

# Opinion

Gulf Breeze NEWS



P.O. Box 1414  
 913 Gulf Breeze Parkway  
 Harbourtown Unit #35  
 Gulf Breeze, FL 32562  
 Office: (850) 932-8986  
 Fax: (850) 932-8794  
 www.gulfbreezenews.com

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS:  
 Lisa Newell  
 Victoria Papajohn

SPORTS EDITOR:  
 Jason Thompson

STAFF WRITER:  
 Franklin Hayes

ADVERTISING SALES:  
 Robyn Phillips  
 Pam Randall

OFFICE MANAGER:  
 Karen Murphy

GRAPHICS / PRODUCTION:  
 Nikola Stamenkovich, Art Director  
 Katie Killen

CONTRIBUTORS:  
 Betty Archer Allen

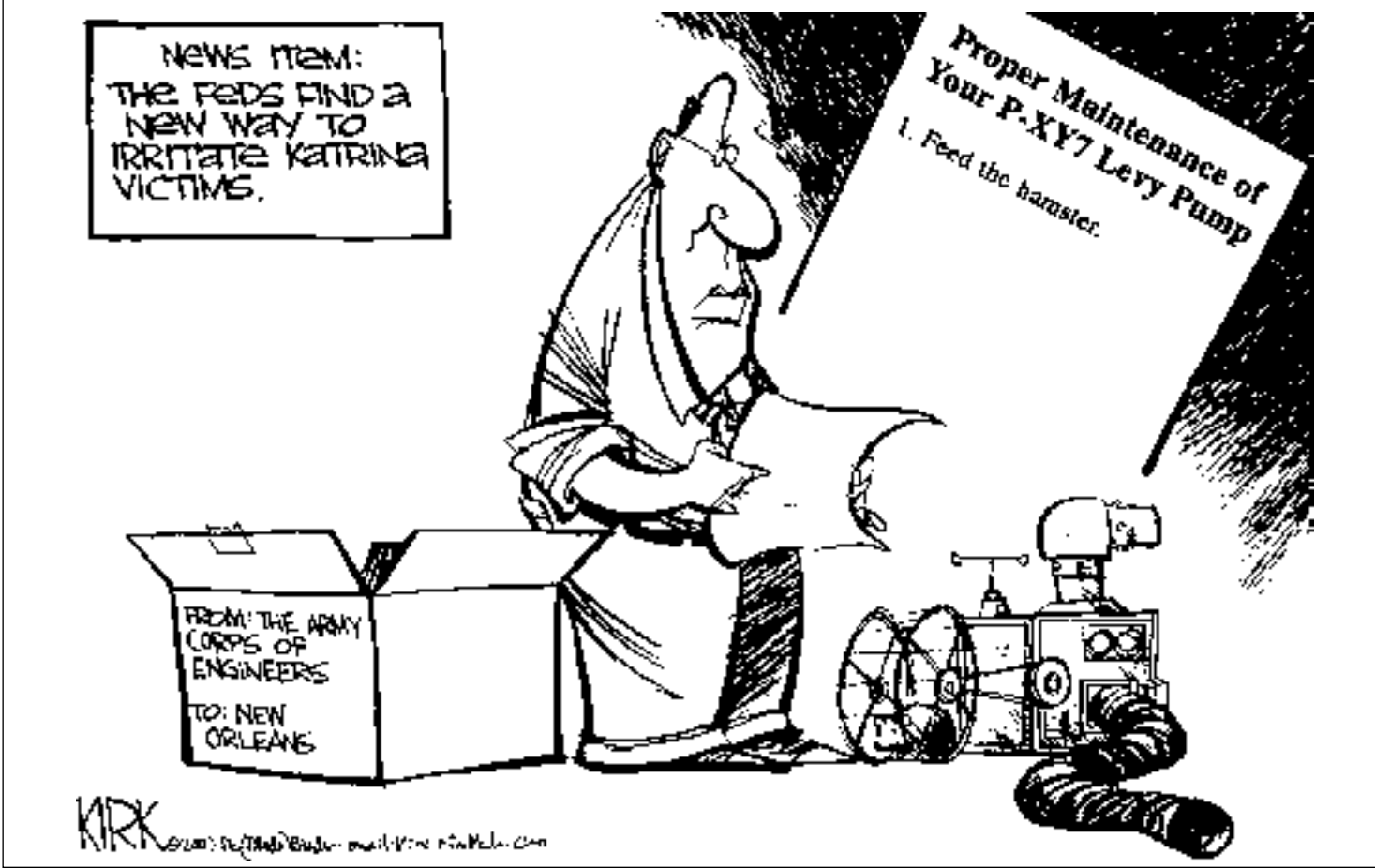
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## On the Spot:

