he said.

Grossman urged Israel to accept a proposal by Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora calling for the deployment of Lebanese troops in southern Lebanon with the help of an international force that would end Hezbollah's virtual control over the area.

"This solution is the victory that Israel wanted," Grossman said.

He warned that stepping up the offensive could trigger the collapse of Saniora's government and the strengthening of Hezbollah — the very force Israel set out to destroy.

"It's still possible to prevent it," Grossman said. "This is the last moment."

## Skirmishes expected to continue after truce

MIDEAST from 1A

more than 220 rockets on northern Israel, one of the highest counts of the war. Several landed in Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, where billows of black smoke rolled through blue sky. One person died in the daylong barrage.

The intensified fighting capped a weekend of some of the fiercest clashes in nearly five weeks of confrontation, after Israel widened its ground offensive in an 11th-hour bid to clear out more of southern Lebanon in advance of the cease-fire.

Five Israeli soldiers were killed and several dozen were wounded Sunday, adding to a death toll of 24 on Saturday, the heaviest losses the military has sustained on a single day since the conflict began July 12.

Israel says it has killed more than 500 Hezbollah militants, a figure the Shiite Muslim faction denies. The group has acknowledged the deaths of only about 60 fighters so far.

Under the U.N. resolution, both sides were to halt attacks today, although Israel is allowed to defend its positions.

But troubling signs emerged Sunday as to how Lebanon, Hezbollah and Israel would interpret and implement the agreement, raising the possibility of a continuation of major fighting.

Amid internal feuding, the Lebanese Cabinet postponed a meeting to vote on implementing the cease-fire. Although officials were reluctant to describe the disagreements publicly, a rift appeared to be developing over the disarmament of Hezbollah, which the resolution demands.

The Cabinet had given itself 48 hours to discuss how it would enact the cease-fire's term, Interior Minister Ahmed Fatfat told Lebanese television stations.

And Parliamentary



A Lebanese man shouts for help as he stands in a bombed-out building in a south Beirut suburb. Israeli warplanes pounded the area with 20 missiles in a three-minute span Sunday as the cease-fire approached.

**Hezbollah's leader**

Watch an audio slide show on Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Hezbollah and a central figure in the confrontation.

[PalmBeachPost.com](http://PalmBeachPost.com)

Affairs Minister Michel Pharaon, who represents Lebanon's small Catholic minority, said, "We don't want to move more quickly than events. Why should we hurry if the Israelis keep bombing us with such ferocity? This is a sensitive issue that will take time to work out."

Although Hezbollah is obligated to stop military operations and lay down its weapons, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the organization's leader, has warned that his fighters would continue their campaign against Israeli soldiers as long as the Jewish state maintains troops in Lebanon.

Israel, in turn, contends that its right to defensive action includes preventing Hezbollah efforts to rearm, at least until the installation of a 15,000-strong international peacekeeping force, along with 15,000 Lebanese troops. Under the truce, Israeli troops would leave the south only as those forces move in, which is days or weeks away.

"There has to be a total and complete arms embargo on Hezbollah, so arms transportations for Hezbollah are a

violation of the cease-fire," said Mark Regev, a spokesman for the Israeli foreign ministry. "We will be entitled to act."

Regev did not specify what kind of action would be authorized, but Reuters quoted an unnamed senior Israeli official as saying it could include airstrikes on convoys suspected of carrying weapons to Hezbollah anywhere in Lebanese territory.

Therefore, skirmishes are expected to continue despite the official cease-fire. The hope is that large-scale operations would be suspended.

However, observers fear that ongoing clashes could push back the arrival of the multinational force, which would fuel a cycle of more violence and further delays. Optimistically, the international mediators will arrive in seven to 10 days; countries potentially contributing to the force include France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Morocco and Indonesia.

Both Israel and Hezbollah insist they will abide by the cease-fire agreement, but they used the lead-up to the truce to pound each other and to cement their positions.

Among the targets pummeled by Israeli aircraft Sunday were gas stations around Tyre in the embattled south, as well as a number of factories in both central and

southern Lebanon, including a biscuit and candy factory in the mountains east of Beirut, Lebanese radio reported.

Israeli gunboats also shelled the coastal road north of the southern city of Sidon and in around Nabatiyeh.

Israeli armor and troops continued marching across the border into Lebanon even as the Cabinet met in Jerusalem to vote on the cease-fire resolution.

The final vote was 24-0, with one abstention and plenty of heated debate, media reports said.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, whose handling of the war has come under increasing criticism for its shifting objectives and perceived indecision, characterized the resolution as a victory for Israel.

Establishing a robust international force and disarming Hezbollah would deprive the militant group of the ability to act in Lebanon as a state within a state, Olmert said.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said the resolution, if implemented, "will result in a significant change in the rules of the game in Lebanon and Israel's relationship with Lebanon. Not every resolution is implemented. I am aware of the difficulties. But having said this, however, I can say that the Security Council resolution is good for Israel."

## Israeli border town doubts rocket attacks will stop

The New York Times

KIRYAT SHMONA, Israel — Rockets whistling in from Lebanon have been a constant in Eli Ben-Abo's life for nearly four decades. As he waited out a barrage Sunday in a cramped, airless shelter, he was sure a truce set for today would not end that enduring threat.

"I've been listening to these rockets from 1970 until today," said Ben-Abo, 50, who was squeezed into the tiny cinder-block shelter with his wife, two daughters and four others. "We keep hoping it will end, but it never does."

From the residents sweating it out in shelters to those in the bunker that serves as the mayor's office, the people in Kiryat Shmona were deeply pessimistic that the U.N. truce, set to take effect this morning, would bring them quiet. Most believed it would take a week or more before the shooting stops, and that any calm would be temporary.

In fact, more residents



TIM BRITTON/Staff Artist

may be leaving Kiryat Shmona today than returning to it. The Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental group that works on immigration issues, is offering to send as many as 5,000 residents in northern towns out of rocket range for a week of rest and recuperation, said Yarden Vatikay, a spokesman for the group.

His first taste was at age 13, back in 1970, when the

"There is no cease-fire — just listen for yourself," the town's mayor, Haim Barbibai, said a moment after a rocket landed a short distance away, wounding two people and shaking the fortified bunker where he now works. "I'm sorry, but I'm not optimistic. I don't think the government has a clear plan on how to resolve this situation."

An estimated 17,000 of Kiryat Shmona's 24,000 residents have left, and some began calling the municipal offices Sunday to ask whether they should return.

"We told people to stay right where they were," Barbibai said.

Hezbollah has fired about 4,000 rockets in the past month. About 1,000 landed in the Kiryat Shmona area in the northern panhandle.

Back in Ben-Abo's shelter, he recounted his personal history with rockets as another crashed down outside.

His first taste was at age 13, back in 1970, when the

Palestine Liberation Organization, led by Yasser Arafat, began raining rockets on the town.

In 1982, Ben-Abo was a soldier who fought in Lebanon for nearly a year in an operation that drove the PLO out of Lebanon but helped spawn Hezbollah.

In 1996, a Hezbollah rocket slammed into Ben-Abo's apartment, causing extensive damage, though he and his family were in a shelter.

Although he has taken cover in the shelters countless times, the current round of fighting, which began July 12, has been the longest period he has had to spend in one.

The only break came from Tuesday to Saturday, when the government bused several hundred residents south for a few days of relaxation. Ben-Abo, his wife, Sarah, and two daughters, ages 22 and 21, went to Eilat, the Red Sea resort town at the southern tip of Israel.

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# NEWSMAKERS

## D'oh! China bumps Homer, Mickey

*Palm Beach Post Wire Services*

China has banished Homer Simpson, Pokémon and Mickey Mouse from prime time. Beginning Sept. 1, regulators have barred foreign cartoons from TV from 5 to 8 p.m. in an effort to protect China's struggling animation studios, news reports said Sunday. The move allows the Monkey King and his Chinese pals to keep the top TV viewing hours to themselves. Foreign cartoons, especially from Japan, are hugely popular with China's 250 million children and the country's animation studios have struggled to compete. Communist leaders are said to be frustrated that so many cartoons are foreign-made, especially after efforts to build up Chinese animation studios. The ban hasn't been announced formally, but newspapers were noticing it Sunday as the wrong way to improve programming.



MATT SAYLES/The Associated Press

### Eastwood honored

BEVERLY HILLS — Actor Clint Eastwood accepts the Founders Award from actor Morgan Freeman at the Golden Boot Awards. Established in 1982, the awards recognize those who have furthered the tradition of the Western in film and TV.

lion in ticket sales, according to studio estimates released Sunday. Last week's news of another terror plot against airlines apparently did not dampen audience appetite for Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*. The Paramount Pictures release beat expectations by earning \$19 million during the weekend to place it third at the weekend box office. The shocker of the weekend was the high school dance film *Step Up* from The Walt Disney Co., which placed second with a box office take of \$21 million. Rounding out the Top 10 are: *Barnyard* (10.1 million), *Pulse* (\$8.5 million), *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (\$7.2 million), *Zoom* (\$4.6 million), *The Descent* (\$4.6 million), *Miami Vice* (\$4.5 million) and *Monster House* (\$3.3 million).

### Costner returns to 'Dreams' field

The corn lining the outfield is tall again this year. The white farmhouse, wraparound porch and picket fence appear unaffected by time. The mythic baseball diamond and lush outfield in Dyersville, Iowa, look just like they did in the film made 17 years ago. Hundreds of children and parents raced around the bases, played catch or hit soft pitches in the field made famous in *Field of Dreams*. Kevin Costner, the movie's star, returned during the weekend for the first time since filming ended. Costner joined about 5,000 people who packed the field for a free screening of the movie. The event, sponsored by online DVD rental company Netflix Inc., is the fifth stop in a 10-city tour featuring classic movies where they were filmed.

### 'Talladega Nights' still No. 1

The Will Ferrell comedy *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* raced ahead of the competition to reclaim the box office champ for a second weekend with \$23 mil-

## Microsoft product to let public create games

*The Associated Press*

DALLAS — Hoping to spur interest among video-game enthusiasts, creative types and students, Microsoft Corp. said it plans to offer a consumer version of the professional software tools used to create video games for its Xbox 360 console.

The XNA Game Studio Express program, an offshoot of the company's more robust XNA Framework, will be available Aug. 30 for a \$99 annual subscription, the company announced today.

The software, which requires a Windows PC to operate, will let anyone create their own video games and then share them on Microsoft's Xbox Live online game service, said Peter Moore, a Microsoft vice president.

"It's our first step of creating a YouTube for video

games," Moore said, referring to the wildly popular free online video-sharing Web site. "It will give you everything you need to bring your game to life on Xbox 360."

The program would be a first for consoles, which traditionally have been the exclusive domain of skilled programmers, artists and designers.

Moore said the program is basic compared to the pro tools, which cost tens of thousands of dollars. Though it's designed to eliminate much of the tedious hand-coding involved in making a game from scratch, some basic programming skills are still going to be needed for the consumer version.

Analysts cautioned that making a game — a multi-disciplinary process requiring artists and animators, programmers and mathematicians — will never be easy.

"It's going to allow very talented individuals to actually be able to do a game in a few weeks, instead of taking years and spending millions of dollars," said Richard Doherty, research director at the Envisioning Group.

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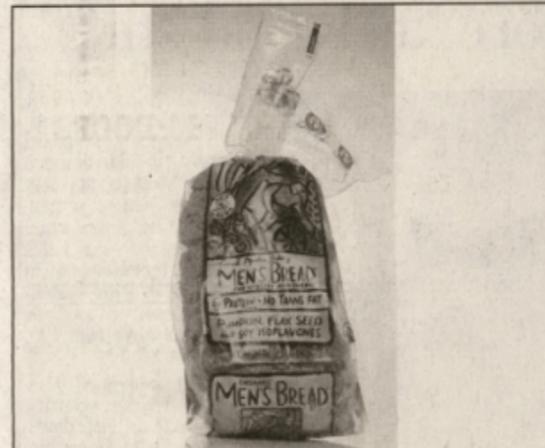
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## Border lapses show need for a national ID card

The Bush administration says that the declining number of arrests along the U.S.-Mexico border is evidence that the deployment of National Guard troops is deterring illegal crossings. But illegals might have discovered that it's much easier to walk past border agents than to run from them.

According to the Government Accountability Office, illegal immigrants would be virtually unstoppable if they tried entering through checkpoints with fake IDs. Between February and June, the GAO gave 18 investigators counterfeit documents and sent them to checkpoints in seven border states, including California, Texas and Arizona. Agents repeatedly failed to detect the fake cards and papers. Border Patrol agents failed to recognize that the documents were counterfeit, though their quality was relatively poor.

Most of the time, the IDs drew nothing more than a quick glance. At some checkpoints, border agents allowed GAO investigators to enter the country without any documents; they just had to say that they were U.S. citizens. Investigators gave some of the agents second chances to catch the frauds, but they did no better or even worse. The GAO had a 100 percent success rate in crossing; it had only a 40 percent rate in a similar study two years ago.

Anyone with a home computer and a printer can generate a fake but credible-for-entry driver license. Still, the Border Patrol doesn't deserve all the blame. Agents did intercept about 75,000 people with fake IDs last year. And the number

### Counterfeit documents are fooling the agents.

of different IDs the government accepts is ridiculous; about 8,000. What agent could possibly recognize all of them?

Congress passed a "Real ID" bill last year that attempts to standardize driver licenses by requiring states to include more information. It is the first step toward a national ID card that would use identifying biometrics such as fingerprints. Opposition to the national ID is based on privacy concerns, but the country may be at a point where border security trumps worries about potential problems with ID security.

The government also is planning implementation by 2008 of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which will require travelers going to or from Mexico, Canada, Central and South America, the Bahamas and the Caribbean to have a passport or document approved by Homeland Security. The Senate, however, has voted to delay implementation, and the House may follow because of fears that neither the system nor the public is ready.

For migrants without fake IDs, illegal entry is more perilous since 6,000 National Guardsmen arrived. Nine illegals died in an Arizona van rollover last week. At least 291 have died during U.S.-Mexico crossing attempts since Oct. 1. The border is tighter for impoverished migrants but not sophisticated terrorists.

## No Everglades victory yet

Improvement that still fails to solve a problem is just that. News that water flowing out of the Everglades Agricultural Area has shown "significant improvement" in phosphorus reductions for the 11th consecutive year doesn't mean that the state has solved the problem of making water clean enough to send to the Everglades.

The water sent from Lake Okeechobee to the 500,000-acre EAA, south of the lake, contains levels of phosphorus averaging more than 170 parts per billion. After the 2004 hurricanes, levels got as high as 600. So, the water is leaving the EAA much cleaner, with a 44 percent reduction in phosphorus.

Under Florida's 1994 Everglades Forever Act, growers must reduce pollution in water coming off their farms by only 25 percent, a target they again have beaten. An estimated 118 tons of phosphorus was kept out of the canal system that sends water to the Everglades. But to make the water clean enough that the sensitive Everglades ecosystem can recover, the level must be no more than 10 parts per billion.

Water leaving the EAA goes to the South Florida Water Management District's filter marshes, which are supposed to complete the cleanup. These manmade wetlands have native plants, which suck up some of the nutrients. But phosphorus levels in water flowing from these treatment areas vary greatly,

### The water is better but still not healthy.

with lowest levels in the teens.

