



Is it the year of the running back in the SEC?

SPORTS, 1D

Ole Miss' BenJarvus Green-Ellis, above

WEATHER



System may spare Brevard

A giant mass of swirling clouds hovering over Florida is expected to bring intermittent rain to Brevard today as it moves across the state and possibly develops into a tropical or subtropical system when it nears the Gulf of Mexico, the National Weather Service in Melbourne says, **1B**

Sunny, highs near 87

Chance of rain 40 percent. Winds 4-20 mph. Overnight lows near 75, **10A**

SPORTS

Track star Carter set to surrender to police

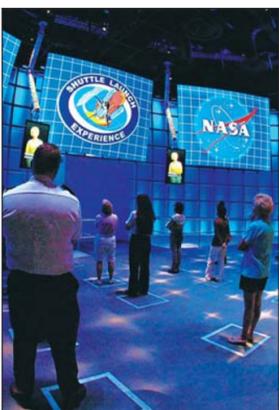
Xavier Carter still is a wanted man for a count of felony simple criminal damage to property but said he would turn himself in as soon as he returns home, police say, **1D**

FLORIDA

Disney's next plan? A children's hospital

The Walt Disney Co. is stepping into the decidedly less fun business of health care with a \$10 million donation announced to create the first hospital to bear the Disney name, **8B**

COMING UP



Experience the feel of a launch for free

Been wanting to try out Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Launch Experience? This is the weekend to do it, as KSC offers free admission to Brevard residents who bring a non-perishable food item. Coming **Friday in TgIF**

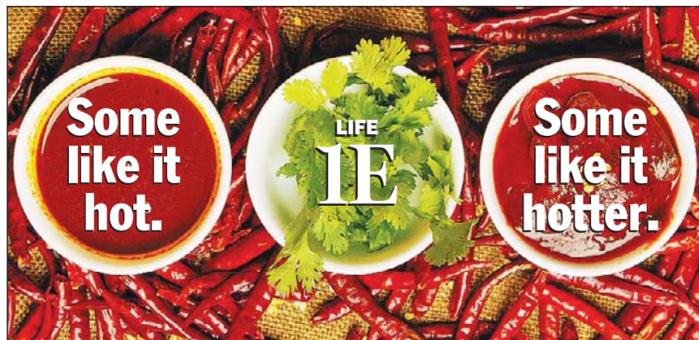
The latest Space Coast news: floridatoday.com
Gannett Co. Inc.

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FLORIDA TODAY

SERVING THE SPACE COAST



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 BREVARD EDITION 50 CENTS

PAYING MORE FOR LUNCH



Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

Lunch time. Students wait to pay for lunches in the Palm Bay Elementary cafeteria. For the first time in 14 years, Brevard Public Schools is considering raising the price they charge for school lunches.

School lunches take bite out of budgets

Parents may end up paying more money for meals in Brevard

BY MEGAN DOWNS
FLORIDA TODAY

Prices for school lunches at Brevard Public Schools could increase next year for the first time in 14 years, ending the district's long run of providing some of the cheapest eats in Central Florida.

The cost of a cafeteria meal here is lower than almost 18 Central Florida School districts, according to a survey conducted this year by the school district. Brevard blamed escalating fuel costs for the need to jack up the price of the 33,000 lunches it serves daily by as much as 25 percent.

"The fuel charge is being packed on to everything," said Kevin Thornton, director of the district's Office of Food & Nutrition Services. "We have to overcome that cost being added to the price of goods all across the board."

At elementary and secondary schools, where students pay \$1.40 and \$1.50 per lunch a day respectively, prices could rise to as much as \$1.75, Thornton said. The average price for elementary school lunches in Central Florida is \$1.63.

Only Duval and Volusia counties have lower prices than Brevard. Adults eating in See **LUNCHES, 3A**

Rising prices

Current price for lunch and projected price in the 2008-09 school year:

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS	
From \$1.40	To \$1.75
SECONDARY STUDENTS	
From \$1.50	To \$1.75
ADULTS	
From \$2.25	Up to \$3

FAVORITE FOODS. Watch video of students as they talk about their favorite foods in the school cafeteria and click through a gallery of images at floridatoday.com

Home rating system may not be enough

BY PAIGEST. JOHN
FLORIDA TODAY

TALLAHASSEE — Florida officials on Wednesday approved a new "home grading scale" that measures the ability of a house to stand up to a hurricane.

Unfortunately, said CFO Alex Sink, there is no requirement anyone use it.

"This is great work, but no teeth," Sink told fellow Cabinet members as they voted to accept the Office of Insurance Regulation's rating system. "Your insurance company may not pay any attention to that."

