

Gators look to get their running game going this season



Hundreds of residents expected to speak out against prison proposal

Bulls, riders get up close and personal at the Ocala Shrine Rodeo



Star-Banner

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IN A MINUTE

DID YOU KNOW...



THE HOT TICKET
Tickets for Bret Michaels' concert at Coconut Jack's Beach Club in Ocala will go on sale Friday at 6 p.m. **2A**

TRAVEL HEADACHES
One computer glitch delayed more than 600 flights on the East Coast on Tuesday. **3A**

MAN ON A MISSION
Ocala's Dr. Peter Chung, a senior cardiac surgeon at Munroe Heart, is headed to North Korea to perform surgery. **1B**

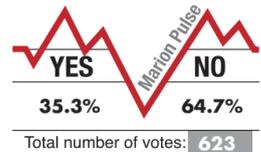
WHAT'S HOT
There's a salsa dance competition coming this weekend to Rush Nightclub in Silver Springs Shores. **GO**

OCALA.COM

DAY IN PICTURES
Check out the photo galleries displaying news from the day. Also, get a laugh at posted editorial cartoons. Find it all on ocala.com.

MARION PULSE

WEDNESDAY'S QUESTION:
Did Hillary Clinton's speech unite the Democratic Party?



TODAY'S QUESTION:
Should taxpayer money go toward paying for an industrial park?



WEATHER



Partly sunny with showers
High 92 Low 72
For more on weather, see **8B**

COMING UP

TIRED OF RERUNS?
Get a preview of the fall TV season and the new shows set to air. Check out Friday's Here & Now.

INDEX

- BUSINESS..... **8B-9B**
- CLASSIFIEDS..... **1D-6D**
- COMICS..... **GO**
- CROSSWORD..... **GO**
- EDITORIAL..... **8A**
- LOCAL & STATE..... **1B-8B**
- LOTTERY..... **2A**
- GO..... **INSIDE**
- OBITUARIES..... **4B**
- SPORTS..... **1C-6C**
- STOCKS..... **9A**
- TELEVISION..... **GO**



For educator, a vote of confidence

Bobby James says election turned on his record, not race

BY JOE CALLAHAN
STAR-BANNER

OCALA — Bobby James remembers how cold it was on winter days inside the one-room Silver Springs School. It was the early 1950s, the schools were segregated, and the children accepted that fact.

Each morning, students would run to what was only known as "the school house." They hoped to be the first to arrive and secure a

warmer seat near the wood-burning stove. In that building, where he attended elementary school, James says his thirst for learning began.

Today, at age 61, James has become the first black candidate to be elected to a countywide board in Marion. He won Tuesday night's School Board District 3 election by a landslide — a strong indication, in his mind, that race relations are improving in this county of 300,000 people.

"Ocala is changing," James said during a lengthy interview Wednesday. "All of us are growing and we need to recognize that fact."

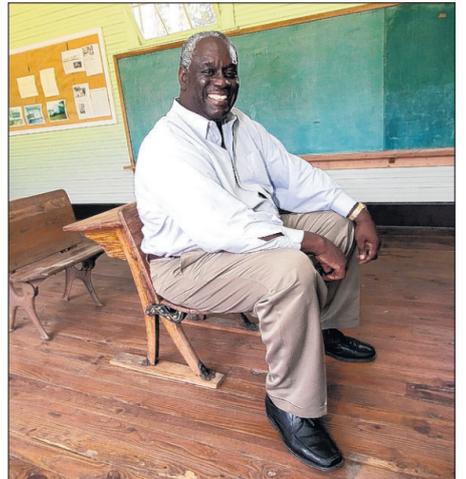
James beat his nearest rival by more than 8,000 votes and won nearly all of the county's 151 pre-

cincts. He said the convincing victory validated his appointment to the School Board last year by Gov. Charlie Crist.

James also believes that the voters of Marion County have seen him as a teacher, a coach and a principal for three decades. He says that interaction means many people know him as a person of integrity, a man of his word who is constantly trying to make a difference a child's life.