Perhaps farmers could remove even more phosphorus. But Lake Okeechobee itself remains one of the biggest unsolved problems in this cleanup campaign. With years of phosphorus-laden muck built up on the lake bottom, with a continuing inflow of phosphorus from farms and urban development north of the lake, phosphorus levels soared after hurricanes stirred gunk from the bottom and suspended it in the water. If the level was at a manageable 40 parts per billion — as it could be, if the state provided enough money — all other parts of the clean-up puzzle would fall into place.

The district hopes that its accelerated plan to build reservoirs and improve filter marshes will help. Another 41,000 acres south of the lake have been converted to treatment areas, and the district hopes to add 18,000 more acres by 2010. But those solutions remain years away.

Starting Jan. 1, the water district will have to meet the 10-parts-per-billion standard for water sent to the Everglades, or face U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno, who has described himself as a "jailing judge." He knows the difference between "improvement" and "success."

## Stick with Machek

There are 85 Republicans and 35 Democrats in the Florida House. You would think that Democrats would try to defeat Republicans rather than fellow Democrats in good standing.

But in House District 78, Steve Perman is trying to defeat incumbent Richard Machek in the Sept. 5 primary. Dr. Perman, a chiropractor who lives in Coral Springs, says he's "frustrated by the lack of activity by Democrats." In reality, he was recruited to run by Rep. Irv Slosberg, now a state Senate candidate, who has clashed with other Democrats, among them Rep. Machek.

Perhaps some Democrats wonder about Rep. Machek's involvement in agricultural issues, but that's appropriate for a meandering district that covers southwestern Palm Beach County and parts of Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. Overall, Rep. Machek very much is a mainstream Democrat.

He supports the party's plan to lower insurance premiums by creating a state-backed hurricane fund. He likes the class-size amendment, opposes vouchers and would reduce

### The Post's endorsements

■ Florida House District 78



Rep. Machek

the FCAT's influence. He opposed intervention in the Terri Schiavo case and favors embryonic stem-cell research. *The Post* disagreed with Rep. Machek's 2003 vote to delay Everglades cleanup. But many other Democrats also voted yes.

Dr. Perman's style is not as counterproductive as Rep. Slosberg's, and with more study, he could be a credible candidate. He does have blind spots. For example, he claims that chiropractors don't play a big role in auto insurance fraud. But on most of the major issues, he agrees with Rep. Machek.

With no Republican running, the winner of the open-to-all-voters primary will be elected. There is no reason to choose an unproven candidate such as Dr. Perman over a Democrat with a proven record. *The Post* recommends Rep. Machek.

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WALT HANDELSMAN/Newsday

## Brother, can you spare \$1.3 trillion?

How does \$1.3 trillion strike you for the cost of President Bush's not-so-excellent Iraq adventure? Well, would you accept \$750 billion?

Larry Lindsey lost his job as the president's economic adviser for estimating \$200 billion for Iraq, but that was before a monumentally mismanaged occupation and a civil war. Back then, in 2002, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld thought \$50 billion to \$60 billion would do the job, but he asked people not to hold him to a hard number. For the record, the price tag passed \$251 billion on Dec. 30, and continues to climb.



Tom Blackburn

Where do those higher numbers come from? From a fascinating paper by Nobel Prize economist Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, who specializes in budget analysis. "The Economic Costs of the Iraq War" can be accessed at [www.nber.org/papers/w12054](http://www.nber.org/papers/w12054) and is written in ordinary English. They got the trillion-plus figure by assuming that all U.S. forces will be out of Iraq by 2015, the date the Congressional Budget Office projects, with steadily decreasing troop levels.

Their lower figure comes from getting everyone out by 2010. They call that scenario "conservative," which is what economists say when they don't think the figure can go much lower. It's also a scenario that only a conservative could believe since it also calls for all the interest on the borrowing for the war to be paid off within five years. That won't happen. There won't be any surpluses to pay for that borrowing with Mr. Bush's budgets and tax policy.

### Bush will borrow that, or more, for Iraq War.

You wonder whether Mr. Bush is giving any thought to the current and future costs of Iraq while he enjoys his vacation. A big-picture guy always risks overlooking the details, where the devil famously is. Paying for the war isn't something a chief executive safely can turn over to former campaign aides pumping up their résumés with government jobs.

If anyone shrank Mr. Stiglitz's and Ms. Bilmes' 38-page paper to the president's attention span, he would notice a few things.

The CBO, using that 2015 date, estimated the full cost at \$500 billion. Why a discrepancy with Mr. Stiglitz and Ms. Bilmes? The CBO didn't include the lifetime health care and disability payments for returning veterans, replacement of military hardware and the higher cost of getting recruits to replace the troops we lose. War cost estimates usually don't include those things. But they have to be paid.

We still are paying for World War II, Korea and Vietnam, but historians and budget planners have closed the books. The costs turn up now in the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget. Every veteran and vet's family ought to hope that the more realistic approach used by Mr. Stiglitz and Ms. Bilmes catches on with budget planners and historians.

These cost estimates are all about what taxpayers, or their grandchildren, will pay for Iraq. They are not, however, the only costs to the economy. When a reserivist is called up, his family's

income usually declines, and the decline has the same effect on the economy as a partial layoff would. What about an American company that loses a foreign sale because the customer is thoroughly ticked off at the American president? What about the effects of the war and its aftermath on oil, and, therefore gasoline, prices?

The authors deal with those what-abouts with caveats and modesty but conclude that the true cost of Mr. Bush's decision — what's borne personally as well as what's borne by taxpayers in general — conservatively tops \$1 trillion and could exceed \$2 trillion.

It might be fun to read the Bush administration's rebuttal to the Stiglitz-Bilmes paper. But to rebut, someone would have to think about the problem. There is little sign that any of that is going on in the high reaches of government. This is an administration that declared war on a technique, terrorism, and waged the war by deposing the dictator of a country where three groups of people hate each other and needed only the iron yoke of the dictator removed so they could start in on each other. As they fight, they kill innocent bystanders — soldiers who deposed the dictator.

An administration that didn't think about that problem before launching mindless violence and that stumbled into an occupation and civil war isn't going to want to pay attention to what its mindlessness is costing. Paying that kind of attention used to be one of the president's jobs.

Tom Blackburn is an editorial writer for *The Palm Beach Post*. His e-mail address is [tom\\_blackburn@pbpost.com](mailto:tom_blackburn@pbpost.com)

## Security moves more 'feel-good stuff'

By SUSAN and JOSEPH TRENTO

One month short of the fifth anniversary of 9/11, the United States awakened to news that British authorities had broken up a purported plot to use liquid chemical bombs to blow up as many as 10 American-owned airplanes as they flew across the Atlantic Ocean to the U.S.

Officials and experts have said that the plot had the "hallmarks" of an Al-Qaeda/Osama bin Laden plan.

The cable networks breathlessly reported new rules: For now, limited carry-on luggage. Passengers may not bring on board any liquids — water, drinks, lotions. Only liquid prescription medicine or breast milk will be allowed as carry-on aboard planes bound from Britain to America, and on all U.S. carriers.

As usual when it comes to homeland security, the authorities are way behind the curve.

It's infuriating.

During the mid-1990s, the U.S. took into custody two Kuwaiti men who had devised Operation Bojinka — the name for a plan to blow up a large number of jumbo jets over the Pacific. In a test, the perpetrators in 1994 blew up an unsuspecting Japanese businessman in his seat on a Philippines domestic flight by wiring a device using a watch and liquid explosive in a contact-lens case. This proved to the terrorists that they could get explosives aboard undetected.

Thanks to Philippine intelligence, the U.S. eventually arrested the two terrorists, Abdul Hakim Murad and Ramzi Ahmed Yousef. The two told the CIA about bin Laden's plans to knock down big buildings using planes and blow up airliners using small chemical bombs. That was in 1995. Yousef was later convicted in the U.S. for the 1993 bombing of the



not the reality. One TSA official — disgusted with the agency's standard practice of putting on a strong show of security at the passenger screening checkpoints while ignoring yawning holes in security elsewhere in the civil aviation system — has referred to it as "just more eye candy ... feel-good stuff."

After spending \$20 billion on aviation security, we still have not developed a defense against ideas terrorists had six years before 9/11. It doesn't require a genius to figure out that terrorists might try a version of Operation Bojinka again.

There was a sense of absolute panic in the TSA's announcement that liquids would not be permitted on airplanes. Yet security experts have been recommending for years that carry-on baggage be strictly limited.

In 2001, the TSA did ban matches, box cutters and small knives. Then, in December, it started allowing them again. Though chastised in the report by the independent 9/11 commission for failing to act on information already in hand, the TSA never has forbidden the liquids that it now is temporarily banning, even though it was fully aware of the Bojinka effort and Al-Qaeda and bin Laden's penchant for going after targets until he succeeds in bringing them down.

We were fortunate this time, but we can't depend that we will be again.

Susan and Joseph Trento are the authors of the upcoming *Unsafe at Any Altitude: Failed Terrorism Investigations, Scapegoating 9/11, and the Shocking Truth About Aviation Security Today*. They wrote this article for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Thomas Frank

# Conservatives reap spoils of victimhood

*Liberals must puncture their marginalization fantasy.*

"President Bush operates in Washington like the head of a small occupying army of insurgents," the pundit Fred Barnes writes in his recent book, *Rebel-in-Chief*. "He's an alien in the realm of the governing class, given a green card by voters."

Let's see: These insurgents today control all three branches of government: they are underwritten by the biggest of businesses; they are backed by a robust social movement with chapters across the radio dial. The insurgency spreads before its talented young recruits all the appurtenances of power — a view from the upper stories of the Heritage Foundation, a few years at a conquered government agency where expertise is not an issue, then a quick transition to K Street and a suite at the Ritz. For the truly rebellious, princely tribute waits to be extracted from a long queue of defense contractors, sweatshop owners and American Indian casinos eager to remain in the good graces of the party of values.

What a splendid enterprise American conservatism has turned out to be.

How does this work? How does the right keep its adherents in a lather against government bureaucrats and Washington know-it-alls when conservatives are the only bureaucrats and know-it-alls who matter anymore?

Part of the answer is that, after their crushing defeat in the 1930s, conservatives rebuilt their movement by adopting a purely negative stance against liberalism. They were so completely excluded from power, they believed, that in 1955 William F. Buckley

Jr. famously depicted them "Standing athwart history, yelling Stop."

Writing in the middle of the Reagan years, the journalist Sidney Blumenthal gaped at the persistence of this "adversarial" mind-set long after the liberals had been routed. "Even when conservatives are in power they refuse to adopt the psychology of an Establishment," he marveled.

Here we are, 20 years later, and to hear conservatives tell it, every election is still a referendum on the monster liberalism looming like a colossus over the land. Even Tom DeLay — the erstwhile "Hammer" — becomes a martyr when addressing the faithful. "The national media has taken my own reelection as their own personal jihad," he moaned in a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February. "So we're fighting the fight of ages."

That conservatives continue, as Rick Perlstein writes, to "soak in (their) marginalization" four decades after the election of the last liberal president puts this victimology beyond implausible.

A century ago, it was conservative stalwarts, not liberal reformers, who were the natural party of government. And they were forthright about what they stood for as well as what they were against: They were for rule by a better class of people, for a Hamiltonian state in which business was unified with government.

And conservatism is still for those things, tacitly, at least. Just look at the résumés of people the president has appointed to the Departments of Labor, Agriculture and the Interior. Or scan one of the graphs on which economists chart distribution of wealth over the past 100 years. The more egalitarian society we grew up in is gone, snuffed out by the party of tradition in favor of an even rosier past that lies on the far side of the 1930s.

These ought to be easy things to deplore. They ought to arouse precisely the kind of simmering fury that millions of Americans feel toward lewd halftime shows and checkout clerks who don't say "Merry Christmas." But we have difficulty holding conservatives accountable for them, so potent is their brand image as angry outsiders. What conservatives do, as everyone knows, is protest government, protest modernity; to hold them responsible for government or for modernity is to bring on cognitive dissonance.

Or, rather, it might bring on cognitive dissonance. We don't know because puncturing conservatism's marginalization fantasy really hasn't been tried. If liberals ever are to recover, this will have to change. Against the tired myth of the "liberal elite," they must offer a competing and convincing theory of how Washington works, and for whom.

*Thomas Frank is the author, most recently, of 'What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America.' He will be a New York Times guest columnist during August. Maureen Dowd is on leave.*

Cynthia Tucker

# Peace vote isn't a wimp vote



Illustration by DEAN ROHRER

There they go again.

Hoping for a reprise of the 2002 and 2004 elections, when they rolled over Democrats by claiming that they were soft on terrorism, leading Republicans once again are portraying the invasion of Iraq as brilliant, denouncing their critics as traitors and claiming that anything less than enthusiastic support for "staying the course" is tantamount to saddling up with Al-Qaeda.

Recently, GOP heavyweights used the victory of anti-war political novice Ned Lamont over three-term incumbent Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., in last week's Democratic primary — Sen. Lieberman had remained a staunch defender of the war — to portray the Democrats as America-hating wimps. With so many incumbents struggling to distance themselves from President Bush and the war, you'd think the GOP leadership would have qualms about that strategy. But if you know only one tune, you sing it.

According to Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman, Sen. Lieberman's loss means "defeatism and isolation are now Democratic Party orthodoxy." Vice President Dick Cheney even suggested that Sen. Lieberman's defeat might encourage "Al-Qaeda types," according to *The New York Times*.

Al-Qaeda types? They've been closely watching the outcome of the contest between Mr. Lamont and Sen. Lieberman, seeking encouragement? You've got to be kidding.

First off, the vast majority of Texans couldn't tell you who won the race between Mr. Lamont and Sen. Lieberman, much less the rank-and-file of Al-Qaeda. Second, jihadists seem to be getting all the encouragement they need from a heavy-handed American presence in Iraq; an Iran emboldened

by Iraq's breakdown; and a disproportionate Israeli response to Hezbollah in Lebanon. The mujahedeen couldn't care less about Connecticut.

But Mr. Cheney and his ilk continue to beat the war drum because it worked before. In 2002, then-U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., defeated Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga. — a Vietnam triple amputee — by questioning his "courage." Rep. Chambliss ran an ad linking Sen. Cleland to Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

Similarly, Mr. Bush defeated Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., two years ago by constantly resurrecting the searing memory of 9/11 and questioning Sen. Kerry's toughness against terrorism. In the months leading up to the election, the Bush administration issued a terror alert about once a week. Oddly, there have been precious few terror alerts in the 2½ years since Mr. Bush's reelection; the most stringent of those resulted from plots carried out or interrupted in Great Britain.

This time around, the GOP leadership is going to have a much more difficult time painting Democrats

as cut-and-run pantywaists, because Republicans want to leave Iraq, too. In June, Republicans staged a for-the-cameras debate on the floor of the House, where they insisted U.S. troops must "stay the course." U.S. Rep. Gil Gutknecht, R-Minn., upbraided any who thought otherwise: "Members, now is not the time to go wobbly," he declared.

But last month, Rep. Gutknecht returned from a visit to Iraq with a bleak assessment of the war and called for at least a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops. "Baghdad is worse today than it was three years ago," he said, adding, "All of the information ... from the Pentagon and the State Department isn't always true."

Really? The voters already had figured that out. According to a poll conducted for CNN this month by Opinion Research Corp., 60 percent of Americans now oppose the war in Iraq, the highest number since the invasion began in March 2003. Sixty-one percent favor the withdrawal of some U.S. troops by the end of the year.

