



LOOK INTO HIS EYES
— AND HIS MIND —
AT THE NORTON



Plus: Cancer patient
Michael Douglas has
reason for optimism
IN HEALTHY LIVING

Chance
of storms

HIGH: 89 LOW: 77

NATION AND WORLD FORECASTS ON BACK PAGE OF SPORTS

LIVE WEATHER RADAR AT PALMBEACHPOST.COM

WEDNESDAY
Chance of storms
90/78

THURSDAY
Chance of storms
89/78

FRIDAY
Chance of storms
90/78

Antiques
vanish
from shop

Mystery, outrage
after owner dies

IN LOCAL

HEARTBREAK IN OHIO



DWYER
OFFICIALLY
STEAMED

Late calls spark ire:
'We got cheated'

IN SPORTS

The Palm Beach Post

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

First edition | One dollar

IN THE NEWS



MORRY GASH/The Associated Press

The president blasted the GOP,
which dismissed his proposal.

Obama promotes
new plan for jobs

He rolls out a \$50 billion
program for rebuilding roads,
railways and runways. 2A

Rubio halts campaign
after father's death

The Senate candidate pauses
to mourn 'the most unselfish
person I have ever known.' 2A

Mexico, Texas on edge
as Hermine hits shore

The tropical storm, which had
65 mph winds, could dump a
foot of rain on some areas. 3A

Iran capable of fueling
2 warheads, report says

But efforts to master uranium
enrichment could be stalling,
a nuclear watchdog finds. 3A

Lewis' MDA Telethon
raises \$58.9 million

Donations are down, but the
comic is grateful for efforts to
fight muscular dystrophy. 2A

LOCAL

Popular charter captain
dies after fall in inlet

Friends are puzzled at the
Jupiter Inlet accident that left
Tom Henry fatally injured. 1B

Both sides court voters
in Riviera marina battle

Rybovich tries to allay critics
while touting new lease terms
as a referendum nears. 1B

Jupiter panel supports
Battlefield Park name

Part of Riverbend Park might
be renamed to commemorate
Seminole-U.S. clashes. 1B

Official wants to end
managers' car subsidy

Greenacres would save
\$25,900 a year, Councilman
Jonathan Pearce argues. 2B

BUSINESS

FPL president to face
state regulators today

Armando Olivera will answer
the PSC's questions about the
utility's nuclear costs. 6B

Luxury for less: A Palm Beach
store's outpost sells the same
clothes at drastic cuts. 6B

Avandia ban? U.K. regulators
say the diabetes drug is too
risky and should be pulled. 6B

SPORTS

Wozniacki overpowers
Sharapova at U.S. Open

Reaching the quarterfinals,
she shows she's worthy of the
tournament's No. 1 seed. 1C

Dolphins scrambling: With
Long and Crowder hurt, they
keep shuffling the roster. 1C

Jets finally sign Revis: The
cornerback's deal is reportedly
worth at least \$46 million. 2C

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4 sections

PALM BEACH POST CONTINUING COVERAGE ACREAGE CANCER CLUSTER

Anguished families aren't alone

Acreage demands answers, but cluster studies often fail to pinpoint causes

By MITRA MALEK
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

When children were coming
down with leukemia roughly once
a month in a small farming
community in western Nevada, health
experts were confident they would
pinpoint the cause.

Potential culprits weren't hard
to find in Fallon, 30 miles from an
old underground nuclear test site

Details on similar cases

A look at inconclusive cancer probes
around the state and nation. 6A

and not far from the naval air sta-
tion that's home to the "Top Gun"
training program. Amid one of
the largest cancer-cluster investi-
gations in U.S. history, scientists
and residents alike said they sus-

pected some type of pollution.

"It's not random," Floyd Sands,
whose daughter had leukemia,
told the *Reno Gazette-Journal* in
2001, a year into the seven-year
study. "The cause is out there,
somewhere in Fallon."

