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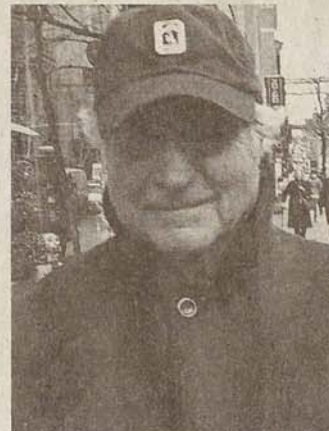
Political Pulse

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Sands could lose millions in Madoff deal

House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands, D-Weston, reported his net worth last year at \$7.3 million, most of it in cash investments that now could be wiped away by the alleged Ponzi scheme of Bernard Madoff (right). Sands told the *Sun Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale that he will have to find another full-time job because he had invested virtually his entire life savings through Madoff's firm. His financial-disclosure form filed in December 2007 showed Sands' assets included \$4.2 million in savings, a home and condo valued at \$2.4 million, more than \$200,000 in other stocks and bonds, and \$20,000 in a checking account. His annual lawmaker's income totaled about \$33,000, while his investment income was \$170,000. A statement by the House Minority Office on Monday said Sands would remain minority leader, saying, "Sands is determining . . . the extent of the significant financial loss and his options for recovering his investment. . . . He remains confident in his ability to serve his constituents. . . ."

— AARON DESLATTE



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Sentinel School Zone

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UCF group aims to aid Haitians with water

In its first international project, the Engineers Without Borders chapter at the University of Central Florida is helping design and fund a cistern-based system to provide clean water to the 10,000 residents of the Haitian town of Mare Brignole. The idea is to give residents an alternative to hauling 5-gallon buckets of water from a spring miles from town, which can take six to seven hours on foot. The students are looking to design a system that captures rain rolling off the roofs at two community buildings and channels it into large cisterns. They are also planning a water-filtration and disinfection system. The UCF group would like more students to join them. Volunteers do not have to be engineering students.

— LUIS ZARAGOZA

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