The 1 to 100 scale, developed in March by an advisory panel

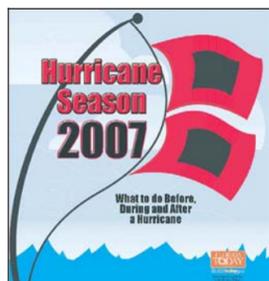
that included builders, was requested by the Florida Legislature to give homebuyers and insurance consumers a better idea of a structure's hardness.

The resulting product takes into account structural features such as roof design, mitigation efforts such as storm shutters, and proximity to the coast.

"You can go to the store and look at the energy rating of a refrigerator, but you can't know the wind rating of a home," said Steve Parton, general counsel for the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Florida's free home See **RATING, 6A**

INSIDE TODAY



With the peak of the hurricane season upon us, you can never be too prepared for the approaching storm. Get all the information you'll need inside today's editions.

WEB LINK. See a copy of the report containing the new rating system by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation at floridatoday.com

Port drops Ron Jon hotel plans

Surfing-based project may be built elsewhere

BY SCOTT BLAKE
FLORIDA TODAY

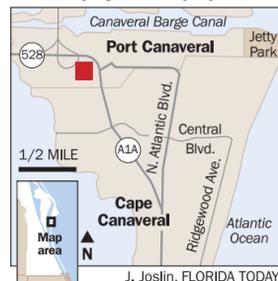
PORT CANAVERAL—The proposed Ron Jon resort project at Port Canaveral has been nearly two years in the making.

But now one of Brevard County's most ambitious and expensive tourism projects ever proposed appears to have been dropped, without construction beginning—at least as far as the port site is concerned.

Port commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to end negotiations with Ron Jon Surf Shop and its partner, The Cordish Co., a well-known Baltimore-based developer.

Contacted after the meeting, Kimber Goodwin, director of

Site where Ron Jon resort hotel project was proposed



J. Joslin, FLORIDA TODAY

marketing for Cordish, raised the possibility that Cordish and Ron Jon might take their plan to another site.

As originally envisioned, "Ron Jon World" would have featured a 400-room hotel with an 18-story atrium shaped like a surfboard; a two-floor, 50,000-square-foot Ron Jon Surf See **RONJON, 7A**

CRUISING. Third gambling ship approved for Port Canaveral, **7A**

DOCKED. Coast Guard inspection keeps Sterling ship sidelined, **1C**

Nowak: I asked for an attorney

BY KIMBERLY C. MOORE
FLORIDA TODAY

ORLANDO — Orlando police Detective William Beaton testified Wednesday that he thought he would find evidence in former astronaut Lisa Nowak's car to further support his theory that "Ms. Nowak actually came here to kill Colleen Shipman."

Among the objects found in a duffel bag in Nowak's possession after she allegedly attacked Shipman were "items that have been used and can be used to kill somebody," he said. The objects included a 2½-pound mallet, a BB gun, a knife, surgical tubing and latex gloves.

He added that he thought he would find tools to "bury Shipman in a shallow grave" when he searched Nowak's blue BMW.

What's next



■ Within the next month, Judge Marc Lubet will rule on whether to throw out former astronaut Lisa Nowak's statement and evidence found in her car.
■ A pretrial hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. March 12.
■ Nowak's trial is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 7. If convicted, she could face life in prison.

ONLINE. See more photos from the hearing at floridatoday.com

Nowak is accused of attacking Shipman over a romantic rival, Navy Cmdr. Bill Oefelein. According to police, Nowak admitted to driving from Houston See **NOWAK, 6A**

Melbourne weighs DRS expansion plan

BY RICK NEALE
FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE — DRS Optronics may increase the size of its Babcock Street plant and add 260 new laboratory jobs.

The New Jersey-based defense electronics contractor is considering Melbourne — among other out-of-state locations — for the expansion, according to a site plan filed at City Hall. The Babcock Street proposal calls for a 172,349-square-foot addition containing laboratories, offices, storage space, atriums and room for future growth.

ONLINE LINK. See the Melbourne City Council agenda at floridatoday.com

DRS Optronics



J. Joslin, FLORIDA TODAY

Tonight, the Melbourne planning and zoning board will discuss the site plan.

"This company is in the initial stages of its proposed expansion," said Lynda Weatherman, president and chief executive officer of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's See **DRS, 6A**

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- ✓ More Standard Safety Features in ALL MODELS & Free Oil Changes
- ✓ It's the Affordable and Reliable Way to get you there

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