But in the end, the study found
no answers. And since 2004, only
one new case of childhood leuke-
mia has been reported in Fallon

or the surrounding county.

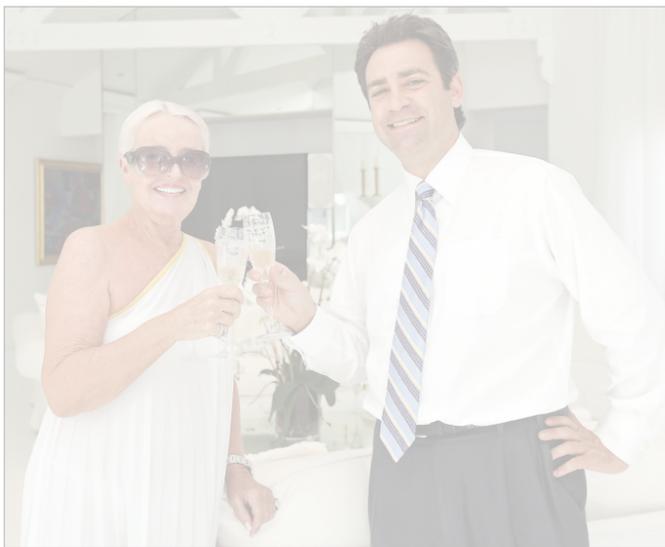
A similar ending without
closure may be in store for The
Acreage, where more than a year
of state investigations has failed
to explain a spike of tumors in
children's brains and central ner-
vous systems.

In some ways, The Acreage's

See ACREAGE, 6A ►

PALM BEACH POST CONTINUING COVERAGE ECONOMY IN CRISIS

Florida's a favorite of foreign home buyers



RICHARD GRAULICH/Staff Photographer

Weak dollar, good deals attract overseas buyers: Annette Aalberts, with her
Realtor, Jeff Lichtenstein, has bought homes for herself and her daughter in the
Jupiter area in recent years. Lichtenstein specializes in international buyers.

California is a distant second, with Canadian
buyers making up the largest contingent.

By KIMBERLY MILLER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

International buyers have helped
buttress Florida's real estate
market with 22 percent of all
foreign clients nationally choosing
property in the Sunshine State.

That makes Florida tops for at-
tracting foreign interest, according
to a summer report by the National
Association of Realtors. California
came in a far second with 12 per-
cent of the international market.

While Florida's share of foreign
clients has slipped from a recent
high of more than 26 percent in
2008, bargain basement prices and
a weakened dollar have continued

to lure Canadian and overseas
buyers.

The study, which looked at sales
between March 2009 and March
2010, found that buyers with per-
manent residences outside the
United States spent an estimated
\$41 billion on residential property
nationally during the period of
the study. That's 4 percent of the
total residential market during the
same time.

"I had an open house in the mid-
\$500,000s and a man from Canada
came and bought it the same day,"
said Palm Beach Gardens Realtor

See FOREIGN, 5A ►

International
appeal

Buyers from other
countries spent
\$41 billion on U.S.
residences in a year.

Where
international
buyers live

Canada	24%
Mexico	10%
United Kingdom	9%
China/Hong Kong	7%
Germany/France	7%
India	5%
Argentina/Brazil	2%

Where they buy

Florida	22%
California	12%
Arizona	11%
Texas	7%
Georgia	5%
New York	4%
Nevada	3%

What they buy

Single-family homes	66%
Condos	23%
Townhouses	8%
Commercial	3%

Source: National Association
of Realtors

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news online

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special features on the
housing market.

PalmBeachPost.com/
realestate

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Plan to lure Taliban defectors bogs down

Money hasn't arrived for
the \$250 million program,
which lacks leadership.

By ROD NORDLAND
The New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — A \$250
million program to lure low-level
Taliban fighters away from the
insurgency has stalled, with Af-
ghans bickering over who should
run it and international donors
slow to put up the money they
had promised.

