

In the know



O.J. THE STAR OF A CIRCUS MADE FOR LAS VEGAS

As O.J. Simpson is released on bail, the case against him starts looking murky. But that isn't slowing the attention. Reporting live for *Entertainment Tonight*, it's Marcia Clark. **Times 2, 4A**

Senate rejects curbs on tours

Senate Democrats could not attain a veto-proof majority for a measure that would have regulated the amount of time troops spend in combat. **Iraq, 6A**

Lightning wins preseason opener

The Lightning, expecting a big season from Filip Kuba, opens the preseason with an overtime victory over Dallas. Brad Richards assists on three goals. **Sports, 1C**

New airline comes to Pinellas County

Myrtle Beach Direct Air announces its plan to start service from St. Petersburg/Clearwater International to five cities. **Business, 1D**

Cervical cancer drug has surprise

Gardasil was targeted to fight four types of the virus that causes cervical cancer, but now it appears it partially protects against 10 others. **Times 2, 4A**

Rays right to shut down Shields

Columnist John Romano says the move is a good one to protect the young pitcher. Meanwhile, the team loses in Anaheim to complete a sweep. **Sports, 1C**

A lot of housing news, all of it bad

From foreclosure filings, to residential construction and builder confidence, all signs point to bad news in the housing market. **Business, 1D**

A country music cut-up in concert

Brad Paisley is equally adept at the satirical and the serious. We catch up with him before Friday's show in Tampa. **Weekend**

A career change is on the menu

When the Pinellas nutrition director retires, a new career awaits. And it's full of steakburgers and hash browns. **Floridian, 1E**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Thunder showers

 8 a.m. 75° 85° 85° 80°
 60% rain chance. More, 2A

tampabay.com

Future's so bright ...

Blogger Steve Spears and music critic Sean Daly explore the one-hit wonders of 1986. Get the podcast at blogs.tampabay.com/80s.

INDEX

Abby	3E	Entertainment	2B
Astrology	5E	Lottery	2A
Classified	F	Movies	2E
Comics	5-6E	Puzzles	5E
Crosswords	5E, 2F	Television	2E
Editorials	12A	Weather	2A

Vol. 124 No. 58
 © Times Publishing Co.



St. Petersburg Times

tampabay.com

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

R Thursday, September 20, 2007

New-style debate covers old ground

GOP candidates may find questions familiar in YouTube debate.



AIR TRAVEL: What will you do to make it better?



GLOBAL WARMING: Do you believe in it?



THE POOR: What will you do to help lower-income citizens?



CIVIL LIBERTIES: What are you going to do to restore them?



GEORGE BUSH: How will you differ from him as president?



DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL (to Ron Paul): Would you be proud to serve with me?

BY AARON SHAROCKMAN
Times Staff Writer

How to participate

Want to participate in the YouTube politics revolution but don't have access to a camera? Let the *Times* help. From now until mid November, the *St. Petersburg Times* will videotape your questions for the Republican presidential candidates and submit them to YouTube for

consideration in the Nov. 28 debates in St. Petersburg. On Sept. 26, our first YouTube question station will be set up at 5:30 p.m. at Pinellas Park High School, 6305 118th Ave. N., just before the Pinellas County School Board's meeting. Contact Catriona Stuart at cstuart@sptimes.com.

caused an immediate ruckus in some Republican circles. They feared a political ambush. Or some Web-savvy

attack. Or just the unexpected. But, so far, there appears little reason to worry. A review of the videos sub-

mitted on the Web site YouTube reveals there's not much that the candidates aren't already asked on a near daily basis.

A former Navy officer talks about the military's "don't ask don't tell" policy. A grandmother questions her taxes. A high school senior speaks of the rising costs of college.

"I think the immediate reactions are proving to be unfounded," said David All, a Republican online strategist and founder of TechRepublican. "When you trust **» See YOUTUBE, 10A**

Mobile home owners may get break

A tangibles tax deal could help voter turnout.

BY MIKE DONILA
Times Staff Writer

A little publicized provision in the proposed property tax amendment gives a tax break to mobile home owners and creates a potentially potent voting bloc.

The tax break could bene-

fit close to a million Floridians, about 75,000 of them in the Tampa Bay area. And with polls showing tepid support for the super homestead amendment, their turnout could make a difference.

