

"It's too soon to tell if the Obama presidency is having an effect on race for blacks and whites here." — Anita Dennis, Fort Myers

RACE

Sworn in on the Lincoln Bible: Has our new president changed our feelings on race?



Barack Obama places his hand on the Abraham Lincoln bible as he is sworn in as the 44th president of the U. S.

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

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WHEN MORNING BROKE across the District of Columbia on Monday, March 4, spring had come to town: trees

awakened in leaf and bud, flowers bloomed profusely throughout Washington's gardens, and James Buchanan met Abraham Lincoln at the Willard Hotel for breakfast. From there they walked arm-in-arm to the Capitol building, whose dome rose unfinished above the platform where Mr. Lincoln would be sworn in at about 1 p.m.

Although lacking any formal religious pretension, Mr. Lincoln decided to follow a precedent established by George Washington

SEE RACE, A8 ►



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'Wicked' good

"Wicked," with music by Stephen Schwartz, opens at Mann Hall on March 7. **C1** ►



SWF Wine & Food Fest

See who was out and about in Lee County society. **C27, 28, 30 & 31** ►



The circus is coming

World-class aerialists and illusionists perform at Circus Sarasota 2009. **A25** ►

Make it art, or at least comply with postal regulations

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

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Clair Millis' mailbox has the aura of an old Western, where it stands alone along a rural stretch of Cemetery Road in Buckingham. It's covered with ornate stones and flanked by a large cactus, which blooms every year.

"I did it to be different," Mr. Millis said.

But his box also complies with postal regu-

lations: it's clean and visible, high enough that drivers don't have to lean down or up to put the mail in, and free of bugs or stinging insects.

Anne Murray, the postmaster for Fort Myers and Cape Coral, hopes others follow his lead.

In the tradition of mail box art, and with

SEE MAILBOXES, A10 ►



fiberglass sculptures are popular for mail boxes in Southwest Florida.



Real estate

Looking for a good deal on a new home? Check the ads in the real estate section. **D1** ►

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

ROGER WILLIAMS A2
OPINION A4
15 MINUTES A6
BUSINESS B1

ON THE MOVE B4
NETWORKING B9, 10 & 11
ARTS C1
EVENTS C6&7

NANCY STETSON C8
SOCIETY C27, 28, 30 & 31
CUISINE C35
REAL ESTATE D1-16

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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: MARCH 4, 2009

