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FSU's Fisher endures tough media debut IN SPORTS

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ITALY, IRELAND, GREECE, MORE TRAVEL NOW AND SAVE BIG Why it's the perfect time to go to Europe IN BUSINESS

YOUR WEATHER TODAY

Isolated storms HIGH: 91 LOW: 77 NATION AND WORLD FORECASTS ON BACK PAGE OF SPORTS

3-DAY FORECAST

WEDNESDAY Isolated storms 92/78 THURSDAY Isolated storms 92/79 FRIDAY Chance of storms 91/79

LIVE WEATHER RADAR AT PALMBEACHPOST.COM

The Palm Beach Post

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

First edition | One dollar

IN THE NEWS

EU adopts harsh sanctions on Iran

The limits, though not as stiff as U.S. measures, aim to curb Tehran's nuclear program. 3A

Iraq bombings kill 25 during Shiite festival

A separate attack leaves six dead and a lawmaker buried alive near a news station. 3A



Closing arguments halted in Rod Blagojevich's trial Monday.

Blagojevich's lawyer irks judge at trial's end

The attorney for the former Illinois governor is threatened with contempt of court. 2A

Immigrant groups blast fingerprint initiative

The federal program could have a larger impact than Arizona's new law. 2A

Obama scolds GOP on campaign finance

As a filibuster looms, he says Republicans are blocking common-sense changes. 2A

LOCAL

Jewelry store owner killed near West Palm

Deputies search for three men in the Westgate shooting of John Lauseng, a father of three. 1B

Solar panel installation taught in Lake Worth

A program offers training and job placement assistance in the burgeoning industry. 1B

West Palm might put term limits on ballot

The commission may advance the mayoral issue even if a petition is short on names. 1B

GOP newcomers battle to replace Bogdanoff

The primary rivals in the state House race spar on education and the economy. 1B

BUSINESS

Citizens plans 10% hike in homeowners' rates

The insurer proposes its second consecutive increase after a three-year freeze. 6B

Pay up, passengers: Airline fares and fees are growing as profits skyrocket. 6B

Revamped Explorer: Ford's new model is more car-like and fuel-efficient. 7B

SPORTS

South Florida venues fail health inspections

In a report, Sun Life Stadium and AmericanAirlines Arena are among nation's worst. 1C

Cantu gone? The Marlins appear ready to trade him but keep Uggla and Nunez. 1C

Rays no-hitter: Matt Garza hurls the majors' fifth of 2010 and his team's first ever. 1C

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WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Military leak raises heat on Obama

The White House defends its policy as doubts build.

By ERIC SCHMITT and HELENE COOPER The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday sought to reassert control over the public debate on the

Afghanistan war as political reaction to the disclosure of a six-year archive of classified military documents increased pressure on President Obama to defend his war strategy.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said the documents, with their detailed account of a war faring even more poorly than two administrations had portrayed, would intensify congressional scrutiny of Obama's policy. "Those policies are at a critical stage, and these documents may very well

underscore the stakes and make the calibrations needed to get the policy right more urgent," said Kerry, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who has been an influential supporter of the war. The disclosures landed

More inside

NATO attack: A claim of 52 civilian deaths is disputed. 3A

WikiLeaks in spotlight:

The bare-bones group takes aim at authorities. 4A

See WAR, 4A ▶

EVALUATING HEALTH CARE

Cutting complications could save lives, money

Two local hospitals will gather facts from patients' charts as part of a drive to help surgeons focus on what works.



SARAH GRILE/Staff Photographer

Prescription for improving quality: The Florida Surgical Care Initiative aims to help doctors like Martin Memorial's Mario Sanguily (center) find meaningful ways to measure and improve health care.

By STACEY SINGER Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

In the name of safety, doctors and hospitals have been crunching more numbers, reporting more data than ever before.

The list of what they must report is long: Did they remember to give an antibiotic within the hour before surgery? A beta-blocker to discharged heart-attack

patients? Did a patient develop an infection or have to return to the hospital?

Medicare and Medicaid have been posting results online for consumers for about five years. Accrediting agencies base their ratings on them. And if that weren't enough, under health reform, reimbursement rates soon may hinge on the quality measures,

too. But is all that information making health care better or safer? Are the questions being asked even the right ones?

New research suggests that in some cases, the answer is no. The Journal of the American Medical Association recently reported

See SURGERY, 4A ▶

Evaluating a patient's success rate after surgery

Some of the factors doctors will consider:*

Does the patient smoke?



Does the patient return to the doctor on time?



Does the patient use his oxygen properly?



*These statistics will be available only to doctors

Ratings information you can see

Hospital Compare hospitalcompare.hhs.gov

Florida Health Finder floridahealthfinder.gov

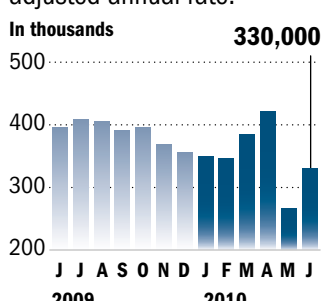
Accrediting agencies qualitycheck.org

ECONOMY IN CRISIS

U.S. new-home sales rise in June, but it's 2nd-worst month since '63

Still slumping

Sales of new single-family homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate:



Source: Department of Commerce THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By JEFF OSTROWSKI Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Sales of new homes jumped last month, but don't get too excited: June still was the second-weakest month on records dating to 1963, the Commerce Department said Monday.

National new-home sales rose 24 percent in June to reach an annual pace of 330,000. That followed May's lowest-ever reading of 267,000 sales.

May's collapse was

blamed on the April 30 expiration of a federal home-buyer tax credit. For June's weak reading, there were plenty of culprits, including high unemployment, stingy lenders and a glut of competition from deeply discounted foreclosures and short sales.

"The biggest issue is the foreclosures and the short sales and what they're doing to the ap-

See HOMES, 6A ▶

GULF OIL DISASTER

American's aim: Lead BP beyond crisis

The new chief executive must mend fences, restore investor confidence.

By JULIA WERDIGIER and JAD MOUAWAD The New York Times

LONDON — Robert Dudley, expected to be introduced as BP's new chief executive today, faces a long road to restore confidence in the beleaguered company — particularly in the United States, the biggest part of BP's business.

Dudley, an American who has been with BP since the company bought Amoco in 1998, faces myriad challenges: repairing damaged relations with federal and state authorities, dealing with the cost and legal consequences of the spill, bolstering morale among BP employees and, perhaps critically, winning back investors.

Ultimately, his job can be summed up See BP, 6A ▶

ELECTIONS 2010 YOUR VOTE STARTS HERE

McCollum likens Scott's 1997 ouster to BP chief's exit

By GEORGE BENNETT Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Attorney General Bill McCollum on Monday compared his rival in the Republican primary for governor to BP's spill-tainted Tony Hayward, prompting a retort from Rick Scott on the campaign trail in the Panhandle.

Asked about reports that Hayward was stepping down as CEO three months after the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, McCollum compared Hayward to Scott, who left the CEO's job at Columbia/HCA in 1997 after the hospital

See GOP, 7A ▶

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