Six months after Afghanistan's
foreign backers agreed to gener-
ous support for a reintegration
effort, only \$200,000 has
been spent by the U.S. and little
or nothing by other donors.

■ Fla. church
plans to burn
Quran; Afghans
protest. 3A

During the same period, the
flow of Taliban fighters seeking
to reintegrate has slowed to a
trickle — by the most optimistic
estimates, a few hundred in the
last six months. It is not clear
whether that is because of the
lack of a program that would
provide them with jobs, security
guarantees and other incentives,
or because most Taliban no lon-
ger see the insurgency as a losing
proposition.

In the past five years, a poorly
financed Afghan reintegration
effort, the Peace and Reconcilia-
tion Commission, recorded 9,000
Taliban who sought to join the
government side, compared with
100 since April, officials said.

"It's almost dead," said Mu-
hammad Akram Khapalwak, a

See AFGHAN, 7A ►

PALM BEACH POST SPECIAL COVERAGE GULF OIL DISASTER

EYES ON THE SPILL

Mitch Roffer's expertise made him everyone's go-to guy for tracking oil.



Roffer

Melbourne
scientist
became
a central
figure in
helping
predict
where the
oil slick
would
spread.

By BEN CHAMBERS
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Mitchell Roffer, a Melbourne
oceanographer who earned a quiet
living helping anglers find fish,
found himself cast into current
events in April, when the Deep-
water Horizon rig exploded and
toppled in the Gulf of Mexico.

For scientists, fishermen and
nationwide media, the Roffer's
Ocean Fishing Forecasting
Service's website, Roffs.com,
quickly became a go-to site for
information about where the fast-
spreading spill appeared headed.
The site provided early evidence
that currents might pull the oil
through the Keys and on to

Southeast Florida, and reported
when wind and water pushed the
visible part of the slick farther
away.

The July capping of the
well-gone-wild has eased public
demand for a constant stream
of data. But Roffer, 61, finds
himself living the crisis every
day, whether helping fishermen
returning to the gulf, tracking in-
visible but still-present oil plumes,
or wrestling to land a check from
BP to recover business he lost to
the spill.

"We don't think the emergen-
cy's over," he said last week.

See OIL GUIDE, 5A ►

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PALM BEACH POST CONTINUING COVERAGE *Acreage cancer cluster*

Geographic cases have complex variables

► ACREAGE from 1A

case is unique among Florida cancer studies: The northwestern Palm Beach County community is the only place where the state Department of Health has declared that a suspected cancer cluster exists.

Yet here, too, tests of soil and water have turned up no signs of pollution that could explain the cluster, the state's health and environmental agencies say. In a summary released last month, the state Department of Environmental Protection declared that "residential property in The Acreage is safe."

It may be baffling, but it should be no surprise. Rarely, if ever, have scientists found a firm environmental cause for a cancer cluster afflicting a geographic region.

Real cases not as simple as Hollywood scripts

Hollywood movies about these types of cases usually suggest a far different conclusion: With enough digging, investigators discover that pollution is the root problem — then collect big money from the polluters. Examples include *A Civil Action*, starring John Travolta as a crusading lawyer, and *Erin Brockovich*, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role.

"There's this intuitive sense that seems so straightforward: If there's too much of something occurring, there must be some reason to it," said David Savitz, director of Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Disease Prevention and Public Health Institute in New York. "The problem is, in practice, it just doesn't work that way."

One reason is that cancer is complicated: It has many origins, including random genetic mutations, and not everyone exposed to even high doses of carcinogens will get the disease.

Moreover, scientists say that even if disease rates are normal, some areas are bound to have more cases than others — creating clusters with no environmental cause.

Some scientists even argue that chance is the most plausible explanation for a cluster when artificial boundaries are drawn around an area where cases exist. That's how the state determined the cluster boundaries for The Acreage, where health officials say the community experienced four cases of pediatric brain tumors from 2005 to 2007 — when one or two would be normal.

