

Consolidated, easier-to-read stock tables

Extra space for business news developments

Plus, a new column - Leslie Doolittle reports on tourism



WEATHER: A good day to curl up with a book. High near 80, low in the mid-60s. Details, Page B-2.

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Seminole

Off the news

These women put their hearts into writing

By Nancy Pate
SENTINEL BOOK CRITIC

The mistletoe is missing at this holiday party, but love is still in the air. Or rather, romance. From first kisses and slow dances, to old flames and happy endings, with lots of sweet dreams in between, these partygoers know romance. You might say they've written the book on it.

Make that books. The members of the Central Florida Chapter of the Romance Writers of America have several dozen published romance novels to their credit and any number more in the works. They meet monthly to discuss the business of romance writing, from manuscript submissions to royalty statements, and to offer one another suggestions about work-in-progress.

"But the December meeting is the one we look forward to all year long," says member Ruth Owen. "That's when we celebrate."

And there's plenty to celebrate on this morning for the two dozen women gathered at the Orlando home of chapter adviser Mary Jane Carroll. Owen, who lives in Winter Park and whose first romance novel, *Meltdown*, was published by Bantam's Lovequest line this past August, has just signed a four-book contract with Bantam.

Deltona resident Carol Quinto, who writes historical romances set in 19th-century England's Regency period under the pen name of Jeanne Carmichael, has brought along a copy of *Madcap Johnny*, her new book that will be in stores this month.

Cornelia Mason of Clermont, who has published 18 romance novels since 1984, passes out bookmarks advertising her work. Terri Lynn Wilhelm of Casselberry has received the proof for the cover of her forthcoming *Harlequin Super-Romance, Uncommon Stock*. Gienda Sanders of Kissimmee has signed another two-book contract with Harlequin for its Temptation line. And Sandra Davidson of St. Augustine has just learned that her historical romance *Rosefire*, released in the United States by Zebra, soon will be published in China.

"China!" she says. "I can't get over that people in China will be reading my book."

Goodwill flows from the other

Please see ROMANCE, A-5

A lifesaving burden

In Mogadishu, a Somali dockworker carries a 120-pound bag of American rice Monday. Ships carrying grain and cooking oil arrived at the Somali capital's port Monday. Meanwhile, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with Somali warlords for peace talks. At least 1 person was killed in a demonstration near their meeting place. Story, A-7.



Chiles' aim: Health care for all by '95

But the governor's plan faces obstacles: Elements must be approved by the Legislature and insurers warn it needs higher taxes.

By John C. Van Gieson
SENTINEL TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Lawton Chiles announced a massive reform package Monday aimed at cutting soaring health-care costs and extending coverage to all Floridians within two years.

Chiles said Floridians are currently spending \$31.4 billion a year on health care and that figure will leap to \$90 billion by the year 2000 unless the state reforms the system.

"If we don't restructure the system, by the end of the decade the salary of working people will seem like a fringe benefit, because their main compensation will be health benefits," Chiles said.

But before the plan can take effect, Chiles must win approval of key elements from the Legislature and the federal government. On the plus side Florida legislators last year approved a law mandating universal health care access by 1995 and the basic concept would mesh with President-elect Clinton's health-care proposals.

House Speaker Bo Johnson, D-Milton, said containing health-care costs is a top priority with lawmakers and he intends to work closely with Chiles and Senate leaders to come up with an acceptable plan.

A warning was sounded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, one of the state's primary health insurers, which predicts that the plan would not work without major tax increases.

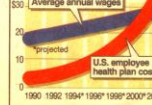
"Without massive increases in taxpayers' support for the Medicaid expansions and other recommendations in the plan, the December 1994 target for universal access is unachievable," the statement said.

