

Ocala StarBanner

UF FOOTBALL TEAM MEETS THE MEDIA, 1C



Friday, August 3, 2012

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75¢



OLYMPIC UPDATE

BEST BET ON TV

Men's 100M butterfly finals, 8 p.m., NBC (tape delayed) [MORE TV, 2C]

SWIMMING
PHELPS, LOCHTE GO 1-2 IN FINAL OLYMPICS DUEL

Michael Phelps wins his first individual gold of the London Games while former Gator Ryan Lochte earns a silver and a bronze on his final day of swimming at the 2012 Games. For Phelps, it pushes his career record to 20 medals while Lochte ends the Games with five medals, including two golds. **PAGE 1C**



GYMNASTICS
DOUGLAS GOLDEN IN ALL-AROUND

Gabby Douglas wins the women's gymnastics all-around title, becoming the third straight American to win gymnastics' biggest prize and the first African-American. It comes after she and her teammates gave the U.S. its first Olympic title since 1996. **PAGE 1C**



MEDAL WATCH*

	G	S	B	TOT.
U.S.	18	9	10	37
China	18	11	5	34
Japan	2	6	11	19
Germany	4	8	5	17
France	6	4	6	16
Russia	3	5	8	16
Britain	5	6	4	15
S. Korea	7	2	5	14
Australia	1	7	3	11
Italy	3	5	2	10
Canada	0	2	5	7
Neth.	2	1	3	6
Ukraine	2	0	4	6
Romania	1	3	2	6

*through Thursday

MORE COVERAGE IN SPORTS >> GET UPDATES, VIDEO & EVENT SCHEDULES AT WWW.OCALA.COM/OLYMPICS

Sharpes Ferry Bridge is open — for now

By Carlos E. Medina
Correspondent

The Sharpes Ferry Bridge is open — for now.

More than a month after sections of a concrete retaining wall collapsed due to heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby, the Florida Department of Transportation announced the bridge, on County Road 314, and the road leading up to it was safe and would reopen.

The bridge, which was not damaged during the incident, will remain open until a final cause for the failure of the

wall can be determined and a plan for reconstruction is approved.

"We do not have the report on the cause of the initial failure. The contractor is still working on that. I was told last Friday that it is anticipated in about 30 days," said April Heller, a DOT spokeswoman.

In the interim, the retaining walls, which support the road leading up to the bridge, were stabilized and reinforced, according to the DOT.

The bridge will close again during reconstruction of the

BRIDGE on Page 6A



ALAN YOUNGBLOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Sharpes Ferry Bridge in Ocala reopened to traffic temporarily on Thursday.

ID thieves get billions from IRS in refunds

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service may have delivered more than \$5 billion in refund checks to identity thieves who filed fraudulent tax returns for 2011, Treasury Department investigators said Thursday. They estimate another \$21 billion could make its way to ID thieves' pockets over the next five years.

The IRS is detecting far fewer fraudulent tax refund claims than actually occur, according to a government audit that warned the widespread problem could undermine public trust in the U.S. tax system. Although the IRS detected about 940,000 fraudulent returns for last year claiming \$6.5 billion in refunds, there were potentially another 1.5 million undetected cases of thieves seeking refunds after assuming the identity of a dead person, child or someone else who normally wouldn't file a tax return.

In one example, investigators found a single address in Lansing, Mich., that was used to file 2,137 separate tax returns. The IRS issued more than \$3.3 million in refunds to that address. Three addresses in Florida, the epicenter of the identity theft crisis, filed more than 500 returns totaling more than \$1 million in refunds for each address.

IRS on Page 6A

Early voting starts Saturday



DOUG ENGLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/FILE

Hundreds of voters cast their ballots in early voting on Oct. 19, 2010, at the Freedom Public Library.

Early voting in Marion County starts Saturday and continues through Aug. 11. Primary election day is Aug. 14. The deadline to register to vote, or to change party affiliation, has passed for this primary election.

Voting in some primaries is closed to just registered Republicans or registered Democrats. But other races — two School Board seats, two county judge positions, two school tax issues and the public defender race — are open to all voters, regardless of affiliation.

Inside

For a list of the latest campaign finance reports, See Page 6A

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Early voting for the Aug. 14 primary starts Saturday and ends Aug. 11. All locations are open on the same dates and times:

Sat-Sun: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 4-5
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Aug. 6-11

- Election Center:** 981 NE 16th St., Ocala
- Bellevue library:** 13145 SE County Road 484, Bellevue
- Dunnellon library:** 20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon
- Forest library:** 905 S. County Road 314A, Ocklawaha
- Freedom library:** 5870 SW 95th St., Ocala
- Reddick Community Center:** 4345 NW 152nd St., Reddick

FOR ELECTION COVERAGE GO TO: WWW.OCALA.COM/ELECTION

Munroe officials worried tax won't raise enough cash

By Fred Hiers
Staff writer

As Marion County property values diminish year over year, the financial ripples could affect Munroe Regional Medical Center.

Earlier this summer, trustees who oversee the 421-bed hospital approved a referendum that will go before voters in November.

The referendum would allow the Marion County Hospital District to issue up to \$65.37 million in bonds and charge property owners a maximum of 1 mill annually for five years. One mill represents \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 a property is worth, minus homestead exemptions.

But as property values decline, some trustees fear the 1 mill won't generate the \$65.37 million they had hoped for.

MUNROE on Page 6A

TODAY: Thunderstorm. 40% chance of rain.

HIGH 91
LOW 71

TOMORROW: High: 91 Low: 72
45% chance of rain.
5-day forecast, 6B

BUSINESS 3B
CLASSIFIED 1E
COMICS 5D

CROSSWORD 3D
EDITORIAL 8A
LOCAL 1B

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