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Friday, December 6
10am-4pm
Former "Quiznos" location
Everything must go!
ALL PRICES NEGOTIABLE

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Sears Craftsman 46 inch deck, 21 HP Briggs and Stratton turn tight hydrostatic riding lawn mower. 6 Bushel 2 bin soft bagger, extra new blade, used 2 and a half summers. \$1,350 firm.

Craftsman 33 inch, 357cc dual stage snowblower with EZ steer, heated hand grips, electric start, used less than 8 hours. \$1,250 firm.

Both for \$2,400 firm. Call (605)661-0321.

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Both for \$2,400 firm. Call (605)661-0321.

Snow blower: Ariens, 8HP, 24", 5-speed-FW/REV, with chains, electric start, very good condition, \$400. (605)661-3620.

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1820 Give Aways

Giveaway: Standing dry ash & elm firewood. Call (605)665-9963 after 6pm.

Call Classifieds 665-7811

Reform

From Page 16

Alarmed GOP insiders jump-started congressional talks toward a bipartisan immigration overhaul, and Boehner announced the time had come for Congress to act.

But the speaker has refused to take up the Senate's sweeping bipartisan overhaul of immigration laws, even though it would probably pass the House with Democratic support; nor are House Republicans expected to vote on their own measures any time soon.

Divisions among the House GOP have left the party at a standstill. More Republican lawmakers than ever — nearly two dozen, by some counts — support the cornerstone of an immigration overhaul, which is a path to citizenship for immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

But many more oppose legalization efforts. Most House Republicans represent conservative districts, configured to include few minority voters. The handful of exceptions have already come under pressure in their districts, but most have little interest in the subject.

"There's just no cohesion there yet," said Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who has tried to persuade his fellow Republicans to take action. "All I hope is that they realize that the issue is not going away, that we need to act on it, that we'd be glad to consider any proposals or ideas they have."

Hedging the political risks, House GOP leaders continue working behind the scenes with lawmakers to draft a series of bills that could be brought forward next year.

Together, they would resemble the main ingredients of the comprehensive Senate bill. One, from Majority Leader Eric Cantor of

Virginia, would provide a path to citizenship for young people brought to the U.S. illegally as minors. Another would allow adult immigrants to apply for legal status as border security is ramped up.

President Barack Obama has extended a hand to Boehner several times by saying he would be open to the House GOP's piecemeal approach rather than the Senate's big package.

"It's Thanksgiving; we can carve that bird into multiple pieces," Obama said during a speech in San Francisco last Monday. "A drumstick here, breast meat there. But as long as all the pieces get done — soon — and we actually deliver on the core values we've been talking about for so long, I think everybody is fine with it."

House Republicans, though, have resisted most White House initiatives. Many Republicans prefer to use the months ahead investigating what went wrong with the health care law. And some House members seem to have missed the memo on new talking points.

In March, after the memo was distributed on Capitol Hill, one of the House's longest-serving Republican members, Don Young of Alaska, used a racial slur to describe the migrants who once worked on his family's California farm.

Rep. Steve King of Iowa, who sponsored the legislation to allow deportation of young immigrants to resume, said some of them had "calves the size of cantaloupes" from hauling drugs across the border.

Longtime immigration advocate Frank Sharry, executive director of America's Voice, warned that Republicans would face another election defeat if they failed to translate their new talking points into legislative action.

"Boehner, if he kills off immigration reform, will be remembered as the speaker who killed the GOP," Sharry said.

Chalice

From Page 15

"This would be a gesture with meaning for the people of Iran."

Some experts believe the vessel, known as a rhyton, was crafted in the seventh century B.C. in what later became the Persian Empire, now Iran. It features three trumpet-shaped cups that sprout from the body of a griffin, a fabled creature that typically has the head and wings of a bird and the body of a lion. On the chalice, the eyes are deep-set and wide open, like those of a bird of prey.

The object was allegedly part of a cache of antiquities found in a cave near the Iraqi border in the 1980s, shortly after Iran's Islamic Revolution.

"These were great treasures from a great civilization," said Fariborz Ghadar, an Iranian scholar who served as a deputy economic minister to Iran's shah. "Their discovery was of great significance to those who consider themselves Persians, who honor that period in history."

In 2003, the chalice surfaced in the hands of a well-known antiquities dealer, Hicham Aboutaam, who ran a firm based in Geneva. As he passed through U.S. customs at Newark International Airport, Aboutaam presented a certificate indicating the vessel was from Syria. He was waved through.

Aboutaam then set out to document the object's value. Three experts he consulted determined it was from Iran; two concluded it was consistent with the antiquities taken from the cave. An art collector was prepared to pay \$1 million, but federal investigators caught wind of it. They charged that the object had been taken from Iran illicitly, making its importation to the U.S. illegal. The dealer was prosecuted and paid a \$5,000 fine.

The chalice was then placed in a climate-controlled storage unit.