WHERE WE PUT PEOPLE "ON THE SPOT" TO ANSWER A QUESTION "ON THE SPOT."

By Franklin Hayes

What do you think about the hostage standoff between the UK and Iran?

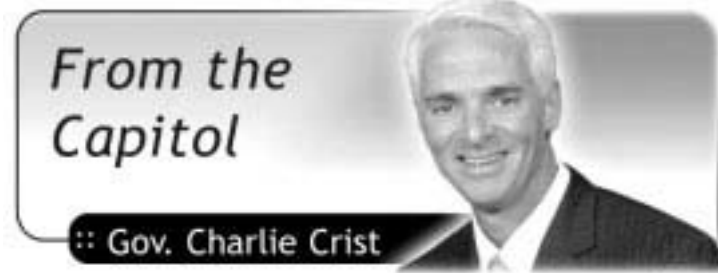
## Governor promotes physical fitness

Monday, I signed an executive order establishing the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and launched www.HealthyFloridians.com to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles for children and all Floridians.

The Council will review the implementation of daily physical education courses for elementary school students. By helping children develop healthy lifestyles early, we increase the chances they will make healthy choices throughout their entire lives.

### Children's Week Celebrated

Tuesday, I participated in a Take Stock in Children rally. The organization helps Florida's children by providing scholarships, mentors and guidance



I also attended Autism Awareness Day, hosted by the Autism Society of Florida. The group encourages awareness of the disability, creating many opportunities to improve the quality of life for Floridians with disabilities and their dedicated caregivers.

### Legislators Reward Top Performers

Thursday, I met with teachers, school board members, legislators and Andy Ford, presi-

dent of the Florida Education Association while I signed the Teacher Bonus Bill. The legislation created the Merit Reward Program which provides much-deserved performance bonuses for educators.

The Teacher Bonus Bill is a great first step in recognizing the value our teachers have in shaping the future of our children. Performance bonuses based on a formula that includes both student academic achievement and the principal's evalua-

tion of teacher performance will enable Florida to recruit and retain the best and brightest to teach our children.

### Anti-Murder Act in Action

This week, the first arrest under the Anti-Murder Act occurred in Jacksonville. A sex offender was arrested for violating the privilege of probation and is currently being held without bail. A judge will determine if he is a danger to the community. If he is, then he will go back to prison. Thanks to the hard work of the Florida Legislature, just a few weeks after becoming a law, the Anti-Murder Act is making progress towards keeping violent criminals off our streets and away from our children.



"I think they should tell Iran to take a hike."  
 -Isabel Trader  
 New Orleans



"Iran is definitely trying to get some financial gain out of the deal and show that they still have some power in that region."  
 -Mike Generalovich  
 Gulf Breeze

## Act now to prevent 'loving our coasts to death'

Recently I had the opportunity to flip through an old issue of National Geographic Magazine.

An article titled, "Loving Our Coasts to Death" caught my attention, and it chronicles the strain we are placing on our shorelines.

The article, which appeared in the July 2006 issue, says that 4,800 new residents hit Florida's shores every week, with 1,500 new homes rising along the U.S. coastline.

