

Orlando Sentinel

REACHING 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE WEEKLY IN PRINT AND ONLINE

State turns its back on mentally ill. Maxwell, B1



Cooking & Eating

America is in love with cakes, and cake aces and cake bosses — what's feeding our obsession? **D1**



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Final Edition

Sunny and breezy. **Forecast, B12**

8 A.M. **47°**

NOON **53°**

4 P.M. **58°**

8 P.M. **50°**

Seniors' low car-accident rates dispel myths



RICARDO RAMÍREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Manfred Lude adjusts his rearview mirror as he goes for a drive with son-in-law Eddie Feliciano of Road Ready Watchdog Driving School.

BETTER WITH AGE

By **Anthony Colarossi**
ORLANDO SENTINEL

One of Winter Park driving instructor Eddie Feliciano's recent success stories involves an 88-year-old man at risk of losing his drivers license.

The student had avoided a head-on collision but in doing so, he ran his car off the road. That's when state motor-vehicles officials compelled Orlando's Gerald Cope to prove he was still a capable driver. Feliciano helped Cope, who has been driving since age 14, prepare for those tests.

"He had no problem. He drove better than I did," said Feliciano, who operates Road Ready Watchdog Driving School based in Win-

ter Park and gave Cope a few pointers. "I actually went to his road test, and he passed."

The story illustrates that not all elderly drivers are unfit to get behind the wheel. In fact, Feliciano suspects many become targets of law enforcement just because they have a "head of white hair."

Fair or not, scrutiny often falls on Florida's senior drivers whenever one is involved in a fatal wreck or a crash that gains publicity for some other reason. Late last month, an 81-year-old driver in Lake Placid failed to yield while turning onto a rural highway and hit the side of a tour bus, causing it to roll. Two people died.

And the driver's age was a

PLEASE SEE **DRIVERS, A5**

Driving paradox?

Statistics from 2008 show that the state's youngest drivers are more likely to get into wrecks, including fatal ones, than drivers 90 and older.

Age group	Rate of fatal crashes per 10,000 licensed drivers
15-19	4.03
20-24	4.24
25-29	3.25
30-34	2.57
35-39	2.43
40-44	2.48
45-49	2.27
50-54	2.11
55-59	1.89
60-64	1.79
65-69	1.24
70-74	1.55
75-79	1.56
80-84	1.63
85-89	2.26
90+	2.37

SOURCE: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

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Updates: OrlandoSentinel.com

Man in line at supermarket shoots cashier, kills himself

By **Susan Jacobson and Willoughby Mariano**
ORLANDO SENTINEL

A man in line at a Publix supermarket south of downtown Orlando critically wounded a cashier inside the store Tuesday night, then killed himself in the parking lot, a police spokeswoman said.

Shots erupted about 8 p.m. at the store on South Orange Avenue near Michigan Street, Sgt. Barbara Jones said. Police think the shooting was an act of domestic violence, though they were still sorting out the relationship between the gunman and his victim early today.

The man fired at the cashier, then ran outside, witnesses said. When a police officer on patrol confronted him, the man turned the gun



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on himself, Jones said.

The gunman was taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. The cashier was being treated for life-threatening injuries at the same hospital.

The names of the gunman and cashier had not been released early today.

The gunfire caused panic

PLEASE SEE **PUBLIX, A14**

Legislature 2010

Crist touts role as 'problem-solver'

By **Josh Hafenbrack**
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE Gov. Charlie Crist spent his final State of the State address Tuesday in campaign mode, defending political pragmatism over ideology and presenting himself as a problem-solver in implicit contrast to his U.S. Senate primary opponent, Marco Rubio.

The speech is a Tallahassee tradition, coming as legislators return to the state capital for the kickoff of the 60-day legislative session. But the content of the governor's address was anything but the traditional laundry list of policy proposals.

Crist's speech, which drew polite applause from a joint session of the Legislature, seemed crafted from start to finish as a rebuttal to fellow Republican

PLEASE SEE **LEGISLATURE, A5**



Crist: 'Problem-solvers recognize that important achievements often require consensus.'

■ 2 key education bills could lead to dramatic changes in teacher-pay plans and high-school graduation requirements, **B1**

Trainers, orcas: How close is too close?

By **Jason Garcia**
ORLANDO SENTINEL

As SeaWorld and the team of outside experts it has assembled comb through the company's safety policies following last week's fatal killer-whale accident, they face an important question: How close is too close for the trainers who work with the company's biggest orca?

SeaWorld has long re-

stricted its trainers from swimming with Tilikum, the 6-ton killer whale that pulled trainer Dawn Brancheau to her death last week. But it does allow them to work with the animal from shallow ledges built into the sides of its tanks.

What's more, SeaWorld also permits trainers to lie down in that shallow water with Tilikum and other or-

PLEASE SEE **ORCA, A14**



ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE

Tilikum, who killed trainer Dawn Brancheau, will be kept out of performances until a review of safety procedures is done.

Kassab: SeaWorld's openness is good, B5



FLORIDA STRAWBERRIES

Juicy news! The best strawberries of the season are here. Hurry in and enjoy.

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