



He's ready, confident

■ Tiger returns to stroke play for first time since knee surgery, 7C
■ NCAA jockeying continues, 1, 3, 6C

By Sam Greenwood, Getty Images

Woods: "Better than I thought."



By Martin E. Klimek for USA TODAY

Uncertain: De La Cruz faces foreclosure.

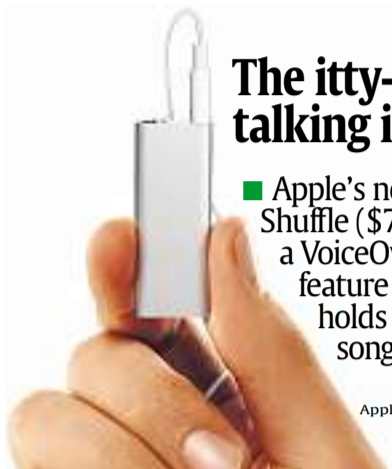
Stress, recession and you

■ Major study shows bleakest days were as markets collapsed at end of year, 1D

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Newsline

■ News ■ Money ■ Sports ■ Life



The itty-bitty talking iPod

■ Apple's newest Shuffle (\$79) has a VoiceOver feature and holds 1,000 songs, 3B

Apple

'Imperfect' \$410B bill signed

■ Obama renews vow against pork, but bill had billions for pet projects, 5A

GPS devices lead some into trouble

Users advised to trust common sense over navigational tools, which could have flawed data. 3A.

Shooter attacks school in Germany

Students, teachers among 15 killed by teen, who killed himself after police chase. 6A.

Money: Private pensions short \$217B

Companies may need to increase contributions to plans when they can least afford to do so. 1B.
► Joblessness a 'national emergency,' 2B.

Sports: USA's Vonn wins World Cup

Lindsey Vonn's downhill ski victory nets her a second consecutive overall season title. 1C.
► New wooden-bat rules prove confusing. 1C.

Life: Sales of U2's new album take off

Band's 12th album, *No Line on the Horizon*, moves 484,000 copies in its first week. 1D.
► Ex-Xerox executive is AARP's new CEO. 6D.

Markets eke out a slim gain, 4B

| Index | Close | Change |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Dow Jones industrial average | 6,930.40 | ▲ 3.91 |
| Nasdaq composite | 1,371.64 | ▲ 13.36 |
| Treasury note, 10-year yield | 2.91% | ▼ 0.10 |
| USA TODAY Internet 50 | 84.86 | ▲ 1.72 |

Sources: USA TODAY research, MarketWatch.com

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Jasmine: Cut from show.

USA TODAY Snapshots®

Downsizing of U.S. dealers

New auto dealers closed out 2008 with the biggest one-year drop in dealers since Detroit-based Urban Science began collecting data in 1991.

| Year | Dealers lost | Percentage drop | Remaining dealers |
|------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1991 | -923 | 3.7% | 24,026 |
| 2008 | -881 | 4.2% | 20,084 |

Source: Urban Science Automotive Dealer Census

By Anne R. Carey and Sam Ward, USA TODAY

1 1 Crossword, Sudoku 7B
Editorial/Forum 8-9A
Lotteries 9C
Market scoreboard 4B
Marketplace Today 7B
State-by-state 7A

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Stewart

Tonight: It's Stewart vs. CNBC

■ CNBC's 'mad' stock picker Jim Cramer defends his advice and network against Jon Stewart's attacks on *The Daily Show* (Comedy Central, 11 p.m. ET) ■ Ratings and Obama, 3B



Cramer

Tragedy in Alabama A gunman's rage



By Phil Coale, AP

"I don't have a tear left in me": Josh Myers, left, a deputy with the Geneva County Sheriff's department whose wife and daughter were killed in a Tuesday shooting in Samson, is consoled by a friend.

Gunman kept a list of those who had 'done him wrong'

Small towns in shock after 'quiet' man kills 10 and wounds 6

By Larry Copeland, Donna Leinwand and Andrea Stone
USA TODAY



McLendon: 28-year-old killed his mother first.

SAMSON, Ala. — A couple of hours. That's all authorities said it took for Michael McLendon, 28, to kill 10 people in two rural counties before turning a gun on himself. Yet the gunman who unleashed the worst mass shooting in Alabama history apparently had been preparing his rampage for some time.

Investigators going through the home McLendon shared with his mother found a list of "people who done him wrong," Coffee County District Attorney Gary McAllely said Wednesday. On it were former employers and co-workers, including someone who had complained that McLendon had

Cover story

tricked into it by adults they met online. "They may not realize the danger they are exposing themselves to," says William Shaw, district attorney for Clearfield County, Pa. "When they put it online, they lose control."