More than half the nation's population now lives in coastal counties, which represent only



17 percent of land in the 48 contiguous states.

Florida is particularly popular, and the article quotes an executive with the St. Joe Corporation as projecting that 25 million people, roughly the population of Pennsylvania,

will move to Florida in the next 25 years as baby boomers age.

Of course, St. Joe is leading the way with residential developments to accommodate these immigrants to Florida.

Obviously, the lure of the

ocean is strong and it's hard to leave once you've lived in a coastal community.

We must act now to protect the Gulf of Mexico from pollutants, runoffs, overfishing and other byproducts of increasing population.

For too long, we've depended on our oceans to be a renewable resource, and we've taken them for granted as dumping grounds for sewage, garbage and fertilizer.

Now, if we value the ocean, it's time to plan effectively for the population growth that seems inevitable.



"I don't understand what Iran is trying to do. It's disturbing. What disturbs me is that people would be naïve enough to believe Rosie O'Donnell, who says it was the British [sailors and marines'] fault."  
 -Jessica Barscov  
 Gulf Breeze

## Boating safety helps prevent search and rescue

Thanks for the recent great article on boating safety. We are so glad that you took the time to discuss this important topic with the public. We consider boating safety messages as a form of preventative search and rescue that make the area residents safer and save the tax payers money. The more searches we can prevent, the better. We sincerely thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Amanda Armstrong  
 FSO-PA USCGAUX  
 Flotilla 17; Pensacola

### Sidewalk is appreciated

Please notice that a sidewalk has been constructed from the street to the entrance gate to the High School Softball Field. This previously was a sand bed making walking difficult and rolling a wheel chair impossible. Once City Manager, Mr. Buzz Eddy, discovered the problem, he proceeded to have the sidewalk installed. This is an example why Gulf Breeze continues to be a great place to live and a standard to surrounding cities. Mr. Eddy, along with

the backing of Mayor Gilchrist and the City Council continue to serve our City in the best manner possible. Ensure that you thank them for their efforts.

Wade Curington  
 Gulf Breeze

### Foreign alliances destroy our independence

Amid guarantees that the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would stimulate commerce, spur job creation, curtail illegal immigration, and have no impact on U.S. independence, Congress approved it in November 1993.

NAFTA has been a disaster for many Americans. But most important, rulings from NAFTA's judicial panels have superseded state and federal court decisions, thereby overriding U.S. and state constitutions, and our independence. The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) was launched in March 2005 by President Bush, Mexico's President Fox, and Canada's Prime Minister Martin. Despite its pleasant

sounding name, its purpose is to erase our Canadian and Mexican borders. Go to www.thenewamerican.com for details.

In September 2006, high-profile representatives from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico met in Banff, Canada for a closed-door meeting of the North American Forum. Mel Hurtig, a Canadian who attended said, "were talking about the integration of Canada [and Mexico] into the United States." For them to hold this meeting in secret and to make every effort to avoid [others] learning about it, right away, you've got to be hugely concerned.

Another step toward creation of a North American Union (NAU) is the construction of a NAFTA Superhighway. A 10-lane road for cars and trucks, with more lanes for oil, gas, and railroad lines are planned. Designed to link the U.S., Canada, and

Mexico, it will require confiscating millions of acres of privately owned property by eminent domain.

If the Superhighway proceeds, and NAFTA, SPP, and NAU are in place, American law will be null and void, replaced by an incomprehensible mess of so-called trade law. NAFTA is the foundation for this mess.

Tell congress to repeal NAFTA now!

Alex Randis  
 Northridge, CA

### Lost pet returned

Many thanks to your "release" (Lucky is lost, Gulf Breeze News, March 15, 2007). "Lucky" is now back home. He was returned by a kind couple of your loyal Gulf Breeze News readers. With gratitude,

Bill and Dorothy Semaine  
 and family  
 Gulf Breeze

## Letters to the Editor