



'TIS THE SEASON
Soul Santa brings gifts for good girls and boys



FSU FOOTBALL
Pail of eligibility concerns greet 'Noles for bowl practice



COLD STONE SERVING UP FUN, BUT NOT MUCH PROFIT / 9A

Local / 3A Sports / 1C

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Saturday, December 15, 2007 Tallahassee.com 50 Cents

TODAY

SPORTS



‘WE WANT WELDON’

At left, signs of support for head NFC West football coach Casey Weldon were visible Friday on campus during a meeting protest. Center, Barbara Wilchowski showed up early Friday morning to show her support of Weldon. At right, holding her young son Robert, Kathy Taylor knew her husband to play for Weldon during the protest.

After two early losses, Florida State's men's basketball team tries to improve its postseason chances against No. 18 Butler. But the Seminoles must deal with Butler's outside shooters.

Page 1C

Cornie Boissieu scores a first-half goal, and the Lincoln girls soccer team holds off Chiles for a 1-0 victory.

Page 1C

LOCAL

Environmental groups urge Gov. Crist to stand against further reductions in flows to the Apalachicola River when he meets with the governors of Alabama and Georgia on Monday.

Page 1A

STOCKS

Dow Jones
-178.11, 13,329.85

Credit 98
-50.08
-0.93, 27.77 target
Light, mixed trade for January delivery

For more business news, see Page 1A.

ONLINE

Wondering what's hot, what's new and what's coming up on Tallahassee.com? Check out Page 2 to see what's the latest for our Web site.

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Today: Low 70s tonight: Low 50s
Rate: 50%
Weather: 8C

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‘WE WANT WELDON’

Mike Williams, center, and friends mark the seventh year of his disappearance, investigators say they're closer than ever to a break in the case of the Tallahassee hunter once thought accidentally drowned and eaten by alligators.

KEEP TALKING

■ Go to Tallahassee.com and keep the conversation going. View a photo gallery of past coverage.

Tomorrow makes 2,556 days he's been missing

By Jennifer Portman

As Mike Williams' family and friends mark the seventh year of his disappearance, investigators say they're closer than ever to a break in the case of the Tallahassee hunter once thought accidentally drowned and eaten by alligators.

"It's got good momentum," said lead investigator Derrick Wester, a detective with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

In recent months the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has gotten involved, tracking down a missing gun that belonged to Williams and conducting dozens of

For more information on the Mike Williams case, visit www.jerryrichardson.com.

A trust account has been opened to help in finding Mike Williams. It's used to help pay for billboards and other projects. Send your donation to Bank of America, 315 S. Canton St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Mark it for the "Mike Williams Trust Fund" account.

Please see **MISSING, 12A**

INFORMATION, DONATIONS

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INSIDE

■ FSU offensive coach Rick Trickett speaks out. 2C

the coach for two years. More students would have shown up, but school officials threatened disciplinary action, said Randall Weldon, Casey Weldon's daughter.

Please see **WELDON, 2A**

Developers plan two new horse tracks in rural areas

By Jim Ash

After decades of objections, quarter horse racing is about to make a comeback in the state, with developers planning two tracks in rural North Florida.

State regulators recently approved a license for "Hamilton Downs" near Jasper in Hamilton County.

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is about to make a decision on another quarter horse track near State Road 98 and I-10 in Jefferson County.

"We're still in the

review. I think a decision will be coming soon," said David Roberts, director of the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering.

Hamilton Downs is being built by Jacksonville developer Glenn Richards, who is also the owner of Hampton Jai Alami. Richards did not return phone calls and e-mails.

Please see **TRACKS, 2A**

More than 700 Rattlers graduate

By Mc Carhart

World-renowned part NAMI Government spoke to 722 Florida A&M University graduates Friday night about how she respected how the students are to succeed in spite of obstacles in their path.

Before the ceremony, she talked about two of her former students at Virginia Tech — Michael Vick, the former NFL star who was

Photo gallery of FAMU's graduation ceremony.

invited to finance a scholarship fund and helping all pitfalls.

and Spring Hill, who in April killed 23 people on campus, including himself.

She also spoke about the need for more gun regulations and fewer prisons in the United States.

— Read more, Page 1A

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Coming Sunday

Fighting without guns

Prisoners in Nairobi, Kenya, call for the release of Muslims held in secret prisons in Ethiopia, a key U.S. ally in the "War on Terror."

Dozens of troops from the Big Bend have moved in Africa, a little-known front in the War on Terror.

Read more about their efforts and Africa's response to American actions in our special report, "Fighting without guns," starting Sunday in the Tallahassee Democrat and on Tallahassee.com. View an introductory video and photo gallery now at Tallahassee.com.



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