On Thursday, Mr. Bush used the news of a thwarted plot involving aircraft bound for the United States from Great Britain as a "stark reminder that this nation is at war with Islamic fascists." That is true. But the president forfeited the moral authority to lead that war when he misled the American people about Saddam Hussein and his connection to those Islamic fascists, especially Al-Qaeda. The war he led us into has set off shock waves throughout the Middle East that will roil the region for years to come.

The damage is already done — even if we start withdrawing U.S. troops tomorrow.

*Cynthia Tucker is editorial page editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Her e-mail address is cynthia@ajc.com*

Ruben Navarrette Jr.

# 'Leaders' disserving black America

*Those brave enough to say that deserve respect.*

A few years ago, my friend Juan Williams told me that he thought we had something in common — namely, how those who represent our communities, or claim to represent them, view us with suspicion and resentment.

In interviews with Hispanic members of Congress, the National Public Radio senior correspondent and Fox News commentator said he had detected that some of them were uneasy about me, and much of what I write.

"They don't trust you," he said. "They never know what you're going to do. And they know you won't always agree with them and, when they're wrong, you're going to say so."

Juan said it reminded him of how the members of the Congressional Black Caucus felt about him.

Now, many black members of Congress and other leaders will trust him even less. That's because my friend has written a provocative and important book that challenges a lot of what they're selling to the masses.

*Titled Enough: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America — And What We Can Do About It*, the book is a good read. But it's also a good deed. And you can bet it won't go unpunished.

You see, it ain't easy being Juan Williams. As a panelist on *Fox News Sunday*, my friend comes across as a common-sense liberal dueling conser-

vatives who live in a right-wing bubble. But put him around those whom we in the media refer to as "black leaders," and suddenly Juan is a common-sense conservative dueling liberals who live in a left-wing bubble.

Mr. Williams has had a bellyful of African-Americans acting as their own worst enemy. He's tired of black people not having good leadership and instead settling for professional grievance brokers who "misinform, mismanage and miseducate (them-black community) by refusing to articulate established truths about what it takes to get ahead: strong families, education and hard work."

Can I get an amen?

Convinced that many of the problems that black people face can be solved by black people, Mr. Williams doesn't think the answer is to embrace victimhood, blame your troubles on racism and wait for white America to bail out black America.

And he's particularly incensed that you don't have more black leaders getting in the faces of black youth and telling them that to be a success, you have to stay in school, study hard, speak proper English, stay away from crack and stop defining what it means to be

black as someone who is acting like a thug and "dressing like a convict."

Can I get another amen?

This should sound familiar. Mr. Williams draws much of his inspiration from the now-infamous speech delivered by comedian Bill Cosby on May 17, 2004, to a few thousand members of the black elite who gathered in Washington to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Brown decision. Instead of basking in how far African-Americans have come, Mr. Cosby talked about dropout rates, out-of-wedlock births, drug abuse, high rates of incarceration and other self-defeating behaviors that plague the black community. Mr. Cosby was criticized — not because what he said wasn't true but because he aired dirty laundry.

Now, Juan Williams has done the same thing. And besides diagnosing the illness, he's offered a prescription.

"It's so simple," he told me. "It's all about education. You've got to say to young people who are thinking of dropping out of school: 'Don't do it. It's a death sentence.'"

It's a solid message, for all Americans. And the black community owes the messenger a debt of gratitude for having the courage to spread it.

*Ruben Navarrette Jr. is a columnist for The San Diego Union-Tribune. His e-mail address is ruben.navarrette@unjontrib.com*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Column, editorial connect sand projects with turtles' problems

I compliment *The Post* on the column by Sally Swartz about sand projects ("Save our sand? St. Lucie has a case," June 14) and on the Aug. 5 editorial about loggerhead sea turtles, "Where are loggerheads?"

I believe that there is a connection between beach sand projects and sea turtles. Ms. Swartz made some excellent points, but the most important point is the question she posed when she stated, "Maybe it's time to reconsider beach renourishment." One thing is clear: These beach projects are causing environmental damage. One project off Palm Beach near Lake Worth has left some serious negative effects.

Both the Lake Worth and Kreusler Park beach areas are being inundated by sand from the Phipps project, completed in May. A huge sandbar now exists where there was deeper water. In areas where fish once were common near the shoreline, I have observed that the beach has far fewer fish (I snorkel almost every day in the summer). There have been reports that sea turtles are having trouble negotiating over the escarpment left by this project and may have dropped eggs rather than nesting. Previous scientific studies have found that sea turtles avoid recently renour-

ished beaches. There also are questions about turbidity and plumes damaging near-shore reefs.

The editorial on loggerheads indicates a downturn in their population. What if sand renourishment in our area is harmful to sea turtles? The Phipps project was extended into the sea turtle nesting period. Sea turtles are part of our rich environmental legacy. What legacy will we have left to pass on to the next generation if we lose our Florida wildlife?

How do we know that sand placed near Phipps has provided any benefit? We do know it has buried ideal fish habitat near shore, where many fish mature. Putting sand on the beaches is expensive; the project off Phipps Park cost \$4 million. We know that sand renourishment causes environmental damage; we know that because the state is permitting the taking (killing) of endangered sea turtles. We know that turbidity from these projects can interfere with the health of corals. What if we are damaging reefs, which protect us from storm surge?

These are important issues that we need to consider. Thank you, Ms. Swartz, for asking this question.

DREW MARTIN  
Lake Worth

## Article shows why having Israel as ally is dangerous

Ben Caspit's Aug. 6 article, "Israel will not capitulate, and here's why," gives some clues into how dangerous the Israeli regime is and what it's capable of.

Reading his chilling statement, "Make no mistake — we won't go down alone. You, the leaders of the free and enlightened world, will go down along with us," one can wonder whether that is what Israel ultimately wants to do, drag the Western world into a clash of civilizations. For whose sake?

Our terrorism problem is mostly because of our unconditional support for Israel — regardless of the extent of death and destruction it causes, as seen in the obliteration of our (former) ally Lebanon. That statement also brings to mind another scary fact: Israel's nuclear arsenal. Isn't it strange that the media rarely even talk about, much less come down on, Israel's own arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons? Taking the pretext of the Iraq War, shall we now invade Israel because it has nuclear weapons? If not, anyone care to explain how this is not a double standard?

With Israel's weapons, one only can imagine what other war crimes Israel could commit should these weapons fall into the hands of an extremist Israeli government. If I had a friend who told me, "If I go down, you're coming down with me," I would question that friendship.

NASREEN KAKLI  
Palm Beach Gardens

## Busy Okeechobee needs SunPass-only lane

I have been driving a truck locally for 10 years and take every opportunity to use Florida's Turnpike to save time. I have SunPass in all of my company trucks so that we don't have to deal with paying tolls, which saves a lot of time.

Through all my experience using the turnpike, I have learned that the key to eliminating congestion is the SunPass-only lane. There are SunPass-only lanes at Jupiter, PGA, Southern Boulevard, Lake Worth Road and now the Beeline Highway ("Beeline interchange open to traffic today," July 27), and I never see congestion at these exits. The one exit that does not have a SunPass-only lane is Okeechobee Boulevard, which is the busiest exit in the county and has daily traffic congestion. Invariably, every toll lane gets a car whose driver either needs directions or has to break a \$100 bill, creating instant congestion. It seems to me that at least 50 percent of commuters have SunPasses, and all this exit needs is

one dedicated lane to alleviate all the congestion.

KENNETH D. DUVALL  
Lake Worth

*Editor's note: Kenneth D. Duvall owns Duvall's Towing Service, based in Lake Worth.*

## Slosberg's methods of seeking votes dangerous

With his "Slosberg Emergency Management Aid" system, using his own trucks to store ice, and with his flier encouraging calls to his staff in case of emergency, Rep. Irv Slosberg, D-DeLray Beach, hints that rather than improve the system, he is the system ("Storm aid trucks Slosberg's latest plan to win votes," Wednesday).

Taking the "unilateral" page from the George W. Bush handbook, Rep. Slosberg thinks he can handle emergencies all by himself. He is setting up an operations center to "counter the one run by government." So, we'd have two organizations working independently, without coordination, without sharing resources, interfering with each other. He expects this to improve things throughout Senate District 30, in which he is running in the Sept. 5 primary? What if the need isn't where his trucks are idling?

A state senator is someone who can make the system do what citizens need — not someone who thinks he doesn't need anyone. It's hard to get allies in Tallahassee with that attitude.

SCOTT NOVACK  
Boca Raton

## Human benefit or trash? Bush made his choice

President Bush vetoed the stem-cell research bill because he called it murder ("Bush cites 'moral boundary' in veto of bill promoting stem-cell research," July 20). We are talking about a cluster of cells this big: (the dot). These cells would have been used in an effort to find solutions to horrible afflictions, which certainly would be considered humanitarian and probably would lead to cell therapy rather than drugs. That would be a tremendous advance for better and more effective medical treatment.

Instead, these cells now will be discarded when the couples involved in the in-vitro fertilization programs are finished. There are more than 400,000 of these clusters in storage. The choice is garbage or human benefit, and President Bush chose garbage.

KEN ELKINGTON  
Palm Springs

## HOW TO WRITE THE POST

The Palm Beach Post welcomes original letters about issues of current interest and material that has appeared in the newspaper. All letters are subject to editing and must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Envelopes without a return address will be discarded.

Recommended length is a maximum of 250 words. Send e-mail letters to letters@pbpost.com, faxes to (561) 820-4728 and postal letters to Letters to the Editor, The Palm Beach Post, P.O. Box 24700, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4700.

# Pharmacists now armed with a powerful new weapon that delivers real joint comfort

## Luck of the draw gives local readers 56 hour window to be the first to get the new pills

BY G. W. NAPIER  
 Universal Media Syndicate

Scientists and doctors have developed an amazing new oral tablet called Trigosamine. It's so impressive that one key ingredient has the ability to retain fluid up to 1000 times its own weight, with the potential to increase lubrication for the joints allowing them to move with ease.

"Using Trigosamine is like taking a can of oil and applying it directly to your joints" said Dr. Joseph Dietz, Chief of Health Sciences.

And thanks to the luck of the draw, readers of this publication will be among the first to get it. That's because this area has already been assigned a toll free Regional Health Hotline, but the catch is the hotline is set to close in just 56 hours.

"We recommend that those living in this area call now to get their share first," said Matthew J. Woods, Director of The Regional Health Hotline.

"Right now we're shipping out everything we have on a first come first served basis. We may not be able to meet everyone's demands as word continues to spread across the country," he said.

Trigosamine contains one of the most promising joint nutrients known to man. Researchers refer to it as HA13.

This important nutrient is a building block of naturally occurring joint oil which is reduced friction in the joints allowing for effortless motion. It not only lubricates the joints but it also acts as a comfortable shock absorber.

"As the body ages the production of synovial fluid declines which forces the joints to grind together resulting in nagging discomfort," Dr. Dietz said.

"HA13 has been shown to be absorbed into the body and made available to the joints. That means it has the potential to replenish the ultra slippery synovial fluid which allows joints to slide freely and smoothly," said Dr. Dietz.

Now for the first time ever the Trigosamine brand combines HA13 with the essential blend of Glucosamine and Chondroitin.

It has been clinically shown that this essential blend of glucosamine and chondroitin helps to build healthy cartilage in the joints and allows for increased flexibility and range of motion. This impressive combination works to alleviate uncomfortable joint dysfunction which results in amazing comfort.

A clinical study conducted by the United States government found that glucosamine and chondroitin, similar to those present in Trigosamine, had a remarkable 79.2% effective rate for those with moderate to severe joint discomfort.

It was also announced at The American College of Rheumatology meeting that the combination of glucosamine and chondroitin showed promise among persons with moderate to severe discomfort.

"The clinical trials have been consistent. The Trigosamine like the one present in new Trigosamine has been proven safe and is extremely effective," Dr. Dietz said.

One of the reasons Trigosamine is receiving so much attention is because it is derived from natural sources. The ingredients are combined to make a revolutionary new formulation that is taken orally just once a day without a prescription.

The tough part now is how to get it.

"Everybody wants it," Woods said. "The first drugstores to get this new formula couldn't keep it on the shelves."

That's why CVS/Pharmacy has already stockpiled the first available shipments. Get the down side is the other drugstores may not get their shipments until later this year.

That makes the next 56 hours so critical for everyone living in the local area. Those who get through to the Regional Health Hotline

before the deadline will get Trigosamine sent directly to their homes.

Otherwise, those who miss the deadline and everybody else living in other parts of the country will be hard pressed to get it.

So, even with the clock ticking local readers still have the advantage of being among the first to get their hands on this new medical breakthrough. ■

### Here's how to get it

Until all pharmacies are fully stocked the national distribution of new Trigosamine is being conducted on a state by state basis. Those living in the states listed below with a ★ next to it are authorized to have it sent directly to their home by calling The Regional Health Hotline now.

Regional Hotline Approval Code: **TG1495**

★ = Call **1-800-782-8750**

LINES OPEN at **9:00 am** today

- ★ ALABAMA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- ALASKA: must wait
- ARIZONA: must wait
- ARKANSAS: must wait
- CALIFORNIA: must wait
- ★ COLORADO: call now - 56 hour deadline
- CONNECTICUT: must wait
- DELAWARE: must wait
- ★ FLORIDA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- ★ GEORGIA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- HAWAII: must wait
- IDAHO: must wait
- ILLINOIS: must wait
- INDIANA: must wait
- IOWA: must wait
- KANSAS: must wait
- ★ KENTUCKY: call now - 56 hour deadline
- LOUISIANA: must wait
- MAINE: must wait
- MARYLAND: must wait
- MASSACHUSETTS: must wait
- MICHIGAN: must wait
- MINNESOTA: must wait
- ★ MISSISSIPPI: call now - 56 hour deadline
- MISSOURI: must wait
- MONTANA: must wait
- NEBRASKA: must wait
- NEVADA: must wait
- NEW HAMPSHIRE: must wait
- NEW JERSEY: must wait
- NEW MEXICO: must wait
- NEW YORK: must wait
- ★ NORTH CAROLINA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- NORTH DAKOTA: must wait
- OHIO: must wait
- OKLAHOMA: must wait
- ★ OREGON: call now - 56 hour deadline
- PENNSYLVANIA: must wait
- RHODE ISLAND: must wait
- ★ SOUTH CAROLINA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- SOUTH DAKOTA: must wait
- ★ TENNESSEE: call now - 56 hour deadline
- TEXAS: must wait
- UTAH: must wait
- VERMONT: must wait
- ★ VIRGINIA: call now - 56 hour deadline
- WASHINGTON: must wait
- WASHINGTON D.C.: must wait
- WEST VIRGINIA: must wait
- WISCONSIN: must wait
- WYOMING: must wait

**IMPORTANT:** You may be able to find Trigosamine at a CVS/Pharmacy since they are getting the first shipments. Otherwise, if you do not live in a state with a ★ next to it you must wait to call. A public announcement confirming your states eligibility will be published within 90 days.

[www.trigosamine.com](http://www.trigosamine.com)

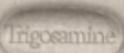


HEALTHY JOINTS: Diagnostic x-rays reveal human joints that have the proper amounts of synovial fluid to lubricate the joints and act as a comfortable shock absorber. The plentiful fluid allows for comfortable and effortless motion.