Last month, Shaw filed a juvenile petition against a 15-year-old girl for sending nude photos of herself over the Internet. He says his objective isn't to jail her but to get her counseling or other help. The 27-year-old man who enticed her to do it has been sentenced to 10 years for having sex with her.

Lawmakers are debating penalties. On Wednesday, the Utah Legislature reduced penalties, from a felony to a misdemeanor, for sexting.

In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Juvenile Court Judge Thomas O'Malley struggled to figure out what to do with eight teens, 14 to 17, caught trading nude cellphone pictures of themselves. He says the father of one of the girls found the images.

If the 17-year-old who sent the nude photos to an ex-boyfriend were convicted of a child-porn charge, he says, she would be a registered sex offender for 20 years.

"These kids have no record, not even a parking ticket," says O'Malley, a father of four teens.

He required each to do community service and to ask peers if they knew sexting was a crime. They told O'Malley they surveyed 225 teens; 31 knew.

cut the pork chops too thin at the sausage plant where he worked until last week. There was also a list with the name of the chicken-processing plant where McLendon's mother had been suspended from her job.

Lisa McLendon was her son's first victim Tuesday afternoon, not long before 2 p.m. local time. By the time his killing spree through towns near the Florida border ended, he also had shot dead his grandmother, an uncle, two cousins and five others seemingly targeted at random, including the wife and 18-month-old daughter of a sheriff's deputy. Six others were injured.

"This was 20-something miles of terror," said state Sen. Harri Anne Smith.

The day after the carnage, stunned residents of this town of 2,100 where most of the victims died were staring at yellow crime scene tape strung in front of a downtown hardware store.

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

Police agencies buried in résumés

Prospects are more mature, experienced

By Kevin Johnson
USA TODAY

Job seekers are swamping federal, state and local police agencies during the economic downturn, a reversal from recent years when departments struggled to find qualified recruits.

Police chiefs expect the new prospects, many of them highly experienced and victims of corporate cutbacks, will be better suited to fill a range of public safety jobs, from dispatchers to beat cops.

"We're talking about people who have been in the workforce for a long time," Houston Police Chief Harold Hurtt says. "They know what being part of a team means and are more mature about the world of work."

The FBI, which said in December it would hire about 3,000 agents and staffers, is sorting through 227,000 applications, the largest such response in its history. Among the usual accountants, military veterans and recent college graduates are computer technicians and financial executives. A Washington chef and two National Football League players also expressed interest in jobs.

"This year, there is great appeal in government work," says Gwendolyn Hubbard, who is overseeing the bureau's hiring for jobs paying \$35,000 to \$153,000, with health care and retirement plans. "People are attracted by the benefits and job security."

Despite the many applicants, the FBI is running ads for agent jobs in part because about 50% fail background checks, she says. Advertising for the recent hiring program cost less than \$1 million, FBI spokesman Mike Kortan says.

Among other law enforcement agencies seeing lots of applicants:

- In Las Vegas, car salesmen, mortgage brokers and construction workers — representing some of the nation's most troubled industries — want to help keep the peace in America's playground.

Normally, about 280 prospects take the entrance test each month. That rose to 400 in the past few months, says police Lt. Blake Quackenbush. A 69-year-old man who "out-ran a lot of younger people" and two chiropractors recently took the exam.

► Houston's Police Chief Hurtt says his agency has been getting about 200 more applications a month since late last year. He sees evidence of better-qualified officers. Cadets that graduated from the local police academy last week posted the highest combined score on academic tests of any class in city history. One of the cadets also broke the record for most consecutive push-ups: 1,100.

► The Phoenix Police Department set an annual record for the most applicants last year — 4,000 — before the hiring program was shut down in October because of budget cuts. "The economy had to play a part in this," Sgt. Forrest Vincent says, though he also credits the agency's aggressive recruiting.

Police agencies are among the few employers still hiring. When the Justice Department invited local agencies to apply for a share of \$1 billion in stimulus funding to hire more officers, its website got 19,000 inquiries within a week.

"It's been unbelievable," says Justice Department spokesman Corey Ray.

Help wanted

The FBI is hiring 850 agents and 2,100 staffers in various specialties, including:

- Finance and accounting
- Security
- Intelligence analysis
- Fingerprint analysis
- Nursing
- Electrical engineering
- Physical, natural and social sciences
- Auto mechanics

Source: FBI

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