

**THE UNDECIDED VOTERS**  
 Ron Wiggins finds out why  
**IN ACCENT**



**GREG STODA SAYS: DON'T BRING BACK STEVE SPURRIER!**  
**IN SPORTS**



**75th anniversary of market crash raises questions**  
**IN BUSINESS**

# The Palm Beach Post

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## Bush rips Kerry on missing explosives

*They may have been moved before U.S. troops arrived, he says.*

By ELISABETH BUMILLER and JODI WILGOREN  
*The New York Times*

PONTIAC, Mich. — President Bush broke his silence Wednesday on the disappearance of 380 tons of explosives in Iraq, accusing Sen. John Kerry of making "wild charges" and of "denigrating the actions" of troops in the field.

Kerry immediately shot back that while "our troops are doing a heroic job, the president, the commander in chief, is not doing his job."

The president's comments, his first on the missing explosives since Kerry began charging him with incompetence Monday for failing to secure Iraq after the American-led invasion, reflected concern in the Bush campaign that the issue could be hurting the president less than a week before an extraordinarily close election.

■ **Many scenarios could produce electoral tie, 9A**

The missing explosives were reported first by *The New York Times* and CBS News. Since then, the issue — and the possibility that U.S. troops in Iraq let the explosives slip into terrorist hands — has dominated the presidential campaign.

"Our military is now investigating a number of possible scenarios, including that the explosives may have been moved before our troops even arrived at the site," Bush told thousands of Republicans at an airport rally in Lancaster County, Pa., his first stop of a day that took him through three states.

"This investigation is important and it's ongoing, and a political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief," Bush said.

The timing of the disappearance of the explosives is critical to the political arguments of both campaigns. Kerry's charge that the administration did not adequately secure the country and was unprepared for the war's aftermath presumes that the explosives disappeared after the fall of Saddam

See CAMPAIGN, 8A ▶

## RED SOX END 86-YEAR 'CURSE'



MICHAEL DWYER/The Associated Press

BOSTON — Red Sox fans in a bar near Fenway Park react to Trot Nixon's two-run double in the third inning Wednesday night in Game 4 of the World Series. Boston went on to defeat the Cardinals 3-0 in St. Louis for a four-game sweep and its first World Series championship since 1918, ending the so-called 'Curse of the Bambino.' **Sports, 1C**

## School security high for election

*Amid fears of possible terror attacks on 'soft targets,' all doors at schools used as polling sites will be locked.*

By CYNTHIA KOPKOWSKI  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

The 73 Palm Beach County schools used as polling places will be in a security lockdown on Election Day because of fears that terrorists or anyone else seeking to disrupt the presidential election could target the buildings.

The district has not received any threats specific to Palm Beach County schools, Superintendent Art Johnson said. But he and schools Police Chief Jim Kelly believe the district must be concerned about schools being "soft targets" for terrorism.

"We are simply listening to the same news everyone else is listening to and what we've heard is the possibility of people trying to disrupt our election process," Johnson said. "We are going to exercise the highest degree of preparedness."

Although schools have been used for elections the past two years, this is the first presidential election since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The anticipated heavy turnout will mean more strangers on campus than in previous elections.

Slightly less than half of the district's schools are polling locations.

Under the "code yellow" lockdown — a level below the more serious "code red" for a known threat on campus — all doors will be

See SCHOOLS, 12A ▶

### Code yellow

Under the school district's 'code yellow' lockdown Tuesday:

- All doors will be locked during classes.
- Teachers will need to escort students to any other area of the campus between classes.
- Staff will monitor halls during class changes.

## Early voting turnout lowest among large counties

*Demand for absentee ballots is higher than in the past.*

By JANE MUSGRAVE  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Sure, the lines wrap around the building, giving voters ample time to not only read a sample ballot but finish off a novel or two.

But, according to a comparison of early and absentee voting throughout Florida, far fewer people are voting early in Palm Beach County than in any large county in the state.