### HOW Trigosamine WORKS

Trigosamine oral tablets are taken once daily with a mechanism of action with three powerful nutrients put into position to provide comfort.

- 1. Hyaluronate-HA13:**  
 This remarkable compound is present in the body's synovial fluid which acts as a shock absorber and makes the joints extremely slippery allowing them to slide smoothly over one another!
- 2. Glucosamine Hydrochloride-GH15:**  
 This clinically proven compound helps build and maintain cartilage to reduce joint dysfunction!
- 3. Chondroitin Sulfate-CS12:**  
 Clinically proven compound helps improve flexibility and promotes increased range of motion!



\* Dr. Joseph C. Dietz, PhD currently conducts full-time joint care and nutraceutical research on Trigosamine for PatentHEALTH, LLC. Statements herein are based upon published public information and do not imply affiliation, sponsorship or endorsement of Trigosamine™ by the American College of Rheumatology.  
 † THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

# Unclaimed Cash: \$1Mill handover of rare money sheets now underway

BY MARY BETH ANDREWS  
 Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) One Million Dollars in unclaimed rare currency sheets is now up for grabs.

And those who are getting it say it feels like winning the Lottery. Here's how it's being turned to the public.

Thousands of crisp new full uncut sheets of \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 dollar bills were recently left unclaimed, not with the government, but at the central vaults of the private World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"Just before Christmas hundreds of thousands of people beat the National 48 hour deadline to get the money. But some were left out in the cold because of incomplete billing and shipping information. As a result, those rare currency sheets could not be shipped and were left sitting in our vault. Amazingly, it adds up to over a million dollars," confirmed Stephen S. Speakman, National Director of Currency Operations.

The unclaimed full uncut sheets of

real money are now being given up, not to banks, not to dealers and not just to the rich and famous, but directly to the general public.

But the only way to claim these left-

over currency sheets now is through a special worldwide web connection set up to distribute the unclaimed money.

"The phone deadline for calling has

already passed. Now the unclaimed money is only being offered through the special website, on a first come first served basis. But when it is gone, they will have to be turned away," Speakman confirmed.

"Just think what these currency sheets could be worth years from now. Values always fluctuate. It's difficult when you are comparing apples to oranges, but according to the *Official Standard Guide to U.S. Paper Money* which provides valuations, some uncirculated 1928 one dollar bills have increased in value by over 6,400%. In fact, a full uncut dozen of 1928 dollar bills sold for \$18,400.00," Speakman said.

"You would expect to see these uncut money sheets on display in the Oval Office or under guard at the Smithsonian," he said.

Until now, only those lucky enough to be 'in the know' could get their hands on uncut sheets of real money. In fact, banks don't even have them. But now you can get them direct by logging on to the special website.

"You can actually spend it. It's real money. But anyone would be an abso-

lute fool to cash them in because they're worth so much more," Speakman confirmed.

There's going to be a lot of excited people when they get their hands on these valuable unclaimed sheets of money. It's a ton of money when you see all four sheets of \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 dollar bills in the full Banker's Stack.

But readers better be sure to get plenty now because if they try to get more later, they may be out of luck. When they're gone, they're gone.

That's why it is important that the general public now log on to the special website that is listed below to beat the rush.

So, on your mark, get set, go. Hopefully, you'll be the first to get your share of the unclaimed money. ■

### Here's how to get the Unclaimed Money

Log onto the web at:  
[www.moneysheets.com](http://www.moneysheets.com)



■ A SEA OF UNCLAIMED CASH: One Million Dollars in Unclaimed rare currency sheets are now available to the public. A Security Officer logs in thousands of crisp new uncut sheets of \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 that are now being offered to the public. The uncut sheets of real money are so hard to find, banks don't even have them.

Even without Ozzy, crowd finds entertainment galore at Ozzfest, 4B



**George Bennett**  
Politics

## Lieberman's loss, refusal to quit rattle local friends

Sen. Joe Lieberman's loss in last week's Connecticut Democratic primary produced conflicting emotions among Dems in Palm Beach County, which has been a hotbed of Liebermanism but is also home to the same brand of anti-Bush fervor that produced Ned Lamont's win.

Since running for veep in 2000, Lieberman has been an adopted favorite son in South Florida's heavily Jewish Democratic precincts. His failed 2004 presidential campaign was backed by such local alpha-Dems as U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler and County Commissioner Burt Aaronson.

Lieberman helped Arthur Anderson become county elections chief in 2004 and toured like a rock star in Jewish communities for John Kerry. He also came here to raise cash for his 2006 reelection bid, turning to Boca Raton attorney Ted Deutch and others for help.

It was Lieberman, in fact, who announced Deutch's state Senate bid last September while he was raising reelection money in Boca.

"What happened in Connecticut, from my perspective from afar, was unfortunate," said Deutch, who called Lieberman "an incredibly decent man full of integrity" and a friend. But Deutch declined to opine on his friend's plan to run for reelection as an independent.

Democratic State Sen. and congressional hopeful Ron Klein also called Lieberman a friend but said he should bow out after losing to Lamont. Wexler, too, opposes Lieberman's independent candidacy.

At a Democratic club meeting at Century Village west of Boca Raton last week, Marian Hoehstetter said Lieberman "did it to himself" by being too close to Bush on the Iraq war. Emanuel Beckler also disliked Lieberman's ties to Bush but said it shouldn't have cost him the primary. Club President Marvin Manning said he's disappointed his party doesn't seem to have room for Lieberman's hawkishness.

"To me that's a rather sad commentary because I've always felt that the Democratic Party has been a very large tent and capable of handling many points of view," Manning said.

"The Big Tent has a big exit," said Democratic activist Andre Fladell, who called Lieberman's loss an "unhealthy" sign.

Ouch. At the close of the school board portion of last week's Gold Coast Builders Association Great Debate, candidate Bob Kanjian delivered a late hit on rival Terry Pereira.

"Having an opinion doesn't make you a statesman. Winning the lottery, as my opponent did, doesn't make you a leader," Kanjian said.

Pereira didn't get to respond as the audience reacted with a mixture of boos and puzzled expressions.

In 1998, he was part of an 11-member group that divided a \$5.38 million Florida Lotto prize to be paid out over 20 years. Kanjian said he raised the issue because Pereira's personal financial disclosure statement doesn't show any 2005 income from a lottery payout.

Pereira said his share was less than \$100,000, and he arranged to get it in a lump sum several years ago by selling his interest in the winnings to a finance company.

Opportunism's downside: Republican county commission hopeful Ed Shepherd, who just moved into western District 6 so he could run, missed the Great Debate. He never got an invite, Shepherd said, because "when I moved out to my new home in Royal Palm Beach, all my mail got lost."

After angering many local Dems by quitting a county commission race and giving Republican Mary McCarty a free ride to reelection, state House District 86 hopeful Joseph Abruzzo is going to San Francisco this week to raise campaign bucks.

Friend Will Hearst IV (scion of William Randolph Hearst) and former San Francisco 49er Eric Wright are among the hosts. The fog-town fete means there won't be a showdown Tuesday over whether Abruzzo can speak at a Democratic Club of Greater Boynton candidate confab. Club prez Jay Weltz was among the party bigs vowing to muzzle Abruzzo at Dem events.

© george\_bennett@pbpost.com

## Fast tests to help jail's HIV fight

*Inmates will get their results in a half-hour instead of three weeks.*

By ANTIGONE BARTON  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

With little to do and nowhere to go, nearly 700 Palm Beach County Jail inmates this year decided to settle a nagging question and take an HIV test.

By the time their test results returned three weeks later, though, most had served their time or been released on bond and were back on the streets.

All were squandered opportunities to fight the epidemic where it thrives, health and jail officials say.

They are the kind of opportunities officials are aiming to seize this fall with the introduction of "rapid" HIV testing, which delivers results within a half-hour.

The tests are "a match made in heaven" for the jail population, where the rate of HIV infection is estimated to be as much as five times the rate outside the walls and where inmates await trial and sentencing and serve terms of less than a year, said Dr. Pierre Dorsainvil, an infectious disease specialist who serves as the jail's medical director.

It is a population made up of the more than 40,000 drug abusers, prostitutes, repeat offenders, hapless bumblers and victims of circumstance who are booked into the jail each year, about 70 percent of whom are released within 10 days.

It is also a transient population with little or no connection to health care, experts say. Of those who have tested for HIV at the jail so far this year, 10 were discovered to be infected with the virus that leads to AIDS. Two of them had served their time or bonded out before those results arrived. That left the health department to try to find them. And of those who tested negative, an estimated 75 percent were long gone by the time their good news arrived.

What most had in common — lack of money and education, shaky housing and support systems — should make correctional institutions a front line in the fight against AIDS, said state Sen. Frederica Wilson, D-Miami. For that reason,

See HIV, 7B ▶

### Diagnosed too late

More than 40,000 people a year are booked into the Palm Beach County Jail.

- About 70 percent are released within 10 days.
- Of those who have tested for HIV at the jail in 2006, 10 were discovered to be infected with the virus that leads to AIDS. Two of them had served their time or bonded out before those results arrived.
- Of those who tested negative, about three-fourths were out of jail by the time their good news arrived.

## Pro-Israel rally takes place at temple in Greenacres



Staff photos by DAMON HIGGINS

GREENACRES — Michael Shible waves an Israeli flag as a rally supporting Israel's war effort in Lebanon gets under way Sunday at Temple Beth Tikvah. The public was invited to hear speakers including Michael Hadar, executive director of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, and Col. Udi Sharon of the Israel Defense Forces. At the close of the rally, a man (right) participates in a congregational reading of a prayer for the state of Israel.



## Palm Beach chief focus of fire in Epstein case

Defendant's lawyers take him on; he slams state attorney

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

In the case of Palm Beach financier Jeffrey Epstein, it seems, at times, as if two men are accused of wrongdoing: Epstein and Palm Beach Police Chief

Epstein, 53, was indicted last month on a charge of felony solicitation of prostitution solely because of his "craziness," one of Epstein's lawyers said. His department disseminated

"a distorted view of the case" and behaved in a "childish" manner when the grand jury didn't indict Epstein on the charges it sought, another Epstein lawyer complained.

To hear the Epstein

camp tell it, [redacted] 48, is a loose cannon better suited to be the sheriff of Mayberry. They whisper that he's embroiled in a messy divorce.

[redacted] did in fact file for divorce from his wife, Jill, last year, after 24 years of marriage. They have a son,

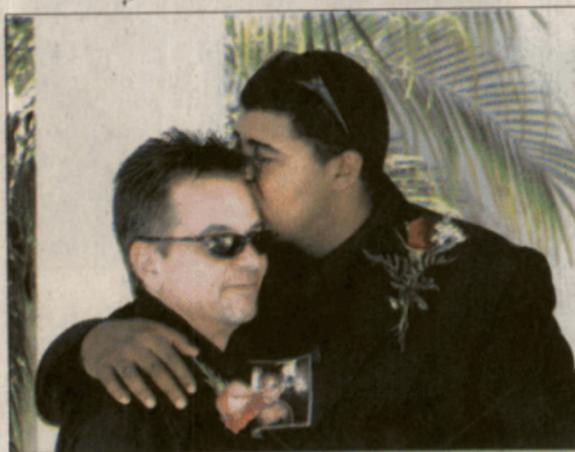
18, and a daughter, 14. The couple is scheduled to go to mediation Wednesday. Nothing in the court file suggests their split is particularly ugly.

[redacted] incurred the wrath of the Epstein camp as well as the state attorney. See [redacted] 7B ▶

## Grieving for Mom, sister

LAKE WORTH — Jane Tackaberry's son, John, kisses her brother, Bruce Dillon of Minneapolis, before her funeral Sunday afternoon. John's ex-girlfriend is accused in Tackaberry's stabbing death and his son's slashing injuries last week.

UMA SANGHVI  
Staff Photographer



Share your condolences in our online guestbook at [PalmBeachPost.com/obits](http://PalmBeachPost.com/obits).

## ELECTIONS 2006

State House District 78

## Machek faces challenge from fellow Democrat

By KELLY WOLFE  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

A political newcomer, and fellow Democrat, is challenging state Rep. Richard A. Machek for his District 78 seat for the first time since 2000.

Steve Perman, a Boca Raton chiropractor, said the district is ready for a shake-up.

"I became frustrated at what I felt was a lack of energy and lack of quality communication on behalf of the Democrats," Perman said. "My opponent has had six years to do what he needs to do."

Machek said he wants two more years to work on

■ A look at the candidates, 7B

See DISTRICT 78, 7B ▶

# METRO REPORT

Weather, traffic, breaking news and special reports  
PalmBeachPost.com/local

## POLICE BLOTTER

**BOYNTON BEACH** — A man who was shot in the back Saturday afternoon at the Quick Stop in the 1900 block of North Seacrest Boulevard died that night at Delray Medical Center, police said Sunday. Ghazi Mohammed, 44, of Lake Worth died about 10:10 p.m. A preliminary investigation suggests that a co-worker accidentally shot Mohammed, police said. On Sunday, police did not release the name of the co-worker. And they have not charged anyone with a crime, Lt. Lisa Lillie said. The investigation continues.

## IN TRAFFIC

Two days before classes begin, faculty and staff at South Tech Academy in Boynton Beach will meet today to discuss hold-

ing a memorial for two of the school's teachers who died last week, the school's president, Jim Kidd, said Sunday. Jane Tackaberry, 53, a part-time cosmetology teacher, died Tuesday in her West Palm Beach home. Police said she was stabbed to death. Four days later, Timothy Gill, 35, of Boynton Beach died after a car crash. Shelley Turner, 25, of Delray Beach, who also died, drove her Ford Escort in the wrong direction on Interstate 95 and slammed into Gill's 2002 Nissan Altima north of Atlantic Avenue about 4 a.m. Saturday, police said. Gill, who started working at South Tech Academy last year, taught mathematics, Kidd said. Tackaberry and Gill knew one another, though they did not work together, Kidd said. He described both teachers as friendly and well-liked by the students. "We are extremely shocked and saddened. I definitely want to give students the chance to grieve," Kidd said.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings scheduled for this week, including those that are televised live on Channel 20, the Palm Beach County government channel. On most cable systems, the programming appears on Channel 20 as well. Consult your listings.

### Palm Beach County

**Criminal Justice Commission Executive Committee**, 8 a.m. today, government center, 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach.

**County Commission**, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, government center. 20

**ATU negotiations**, 1 p.m. Tuesday, Four Points Complex, 50 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

**Contract Review Committee**, 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, county engineer's executive office, 2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach.

**ATU negotiations**, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Service Center, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

**Shortlist Selection Committee for the Convention Center's Artscape in the Tropics Project**, 9 a.m. Wednesday, government center.

**Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board**, 10 a.m. Wednesday, government center.

**Battalion chief contract negotiations**, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Four Points Complex.

**EEO/Fair Housing Board**, 5 p.m. Wednesday, government center.

**Board of Adjustment**, 9 a.m. Thursday, Planning, Zoning and Building Department, 100 Australian Ave., West Palm Beach.

**Shortlist Selection Committee for the Convention Center's Artscape in the Tropics Project**, 9 a.m. Thursday, government center.

