

Grocery aisles aimed at you

SUPERMARKETS TRY TO CATER TO NEIGHBORHOODS, C1

Orlando Sentinel

REACHING 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE IN PRINT AND ONLINE

Charlie Crist has become the kind of empty-chair politician he once criticized. **Scott Maxwell, B1**



Nation

Hero's offer
A contest for Will Smith's superhero film *Hancock* will pay off a mortgage. **A2**

Local
Pricey paws
The cost of corralling stray cats and dogs is taking a bite out of local animal-control agencies and shelters — thanks to rising gas prices. **B1**

2nd climate-change summit eyes solutions, B1

Business
Eye-drive vision
The long view: A 400-foot-tall observation wheel should draw 2.7 million tourists after it opens in 2010, its developers say. **C3**

Olive Garden heats up Darden's 4th quarter, C1



Leg up on rehab

His knee surgery a success in doctors' eyes, U.S. Open champ Tiger Woods can think about getting back into game shape. **D1**

Shaq's big-kid persona cuts both ways, D1
Magic try to avoid another draft bust, D1

Eating
Flavor at stake
Kebabs stick flavor and function together if you pick meats and veggies that can take the heat and use a few quick tricks. **E1**

Store your perishables right to save money, E1

Working
Hand it over
Delegating can make your job super — figure out how to let yourself let go and how best to make it work for you (and your company). **H1**

Confidence, enthusiasm help a job interview, H1

Central Florida Edition

Scattered evening thunderstorms. **Forecast, C6**

8 A.M. **75°**

NOON **86°**

4 P.M. **90°**

8 P.M. **80°**

No good deed goes . . . unpaid? In 1974, Harold Goff of Ohio gave an out-of-gas teen a 5-gallon can of gas, asking that it be paid back. Three decades later, the stranger did just that. Profit on gas and can: \$20. Restoration of faith in humanity: priceless.



THE BOLTS OF SUMMER

RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL

By RENE STUTZMAN || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

A fisherman in Indian River County survived a bolt of lightning Monday, a few days after a 6-year-old girl in the Panhandle was struck and killed while standing beneath a tree.

Florida's lightning season has arrived. And if it's an average year, nine Floridians will die from lightning strikes between mid-May and mid-October. Another 37 will be injured, according to Matt Bragaw, a lightning specialist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

Meteorologists are predicting an average summer storm season. The past few days, though, have been especially violent. Thunderstorms have been very intense, pumped up by a pocket of cold air hanging over the area that has turned conventional afternoon storms into dangerous, lightning-rich ones, Bragaw said.

More storms and rain are likely today and through the weekend, he said, but they should be less violent. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. More bolts of lightning and more lightning deaths happen here than in any other state.

PLEASE SEE LIGHTNING, A5

Lightning safety

- If you hear thunder, take shelter, even if you can't see lightning.
- Go to a building with an electrical system and plumbing. They provide a ground.
- Stay away from windows, electrical appliances and anything with wires or cables.
- A vehicle is safe shelter if it has a roof and sidewalls made of metal.

Beautiful but dangerous: View a gallery of photos of lightning strikes in Florida at OrlandoSentinel.com/onlineextras

Lightning illuminates the sky on a recent evening, seen from a vantage point looking north from State Road 415 and S.R. 46.



L.M. OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House hopeful John McCain (from left) tours the Everglades recently with wife Cindy, daughter Meghan and Florida Gov. Charlie Crist.

Lawmaker: I didn't try to shave tax bill on my land

By MARY SHANKLIN || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Early last year when state Rep. Frank Attkisson and his wife were looking at expanding their hobby farm outside St. Cloud, she inquired with the Osceola County Property Appraiser's Office about getting an agricultural tax break.

Appraisers told her not to bother — the 11 acres with its two head of cattle was just too small to qualify for the tax discount, said Osceola County Property Appraiser Atlee Mercer.

But size is no longer the tax-break obstacle it once was. That's because Attkisson introduced and helped drive through legislation this year that prohibits appraisers from considering property size for farm tax breaks.

Attkisson insists he wasn't trying to shave money off his own tax bill with the legislation he sponsored. He says he



ATTKISSON

PLEASE SEE EXEMPTION, A5

For Crist, a sweet deal too

Will the Everglades purchase help the governor snag the VP slot?

By JOHN KENNEDY
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU CHIEF

TALLAHASSEE — A week after reversing his long opposition to offshore oil drilling, Charlie Crist may have repaired his image as Florida's "green governor" Tuesday by shrinking the sugar industry's damaging footprint in the Everglades.

For Crist, the move had an immediate payoff, with environmentalists roundly praising a governor they had blistered just days earlier.

But whether it burnishes his reputation enough to win him a vice-presidential nomination, or helps Republican John McCain carry Florida in November, remains a question as densely tangled as the swamp itself.

"You've got to think it's good news for Sen. McCain whenever Charlie Crist is able to do something as momentous as redirect a 30-year debate over the future of the Everglades," said Brian Ballard, a major fundraiser for both McCain and Crist.

U.S. Sugar Corp., the nation's largest cane-sugar producer, announced Tuesday that it would sell its nearly 300 square miles of land to the state for \$1.75 billion and shut down in six years, eliminating a force that was a powerful player in state politics as well as a big Everglades polluter.

PLEASE SEE CRIST, A6



MICHAEL FRANCIS MCELROY FOR SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

Crist has garnered newfound support from environmentalists.

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