"You never know when you're simply drawing a target around the bulls-eye," said Michael Thun, vice president emeritus of epidemiology and surveillance research for the American Cancer Society.

And not all who live in a community are exposed to the same hazards. "It's not like working in the same factory with the same chemical," Savitz said.

Historically, cancer investigations based on geography — "community-based" clusters — have been harder to solve than those based on exposures in a workplace.

In one classic example, a surgeon discovered in 1775 that chimney sweeps developed scrotal cancer from exposure to soot from coal. In 1965, researchers identified the link between World War II-era exposure to asbestos and ship workers' cases of mesothelioma, a rare cancer of the lining of the chest and abdomen.

The full list of "solved" clusters isn't much longer.

Few answers on cancer: Case studies around the state and nation

In cases around the country, apparent spikes in cancer led to costly investigations that found no clear cause — often after years of anguish for patients and families.

St. Lucie County, 1997-2000

What happened: 28 cases of childhood brain and central nervous system cancers occurred from 1981 to 1996.

The investigation: State health officials never did a population study to determine if a cancer cluster existed. But they conducted an enormous number of environmental tests — at the time, the largest investigation of its kind in the nation. These included sampling for 561 pollutants in air, water, soil, dust and air-conditioning filters, along with radiation, in 44 locations.

The outcome: No tests found unusual contamination levels. Two sets of parents unsuccessfully sued Florida Power & Light, which runs the St. Lucie nuclear power plant, saying the baby teeth of their cancer-stricken children had high levels of radioactive strontium-90.



EMILY MICHOT/The Miami Herald

Coping with illness: Beatrice and Charles Ziegler, married for 50 years, have berylliosis, a chronic lung disease. Charles Ziegler worked as a janitor and had contact with beryllium at the former American Beryllium Co. plant in Tallevast. He often came home with toxic dust on his clothes. His wife's brother also has been diagnosed with the disease.

Tallevast, 2000-present

What happened: Residents of this Manatee County community of about 250 people, many of whom had cancer and other illnesses, asked the state Department of Health to perform a cancer cluster study after a 200-acre chemical plume from a former American Beryllium Co. plant polluted wells serving their homes. Lockheed Martin bought the plant in 1996 and notified the county and state in 2000 about the pollution, which included trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene. Residents didn't find out until 2004, when the county connected them to its water system.

The investigation: The 2008 review didn't show a cluster — but that study excluded a post-office box ZIP code that Tallevast residents use and missed some cases in which people had moved.

The outcome: A \$125,000 study will include door-to-door interviews and family medical histories. Health officials are monitoring the plume.

People report about 1,000 potential clusters to state health departments each year. Most are not clusters.

Among them: In 1974, an angiosarcoma cluster was found among chemical workers working with vinyl chloride. And mothers who took diethylstilbestrol, or DES, to prevent premature labor during the 1940s and 1950s caused their unborn daughters to develop vaginal clear-cell carcinoma, a cluster discovered in 1971.

The key to all these: The cancer was rare, and contaminant exposure was clear and intense.

Community-based cluster investigations don't usually fit that mold.

CDC sometimes assists state investigations

Take the cluster of childhood leukemia that struck Woburn, Mass., made famous in *A Civil Action*. That cluster led to an \$8 million settlement from the chemical company W.R. Grace — but it, too, closed with a caveat.

In that case, 21 children who lived near contamination from tannery and chemical operations were diagnosed with leukemia from 1969 to 1986. Two municipal wells were closed in 1979 when tests found solvents.

Still, a subsequent study only "suggested" that the risk of leukemia was higher for a child whose mother drank from the contaminated wells while pregnant. The

study warned that "results must be interpreted with caution as small numbers of study subjects lead to imprecise estimates of leukemia risk."

And the case from Hinkley, Calif., that hit the screen as *Erin Brockovich* was never declared a cancer cluster, although Pacific Gas & Electric paid \$333 million in damages to more than 600 victims in 1996. The suit blamed the company for leaching chromium 6 into the town's water supply, causing problems varying from cancer to miscarriages.