**Workforce Alliance**, noon Thursday, Workforce Alliance, 324 Fern St., West Palm Beach.

**Palm Tran Service Board**, 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Service Center.

**Public Art Committee**, 4 p.m. Thursday, Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Circle, Lantana.

**Housing Finance Authority**, 9 a.m. Friday, government center.

**Community Alliance Child Abuse Protocol Oversight/Management Team**, 10 a.m. Friday, West Palm Beach Police Department, 600 Banyan Blvd.

**Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee**, 1:30 p.m. Friday, Vista Center, 2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach.

### Solid Waste Authority

**Board of Governors**, 9 a.m. Wednesday, SWA Auditorium, 7501 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach.

### South Florida Water Management District

**WRAC/Acceler8 issues workshop EAA reservoir structures preliminary design**, 5:30 p.m. today, SFWMD headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road.

### The Acreage/Indian Trail Improvement District

**Public input**, 7 p.m. today, district office, 13476 61st St. N., Acreage/Loxahatchee.

**Recreation Advisory Board**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, district office.

**Special projects**, 7 p.m. Wednesday, district office.

### Atlantis

**Council workshop**, 8 a.m. Tuesday, city hall, 260 Orange Tree Drive.

**Architectural Review Committee**, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, city hall.

**City Council**, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, city hall.

**Code Enforcement**, 10 a.m. Thursday, city hall.

### Belle Glade

**Special Firefighters Pension Board**,

4:30 p.m. today, city hall, 110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. W.

**Joint pension boards quarterly**, 5:30 p.m. today, city hall.

**Commission workshop**, 7 p.m. today, city hall.

### Boca Raton

**Planning Advisory Review**, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, city hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road.

**Historic Preservation Board**, 5 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

**Community Appearance Board**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, community center, 150 N.W. Crawford Blvd.

**Beautification Committee**, noon Wednesday, city hall.

**Library Advisory Board**, 4 p.m. Wednesday, library, 200 N.W. Second Ave.

**Airport Authority**, 6 p.m. Wednesday, city hall.

**Environmental Advisory Board**, 7 p.m. Thursday, city hall. 20

### Boynton Beach

**Police Officers Pension Board**, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, city hall, 100 E. Boynton Beach Blvd.

**City Commission**, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

**Code Compliance Board**, 7 p.m. Wednesday, city hall.

**Firefighters Pension Board**, 4 p.m. Thursday, city hall.

**Special CRA on the MLK corridor**, 6 p.m. Thursday, Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S. Seacrest Blvd.

**Employees pension board**, 1:30 p.m. Friday, city hall.

### Clewiston

**Commission workshop**, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, city hall, 115 W. Ventura Ave.

### Delray Beach

**Police Advisory Board**, 5:30 p.m. today, city hall, 100 N.W. First Ave.

**City Commission**, 6 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

**Historic Preservation Board**, 6 p.m. Wednesday, city hall.

### Greenacres

**Planning Commission**, 7 p.m. Wednesday, city hall, 5985 10th Ave. N.

### Highland Beach

**Code enforcement special meeting**, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, town hall, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd.

### Hypoluxo

**Local Planning Agency/Town Council**, 7 p.m. Wednesday, town hall, 7580 S. Federal Highway.

### Jupiter

**Beautification Committee**, 5:30 p.m. today, municipal complex, 210 Military Trail.

**Town Council**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, municipal complex.

### Lake Clarke Shores

**FRDAP recreational grant hearing/budget workshop/town council**, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, town hall, 1701 Barbados Road.

### Lake Park

**Retired Police Officers Pension Fund**, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, town hall, 535 Park Ave.

**Town Commission**, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, town hall.

### Lake Worth

**Code Compliance Board**, 7 p.m. Thursday, town hall.

### Lake Worth

**Community Improvement Committee**, 6 p.m. today, city hall, 7 N. Dixie Highway.

**City Commission**, 6 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

**Planning and Zoning/HRP Board**, 6 p.m. Wednesday, city hall.

**Commission workshop**, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, city hall.

### Lake Worth Drainage District

**Board of Supervisors**, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Lake Worth Drainage District, 13081 Military Trail, Delray Beach.

### Lantana

**Town Council**, 7 p.m. today, town hall, 500 Greynolds Circle.

### Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District

**Board of Directors**, 7 p.m. Thursday, district administrative building, 2500 Jupiter Park Drive, Jupiter.

### Mangonia Park

**Local Planning Agency**, 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, town hall, 1755 E. Tiffany Drive.

**Town Council**, 6 p.m. Tuesday, town hall.

### North Palm Beach

**Country Club Advisory Board**, 7 p.m. today, village hall, 501 U.S. 1.

**Planning Commission**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, village hall.

**Budget workshop**, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, village hall.

### Ocean Ridge

**Town Commission**, 6 p.m. today, town hall, 6450 N. Ocean Blvd.

### Pahokee

**Safety Committee**, 10 a.m. Wednesday, city hall, 171 N. Lake Ave.

**Zoning, Adjustment and Planning concerning variance for Baltazar**, 6 p.m. Thursday, city hall.

### Palm Beach

**Landmarks Preservation Commission**, 9 a.m. Wednesday, town hall, 360 South County Road.

**Code Enforcement Board**, 2 p.m. Thursday, town hall.

### Palm Beach Gardens

**City Council**, 7 p.m. Thursday, municipal complex, 10500 N. Military Trail.

### Palm Beach Shores

**Budget workshop**, 6 p.m. Wednesday, town hall, 247 Edwards Lane.

### Palm Springs

**Leisure Services Board**, 7 p.m. Thursday, village hall, 226 Cypress Lane.

### Port of Palm Beach

**Board of Commissioners**, 4 p.m. Thursday, Maritime Office Complex, 1 E. 11th St., Riviera Beach.

### Riviera Beach

**Agenda review**, 5 p.m. today, city hall, 600 W. Blue Heron Blvd.

**Fire-Rescue Explorer meeting**, 6 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

### West Palm Beach

**Board of Directors**, 5:30 p.m. today, Building 509, 3323 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach.

**Times and locations are subject to change, and not all meetings can be listed. Call the appropriate organization for verification.**

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# Colleagues cite chief's professionalism, integrity

Reiter's office for two reasons. First, he pressed for Epstein to be charged with the more serious crimes of sexual activity with minors. Second, he slammed State Attorney Barry Krischer in blunt language seldom used by one law-enforcement official concerning another because of what he perceived as that office's mishandling of the case.

In a letter to Krischer written May 1, Reiter called his actions in the Epstein case "highly unusual." He added, "I must urge you to consider if good and sufficient reason exists to require your disqualification from the prosecution of these cases."

In short, Reiter told the county's top prosecutor for the past 13 years that he ought to get off the case. "It looks like a departure from

professionalism," Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said of Reiter's letter.

Following Epstein's indictment, Reiter referred the case to the FBI to determine whether the super-rich, super-connected defendant had violated any federal laws.

Reiter won't discuss the case or the broadsides aimed at him. But others almost uniformly use one word to describe the chief: professional.

"I have always been impressed by Mike's professionalism and his leadership," said Rick Lincoln, chief of the Lantana Police Department and a Palm Beach County cop for 32 years.

"The town of Palm Beach has a very professional police department. We all consider Mike to be our peer and a man of integrity."



Juno Beach Police Chief H.C. Clark II agreed. Although he doesn't know Reiter well, he has met with him on countywide law enforcement issues. "I've never seen him lose his cool. I've never seen anything but a professional demeanor from him."

Clark joined the Palm Beach Police Department in 1981, leaving a \$20,000-a-year patrol job at the University of Pittsburgh. His personnel jacket shows consistently excellent job evaluations.

Posh Palm Beach is no hotbed of crime, and in his first year on the job, a resi-

dent confined to his home with a sick child thanked Reiter for delivering a few Cokes to the house. Reiter refused payment for the beverages. Another resident thanked Reiter for shutting off his car's headlights in his driveway, saying a valet must have been at fault.

Clark worked everything from road patrol to organized crime, vice and narcotics. And he's no novice at investigations involving the island's rich and famous. He was the lead detective probing the drug overdose death of David Kennedy in 1984. He also was one of the officers who worked the investigation of William Kennedy Smith, who was charged in 1991 — and later acquitted — with raping a woman at the Kennedy family compound in Palm Beach.

Clark, who has a master's degree in human resource

development from Palm Beach Atlantic University, also has attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., and management courses at Harvard. He's been active in countywide interagency law enforcement organizations and has a "top secret" national security clearance.

"He has a perspective that's broader than just addressing the needs of the town," said Town Manager Peter Elwell, who promoted Reiter from assistant chief to chief in March 2001. Reiter makes more than \$144,000 as the town's top cop. Elwell thinks he's worth it.

"He's very businesslike, very straightforward. He's not easily agitated or flamboyant. He's about the work," Elwell said. "I think that his service as chief has been outstanding in five-plus years."

larry\_keller@pbpost.com

# Inmates' blood not drawn in new test

► HIV from 1B

she pushed a \$500,000 measure through the legislature last session to increase HIV testing at eight county jail systems, including Palm Beach County's.

"We're not going to be able to make an impact on HIV unless we make an impact in the prisons and jails," said Dr. John P. May, regional director for Armer Correctional Health Services, which provides medical care at the jail.

A study at the Broward County Jail, which began rapid testing in December 2004 as part of a pilot program for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, highlighted the importance of HIV prevention efforts in jail, May said.

Among 62 inmates who learned they had HIV through rapid testing at the jail during a 14-month period, a third had developed full-blown AIDS.

Those who tested positive had been in jail an average of 6.7 previous times. One inmate had been jailed 24 times, May said.

"Imagine being in and out of jail 24 times and not getting tested any of those times," May said. "They've come in and out and we've missed opportunities to identify their disease, to treat them, to prolong their life and keep them healthy, to reduce the odds of transmission."

At the Palm Beach County Jail, medical compliance manager Susan Dean believes more inmates will take a rapid test because it doesn't require blood to be drawn.

Even those who tested negative but had been released missed an opportunity to get the additional prevention counseling that would have come with the good news, she said.

"Unfortunately, many people who came in here just made a mistake," she said. "This is an opportunity for people to stop and think for a moment and start making responsible decisions for themselves."

antigone\_barton@pbpost.com

## AIDS watch

Learn more about causes and risks, plus get the latest news. [PalmBeachPost.com](http://PalmBeachPost.com)

## 'I want to go back for my last two years and complete a lot of these things which are so vital for Southeast Florida.'

RICHARD A. MACHEK, District 78 incumbent

## '(Many lawmakers have) challenged same-party Democrats because they believed they could do a better job. I'm no exception to that.'

STEVE PERMAN, Boca Raton chiropractor

# Health care, insurance high on both candidates' agendas

► DISTRICT 78 from 1B

projects he believes a newbie wouldn't have the clout to handle.

"You have to earn your position and earn respect in order to get any bills passed or take home dollars for your district," Machek said. "I've been successful in that area. I want to go back for my last two years and complete a lot of these things which are so vital for Southeast Florida. A new person can't do that."

The candidates will face off in the primary Sept. 5. Because of term limits, this is the last time Machek can run for sprawling District 78 seat, which represents portions of Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Highlands counties.

Perman moved to Boca Raton in 1993 from Long Island. He has never held political office, but has spent the past dozen years lobbying on behalf of various chiropractic associations. He said he entered the race at the urging of friends. He has been a chiropractor for 27 years, and was named 2005 Chiropractor of the Year by the Florida Chiropractic Association.

"I believe I am following a wonderful tradition," Perman said, rattling off a list of lawmakers who challenged fellow party members. "They all challenged same-party Democrats because they believed they could do a better job. I'm no exception to that."

Machek, a fifth generation Flo-

ridian who moved to Palm Beach County in 1941, said this race has taught him to campaign all over again.

"My issues are always the same," he said. "Taking care of the constituents."

Machek, of Delray Beach, spent most of his career in agriculture, growing ornamental plants. He served on the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board from 1995 until 1999.

More specifically, Machek said he is concerned with South Florida's water supply, environmental issues, health care and hurricane insurance. He said he worries the price of insurance will soon "price people out of their homes."

Machek said he is also preparing to help bring the California-based Burnham Institute for Medical Research to St. Lucie County.

"I think it's going to be a battle between Orange and St. Lucie County," Machek said. "Hopefully, St. Lucie will win."

Perman said he wants to focus on affordable health care, hurricane preparedness and response, the rising cost of homeowners' insurance and finding alternative fuel sources.

He said he believes patients should have access to doctors of their choice within a managed care system. He said when it comes to health in-

## State House District 78

Richard A. Machek

Age: 68  
Personal: Married 48 years to Wanda Davis, two daughters and six granddaughters  
Professional: Agriculture — grew ornamental plants and managed a nursery



**Political background:** State representative for District 78 since 2000; South Florida Water Management District Governing Board 1995-1999; Palm Beach County Farm Bureau President eight years, vice president four years.  
**Position on issues:** Concerned about South Florida's water quality and environment. Wants to bring the Burnham Institute for Medical Research to St. Lucie County. Is concerned about the rising cost of hurricane insurance.

### Politics watch

Get updated politics coverage, post messages and more. Share comments in our Florida politics forum: [The Q Blog](http://TheQBlog.PalmBeachPost.com/politics).

Steve Perman

Age: 49  
Personal: Married 23 years to Irene. Has two children — one in college, one in high school.  
Professional: Chiropractor  
Political background: Lobbyist for various chiropractic associations



**Position on issues:** Concerned about affordable health care, hurricane preparedness and response, the rising cost of homeowners insurance, and finding alternative-fuel sources.

urance, executive salaries are top-heavy and keeping premium dollars from being used for patient care.

Perman said he believes stores and gas stations should be required to have generators.

"So they can get right back up and running again," he said.

Machek said the biggest difference between campaigning in 2000 and campaigning in 2006 is the cost.

"It's expensive!" he said.

Financial records show Machek has raised \$80,235, Perman \$59,685.

kelly\_wolfe@pbpost.com

## At 97, Anne Hankins drives, sails, plays tennis and serves as a volunteer COP.

# Breaking the laws of old age

By SHARON WERNLUND  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

FORT PIERCE — Even at 97, Anne Hankins is no couch potato.

The spry great-grandmother tends to her vegetable and flower gardens, hosts dinner parties, drives her own car (her license is valid through 2012), goes sailing and plays tennis three times a week.

"We have a wonderful group, but I'm sorry you can't play with us until you're 70," laughs this church-going Presbyterian.

Hankins knows the value of exercise. She was a physical therapist at a treatment center for polio patients in Warm Springs, Ga., that was founded in 1927 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and depicted in a recent Hollywood film.

Once, FDR — crippled with the disease — was her patient.

"That's my only claim to fame," she says. "I stretched the president's hamstrings."

Hankins is not only in good physical shape for her age, but her eyesight and hearing are still sharp, too. In 2001, she put those qualities to work as a member of the Citizens Observation Patrol for the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

The volunteer group of 300 green-shirted men and women patrol neighborhoods and parks throughout the county. Marine units also cruise the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Volunteers must be 21 or older, reside in St. Lucie County, complete a 16-hour training course and pass a background check. They have no police powers and don't carry weapons. All incidents are relayed to 911.

The youngest is 36 years old. Most are senior citizens and retirees.

Hankins, who stands five feet tall, outranks

them all — in age.

"I just thought it would be a good idea to help in the community," says Hankins, a Fort Pierce resident since 1973. "Everybody ought to do a little something and help out whatever way they can."

