

# More Gators Means More Hunting Permits This Year

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# THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

and The Tampa Times

## Housing Mess May Mean More Money Lost

### COUNTY MAY HAVE TO PAY BACK \$800,000

By MIKE SALINERO  
The Tampa Tribune

**TAMPA** — When Hillsborough County had to forfeit \$2 million in federal housing grants last year because of problems in its affordable housing program, the county promised to do better.

Problems persisted, though, and in January the federal government threatened to make the county pay back \$800,000 that had already been spent on an affordable housing project. Again, the housing department promised to straighten out the situation.

It hasn't, the federal government says, and the county now appears to be in danger of losing the \$800,000 for good.

The project in question is the rehabilitation of three apartment complexes, which would have provided 55 low-cost rental units for low- to moderate-income tenants. But the county relinquished control of the apartments several years ago without guaranteeing they would continue to provide affordable rental units for at least 20 years, as required.

In an April 8 letter, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said the county has made little progress in fixing the mess.



**Bean**  
"We are now building what we needed to build."

"The actions proposed are not an acceptable corrective action," wrote Garry Causey, HUD's Florida director of planning and community development.

The apartments were not the only problem Causey discovered in the Affordable Housing Office. In a letter last week to County Administrator Pat Bean, Causey said he was worried the county is still moving too slowly in committing millions of federal dollars to eligible housing projects.



**Carroll**  
"We have a number of projects in the pipeline."

Last year, the county lost \$2 million in federal funding because it could not commit the money to eligible projects by HUD's Oct. 31 deadline.

"It appears the county is in approximately the same position as it was last year at this time with regards to timely commitment and expenditure of funds," Causey wrote.

County officials insist there still is a good chance the money won't have to be returned. Affordable housing officer Howie Carroll said even if the

See **FEDERAL GRANT**, Page 4 ▶  
Bean continues to support Carroll.

## Obama Leads N.C., Indiana Too Close

### CLINTON SLIGHTLY AHEAD THERE

By DAN BALZ  
and SHAILAGH MURRAY  
The Washington Post

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama scored a decisive victory in North Carolina's Democratic presidential primary Tuesday, while Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York was clinging to a narrow

lead in the hotly contested Indiana primary.

On a day once viewed as having the potential to bring the long nomination battle to a close, the results essentially maintained the status quo and kept the Democratic race grinding forward toward the end of the primaries on June 3. But that status quo gives Obama the clear advantage, largely because of his lead in pledged delegates.



✓ **North Carolina**

**Indiana ?**

See **PRIMARY RESULTS**, Page 6 ▶  
Voters in both states fall along racial lines.

## Riding Out High Gas Prices

"These are desperate times" as the costs to fuel up increase, and more people are going to the Web seeking relief in carpooling ads.



Tribune photo by KATHY MOORE

**Crystal Guillen's daily roundtrip commute from Hudson to MacDill Air Force Base is 88 miles and costs her \$350 A MONTH IN GAS, which has put a strain on her family's budget. She has put an ad on Craigslist seeking individuals to share the ride as well as the financial burden.**

By BAIRD HELGESON  
The Tampa Tribune

**HUDSON** — Here's what caused Crystal Guillen to make a bold change in her life: spending \$350 a month on gas and tolls for her daily commute to MacDill Air Force Base.

So Guillen placed an ad on Craigslist to see whether anyone wanted to share her 88-mile round-trip commute. Her 2008 Volkswagen Passat gets 29 miles a gallon, but the commute still cuts deep into her family's budget.

Her post is listed near an ad by someone offering cheap rides for convicted drunken drivers who lost their license and another from someone seeking a rider to New York, offering "room for one nonsmoker, no drugs."

Guillen is among a new breed of otherwise content solo motorists who have turned to

Internet ride boards to find passengers and save on gas.

Some call it cyber hitchhiking or Internet carpooling, but as regular unleaded reaches \$3.60 a gallon, Guillen calls it essential.

"I never would have considered anything like this before, but these are desperate times," said Guillen, a Navy petty officer second class stationed at MacDill.

She hasn't had any takers so far, but she remains hopeful. Record gas prices have more people visiting Internet ride boards every day, experts say.

The creators of Internet ride boards say the sites capitalize on one of the Web's best characteristics: the ability to connect strangers who share similar interests or desires. In this case, that means sharing rides to save money.

See **RIDE BOARDS**, Page 4 ▶  
Picking riding partners likened to dating.

### SHARE A RIDE

Do you want to try a Web-based ride board? Here are some popular choices:

- www.erideshare.com
- www.ridester.com
- rideseach.com
- tampa.craigslist.org/rid
- tampabay.commuter.com

Source: Tribune research



Keyword: Ride Share, to see a video story of how Crystal Guillen is among the growing number of motorists using online message boards to find carpoolers.

## The Cost Of Making A Nickel Is 7.7 cents

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## '5-Star Service For The 4-Stars'

That's the motto of a MacDill Air Force Base squadron's flight attendants.

DETAILS, Flavor

## Cyclone Death Toll Tops 22,000; Aftermath Could Be Worse

By AMY KAZMIN  
The Washington Post

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — The number of dead and missing in the Myanmar cyclone soared past 60,000 Tuesday amid signs the toll will rise even higher, as much of the disaster zone remained flooded by seawater, threatened by disease and out of reach of an international relief operation that is taking shape.

"Our biggest fear is that the aftermath could be more lethal than the storm itself," said Caryl Stern, who heads the U.N. Children's Fund in the United States.

President Bush offered to send U.S. Navy units to help in the operation, and sharply criticized the military-run government of the nation also known as Burma for delays in approving visas for emergency teams.

Emergency supplies began arriving by air in wind-battered Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar. But little or no aid reached the Irrawaddy delta, a vast and low-lying rice-producing region that absorbed the storm's worst fury. Satellite photos showed catastrophic flooding of fields and villages as far inland as 35 miles.

A tidal wave that accompanied the cyclone was more deadly than the winds, Minister for Relief and Resettlement Maung Maung Swe said in Yangon. "The wave was up to 12 feet high, and it swept away and inundated half the houses in low-lying villages," he said. "They did not have anywhere to flee."

"We're prepared to help move U.S. Navy assets to help find those who have lost their lives, to help find the missing and to help

See **MYANMAR AFTERMATH**, Page 4 ▶  
Reaching affected areas is "biggest problem."



TODAY'S HIGH 88

TODAY'S LOW 67

The sunny and warmer scenario continues until Friday, when rain chances will increase and skies will become partly cloudy.

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