"Just about every segment of the community knows me," James said. "I have taught many of them, coached many more or have been their principal. I hope that these

PLEASE SEE **JAMES, 5A**



JANNET WALSH/STAR-BANNER

Alma mater: Bobby James sits in his one-room schoolhouse after retaining his Marion County School Board seat in District 3 Wednesday.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAR-BANNER

For the soldiers: Mary Harper, right, laughs with Addie McKinley and Bob McKinley as McKinley packs up a box at Operation Shoebox on County Road 25 in Belleview on Tuesday. Operation Shoebox has a new larger facility since the end of July to pack up packages for soldiers overseas.

Room to grow

Operation Shoebox opens larger facility

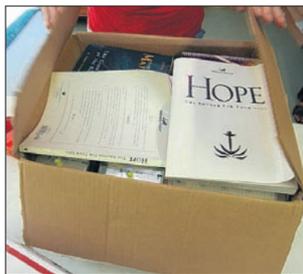
BY HARRIET DANIELS
STAR-BANNER

LBELLEVIEW — Less than a year after opening a thrift store to support the efforts of Operation Shoebox — which has shipped nearly 400,000 boxes to troops over five years — the outfit relocated to a larger facility and opened for business a week ago in the new location.

Founder Mary Harper said the extra space was needed to keep up with the volume of packages sent to troops each week.

"We have a donor, who wants to remain anonymous, who made it possible for us to be in this building," Harper said.

And while the move is mostly



Reading material: Addie McKinley packs up a box of religious books at Operation Shoebox.

complete, a few additional services are planned for Operation Shoebox in the coming weeks, including chaplains on site once

a week.

At the new site, the thrift store occupies one of two buildings on a 3-acre property fronting County Road 25, just east of the Belleview city limit and the former location. The second building houses office and conference space, along with an area to prepare the thousands of care packages shipped to troops deployed to war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The former location, which was leased, included 2,800 square feet

PLEASE SEE **SHOEBOX, 5A**

Obama arrives to cheering crowd

Bill Clinton and Joe Biden call for return to party's idealism.

BY DAVID ESPO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think," said the Democrats' man of the hour in a jubilant late-night visit to

PLEASE SEE **CONVENTION, 5A**



JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tears of joy: Delegate Cynthia Chestnut, from Gainesville, cries as Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., is officially declared the party's nominee for president at the Democratic National Convention in Denver Wednesday.

Black leaders see historic moment

BY LLOYD DUNKELBERGER
STAR-BANNER TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

DENVER — Barack Obama will make history when he accepts his party's nomination tonight in Denver.

And having the first African-American candidate to lead a presidential ticket will strike a deep cultural and emotional chord among Florida's black leaders and delegates at the Democratic National Convention.

Levette Dixon, an Obama delegate from Fort Pierce, brought her 6-year-old daughter, Lindsey, to witness the event.

"I brought her because I wanted her to be a part of this experience," said Dixon, a communications manager for a municipal utility. "I am hoping that at some point that's going to relate to her that someone her color, her race, can end up making it that far. That there is no ob-

More on the convention, **5A**

PLEASE SEE **OBAMA, 5A**

\$11.5 million development

Marion County will apply for up to \$11.5 million in federal money to install roads and utilities for development of a 300-acre industrial park.



JEFF JENKINS/STAR-BANNER

County seeks federal grant to finance industrial park

BY CHRISTOPHER CURRY
STAR-BANNER

OCALA — Marion County government plans to go after federal money to build infrastructure, including roads and utilities, for a proposed 300-acre industrial park.

The tentative site is on the northwest corner of County Road 25A and State Road 326. It's comprised of a series of parcels under private ownership, so those property owners would have to go along with the county's plan.

The location was one of several

included in a 2006 Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corp. study of potential business park locations.

Because county officials are going after federal money, they'll have to jump through a series of bureaucratic hoops.

County Commissioner Barbara Fitos said the process starts in Ocala with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council.

Fitos said she is on a planning

PLEASE SEE **PARK, 5A**