The value of the chalice remains uncertain. Some have maintained that it is not 2,700 years old at all, but a modern fake. But Iranian officials have insisted it is genuine and demanded its return.

In Iran, Ghadar said, seizure of any of the nation's antiquities by the West "was a sign of great disrespect."

When Rouhani announced plans to attend the U.N. General Assembly in New York in September, Obama's advisers decided the moment was right for a gesture.

A day after Obama delivered his annual address to the world body, the American diplomat received an email from Washington, which he read at his desk three blocks from U.N. headquarters. He was instructed to find a way to return the griffin chalice to the Iranians with no fanfare before Rouhani left in two days.

A courier from the Department of Homeland Security, of which customs is a division, took the griffin in a dusty brown box from Queens to the Manhattan offices of the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

The diplomat signed for it in the lobby, then set in motion a plan he had been devising.

U.S. and Iranian diplomats can talk with one another on a short list of issues, such as helping the Iranians set up a bank account or get diplomatic license plates.

The U.S. diplomat called the Iranian con-

tact for such matters and said he had something to deliver before Rouhani left. The Iranian agreed to meet.

Quickly, the diplomat took a photo of the griffin and printed a card explaining its history and why it was in U.S. hands. The Iranian contact might not recognize the object, he worried.

Thinking a cardboard box was no way to present a precious object, he bought a white gift bag at Hallmark, choosing that color so as not to imply it was a gift.

"Plain white gift bags are actually kind of hard to find," he said in a recent interview.

Clutching the bag as he walked to the meeting, he was relieved that the place he had chosen was outside the security perimeter in a section of U.N. headquarters that was mostly vacant due to renovations.

"I didn't know how I was going to explain this if it went through security screening," he said.

When he took his seat, he slid the bag across the conference table. He said the United States wanted to give the griffin to Rouhani. The Iranian diplomat looked inside. His eyes grew wide.

The Iranian stood, looked at the American and thanked him. In the U.S. diplomat's 10 years in the foreign service, he had never had a one-on-one meeting, let alone extended eye contact, with an Iranian peer.

"He gave this lovely speech, telling me how much this meant to the Iranian people, and to him personally," the U.S. diplomat said. "It was an important moment. I know I'll never forget it."

Two days later, Rouhani accepted a telephone call from Obama, the first such high-level contact since 1979, when militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking hostages they held for 444 days.

In the United States, the diplomatic hand-off, which the State Department revealed in a Twitter message, drew mixed reactions.

"There is a thin line between gestures of friendship and gestures that display desperation to negotiate," said Elliott Abrams, a foreign policy adviser to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. "I think a gesture like moving carriers into the (Persian) Gulf is more likely to get us a successful negotiation."

But Ghadar said the griffin's return sent an important message to Iranians.

"The Iranians kept saying, 'We want you to show us respect,'" he said. "This says, 'With respect to the Iranian people, we are sending this back.'"

In Tehran, Rouhani spoke to the news media after returning from the U.N. Reclining in an armchair in a wood-paneled conference room, he said the return of the griffin took place with "due ceremony."

A day later, Mohammad Ali Najafi, the head of Iranian cultural heritage and tourism, summoned reporters to his office. Beaming, he gently held the griffin aloft and called it "a sign of goodwill from the U.S.A."

Photos appeared in pro-reform newspapers, while hard-liners, angered by Rouhani's overtures to the West, dismissed the chalice as fraudulent.

"We do not look a gift horse in the mouth," Najafi said. "Even if it is fake, it is worthy."

Los Angeles Times special correspondent Ramin Mostaghim in Tehran contributed to this report.

Drones

From Page 14

was the scorched wreckage of his pickup. Others showed what appeared to be corpses wrapped in bloodied burial shrouds, and a wrapped body lowered into a grave carved from the hardened ground.

The men, as has Karzai for years, complained of U.S. military night raids. Five years ago, Gul said, U.S. soldiers stormed his house at night. He said he, his two brothers and his father were handcuffed, detained and interrogated before being released.

After the Sept. 7 airstrike,

the men said, angry villagers confronted Gov. Jalala in the provincial capital, Asadabad. They demanded an apology from the United States. The governor told them it was "an American affair" and he could do nothing, the men said.

The villagers said the families had received no compensation from the coalition. Crichton said that a condolence payment was made to one family but that the ISAF had not identified other families who may have suffered losses.

"We don't want compensation," Jan said. "We want the Americans to find the person who reported Taliban and terrorists in that truck, and we want him prosecuted and punished for his lies."

The men scoffed at U.S. insistence that the rights of

Afghan women be improved. "Is it women's rights when they kill women and mix their body parts with men's?" Jan asked.

With drones flying over their villages, the men said, they sleep the uneasy sleep of the fearful. Another strike or raid could come at any time.

The villagers say they cling to their best evidence that the United States kills and maims Afghan civilians — the lone survivor, Haisha. "God's gift," said white-bearded Rahmat Gul, glancing up at the sky. "God left her alive as proof."