Despite the difficulties, health departments are ethically obliged to pursue community-based cluster investigations.

People report about 1,000 potential clusters to state health departments each year, the American Cancer Society says. Only 50 to 150 turn out to be clusters — defined as a statistically elevated number of cases of a particular kind of cancer in a certain population over a certain period.

States are primarily responsible for cancer cluster studies, sometimes seeking help from federal agencies.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gets as many as six requests a year for aid. It doesn't have a record of how many investigations it has participated in, but it has never been involved with one that proved an environmental contaminant to be the cause.

The Fallon case was one investigation the CDC assisted. The study held the promise of finding a culprit, in part because of

new technology that could trace toxins in blood and urine.

"The CDC was very hopeful that they might be able to pinpoint something," said Martha Framsted, a spokeswoman for the Nevada State Health Division.

Yet tests for dozens of contaminants in blood, urine, soil, dust and the air showed the cancer-stricken families had virtually the same exposure to pollutants as did healthy neighbors.

Only two readings came back abnormally high: tungsten and arsenic. But tungsten isn't considered a carcinogen, and arsenic isn't associated with leukemia.

"They've acknowledged that this occurred, but they've pretty much moved forward," Framsted said.

Florida officials hope Acreage residents will do the same. The state is wrapping up the second phase of its investigation.

In its Aug. 10 summary, the DEP said that despite finding some contaminants beyond acceptable limits in soil samples, it "found no evidence of significant spills, dumping or area-wide contamination." And water quality in the community of 40,000, which relies mainly on wells, is "generally good." Staff researchers Niels Heimeriks and Michelle Quigley contributed to this story.

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Acreage cancer watch

Get the latest news, photos and video; discuss the issue on our blogs.

PalmBeachPost.com/cancerwatch



Reno Gazette-Journal file photo

Cancer treatment: Sareynah Rivers, watched by her mother, Carinsa, rests after a chemotherapy session in 2001 in Reno, Nev. Sareynah was sickened in the Fallon childhood leukemia cluster. Only one new case of childhood leukemia has been reported in Fallon since 2004.

Fallon, Churchill County, Nev., 2000-06

What happened: A state study found a childhood leukemia cluster in Churchill County: 16 cases from 1997 through 2002, when only one or two would have been expected. The city is 30 miles from an underground nuclear test site used in 1963, and not far from a base that's home to the Navy's 'Top Gun' training program.

The investigation: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and experts from several states took part in the investigation, which included genetic testing. Investigators tested for more than 100 pesticides, metals and other contaminants in blood, urine and soil, and reviewed environmental records for a nearby U.S. naval air station and a fuel pipeline connected to it.

The outcome: Most contaminants were within acceptable limits. Levels of arsenic and tungsten were high, but they aren't associated with childhood leukemia, nor were they particular to Churchill County. Tests showed that children with leukemia had a particular genetic variation, but so did almost half of the children in a control group who didn't have leukemia. Only one new childhood leukemia case has been reported since 2004.

Woburn, Mass., 1979-97

What happened: In 1981, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health confirmed a childhood leukemia cluster in Woburn, where leather and chemical manufacturing had taken place for about 130 years. Health officials confirmed 12 cases between 1969 and 1979, when five or six would have been expected. Nine more cases were diagnosed from 1980 to 1986.

The investigation: Two city drinking wells were closed after tests showed contamination with chemicals such as trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene. Six of the 12 leukemia patients lived within six blocks of the area served by the wells. A subsequent study suggested that the risk of leukemia was higher for a child whose mother drank water from those wells while pregnant.

The outcome: W.R. Grace & Co. reached an \$8 million settlement with eight families, as documented in the book and movie *A Civil Action*. But the subsequent study said results linking the pollution and leukemia 'must be interpreted with caution.'

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