For five years, she and Christi Mollet have served together as partners against crime. The duo met in 1998. Shortly after Mollet, 54, moved to her neighborhood, Hankins, a widow and mother of three, was at the door to welcome her.

"Anne was the first person I met," says Mollet, a retired financial planner who fosters kittens for the humane society.

"She brought me a jar of homemade jam and a petition to stop the (proposed) Walton Road bridge."

Their friendship blossomed from dinner parties to patrols. With Mollet at the wheel and Hankins in the passenger seat, the duo cruise twice a month for a couple of hours in a marked car through White City and Indian River Estates and along Indian River Drive.

When requested, they walk the perimeter of single-family homes and check the security of doors and windows for snowbirds and out-of-towners. The women also look in on shut-ins and the elderly.

"There are certainly plenty of older people who could take advantage of that," Mollet says.

Without skipping a beat, Hankins fires back, "Tell me about it."

Their training has taught them to recognize signs of crime. But even those incidents are rare.

Their sole case to date was a house burglary, and that was years ago. On a recent patrol, the safe crossing of a box turtle on a dirt road was their biggest cause for alarm.

Still, the women believe they make a dif-



DAVID SPENCER/Staff Photographer

CRUISING FOR CRIME: Anne Hankins (left) and Christi Mollet prepare for a recent patrol in White City.

ference.

"What the police department says is we're their eyes and ears," Mollet says. "They do think it deters crime by having another police car on the road."

"Hopefully, that's part of the reason it is slow, because we're out here. It's nice to not see any crime."

Adds Hankins with a mischievous grin, "I try to look for something evil to pounce on but it's so peaceful."

On their rounds, the pair often wave at neighbors or stop to chat. For the most part, motorists respect their authority on Indian River Drive, slow down to 35 mph and follow in single file.

Suddenly, someone speeds ahead of them in a no-passing zone.

"That's bad, bad, bad," Mollet says. "The

only thing we can do is try and get their license number. The side of our car says Citizens Observation Patrol so some people know we're not the real cops."

Hankins, the daughter of missionaries, jokes that she may take up kickboxing for self-defense. But even if she ever does encounter a bad guy, her sense of humor alone can be disarming.

Here's a prime example:

"I got some of this literature from Harvard Medical School in the mail. I kind of laughed about it, but then I wrote them a note. I said I'm now 97. If you would send me some suggestions, I might be able to get to be 100."

For more information about the Citizens Observation Patrol, call the Crime Prevention Unit at (772) 871-5303.

sharon\_wernlund@pbpost.com



## Going On Vacation Outside The U.S.?

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## On A Budget?

Stretch it with bargains advertised in today's Post.

# Project to open isolated Sarasota beach

*Beach renourishment will allow landlubbers access to the paradise.*

The Associated Press

SARASOTA — Bob Streb ran out of adjectives as he surveyed the nearly empty crescent beach: Beautiful. Amazing. Stupendous.

Leading a family of 12 — wife, three daughters, three sons-in-law and four grandchildren — the St. Louis man was on vacation and renting a boat to explore Little Sarasota Bay. A fellow at the rental place told him about a secret, little-used beach that can be reached only by boat.

"It is just phenomenal," Streb said, smoking a thin cigar and looking under the brim of a Panama hat at his family lounging in the shallow water.

On a recent afternoon, the half-mile-long Palmer Point Beach was populated by as few as two beachgoers and as many, when Streb's clan showed up, as 19. And all of them seemed to have a Her-nando de Soto kind of story about how they "discovered" the secluded beach.

But next year, the beach that time forgot no longer will be such a secret to local sand lovers.

In November, a dredging company is scheduled to start an \$11.8 million beach renourishment that extends 2 miles north from the southern tip of Palmer Point Beach. The 150-foot-wide strip of sand that will be added to the eroded beach will make it easy again for anyone who doesn't mind a little walking to reach Palmer Point.

The idea of pedestrians walking to "his" beach did not sit well with Chase Crumbly, who proclaimed: "We don't want more people!"

Crumbly and his girlfriend, Mallory Maxwell, both from Frostproof, found the beach a couple of months ago while boating and had returned to relax in the gentle waves while enjoying a beer or two.



Chase Crumbly of Frostproof relaxes off Palmer Point Beach at Sarasota. For years the publicly owned paradise has been accessible only by boat.

Several sunbathers talked in near whispers because they were under the impression that Palmer Point is a private beach, owned perhaps by some negligent wealthy landlord.

But that's true only if you consider Sarasota County to fit that description. Palmer Point Beach is a marooned part of the county's beach system, cut off by erosion and private property from the heavily used Turtle Beach, half a mile to the north. Between Turtle and Palmer beaches are several developments, including Fisherman's Haven and Blind Pass Seawall.

Palmer Point extends from South Siesta Key's southernmost house, which is falling into the Gulf of Mexico, to the end of the key where Midnight Pass has filled in.

The only legal ways to get to Palmer Point Beach are by boat or by picking your way at low tide through rock revetments, then splashing around a huge pink abandoned house that's sliding into the Gulf.

Property owners have granted public easements for walking in exchange for permits to harden their parts of the beach, but the walkways don't link.

Reconnecting Palmer Point is a big part of the reason the county was willing to pick up such a large part of the cost of the beach project, said County Administrator Jim Ley.

John Hartrampf says he's happy to pay the nearly \$13,000 the county is charging to renourish the 60 feet of beach in front of his home, which is assessed at \$1.5 million.

"We spend that much on insurance every year that doesn't pay," Hartrampf said. The worry, though, is that the conditions that led to the scouring of the beach on South Siesta Key are still present. After Midnight Pass closed and its shoal collapsed, the currents lifted sand from South Siesta Key and deposited it on Casey Key.

Renourishments are not permanent fixes, and the currents could erase this one in perhaps seven years, he said.

That's why County Commissioner Nora Patterson wants to make a permanent public walkway through the private developments' part of the project.

"There's a big sign that says 'public beach,' but nobody can get to it," Bass said. "I haven't been there since they blocked it off."

And she misses her beach. "It's like you're on a paradise island, the water is so many different shades of aqua."

There's probably not much reason for the habitués of Palmer Point to worry about crowding on their beach.

After all, it still will be a nearly half-mile walk along the restored beach to reach Palmer Point.

"Even though they'd

open it to the public, I can't imagine many people would make the walk," Streb said.

The beach project has obvious aesthetic value, including the restoration of Turtle Beach and providing 2 miles of uninterrupted public beach. There are harder financial reasons for doing it, though.

The county estimates that the value of gulf-front private property along those 2 miles is \$267 million, and that does not include the value of the two public beaches. Protecting the value of that private land, whose owners pay the county more than \$1 million a year in property taxes and another \$2 million a year to schools, is part of the reason for the project, said County Administrator Jim Ley.

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## Epstein camp calls female accusers liars

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Attorneys and publicists for Palm Beach financier Jeffrey Epstein went on the offensive Monday, contending that teenage girls who have accused Epstein of sexual shenanigans at his waterfront home are liars and saying that the Palm Beach Police Department is "childish."

"There never was any sex between Jeffrey Epstein and



Epstein

Epstein did have young women come to his house to give him massages, Goldberger said. "Mr. Epstein absolute-

ly insisted anybody who came to his house be over the age of 18. How he verified that, I don't know. The question is, did anything illegal occur. The law was not violated here."

He had no explanation as to why Epstein would pay girls or women with no massage training — as the alleged victims said was the case — \$200 to \$300 for their visits. "The credibility of these witnesses has been seriously ques-

tioned," Goldberger said.

Epstein, 53, was indicted by a county grand jury last month on a charge of felony solicitation of prostitution. After an 11-month investigation that included sifting through Epstein's trash and surveilling his home, Palm Beach police concluded there was enough evidence to charge him with sexual activity with minors. When the grand jury indicted Epstein on the less serious

charge, Police Chief [redacted] referred the case to the FBI to determine whether there were federal law violations.

After a spate of stories about the case last week, New York publicist Dan Klores — whose client list has included Paris Hilton and Jennifer Lopez — said on Saturday that Epstein's camp was ready "to get their story out."

See EPSTEIN, 9B ▶

**'Mr. Epstein absolutely insisted anybody who came to his house be over the age of 18.'**

JACK GOLDBERGER, Epstein's lead attorney

## 2-year-old boy in serious condition



RICHARD GRAULICH/Staff Photographer

A Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office investigator inspects the scene of an accident where a 2-year-old boy was run over by this white Oldsmobile in the

driveway of a home on Success Street in suburban West Palm Beach Monday afternoon. The boy is in serious condition at Delray Medical Center.

## City iffy on trash hauler's contract

Staff wants a new deal with Waste Management, but not all Riviera Beach officials are sold.

By WILLIAM COOPER JR.  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

RIVIERA BEACH — If the workshop was to persuade the city council to keep Waste Management Inc. as the city's garbage hauler, the staff made a good case: By bidding the contract, the council risks having to raise rates and losing \$1.3 million in annual fees the city gets from billing residents.

Council members, however, weren't completely sold on awarding Waste Management a four-year extension on a contract it's held since 1994, when the city decided to dump its garbage division. Over the next two weeks, the council will mull whether it's worth the risk to bid the contract, renew it or scrap the deal altogether and go back to an in-house garbage operation.

The latter has the least backing from staff members. They estimate it would cost about \$8 million to revive Riviera Beach's public garbage collection, although some residents support the idea.

"Nobody can do it cheaper than you," Herman McCray, the city's sanitation director in 1970s and 1980s, told the council.

Council Chairwoman Ann Iles called for last week's workshop to quell rumors that the city was orchestrating a secret deal with Waste Management. Iles and the council decided to provide a forum for the public to sound off about the contract.

Fewer than 20 residents showed up. Four in the audience were from Sunburst Sanitation, a competing garbage hauler.

Councilwoman Liz Wade said the poor turnout showed that the rumored complaints were much ado about nothing. She asked her colleagues to note that there was no crowd clamoring for change.

"If this was something that concerned the residents, they would be here," Wade said. "We should learn to trust our staff. If you don't trust them, you need to fire them."

Councilwoman Norma Duncombe jumped on the opportunity to counter Wade's comments.

"Waste Management should hire

See RIVIERA, 6B ▶

## Toddler run over by 8-year-old cousin

By KEVIN DEUTSCH  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The 2-year-old boy lay in the driveway beside the beat-up Oldsmobile that hit him, a black tire mark streaked across his chest, his forearm broken and bleeding.

Jasmine Addison, 12, screamed at the sight of her little cousin, Mikhi Akins, lying in the driveway. She had a weight in the pit of her stomach, a weight that, even at her young age, she identified as guilt. In that moment, she wished she'd never taken her mother's keys from the kitchen; that she'd stopped her sister from putting the car into gear.

The taking of those keys, Jasmine and her family said, led to Jasmine's 8-year-old sister Jakera Addison driving their mother's white Oldsmobile in-

trigue into Mikhi as he stood in the driveway of the family's rented home in the 4150 block of Success Street in suburban West Palm Beach just before 4 p.m. Monday. Jakera also backed into the beige, one-story house at one point, cracking the wall beside the front door.

"She got inside and put it in reverse," Jasmine said after the crash, before detectives arrived and interviewed her family. "She backed up and hit him, and she backed up and hit the wall."

Mikhi suffered a fractured left forearm and clavicle, as well as road burns to his chest, face, and abdomen. He was admitted to Delray Medical Center and was in serious but stable condition Monday night.

Jasmine said she'd grabbed her mother's keys while she slept and went to the car to "roll the windows down and

clean it up." At one point, she said her little sister took control of the wheel and reversed, somehow striking her cousin and dragging him through the driveway.

Investigators said the keys were in the ignition or on a seat when the 8-year-old found them, started the car, put it in reverse and hit the gas.

"I feel bad about taking the keys," Jasmine said.

Jasmine and at least five other children had been in the home Monday afternoon, along with Jasmine's mother, Kimberly Hall, 32, and another family member, Danielle Hayes, 18.

Hall said she'd been watching the kids, several of which are hers, the entire day. She'd cooked them breakfast, made sure they ate again when Hayes

See TODDLER, 9B ▶

### OBITUARY

## Cantor Stephen Dubov, voice just one of his gifts

By DIANNA SMITH  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

They sent out the announcement barely one month ago, alerting those at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton that a search committee had hired the perfect man.



Mr. Dubov

Stephen Dubov, the new cantor. A witty spirit with broad shoulders and dark hair.

He had a personality that warmed souls and a voice that provoked tears.

"We looked at cantors literally from around the world."

Senior Rabbi Daniel Levin said. "His voice could be extremely powerful, almost penetrating, and other moments, sweet and caressing. But his voice was just a small part of his talent. He had an ability to make people feel important."

Levin said Mr. Dubov's death was "just a horrific shock. I really believe the Jewish people have lost a great servant."

Today, tears fall for Mr. Dubov, who died unexpectedly Saturday in Michigan of a dissected aorta, the artery tearing much like a rip in a nylon, said his wife, Christine. It tore quickly, without

See MR. DUBOV, 9B ▶



CHRIS MATULA/Staff Photographer

### To have and to hold

DELRAY BEACH — Tanavia Durham, 7, hugs her new backpack, courtesy of the Delray Beach Office Depot, during Backpack Donation Day at the store Monday.

## Officer Tasers, shoots armed man at taco bus

The man would not drop his gun, sheriff's officials say.

By ROCHELLE E.B. GILKEN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

PALM SPRINGS — After he was kicked out of a club early Monday morning, Jaime Pineda brought his loaded handgun to the popular taco bus parked across from the Swap Shop on Lake Worth Road.

A Palm Springs police officer, aware of the frequent trouble there in the early mornings, pulled into the parking lot about 5:30 a.m. and saw Pineda holding the gun at his right side while he argued with another man over a girl.

The officer repeatedly ordered the 19-year-old to drop his weapon, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

Pineda did not budge. The cop shot a Taser. Pineda pulled out the prongs.

Next came the bullets. The officer hit Pineda with

two shots to the torso. Pineda did not fire back.

But he did not drop the gun until officers kicked it out of his hand, said Teri Barbera, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

"When he was Tasered, he still would not drop the weapon. When he was shot and dropped to his knees, he still would not drop the weapon," said Barbera, whose office is handling the investigation for Palm Springs because the shooting involved an officer. The sheriff's office did not release the officer's name.

The Taser shot went through Pineda's shirt, but it's unclear whether it hit his skin, Barbera said.

Pineda, of Greenacres, was flown to Delray Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit late Monday but was ex-

See SHOOTING, 6B ▶

Emily J. Minor's column will return soon.

# METRO REPORT

Weather, traffic, breaking news and special reports  
PalmBeachPost.com/local

## IN TRAFFIC

**Nancy A. Loeser, 74, of Boca Raton died Sunday from injuries she suffered in a traffic accident in May, according to a report from the sheriff's office.** Loeser was in hospice care. Five other people involved in the accident, including the woman's husband, Eugene Loeser, suffered minor injuries.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**BOYNTON BEACH — Michael Thomas McMillan of Boynton Beach may have stolen money from as many as 25 victims across the county who paid him to work on hurricane shutters or screens, police say.** On Friday, McMillan, 34, was charged with scheming to defraud, grand theft and fraud. He posted bond Saturday. Christopher Schwarz of Boynton Beach said he gave McMillan \$3,250 to install accordion shutters. "He said he was going to do for final measurements and never came," Schwarz said. Florida Department of Law Enforcement records show McMillan has been convicted of drug trafficking and possession of cocaine.

