



# BOSTON SWEEPS SERIES!

SPORTS, 1C



AP photo/Al Behrman

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 28, 2004

BROWARD METRO EDITION

C/MS \*

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ELECTION 2004

## Broward to resend ballots, add workers

### Some problems of past elections resurfacing

BY SCOTT WYMAN AND JEAN-PAUL RENAUD STAFF WRITERS

Hoping to avoid another presidential election fiasco, Broward County officials scrambled Wednesday to replace tens of thousands of missing absentee ballots, cut long waits for early voting and beef up a phone system deluged with calls from angry voters.

A day after acknowledging that up to 58,000 absentee ballots have not reached the voters who requested them, Elections Supervisor Brenda Snipes decided to mail new ones. She will pay extra for overnight delivery of those sent outside Broward in hopes of ensuring voters can return them before Tuesday's deadline.

County commissioners also assigned 40 employees to help answer phone calls at Snipes' office and process people in line at early voting sites. More workers could soon follow as Snipes contemplates extending early voting hours and upgrades her phone system to add more lines.

Some of the problems have plagued other Broward elections over the past four years. Long lines of frustrated voters were common in the 2000 and 2002 elections, while 268 absentee ballots were misplaced during the September 2002 primary.

A calm and collected Snipes defended her election preparations. She said voters should have confidence in the Nov. 2 balloting.

"There's been a whole lot of partisanship about the election, so everything that happens is magnified," she said. "But when we see something functioning like it

■ ELECTION CONTINUES ON 12A



### INSIDE

Tracks and frontons sign an agreement to hand over 30 percent of their slot machine profits to schools. **1B**

More national, Florida and regional election-related stories. **12-15A**

### VOTER HOTLINE

Tell us about your voting experiences at [vote@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:vote@sun-sentinel.com). Or call 954-356-4430. Please keep your comments brief and include a contact number.

### ONLINE

See full election coverage on [Sun-Sentinel.com/election](http://Sun-Sentinel.com/election). Learn how the voting machines operate.

## Florida GOP drafts army of lawyers to review registrations

### Democrats call it an attempt to slow down voting process.

BY BUDDY NEVINS POLITICAL WRITER

Republicans and their attorneys say they are arming themselves with lists of voters whose registrations appear flawed, preparing for what Democrats are calling a statewide effort to challenge voters and slow the process on Election Day.

The fight over who is eligible to cast a ballot is a particularly vital point in this key state with its 27 electoral votes, the largest prize still undecided in the polls. Political experts widely agree that Democrats need a huge turnout for presidential nominee John Kerry to win Florida, a state he needs to offset Bush's strength in the rest of the South.

Republicans say their legal team's goal is to ensure that the only people voting are legally registered. The

■ LAWYERS CONTINUES ON 13A



## Moon dance

**DARK SIDE OF THE MOON:** A total lunar eclipse is seen in five-minute intervals, taken between 9:45 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Wednesday night, in the eastern sky over Fort Lauderdale. The effect was caused by the moon passing through the shadow of the Earth. **Staff photos/Melissa Lyttle**

## As Arafat weakens, power fight looms

### Palestinian leader's illness highlights void

BY TIM COLLIE STAFF WRITER

The sudden decline in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's health Wednesday night has widened a power vacuum that has already grown into a chasm in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip and opens the real possibility of chaos and civil war in one of the world's most dangerous regions.

Arafat, 75, who has been struggling with what doctors say is severe flu and gallstones, weakened significantly Wednesday night, heightening concerns that Palestinians are ill-prepared for their leader's death.

The passing of the Palestinian leader would be an event on the scale of the death of Cuban



**Arafat's health declines.**

■ ARAFAT CONTINUES ON 24A

leader Fidel Castro. As president of the Palestinian Authority and chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Arafat has no equal, and no one shares his stature or legacy.

Notorious for keeping his own counsel and pushing away those who threaten him, Arafat has not groomed a successor. And the expected chaos that Arafat's passing would trigger within the Palestinian territories could further confound the already-complicated calculus of the Middle East peace process.

Since the breakdown of Israeli-Arab peace talks in 2000, the Palestinian uprising known as the Second Intifada has

## Daily Digest

### Lawsuits allege Guantanamo abuse

Four British citizens sued top Pentagon officials, saying they were tortured at the U.S. prison camp. **NATIONAL, 3A**

### Jazzy tactic on FCAT studies

An educator says music patterns can help students with writing and math. **LOCAL, 1B**

### Silent sidelines in Weston soccer

A youth soccer group asks adults to give kids a break from constant sideline shouting. **LOCAL, 1B**

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### Come sail away at the boat show

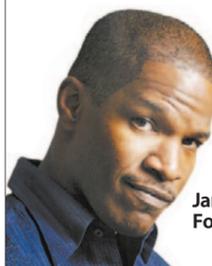
The five-day extravaganza helps hotels hit hard by the hurricanes. **BUSINESS, 1D; GUIDE, 4B**

### Labor deal could prevent bankruptcy

Delta Air Lines reaches a tentative deal with its pilots union. **BUSINESS, 1D**

### Foxx fans flames of fame

Jamie Foxx flexes dramatic and musical muscles as Ray Charles in the new movie *Ray*, which opens Friday. Although, he is better known for his comedic skills, Foxx also is a trained pianist. **LIFESTYLE, 1E**



**Jamie Foxx**

## Fossils of tiny species offer link to early man

BY NICHOLAS WADE THE NEW YORK TIMES

Once upon a time, but not so long ago, on a tropical island between Asia and Australia, there lived a race of little people, whose adults stood just 3.5 feet high. Despite their stature, they were mighty hunters. They made stone tools to spear giant rats, clubbed sleeping dragons and hunted the packs of pygmy elephants that roamed their lost world.

Strangest of all, this is no fable. Skeletons of these miniature people have been excavated from a limestone cave on Flores, an island 370 miles east of Bali, Indonesia, by a team of Australian and Indonesian archaeologists. Reporting their find in today's issue of *Nature*, they assign the people to a new human species, *Homo floresiensis*, or Flores Man.

The new finding is "among the most outstanding discoveries in paleoanthropology for half a century," say two anthropologists not associated with the study, Dr. Marta Mirazon Lahr and Dr. Robert Foley of the University of Cam-



**FOUND:** Flores Man's skull with a human's. **AP photo**

bridge, in a written commentary in the same issue.

The little Floresians lived on the island until at least 13,000 years ago, and possibly to historic times. But they were not a pygmy form of modern humans. They were a downsized version of *Homo erectus*, the eastern cousin of the Neanderthals of Europe, who disappeared 33,000 years ago. Their discovery means that archaic humans, who left Africa 1.5 million years earlier than modern people, survived far longer into recent times.

The island of Flores is very

■ FLORES CONTINUES ON 18A



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