

IN THE PAPER

CHAPTER 1

TODAY, DEC. 2
THE NEW WORLD

As calves growing up in Africa, the elephants survived the slaughter of their families. Now, facing another death sentence, they are loaded onto a 747 headed for Florida.

CHAPTER 2

MONDAY, DEC. 3
ORPHANS

At Lowry Park, a keeper stays through the night with the elephants, watching for clues into how they're adjusting to their first days in captivity. Others fight to save an abandoned baby manatee, bottle-feeding him in their arms.

CHAPTER 3

THURSDAY, DEC. 6
IMPERFECT LOVE

The queen of the zoo spurns another suitor, even as her endangered species approaches extinction. The king, old and vulnerable after an upbringing among humans, clings to his throne.

CHAPTER 4

FRIDAY, DEC. 7
WILD

On a rain-drenched river, experts pursue one of Lowry Park's most beloved manatees as he swims toward freedom. At the zoo, in an elaborate display of technology, specialists from Berlin attempt to impregnate a female elephant.

CHAPTER 5

SUNDAY, DEC. 9
SEX-POWER-STATUS

Two Sumatran tigers circle in a potentially lethal mating dance. Lowry Park's CEO — the true alpha — maps the zoo's future.

CHAPTER 6

MONDAY, DEC. 10
THE HUMAN EXHIBIT

Alpha humans, in tuxes and gowns, slip through the zoo after dark for a late-night encounter with the elephants. Lowry Park goes into overdrive for the grand unveiling of a continent.

CHAPTER 7

THURSDAY, DEC. 13
THE CITY & THE FOREST

A handful of Lowry Park's creatures journey to Manhattan to appear on late-night TV. A keeper wades into the Panamanian jungle in search of an endangered species. Back at the zoo, the staff is caught off guard by a momentous birth.

CHAPTER 8

FRIDAY, DEC. 14
CODE ONE

An exodus of keepers raises questions about Lowry Park's direction. A coup is attempted against the king.

CHAPTER 9

SUNDAY, DEC. 16
DUSK

An overlooked detail leads to one of the worst days in Lowry Park's history. The staff looks for answers. Back in Africa, so does the family that lives among the elephants of Swaziland.

ZOO STORY GUIDE

LIFE. DEATH. THE PARADOX OF FREEDOM.
A SERIES BY TIMES STAFF WRITER THOMAS FRENCH

ON THE WEB SITE

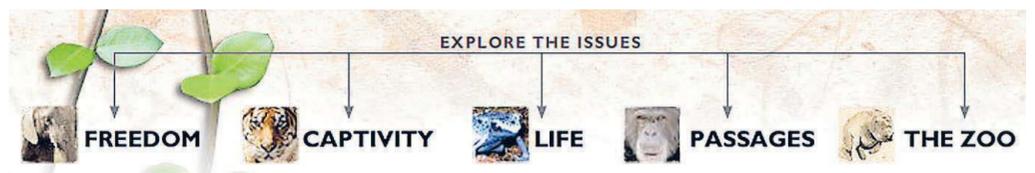
tampabay.com

Go to tampabay.com for an in-depth multimedia presentation about Lowry Park, wildlife conservation and the role of zoos.

ZOO STORY LIFE. DEATH. THE PARADOX OF FREEDOM

CONTINUE

LOVE. SEX. POWER. ESCAPE. MISTAKEN IDENTITY. OBSESSION. EXILE. SEDUCTION. CONSPIRACY. STATUS. GRIEF AND LOSS. EXTINCTION. A KING CHALLENGED. A QUEEN UNLEASHED. ELEVEN ELEPHANTS, FLYING. IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE ZOO.



IN THEIR WORDS

- Video interview with Zoo Story reporter Thomas French and photographer Stefanie Boyar.
- French's audio interview with author Yann Martel, whose novel *Life of Pi* inspired this series.

SPECIAL ONLINE FEATURES

- An interactive map of Lowry Park with animal photos and video.
- Audio slide shows of Lowry Park's elephants, Sumatran tigers, blue poison dart frogs, Panamanian golden frogs and chimpanzees.
- An audio interview with Swazi preservationist Mick Reilly.
- Audio interviews with wildlife experts debating the role of zoos.
- Video of Lowry Park's white tigers and penguins.
- A video interview with Dan Costell, a keeper in the zoo's reptiles and aquatics department.
- Video of keepers feeding manatees.
- Video interview with Lex Salisbury, Lowry Park's CEO.

TOOLS FOR LEARNING



The Times' Newspaper in Education program has an extensive collection of materials to be used in the classroom or at home with family. Go to www.tampabay.com/nie/zoo.



STEFANIE BOYAR | Times

- **What do you think the zoos of the future will look like? Middle and high school students can enter the NIE FutureZoo contest to share their ideas.**
- Develop higher level thinking skills with our discussion questions.
- Check out the "ZooWrap" art contest for elementary students.
- Sample an array of multimedia resources, including a monitored blog and links to safe Web sites where students can learn more about zoos, endangered species, habitats and zoo-related careers.
- Find out how to order the series for use in the classroom.

Tim Tebow:
Heisman hopeful
a born leader. **3C**

Life as a backup: Always ready, never
sure when you'll play. **GAMEDAY, 1C**

Will Luke
McCown
play
today?



St. Petersburg Times

tampabay.com

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

Sunday, December 2, 2007

Lot of curve balls could derail Rays

Any number of factors could stall their plans for a new stadium.

BY AARON SHAROCKMAN
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Tampa Bay Rays hope to break ground on a downtown waterfront stadium in 500 days.

But getting there will test the limits of government and the patience of people.

Rays officials insist they can make their schedule. Others are uncertain if the stadium ever will be built.