As of Wednesday, about 30,000 people had voted at the eight early voting locations, Supervisor of Elections Theresa LePore said.

In Orange County, which has 200,000 fewer registered voters, 37,000 people had cast early ballots.

■ **Graham still a political force, 6A**

In Hillsborough County, which has 100,000 fewer voters, 43,756 had cast ballots since early voting began Oct. 18.

At the same time, however, the demand for absentee ballots in Palm Beach County is supernaturally high. But so is its population of retirees, who are more likely to need them, experts said.

That's why LePore has mailed out almost the same number of absentee ballots as Miami-Dade County, even though Palm Beach County has about 300,000 fewer voters, experts said.

Absentee ballot requests in Broward County, which also has a significant elderly population and where voting problems were rampant

See EARLY, 12A ▶

## NEW HUMAN SPECIES

*Anthropologists say Flores Man, 3 feet tall, made stone tools, built fires and organized group hunts for meat.*

By JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA  
*The Associated Press*

In an astonishing discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution, scientists say they have found the skeleton of a new human species, a dwarf, marooned for eons while modern man rapidly colonized the rest of the planet.

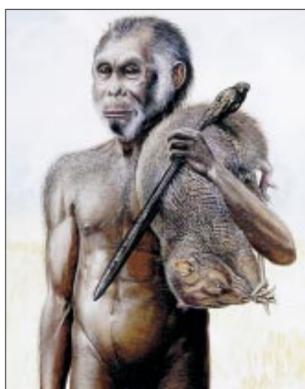
The finding on a remote Indonesian island has stunned anthropologists like no other in recent memory. It is a fundamentally new creature that bears more of a re-

semblance to *Lord of the Rings'* hobbits than modern humans.

Biologically, however, it may have been closely related to us and perhaps even shared its caves with our ancestors.

The 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton, found in a cave, is believed to be 18,000 years old. It smashes the long-cherished scientific belief that our species, *Homo sapiens*, systematically crowded out other upright-walking human

See SPECIES, 4A ▶



PETER SCHOUTEN/National Geographic Illustration  
 Scientists say bones found in Indonesia are from a humanlike species that used tools and hunted in groups 18,000 years ago.

## Air bag kills 5-year-old in crash during ride home

By ROCHELLE BRENNER  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

LAKE WORTH — It was a quick trip, less than a mile.

Hours later, Lisa Salazar sat on her couch wracked with guilt, clutching a purple teddy bear instead of her 5-year-old daughter.

"I just picked her up from school," said Salazar, 38. "It was such a short trip."

Alexandria had jumped in the front passenger seat of her mother's 1994 Dodge Caravan around 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, eager to deliver the news that she had received a happy face in her kindergarten class at South Grade Elementary School.

Her 1½-year-old brother, A.J., was buckled up in the car seat behind her. But Alexandria was sitting so nicely, Salazar didn't think to put on the girl's seat belt.



**Alexandria Salazar:** The Lake Worth kindergartner loved *Shrek*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, art and doting on her baby brother.

See AIR BAG, 5A ▶

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**Weather:**  
 Partly cloudy and warm.  
 High 83,  
 low 70.  
 FORECAST ON  
 BACK PAGE  
 OF SPORTS

BUSINESS	1D	LOTTERY	2A
CLASSIFIED	1F	PEOPLE	16A
CROSSWORD	7F	SCORES	12C
DEATHS	8B	STOCKS	3D
EDITORIALS	18A	THEATERS	3E
HOROSCOPE	2E	WEATHER	12C
TV LISTINGS, COMICS		IN ACCENT	

**Keep tabs on traffic every 10 minutes**  
 Check on accident and construction updates.  
**PalmBeachPost.com**

**Arafat collapses, in serious condition**  
 Jordanian doctors are en route to treat the Palestinian leader. **Story, 2A**

**Extra-wide I-95 lane causing consternation**  
 A machine's breakdown leaves drivers squeezing by on either side. **Local, 1B**

FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 561-820-4663