Los Angeles Times special correspondent Hashmat Baktash in Kabul contributed to this report.

Man Survives 3 Days At Bottom Of The Atlantic

BY MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — Entombed at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in an upended tugboat for three days, Harrison Odjegba Okene begged God for a miracle.

The Nigerian cook survived by breathing an ever-dwindling supply of oxygen in an air pocket. A video of Okene's rescue in May — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArWGLmKCqE> — that was posted on the Internet more than six months later has gone viral this week.

As the temperature dropped to freezing, Okene, dressed only in boxer shorts, recited the last psalm his wife had sent by text message, sometimes called the Prayer for Deliverance: "Oh God, by your name, save me. ... The Lord sustains my life."

To this day, Okene believes his rescue after 72 hours underwater at a depth of 30 meters (about 100 feet) is a sign of divine deliverance. The other 11 seamen aboard the Jascon 4 died.

Divers sent to the scene were looking only for bodies, according to Tony Walker, project manager for the Dutch company DCN Diving.

The divers, who were working on a neighboring oil field 120 kilometers (75 miles) away when they were deployed, had already pulled up four bodies.

So when a hand appeared on the TV screen Walker was monitoring in the rescue boat, showing what the diver in the Jascon saw, everybody assumed it was another corpse.

"The diver acknowledged that he had seen the hand and then, when he went to grab the hand, the hand grabbed him!" Walker said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

On the video, there's an exclamation of fear and shock from Okene's rescuer, and then joy as the realization sets in. Okene recalls hearing: "There's a survivor! He's alive."

Okene's ordeal began around 4:30 a.m. on May 26. Always an early riser, he was in the toilet when the tug, one of three towing an oil tanker in

Nigeria's oil-rich Delta waters, gave a sudden lurch and then keeled over.

He groped his way out of the toilet and tried to find a vent, propping doors open as he moved on. He discovered some tools and a life vest with two flashlights, which he stuffed into his shorts.

When he found a cabin of the sunken vessel that felt safe, he began the long wait, getting colder and colder as he played back a mental tape of his life — remembering his mother, friends, mostly the woman he'd married five years before with whom he hadn't yet fathered a child.

He worried about his colleagues — 10 Nigerians and the Ukrainian captain including four young cadets from Nigeria's Maritime Academy. They would have locked themselves into their cabins, standard procedure in an area stalked by pirates.

He got really worried when he heard the sound of fish, shark or barracudas he supposed, eating and fighting over something big.

As the waters rose, he made a rack on top of a platform and piled two mattresses on top.

According to his interview with the *Nation*: "I started calling on the name of God. ... I started reminiscing on the verses I read before I slept. I read the Bible from Psalm 54 to 92. My wife had sent me the verses to read that night when she called me before I went to bed."

He survived off just one bottle of Coke, all he had to sustain him during the trauma.

By the time he was saved, relatives already had been told the sailors were dead.

Okene kept faith with the psalm he recited, that promises to "give thanks in your name, Lord," at a service at his Redeemed Christian Church of God.

He was rescued by a diver who first used hot water to warm him up, then attached him to an oxygen mask. Once free of the sunken boat, he was put into a decompression chamber and then safely returned to the surface.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Fight
7 First man
11 Devotee
12 Designer Wang
13 Crew activity
14 Gung-ho
15 Picked up quickly
17 Put together
20 Worry
23 Flamenco cry
24 Reckless jaunt
26 Crater part
27 Reverent wonder
28 Keats work
29 Dodged
31 Convent occupant
32 Door holder's words
33 African serpents
34 Delhi native
37 Lotion additive
39 Geriatrics topic
43 Bobcat's cousin
44 Cotton pest
45 For fear that
46 Useful skills
- DOWN**
1 Watering hole
2 Hubbub
3 Road rescue
4 Hackneyed
5 Letterman rival
6 Therefore
7 Film set on Pandora
8 Prayers
9 Onassis nickname
10 Fuming
16 Typed in
17 Principled
18 Full of energy
19 Military punishments
21 Make sense
22 Prom crowd
24 Blasé
25 Need to pay
30 Cry from the first in line
33 Peruvian peaks
35 Corn Belt state
36 Brighton brews
37 Completely
38 Caustic stuff
40 Blvd.'s kin
41 "Va-moose!"
42 Golfer Ernie

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R	E	S	T	S		O	B	E	S	E				

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13							14			
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17	18	19				20		21	22	
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26								28		
29			30					31		
32							33			
37	38					39		40	41	42
43							44			
45										

A X Y D L B A A X R is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

Y V B Y L A C M X X M B R M O Q L
E X M R Y Z Q A A F R F A S . J Q
B M O ' S Q U Z Q H S F S C Y H N .

— M A H Y X B F V K Q
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONE SHOULD AIM NOT AT BEING POSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND, BUT AT BEING IMPOSSIBLE TO MISUNDERSTAND.
— QUINTILIAN