The governor's 100-point interim health-care reform plan was developed by his Agency for Health Care Administration and based on recommendations presented at a November health-care summit. Many details still need to

Chiles' plan

Costs to exceed wages

In thousands of dollars



The costs triple

Total health-care costs for Florida

In billions of dollars



Fast facts

- About one in five (2.5 million) Floridians are uninsured
- Of those, about 75 percent (1.9 million) are workers or their dependents
- Almost one third are children
- More than 35 percent (1 million) of the uninsured have annual family incomes of more than \$25,000
- Some 400,000 of these earn more than \$50,000 per year
- Floridians spent \$31 billion annually in 1990 for health-care services
- Per capita health-care costs leaped 152 percent from \$62 in 1980 to \$2,427 in 1990

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration.

DANIELA PASABONDSENTINEL

be worked out between the state, health-care interests and the business community.

The cornerstone of the plan is the creation of state-chartered community health purchasing alliances, similar to one that has cut health costs for a number of Orlando area businesses. The Legislature must approve this proposal because it would violate present anti-trust laws.

Please see HEALTH, A-4

New theories of an ancient civilization



UCF's Arlen and Diane Chase have found evidence of a Maya middle class. Below: Ceramic vessels, including monkey-lid vessel, in Caracol ruler's tomb (circa A.D. 480). Bottom: bowl with monkey lid.

UCF archaeologists redefining the Maya

By Gene Yasuda
OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

The discovery of tombs — for the rich as well as for the working class — has unearthed new evidence about the life and extinction of the Maya civilization, two University of Central Florida archaeologists announced Monday.

Diane and Arlen Chase, a husband and wife who teach archaeology at UCF, uncovered the tombs last spring in the ancient city of Caracol, a major Maya kingdom in what is now

Belize.

The Maya society flourished for more than 600 years in Central America before collapsing. Scholars continue to search for why the advanced civilization died.

The Chases' findings, including a 1,800-year-old tomb with the remains of a Maya ruler, show that the wealthy were buried much the same way as common people. The findings challenge existing scholarly beliefs that the civilization had only two distinct classes and

Please see MAYA, A-7

Freshmen breaking congressional records

Just 19, he's near top of Capitol Hill

By Kathy Hensley Trumbull
FORT LAUDERDALE SUN-SENTINEL

WASHINGTON — Henry Ellenbogen has a million-dollar budget, a staff of 15 and responsibility for helping his boss answer to \$55,000 South Florida residents.

Ellenbogen is 19. As administrative assistant to Rep.-elect Peter Deutsch, Ellenbogen may be the youngest person ever to hold that title on Capitol Hill. At least no one can remember someone that young performing the pressure-filled job.



But Ellenbogen, who ends his statements with question marks as if to make sure the listener is not lost, would rather talk about the goals of the District 20 Democrat or his own strategy for building a congressional office.

"I never have spent much time thinking about my age in terms of what I'm doing," Ellenbogen said.

"It's not really a question of

Please see AIDE, A-4

When 123 newcomers are sworn in today, Congress will have more minority and women members than ever before.

By Anne Groer
SENTINEL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The 103rd Congress convenes today with the largest freshman class in the House of Representatives since World War II, and a record number of black, Hispanic and women members.

Many of the newcomers were still moving into their offices Monday while entertaining friends and family in

Judge won't block Alcee Hastings' swearing-in: A-4

town for today's noon swearing-in ceremony. Because the visitors' galleries overlooking the House floor are so small, each member has been given only two tickets. So there was much scrounging for coveted passes from longtime lawmakers for whom the oath of office is old hat.

Please see CONGRESS, A-4

Good Morning . . .

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So Madonna is rich and she's naked in her book. But Dave Barry says she can't top the memories of his book-promotion tour.

Larry Guest tells you who's guilty in the Case of the Orlando Magic's TV Blackout.

IN A WORD
benevolent, beh-NEV-eh-lent: adjective. [From the Latin *benivolens*.] Inclined to do good; kindly; charitable. Today's word can be found on Page A-2.

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Weathered memories

Talk about the weather — really. 1992 was the year of climate extremes in the Orlando area. It was soggy, sizzling and stormy. You might remember other days, but the National Meteorological Center had 2 highlights: Freak hailstorms on March 6 and 25.