**David Salazar, 42, of Lake Worth was arrested Friday on charges of soliciting sex**

**over the Internet.** According to an incident report, Salazar told a St. Lucie County sheriff's detective posing as a 14-year-old girl that he wanted to travel to St. Lucie County to have sex with her. Salazar was being held Monday at the St. Lucie County jail on \$300,000 bail.

**WEST PALM BEACH — A man was beaten and robbed of \$150 while he was walking down Southern Boulevard at Dixie Highway around 5:45 a.m. Monday, police said.** The man was walking home from El Norteno Bar on Belvedere Road when a woman asked him to stop. Within a few seconds, a Buick carrying up to six men pulled over and the men started punching him. One hit him in the back with a baseball bat, police said. Anyone with information is asked to call (561) 822-1600.

**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office "saturation patrols" on Friday resulted in two DUI arrests, 229 citations, 42 warnings, and one misdemeanor arrest, the sheriff's office said.** The purpose of the central county patrol was to apprehend alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers, increase the public's awareness of the DUI problem and encourage people who consume an alcoholic beverage to find other transportation rather than drive themselves, officials said. The sheriff's office also said there was an

alcohol-related crash during the hours of the patrol, which ran from 8:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Seven of the citations were for red light violations and 10 for criminal offenses. Most of the remaining citations were for speeding, according to the sheriff's office.

## STREET WISE

**A traffic shift on Southern Boulevard that was scheduled for last week and canceled at the last minute will take place Wednesday.** From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., eastbound traffic will move to newly constructed lanes from West of Florida's Turnpike to west of Hawthill Road. Westbound traffic will not be affected. There will be intermittent lane closures near Pike Road and Pine Avenue during the traffic switch.

## BRIEFLY

**South University officials named Nancy Borkowski academic affairs dean for its West Palm Beach campus.** Borkowski, an adjunct lecturer at Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University, also has been coordinator of St. Thomas University's master's of Science in Management program and coordinator for its Graduate Study Abroad program. South University is a private college with five campuses, including ones in Tampa and West Palm Beach.

# Police probe possibility woman set self on fire

By STEPHANIE SLATER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

**DELRAY BEACH —** With smoke still rising from her charred body, Christina Simmons cried weakly, "Help me. Please help me. I am in pain."

A police officer described her muffled sobs as "softly screaming."

She was lying on the ground Sunday afternoon, her shirt burned off, ash, dirt and gravel covering her face.

She had burns on 80 percent of her body.

Police have no suspects. They also are looking into the possibility that the 44-year-old Delray Beach woman was so desperate for OxyContin that she set herself on fire.

She had used fire as an attempt to get the painkiller before, Delray Beach Detective Robert Stevens said Monday.

In February, she told her doctor that her prescription for OxyContin burned in a fire at her Homewood Boulevard condo, Stevens said. Her doctor called the fire department to verify the story. Firefighters then went to her home, but she refused to let them inside.

Simmons, who for the past three months lived in a duplex on Northwest Sixth Court in Rainberry Woods, had been depressed lately, her roommate, Donna Levitt, told detectives.

"She hadn't been eating or drinking and was behind in rent money," Stevens said, adding that he found rotting food and hundreds of fruit flies in her dresser drawers. "She said she was in a lot of pain and didn't want to live anymore."

Two people called police around 4:30 p.m. Sunday when they saw Simmons walking quickly along Northwest 12th Avenue. One woman stopped her car and told Simmons to lie on the ground.

Paramedics took Simmons to Delray Medical Center where she told them that someone poured something on her, but she did not know who did it, according to

a police report.

Shortly after 7 p.m., she was flown by Trauma Hawk to Tampa General Hospital's Burn Unit. She remained in critical condition Monday, a spokeswoman said.

Police searched neighboring streets for clues and found circular patches of burned grass in a dirt alleyway behind Byrd's Paint and Body Shop between Northwest 11th and 12th avenues. A gold cane with a worn black handle, some partly burned clothes and a melted plastic Winn Dixie bag containing a Gatorade bottle, cigarettes and more clothing were nearby.

Police could not find any evidence of an accelerant in the alley.

But on Monday they found a half-empty one-gallon gas can on the passenger-side floor of her white Jeep Cherokee, which was parked in front of her duplex.

"Whether that's the accelerant or not, we don't know," Stevens said. "Everything's going to the lab to be tested."

Simmons' father, Edward Simmons, flew from his Hempstead, N.Y., home to the Tampa burn unit on Monday and could not be reached for comment.

Erika Moreno of Delray Beach said Simmons shared her mother's Homewood Boulevard condo for about eight months.

"She was a nice girl. . . . She had her problems, we'll just put it that way," Moreno said.

Simmons previously lived in Nashua, N.H. Her landlord described her as a bright woman who had "issues" stemming from a skiing accident nearly 10 years ago. Detectives said Simmons had broken her back.

Anyone with information is asked to call Delray Beach Detective Robert Stevens at (561) 243-7868 or Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at (800) 458-TIPS (8477).

Staff researcher Bridget Bulger contributed to this story.  
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# A potential Cuban exodus not worrying Key West

The Associated Press

KEY WEST — Mayor Morgan McPherson's clothes are casual and his speech is calm. On the tip of his lips, though, is word of disaster.

This city, the closest American point to Cuba, could see a mass exodus of Cuban refugees making the 90-mile ocean crossing and arriving at the shore when Fidel Castro dies. The number of people that could arrive here, he says, would be great enough to rival, if not surpass the Mariel boat lift of 1980.

"That is a reality," McPherson said. "That's something we need to be prepared for."

Officials, business owners and average citizens alike here recognize that this city's proximity to Cuba in a time of political uncertainty could make it vulnerable. But few in laid-back Key West say the possibility of such change has them losing any sleep.

Mike Morrow, a 61-year-old retired police officer who has lived here for 10 years, sounded sentiments many locals seem to share.

"If it goes good, if it doesn't go good," he said, "I don't know that it'll affect me one way or another."

If history repeats itself, though, Morrow and others could be wrong.

In 1980, when Castro allowed those who wanted to leave the island to depart by boat from the small Mariel port, Key West was inundated as roughly 125,000 people crossed the Florida Straits and arrived here.

Depending on what happens in Cuba in the months following Castro's death, upward of 500,000 people could leave the island nation, estimated Andy Gomez, an assistant provost at the University of Miami who is also a senior fellow in the school's Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies.

Castro, who turns 80 this month, temporarily ceded power to his brother Raul last week when he underwent abdominal surgery, leading to speculation that his death might be imminent.

"I think there are some Cubans that are willing to go anywhere — Puerto Rico, Central America, Honduras, Mexico — anywhere," he said.

Such an exodus could be warded off, Gomez said, if some limited economic reforms were put in place or if the new Cuban government made even minor improvements, such as increasing the amount of food that residents are given. But Gomez suggested the island's new leader might open the border again simply in hopes of prompting a mass migration to the U.S. and potentially embarrassing the White House.

Cubans here express a variety of views. Some, like 53-year-old Luis Lao Rodriguez, want to return to their homeland. Others, like 49-year-old Angel Ramos, can't imagine leaving the U.S. And still others, like Arturo Cobo, are ready to fight.

Cobo fought in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and later led efforts to help Cubans arriving during the Mariel boat lift. He is waiting for the day change begins to occur within Cuba, and he says he is ready to join the fight for democracy.

"The people who have been waiting for this, that have been preparing — they're going to wait, they're going to go there, they're going to help to liberate our country," 65-year-old Cobo said.

The Coast Guard has a plan in place to deal with a potential mass migration from Cuba arriving on unsafe rafts and boats. But with word on Castro's health carefully guarded, it remains only a plan.

"We do a lot of speculation of 'what if,'" said Petty Officer 1st Class Dana Warr, a Miami-based Coast Guard spokesman. "We're monitoring what's going on. Nothing has been executed. But there are forces that would be laid down."

Boats trickling in here with Cubans in tow is a part of life in Key West. But for a city dependent on tourism, the thought of thousands coming can be scary.

Elaine DelPino is a 72-year-old lifelong resident of Key West who makes purses,



LYNNE SLADKY/The Associated Press

Key West Mayor Morgan McPherson says it is a reality that the island may have a deluge of Cuban immigrants after Fidel Castro dies.

oven mitts, cell phone cases and the like and sells them on the oceanfront. She worries more about the possibility of the U.S. lifting its travel restrictions on Cuba.

"If they open to tourists, then why are people going to come here?" she said. "We would lose a lot of people."

Many others disagree. They see the opening of Cuba as something that could

actually fuel more visitors here. The city's new ferry terminal was built with an eye toward possibly reconnecting Key West with its neighbor to the south, and many talk of marketing the two destinations together.

"It could be years," said Virginia Panico, president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce. "But people will always want to come here."



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# Cantor performed in movies, at home

► MR. DUBOV from 1B

warning, abruptly ending a life that accomplished so much in 55 years.

"He sang to me every day," Christine Dubov said softly from her home in West Bloomfield, Mich. "He would sing and I would dance. It struck us a lot. We were spontaneous. When you would hear him sing, you would cry."

The couple of 23 years met onstage. They were partners — she a Vegas showgirl, he the handsome lead singer. Wearing a white tuxedo and a charming smile, he held her hand many times, escorting the slender girl in glittery costumes and tall, pink feather headpieces that swayed as she walked. They were stage partners in Atlantic City, then Las Vegas. They fell in love, married and had two children.

Mr. Dubov was an actor in his early years and performed small parts in more than 150 movies, including *Saturday Night Fever*, *Arthur* and *Cadillac Man*. He was in the television soap opera *Guiding Light*, studied at The Metropolitan Opera in New York and became part of Broadway performances such as *Shenandoah* and *Pirates of Penzance*.

Mr. Dubov eventually decided to pursue his goal of becoming a cantor. He traveled to Israel to begin his studies so he could one day take on the role as clergyman and the one responsible for the musical celebration of Jewish life.

"We had met with him for our boys," said Karen Saul, a member of the temple whose sons are preparing for their bar mitzvahs. "They didn't want to sing, but he sat down at his keyboard in his office and had them both singing. It was wonderful. He was ready to do good things here."

He serenaded his family. In the dining room, the kitchen, even the back yard. Mr. Dubov would sing and they would dance. He made things fun and taught his children to enjoy life.

His son, Ariel, begins college this fall. His daughter, Aleksandra, is a voice major at Indiana University. After a memorial today in Michigan, she will sing at her father's funeral scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Temple Beth El. He will be buried in Boca Raton.

Mr. Dubov left South Florida on Saturday afternoon and traveled to his home in West Bloomfield to help his family pack. They wanted to move to Palm Beach County because Mr. Dubov fell in love with the clergy, his wife said, and because his parents, David and Joan, live here. On Saturday evening, he said he wasn't feeling well. He was rushed to the hospital and died that night.

One of Mr. Dubov's many accomplishments was his part in a 1995 cantata called *Liberation*, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps in Europe. He was chosen as one of the soloists by the musical's composer, Cantor Meir Finkelstein. Eleven years later, Finkelstein asked Mr. Dubov to perform the role again, this time with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

And he did. On June 29, his beautiful voice exploded from his body and captivated the audience, just as he had done before — onstage in Las Vegas, in movies, in his home and even as he did during his short time at Temple Beth El.

Mr. Dubov sang. He brought people to tears. And he warmed their souls.

"His solo was one of the highlights of the evening. It was amazing. His wife and children were there to enjoy his final performance," Finkelstein said. "That's what it was. His final performance."

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# Attorney: Police gave media 'distorted view'

► EPSTEIN from 1B

They did that Monday via Goldberger and a Los Angeles publicist for Miami criminal defense attorney Roy Black, who also has represented Epstein in the case.

"We just think there has been a distorted view of this case in the media presented by the Palm Beach police," Goldberger said.

Reiter has consistently declined to comment on the case and did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

The implication that State Attorney Barry Krischer was easy on Epstein by presenting the case to a grand jury rather than filing charges

directly against him is wrong, Goldberger said.

The Palm Beach Police Department was "happy and ecstatic" that the panel was going to review the evidence. "I think what happened is they weren't happy with the result. They decided to use the press to embarrass Mr. Epstein."

But records show that Reiter wrote Krischer on May 1 — well before the case went to the grand jury — suggesting that Krischer "consider if good and sufficient reason exists to require your disqualification from the prosecution of these cases."

Rather than flat-out decline to charge Epstein, Krischer referred the case to the grand jury to "ap-

pease" the chief, Goldberger said.

A state attorney's spokesman would say only that the office refers cases to the grand jury when there are issues with the viability of the evidence or witnesses' credibility.

Both the state attorney and the grand jury concluded there was not sufficient evidence that Epstein had sex with minors, according to Goldberger. "It was just a childish performance by the Palm Beach Police Department," Goldberger said.

The defense attorney said one of the alleged victims who claimed she was a minor was in fact over the age of 18. Another alleged victim who was subpoenaed to testify to the grand jury failed to do so. Epstein's

## Epstein investigation

Read a letter from Palm Beach Police Chief Michael Reiter to State Attorney Barry Krischer on the Epstein probe. [PalmBeachPost.com](http://PalmBeachPost.com)

accusers, he added, have histories of drug abuse and thefts. "These women are liars. We've established that."

But why would they all invent their stories about meeting Epstein for sexual massages?

"I don't have an answer as to what was the motivation for these women to come forward and make these allegations," Goldberger said.

© larry\_keller@pbpost.com

# \$300,000 from license plates to aid 4 dolphin programs

By RACHEL SIMMONSEN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Four dolphin research and education programs will split about \$300,000 that was raised in the past year by the "Protect Wild Dolphins" specialty license plate program, according to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, which administers the program.

Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota will use \$100,000 for public service announcements on the dangers of feeding dolphins and another \$60,000 to study how hurricanes and red tides in Port Charlotte have affected dolphin habitats.

Florida State University will use about \$70,000 to study the use of acoustic technologies to track dol-

phins, and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society's DolphinSMART project has been awarded about \$72,000 to develop a voluntary code of conduct for dolphin tour operators.

Since it was created in 1999, the dolphin specialty license plate program has raised more than \$4.5 million for dolphin research programs at

Harbor Branch, a research facility north of Fort Pierce, as well as \$2.8 million in grants for other dolphin research and conservation groups.

Each year, an additional \$30,000 is set aside to reimburse groups that provide care to sick and injured marine mammals.

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# No immediate charges filed

► TODDLER from 1B

brought over pizzas, but then she got tired. Her stomach hurt. She decided to take a nap.

Before getting into bed, she warned the children not to go outside. They told her they wouldn't, that it was too hot out there anyway, she said.

She said she took Mikhi into bed with her. When she woke up to the sound of the car hitting the house, the

little boy was gone.

"This is what happens when you don't listen," Hall said as she sat in front of the house with her kids. "I'm afraid I'll be in trouble now."

Hall told investigators Mikhi is her brother's son, and that she baby-sits children of her relatives for days at a time.

The sheriff's office will turn over their findings to the state attorney's office, which will determine whether charges are filed,

said sheriff's office spokeswoman Teri Barbera.

Investigators will look into whether there is a history of incidents at the address on Success Street and whether Hall has been involved in any previous incidents with authorities, Barbera said.