Here's why. Ahead of a planned citywide referendum next November, the Rays need to — in no particular order:

- Convince Mayor Rick Baker and other city leaders that a new stadium is a good idea.
- Receive a \$60-million pledge from the cash-strapped state

Legislature.

- Get the city and Pinellas County to amend the master plan for St. Petersburg's downtown.

- Generate enough interest in Tropicana Field to fetch at least \$100-million from its sale.

- Create a workable traffic plan.

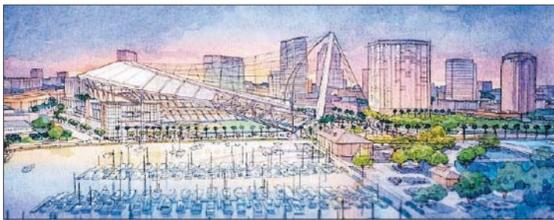
- Navigate several state and federal regulatory agencies.

- Work out a plan to pay off the city's existing debt at Tropicana Field.

One misstep could doom the project, which the Rays say would be worth more than \$1-billion.

And even if they succeed, the Rays must still get city voters to approve.

"There are a thousand mov-
» See RAYS, 9A



Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Rays

Getting the money to build their vision of a new home might not be the hardest part of making it happen for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Deputy works in shadow of doubt

Questions of conduct follow the career of Pasco County Deputy Robert Gattuso.

BY THOMAS LAKE
Times Staff Writer

On a warm fall night two years ago, as the moon rose over Lake Tarpon, a silver Nissan Pathfinder rolled down a boat ramp and plunged into water the color of dark chocolate.

No one was inside as the Pathfinder sank. Its registered owner was Robert Scott Gattuso, a resident of New Port Richey. He said it had been stolen.

Gattuso was a Pasco County sheriff's deputy. He was paid to investigate others. Now he found himself under investigation.

Again.

In two decades with the agency, Gattuso has been investigated for 30 possible policy violations. Thirteen of the allegations were sustained, including discourtesy, insubordination, conduct unbecoming, conflict of interest and attempted forgery. In one case, Sheriff Bob White kept him suspended, with pay,



Pasco Deputy Robert Gattuso has been investigated for 30 possible policy violations.

for more than a year — meaning Gattuso collected nearly \$48,000 for no work — and then returned him to the road, with a badge and a .40-caliber Glock, to enforce the laws of Florida.

Gattuso remains employed by Sheriff White today. So do others with extensive records of careless job performance.

Deputy Andrew Izrailov has been accused of 22 policy violations; 10 of those allegations were confirmed by internal-affairs investigators. He once failed to check out a domestic battery complaint in which the suspect had a gun.

» See GATTUSO, 10A

LIFE. DEATH.

THE PARADOX OF FREEDOM.

A NINE-PART SERIES BY TIMES STAFF WRITER THOMAS FRENCH



STEFANIE BOYAR | Times

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is a place of seduction and betrayal, desire and fury, limitless joy and sorrow. ■ Some call it a sanctuary. To others, it is a prison. ■ Whether you take your kids to see the animals every Sunday or avoid the zoo out of principle, Lowry Park has grown into a fixture. In recent years, it has undergone a massive expansion, with a declared ambition to become one of the best zoos in the country.

IN 2003, staff writer Thomas French and staff photographer Stefanie Boyar began chronicling the transformation. They reported on the animals and the humans entrusted with their care. They hiked into the forests of Panama with a keeper trying to save a rare frog species. French visited the African savannah where four elephants roamed before they were brought to the zoo amid protest and debate.

THE SERIES opens with the elephants' epic journey to a life of captivity. Over two weeks, the story will take readers inside many lives at Lowry Park. A Sumatran tiger resisting the mating call of her suitors, even as she and her species run out of time. An alpha chimpanzee fighting for his throne. Lowry Park's CEO wading into international controversy as he tries to reinvent the zoo. The four wild elephants who survived the slaughter of their families in Africa.

THEIR STORY, WHICH BEGINS IN TODAY'S FLORIDIAN, is about love, sex, power, money. About the shadow of extinction and the intersection between commerce and conservation. The nature of freedom on an overcrowded planet.

ZOO story

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Editor's note:
Due to the "Zoo Story," Floridian puzzles are on 3E today.

Abby 3E
Arts 2L
Books 10-11L
Classified 5F
Crossword 3E, 5P
Letters 2P
Movies 2E
Travel 4L

IN LATITUDES

Sin City East

Winter in Atlantic City is no time for the weak. Especially in the casinos. **1L**

IN PERSPECTIVE

Truth-O-Meter matters

As long as politicians are going to take liberties with the truth, Politifact.com is going to nitpick. **1P**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny

8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.
66° 80° 81° 71°
0% rain chance. More, **2A**

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Candidates count on field marshals

GOP activists work to get voters out for their guy on Jan. 29.

BY JENNIFER LIBERTO, DAVID DECAMP AND JOHN FRANK
Times Staff Writers

Meet a front-line political warrior who may help determine whether Florida delivers the GOP primary to Mitt Romney or Rudy Giuliani:

Nick Hansen, Romney's 25-year-old Tampa Bay field organizer, is a rapid-talking former camp counselor who really likes to use the word "really," but sounds like he has never heard the word "decaf."

"We really, really, really want people to see us walking out there and talking with volunteers," Hansen told a group of volunteers setting out to spread the Gospel of Mitt to a select group of Repub-

lican households in northeast St. Petersburg recently. "It's a big deal. This is a big, big thing for us to see if we can get out the vote early. So, I really, really appreciate you guys being here so early."

With 10 major TV markets, two time zones and 10-million registered voters, statewide campaigns in Florida rely heavily on TV ads rather than the sort of person-to-person, grass roots
» See GRASS ROOTS, 7A