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Society more complex than previously thought

MAYA from A-1

provide evidence of a burgeoning middle class, the archeologists said.

"Prevalent theory said there was an elite class that overworked society and a fed-up peasant class," said Arlen Chase. "That's just not the case. Maya society is much more complex than we thought."

Such evidence is expected to aid scholars who have sought an explanation for the downfall of the brilliant Maya people, who produced remarkable architecture, painting and sculpture from 250 A.D. to about 900 A.D.

Early theories of the civilization's collapse said a massive peasant class revolted against an oppressive, elite class. Although that view has been challenged recently, scholars lacked archaeological proof to dispute it.

But the Chases' discovery — during their eighth expedition to Maya ruins — shows that such a divisive rift did not exist. The archaeologists found "middle-class" tombs — evidence that prosperity was shared in Caracol and that burial ceremonies were not reserved for the privileged.

Tombs tell tales

The Chases based their findings on excavations in the city's core and outlying areas that revealed commoners' tombs with jade, pottery and ritual vessels that had previously been associated only with the elite.

Scholars had once believed that the elite received individual tombs. But the Caracol findings show that members of royal families, like commoners, shared chambers or tombs.

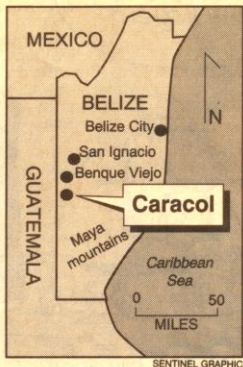
The royal tomb the Chases uncovered housed four people, all resting on a plaster floor covered with jade flakes. Two men, one, with a necklace of human teeth, were found in the tomb. A woman and an unidentified individual also were there.

The royal tomb as well as those for the middle class all held the same "ritual deposits," such as urns, jewelry and shell artifacts.

"What they've been able to show is that a continuum existed from the lower end to the upper end of society — and that differs greatly with prevalent thought," said Richard Leventhal, director of the Institute of Archeology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"They've filled out the picture of societal organization in a great Maya city," Leventhal said.

The Maya people — who lived in what is now Mexico and several Central American countries



— studied astronomy and were one of the first people in the Western Hemisphere to develop an advanced form of writing.

A thriving city

The Caracol site covers 55 square miles. The Chases estimate the city's population may have reached 180,000, making it one of the largest in Maya history. The couple's work at the site will be shown in two *National Geographic* television programs Sunday and later this month.

The Chases also uncovered evidence of Caracol's success at warfare, including artifacts and records documenting how Caracol defeated the city of Tikal, once the civilization's greatest metropolis, in 562. The victory brought wealth and population growth.

"The spoils of war led to the shared prosperity in Caracol," said Diane Chase.

Such explanations about how life changed and was conducted in Caracol is the most important element of the Chases' work, said David Freidel, an anthropology professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"They have provided a history as to how a middle class emerged in a city," said Freidel, who specializes in Maya political history and is preparing in February to embark on his sixth Maya expedition since 1986.

Military efforts might not only have led to Caracol's rise, but also its fall, Freidel said.

Kingdom falls, but why?

The archaeologist said the Chases' discovery provides evidence of "intense, interkingdom warfare" that eventually could have led to the city's demise. That evidence includes artifacts from ceremonies celebrating military victories.

Leventhal, the UCLA archaeologist, agreed that the UCF professors' findings show that warfare contributed to Maya ruin. But he said more research must be done to show whether it was the primary cause for the fall of the civilization.

"One answer that explains the collapse — that's not viable," Leventhal said. "Warfare, environmental degradation, societal problems. . . . I believe there were interlinking factors."

"We haven't figured out what they all are yet, but the Chases are pointing the way," Leventhal said.

On TV

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC is scheduled to televise two programs featuring the Chases' work at the Caracol excavation. The first is scheduled for Sunday on the Turner Broadcasting System from 9 to 11 p.m. The second program is scheduled for later this month on WMFE-Channel 24.