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# Massaging the system

Palm Beach police say their 11-month investigation shows that 53-year-old part-time town resident Jeffrey Epstein committed unlawful sex acts with and lewd and lascivious molestation on five underage girls. Defense attorney Jack Goldberger claims that his client, Jeffrey Epstein, had no idea that the untrained girls he hired for massages were minors.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office could have let a jury decide whom to believe. Instead, State Attorney Barry Krischer left the public to wonder whether the system tilted in favor of a wealthy, well-connected alleged perpetrator and against very young girls who are alleged victims of sex crimes.

Mr. Krischer took the unusual step of referring the case to a grand jury, which last month indicted Jeffrey Epstein on one felony count of solicitation of prostitution. That decision came after Harvard law Professor Alan Dershowitz met with prosecutors to undermine the credibility of the 14- to 17-year-old girls who charged that Mr. Epstein had paid them \$200 to \$300 to undress and massage him in his five-bedroom, 7½-bath home on the Intracoastal Waterway.

The girls, Mr. Dershowitz told prosecutors, had written on Myspace.com about smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. But if the girls have a credibility problem, what about Jeffrey Epstein? Mr. Goldberger, told *The Post*: "Mr. Epstein absolutely insisted anybody

## *Underage girls. A Palm Beacher. Just one charge.*

who came to his house be over the age of 18. How he verified that, I don't know." And prosecutors took him at his word?

Police collected evidence that refutes Jeffrey Epstein's defense. Police searched his home and garbage and found phone messages about the girls' school schedules and even a high school transcript, suggesting that Mr. Epstein at least knew that the girls were teenagers.

The state attorney's office has responded to criticism from Palm Beach police and others by noting the higher standard prosecutors face for conviction than law-enforcement officers do for arrest. But in this case, the state attorney bowed to the risk that a jury might look at both Jeffrey Epstein and the girls, and point fingers at both sides.

Even if the girls could be impugned as prostitutes, solicitation of a minor is a crime. Former disc jockey and teacher Bruno Moore was charged with that Tuesday. Investigators say the 34-year-old used the Internet — Myspace.com — to recruit a 13-year-old. Police say Jeffrey Epstein used a 20-year-old woman who had a Myspace.com account to recruit young girls. His actions were sleazy. It would have been good to ask a jury just how criminal they were.

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# The Palm Beach Post

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## Drivers: Get ready for technological turnpike

The new SunPass-only interchange that opened off the Beeline Highway is Florida's Turnpike officials' latest showcase for new efficiencies and convenience on the toll road. The \$27.5 million facility, which doesn't accept cash, also has been criticized as the wrong idea in the wrong location for the retired residents on tight budgets and veterans traveling to the Veterans Administration hospital in Riviera Beach. Officials should cast more than a rearview eye toward needs as Florida motors toward a more technological turnpike.

Although many drivers will have to adjust, the proliferation of "electronic tolling" also is a nudge toward what is saving motorists time and money. The SunPass transponder, which affixes to auto windshields for automatic toll deduction, costs \$25. It lets Florida's 2.2 million SunPass users travel nonstop through toll plazas while paying 25 cents less on average than cash customers. The latter increasingly will have to use toll booths on the side of the highway until all tolls are collected electronically in the next two decades.

SunPass-only facilities are much less expensive to construct. The transponders process four times as many vehicles per hour as an attendant in a toll booth, which is why 61 percent of customers pay with them, said turnpike spokesman Chad Huff. "Add the fact that a less

*SunPass-only is future, but customers need help.*

expensive version of SunPass could be available to all potential customers in the not-so-distant future," he said, and the SunPass-only configuration "only makes sense." He's correct that each motorist who uses the SunPass-only lanes means one fewer at the adjacent Palm Beach Gardens and Okeechobee Boulevard interchanges. That translates into congestion relief overall.

If not unintended consequences, however, technology such as the free wireless Internet service slated soon for turnpike rest stops always raises more questions. How will tourists leaving an airport in their rental cars, for example, know they'll need SunPass before they reach certain toll plazas? Even drivers familiar with electronic tolling in other states might not know that the exit a mile from Aunt Martha's house is SunPass-only. People who purchase transponders preloaded with a certain amount of tolls could conceivably leave the state without having fully redeemed their SunPass investment. Might the unused portions become charitable donations? More adjustments may be needed to help turnpike officials better serve those whom the new efficiencies might not serve best.

## GOP wages class war

House Republicans gave the nation a cynical example of partisan gamesmanship when they tied an increase in the minimum wage to a tax cut for multimillionaires.

The case for the wage increase is compelling and shouldn't be burdened by political opportunism. Workers who earn the current minimum of \$5.15 an hour, less than \$11,000 a year, fall far below the poverty line. About 36 million Americans — roughly one in eight of us — live in poverty, a quiet disgrace. Congress hasn't raised the minimum wage in nine years, but lawmakers have given themselves \$35,000 in raises during the same period. Think of how costs of living have risen since 1997 — what it was like to go to the supermarket midway through the Clinton administration and what it's like now — and the idea of a minimum wage frozen at \$5.15 an hour seems absurdly unfair. Congress has neglected the raise for so long that many states have done it on their own, including Florida, which increased it to \$6.40 through constitutional amendment.

The deal the House Republicans advanced calls for raising the minimum by \$2.10 in increments over three years. But the plan includes a poison pill for Democrats. Just in time for the November elections, the proposal has a provision that would carve out an estate tax

*Minimum for workers, maximum for wealthy.*

exemption for couples worth up to \$7 million. Government auditors figure that about 8,200 people would qualify for an average tax cut of \$1.4 million, which will cost the government about \$700 billion during the next 10 years. The loss in revenue could actually lead to the termination of programs for the same poor people whom the wage increase is supposed to help.

Because of the creative packaging, Democrats who oppose creating another tax cut for the rich — especially while the nation is draining the treasury in Iraq — also will have to oppose raising the minimum wage. The credit for devising this diabolical trap goes to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who is grooming himself to run for the presidency and wants to deliver on the long-held GOP promise to cut the estate tax. The latest ploy is to tie the tax cut to the cleanup of abandoned coal mines.

Congress should have raised the minimum wage years ago, and for Republicans now to hold it hostage to tax relief for their constituents is legislative chicanery at its worst.

## Can't wait for history

"I believe that the sectarian violence is probably as bad as I have seen it," Gen. John Abizaid, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, told senators on Thursday.

He wasn't just talking about the number of casualties. The killers are choosing their methods and targets for increased shock value. Just one example: On Wednesday, bombs planted at a neighborhood soccer field killed 12 people, most of them children.

If nothing is done, Gen. Abizaid said, "Iraq could move toward civil war." Of course, Iraq already is moving toward civil war. And the question is not whether something should be done; the question is, what can be done to stop it?

The Bush administration has not shown that it knows how to answer that question. The latest plan, already under way, is to move more U.S. and Iraqi troops into Baghdad. But, as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said, the plan involves transferring troops from other areas of Iraq, which could simply lead to increased violence in those areas.

At the hearing, Gen. Peter Pace, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, agreed that, "We do have the possibility of (Iraq) devolving into civil war."

Yet Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who also testified, again denied that the administration had sent too few troops to do the job. "It

*To avoid civil war, Iraq needs good decisions now.*

will be interesting to see," he said, "what history decides." U.S. troops and their families, as well as the Iraqis dying every day, are more than "interested" in whether Mr. Rumsfeld and President Bush are making good decisions.

The generals and Mr. Rumsfeld also continued the administration's soft retreat from taking full responsibility for the outcome. "We can't want freedom for the Iraqi people more than they want it for themselves," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"Shiite and Sunni are going to have to love their children more than they hate each other," Gen. Pace said. "The weight of that must be on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government."

True, but weren't we supposed to show the Iraqis how to govern peacefully and give them a window of stability in which to begin?

Asked at the hearing about the new plan to halt sectarian violence, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "I can't predict if it will work this time," but the plan represents "the best judgment" of military and administration officials. To work, "the best judgment" will have to be much better than the previous best.



THE PASSION OF THE MEL GIBSON

## He was over 50. And they were girls

If the women whom Palm Beach police say a part-time town resident invited to his home and paid for sex acts were, in fact, women, the solicitation charge against Jeffrey Epstein might feel more sufficient. But, according to police records, they weren't. He was over 50. And they were girls.



Elisa Cramer

So, it is baffling that Mr. Epstein, who was indicted last month by a grand jury on one felony count of solicitation of prostitution, has not been charged, as Palm Beach police strenuously urged, with unlawful sex acts with a minor and lewd and lascivious molestation.

Conviction of crimes against minors would mean steeper penalties than the maximum five-year prison term Mr. Epstein faces if convicted of the single count of felony solicitation. It also would help carry a message of intolerance to perverts who prey on girls.

Prosecutors did not pursue charges against Mr. Epstein reflecting the age of the victims because they assumed a jury would view the girls not as victims but as promiscuous, untrustworthy, willing participants. The presumption is offensive.

Mr. Epstein, a 53-year-old Manhattan money manager who has hired Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and defense attorney Jack Goldberger, has denied knowing how old the girls were.

*Jury should have decided if Epstein is a pedophile.*

But police interviews with five alleged victims and 17 witnesses under oath, as well as phone messages, a high school transcript and other items that police found from searching Mr. Epstein's trash and 7,234-square-foot waterfront home, provide evidence that he knew the girls were teenagers.

One girl couldn't show up when Mr. Epstein wanted because she had soccer. Another time, Mr. Epstein had to wait for his "massage" session because the girl he wanted was still in class.

Why didn't State Attorney Barry Krischer let a jury decide whether to believe the teenagers — including a 16-year-old who went to Mr. Epstein's house to "work" in December 2004 after being asked whether she needed to make money for Christmas gifts?

Prosecutors gave greater weight to the details Mr. Dershowitz provided about the girls in an apparent effort to assail their character. Mr. Dershowitz pointed out to prosecutors that some of the teenagers had talked on myspace.com about marijuana and alcohol use.

The 20-year-old Royal Palm Beach woman who told police she recruited girls for Mr. Epstein has a Web page on myspace.com that features one girl using the name

Although no charges of witness tampering have been filed, the parents of at least one of the teenage victims complained to police of being followed and intimidated by two men. Police determined that their

vehicles were registered to two private investigators. Mr. Goldberger denied knowing anything about it.

Police also note in their reports that the state attorney's office offered Mr. Epstein a plea deal that would have placed him on probation for five years, allowing him ultimately to walk away with no criminal record at all.

I asked Mr. Krischer's spokesman, Mike Edmondson, why the case was referred to a grand jury instead of Mr. Epstein being charged and facing a trial before a jury. And shouldn't the victims' credibility be a factor to determine whether a crime's been committed, not whether a jury will convict? (After all, as Mr. Goldberger told *The Palm Beach Post* of Mr. Epstein, "He's never denied girls came to the house.")

Especially, I asked Mr. Edmondson to explain: Why shouldn't the public look at this case and think there are two kinds of justice — one for the wealthy and one for the rest of us?

Mr. Edmondson said he could not comment on the case because it is active, but on the latter point, he offered, for the sake of "philosophical debate": "Whether wealth buys a different standard of justice across the country ... the answer to that would, of course, be yes."

But in this case, he said, "regardless of the battery of attorneys, the outcome would be the same. Every issue that was debated in public was debated in our office before this case went to the grand jury."

In this case, it is not the victims' credibility but the state attorney's that deserves questioning.

*Elisa Cramer is an editorial writer for The Palm Beach Post. Her e-mail address is elisa\_cramer@pbpost.com*

David Ignatius

## Turning disaster to opportunity

Groping for a way to understand the ruinous mess in the Middle East, I find myself looking backward to an earlier ruinous mess, the Yom Kippur War of October 1973.

That long-ago war, like the current one in Lebanon, began with an Arab sneak attack — a potentially devastating Egyptian thrust across the Suez Canal, cruelly launched on Israel's holiest day. The Israelis initially fumbled against a surprisingly ferocious Arab assault and then recovered thanks to aggressive military operations.

Then, as now, there was a diplomatic uproar over a United Nations cease-fire. The Israelis wanted more time to transform their initial reversals into military gains. At the height of the crisis, then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger secretly cabled the Israeli ambassador to Washington that "we would understand if Israelis felt they required some additional time for military dispositions," according to documents released in 2003 by the National Security Archive.

The 1973 war seemed like the ultimate disaster: Israel's survival was at stake in the battle's early hours. As the war dragged on, there was a risk of a U.S.-Soviet nuclear confrontation; and the conflict triggered an Arab oil embargo that devastated the global economy. Because of its close alliance with Israel, the United States was isolated from many of its European and Arab allies.

Yet in the long lens of history, the importance of the 1973 war is that it opened the door to peace. The Arabs, humiliated by earlier wars with Israel, now could claim a measure of dignity because of Anwar Sadat's attack across the canal. The Israelis learned that their Arab adversaries wouldn't run from battle, as they had in the 1967 war. That gave them a stake in making peace, too.

After the war ended, Egypt and Syria joined in active diplomacy, masterfully orchestrated by Dg,



Kissinger, who managed to create enough distance between the United States and Israel to allow some negotiating room. Mr. Sadat felt confident enough as the "hero of the crossing" to make his famous trip to Jerusalem. Even the terrorist group of the day, the Palestine Liberation Organization, was drawn into a web of secret liaison with the CIA.

The 1973 war marked a historic turning point, in ways that no one initially could have predicted. And it is just possible that the current conflict offers a similar opportunity. The key missing element, so far at least, is a Kissinger-level diplomatic commitment by the United States. Condoleezza Rice came close to a Lebanon peace deal last weekend, but to pull it off, she will need to move more toward Dr. Kissinger's stance of honest broker.

To turn the Lebanon disaster of 2006 into an opportunity, each side will have to alter its view of the other. In dealing with the Palestinians and the Lebanese, the Israelis will have to revise their doctrine that their adversaries can be coerced solely by military force. As Gal Luft, a retired Israeli military officer, commented at a conference in Washington last week, the days are

long past when Arab fighters would see the advancing Israeli army, discard their boots and flee in terror.

The strategy of Israel's (and America's) enemies today is to lure the military superpower into a protracted conflict. To accept the bait, as the Israelis did in assailing Lebanon and as America did in Iraq, is to risk stepping into a trap. As Lawrence Wright says in his new book, *The Looming Tower*, the master of this approach is Osama bin Laden: "His strategy was to continually attack until the U.S. forces invaded; then the mujahadeen would swarm upon them and bleed them until the entire American empire fell from its wounds."

The Israeli and American resolve in this grim summer of war should be: No more falling into traps. In the age of missiles, there's limited value in a "security fence" or "security buffer." The evidence grows that you can't achieve real security without negotiating with your adversaries or succeed without offering reasonable concessions.

For the Arabs, the opportunity of 2006 lies in the surprising success of Hezbollah and its leader Hasan Nasrallah. Their resistance on the battlefield makes them more dangerous adversaries — but also more plausible negotiating partners. Little in Nasrallah's past suggests that he will use his new stature to encourage indirect negotiations with Israel, but, as 1973 reminds us, the aftermath of war can produce big surprises. U.S. officials recognize that Nasrallah probably will emerge as the strongest political force in Beirut and hope he will make strategic choices that will build a stronger and more stable Lebanon.

This war is opening a door: Will the combatants have the good sense to walk through it? Will America have the guile to help them?

*David Ignatius is a columnist for The Washington Post. His e-mail address is davidignatius@washpost.com*

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