"This could have a much more dynamic effect," said University

Want to know more?

Have questions on the property tax amendment? Find answers at tampabay.com/taxes

of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith, "especially since this is a special election where there's not likely to be a large turnout."

Mobile home owners now pay the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles an annual registration fee, usually between \$125 and \$400 depending on the size of their mobile home. Then the county property appraiser's office sends them a tangible tax bill for any additions, like a storage shed, carport or porch. **» See TAX, 10A**

Rather files 'scapegoat' suit against CBS



Rather now has a show on HDNet.

He says CBS wanted to pacify the White House.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dan Rather filed a \$70-million lawsuit against CBS and his former bosses Wednesday, saying they made him a scapegoat for a discredited story about President Bush's military service during the Vietnam War.

The 75-year-old Rather, whose final

months were clouded by controversy over the story, said the actions of the defendants damaged his reputation and cost him significant financial loss.

The lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, says CBS intentionally botched the aftermath of the story about Bush's time in the Texas Air National Guard and had Rather take

the fall to "pacify" the White House. He was removed from his job at *CBS Evening News* in March 2005.

Besides CBS Corp., the suit names former CBS parent company Viacom Inc., CBS president and chief executive Leslie Moonves, Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone and Andrew Heyward, former president of CBS News. The suit seeks \$20-million in compen- **» See RATHER, 14A**

Young drivers listen, but do they learn?

A tragedy focuses attention on the need for caution. A teacher hopes the lesson sticks.

BY DONNA WINCHESTER
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Few things escape coach Dave Redding as he sits at his command post above the driving range at Northeast High School.

The fledgling attempts at parallel parking. The jerky starts and abrupt stops. The overeager efforts to execute a perfect three-point turn on the first try.

Early Wednesday morning,

just days after a weekend crash that killed one Northeast High student and injured five others, Redding was communicating via radio with a group of 15- and 16-year-olds in his first-period driver's education class.

"That's an incomplete stop there," he said.

"Gentlemen, you shouldn't have gotten around that corner so quickly that you had to back up."

Previous coverage

For stories on accidents involving teenage drivers go to **education.tampabay.com**

"I didn't see a turn signal there, folks."
 For half an hour, the five 2008 black Ford Fusions criss-crossed the range beneath his tower. The day's assignment was perpendicular and angle parking, backing up and driving in a circle.

"Sometimes they brush the cyclone fence coming around a **» See DRIVERS, 11A**



Drivers education instructor Dave Redding talks to his students Wednesday on the driving range with a radio while sitting inside the control tower at Northeast High School.

PIP loss to hit state

More than insurance is at stake if personal injury protection lapses, experts say.

BY JENNIFER LIBERTO
Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The end of Florida's no-fault auto insurance system could undermine the state's backup plan for covering the cost of hurricane damage.

As meetings continued Wednesday on how to extend the mandate of personal injury protection coverage that will otherwise lapse on Oct. 1, there's more at stake than simply auto insurance premiums.

About 30 people representing companies and special interest groups affected by the coming end of PIP coverage, which requires drivers to carry at least \$10,000 of medical coverage for accident injuries no matter who is at fault, are inching toward a deal.

Gov. Charlie Crist has said that if a deal is reached, he would consider adding PIP to the agenda of the special session that begins Oct. 3, so lawmakers could ratify it.

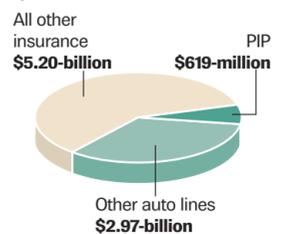
But if no deal is reached, insurance experts agree the loss of PIP could go straight to the bottom line of the state's Catastrophe Fund, the pool of money that property insurance companies can tap to pay for hurricane losses.

The reason is this: In the event of big insurance losses, the CAT Fund is replenished by assessing a fee on all liability insurance premiums around the state, including auto, homeowner, fire and other policies. If the PIP mandate disappears then the pool of premium dollars available to be assessed could go down.

The exact impact is unknown because it would depend on how **» See PIP, 9A**

Auto insurance

Personal injury coverage and other auto insurance make up 40 percent of all insurance written in Florida in the second quarter of 2007.



Source: OIR RON BRACKETT | Times