



## FSU-MIAMI BASEBALL

Both teams enter this series No. 1 in the polls, calling to mind some of the rivalry's classic games

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Sports / 1C

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# Limelight

Tallahassee's Weekly Entertainment Magazine

Tallahassee Highland Games & Celtic Festival showcases Celtic culture

103rd year, No. 109, Apr. 18, 2008 50 Cents

Promoting democracy since 1905

# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Friday, April 18, 2008

[Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com)

50 Cents

## TODAY

### COMING SUNDAY



Thousands are expected to attend the LeMoyné Chain of Parks Art Festival in Downtown Tallahassee.

Front Page

## LOCAL

Church groups, local organizations and nonprofits will soon have to pay more to use Leon County school facilities they've been using for years.

Page 6A

## SPORTS

**Every Game Tells a Story:** The Democrat profiles a player from each of the playoff teams in tennis, track and weightlifting.

Page 3,4,5C

## STOCKS

**Dow Jones**  
+1.22; 12,620.49  
**Crude oil**  
-\$0.07; \$114.86 per barrel  
Light, sweet crude for May delivery.

For more business news, see Page 9A.

## ONLINE

Wondering what's hot, what's new and what's coming up on Tallahassee.com? Check out Page 2 to see what's the latest for our Web site.

## INDEX

Classifieds ..... 1E Horoscope ..... 5E  
Comics ..... 33D Lottery ..... 2A  
Corrections ..... 2A Movies ..... 6D  
Crossword ..... 34D Nation ..... 11A  
Editorials ..... 2B Obituaries ..... 5B

**Today:** Low 80s  
**Tonight:** Mid-50s  
**Rain:** 10%  
**Weather:** 12C

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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
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## Teen lauded for public service



Tallahassee Democrat Publisher Patrick Dorsey, left, presents the the Jefferson Award for Public Service to Maclay senior Kristopher Hook on Thursday during the 2008 Volunteers of the Year Awards Luncheon at the FSU University Center Club.

## Maclay senior wins top volunteer honors

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

His effervescent smile and soft voice belie what 18-year-old Kristopher Hook does every day in his job helping patients and putting out brush fires.

The Maclay School senior is a volunteer firefighter and medical responder with the Bradfordville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. Once his school day ends, he turns his pager on and responds to emergencies. In the past year, he's completed hundreds of training hours in his field.

Thursday, Hook won the

### 2008 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

- Arts — Kelly Dozier
- Business/Government Agency — Aramark
- Civic Services — Joan Guilday
- Education — Victor Herrera
- Nonprofit/Organization Club — Area Rotary Clubs
- Religion — Raymond Johnson
- Social Services — Lisa C. Brown
- Youth — Kristopher Hook

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■ View photos and video and listen to audio from the awards luncheon.

2008 Jefferson Award for Public Service at the Tallahassee Democrat Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon. It is the highest award given to a volunteer in the area. Hook will represent the area in June at the prestigious 2008 Jefferson Awards Luncheon.

Please see VOLUNTEER, 2A

## Campaign for gay-marriage ban seeks to reassure seniors

By Bill Cotterell

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU POLITICAL EDITOR

Supporters of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in Florida began a 10-city campaign Thursday to counteract a major argument mounted against the proposal — that it would infringe on rights of elderly couples who

### KEEP TALKING

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choose to live together without marrying.

John Stemberger, the Orlando lawyer who headed the Florida4M-

arrriage.org petition campaign that put the amendment to a statewide vote, announced the new campaign dubbed Yes2Marriage.org. The referendum is Amendment 2 on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The group scheduled rallies and news confer-

Please see MARRIAGE, 2A

## Senate amendment takes on naughty truck accessories

By Betty Parker  
FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

The Florida Senate on Thursday passed an amendment to impose a \$60 fine on Truck Nutz, one brand name for the novelty item on vehicle trailer hitches that resemble the dangling southern end of a north-bound bull.

The proposal would make displaying bull genitalia reproductions on a vehicle subject to a \$60 fine, moving violations and points against a driver license.

The penalties were proposed by Sen. Carey Baker, R-Eustis.

Sen. Jim King, R-Jacksonville, said he had a set on one of his vehicles, which he described as "all pimped out." They are no more than "an expression of truckliness," he said, although he'd acceded to his wife's request to take them off.

"I find it shocking we'd tell people with metallic

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testicles on their bumpers that this is a violation," said Sen. Steve Geller, D-Hallandale. "There's got to be better things for us to spend time debating."

Geller suggested this ban might be followed by prohibiting silhouettes of nude women on truck mud flaps.

"We're basically going to have the bumper police," King said.

"All their concerns are legitimate," Baker said of the critics. "And I do have more important things to do this session. But I think this is important, too."

The transportation bill was debated Thursday, and a vote is expected next week. The House version, however, doesn't include the prohibition.



AMANDA NALLEY /Democrat

Brian Richardson of the Florida Division of Emergency Management speaks to students about how to prepare for a hurricane at the Gulf Coast Hurricane Awareness Tour on Thursday.

## Students get close-up look at hurricane-preparedness tools

Hundreds of students from the Big Bend boarded a "Hurricane Hunter" aircraft Thursday in Apalachicola to learn how scientists study the dangerous storms.

Crew members and state and county emergency officials hope the students will get interested in hurricane preparedness and spread the enthusiasm to family members. The

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■ See our special online package about hurricane preparedness, including photos, videos, a PowerPoint presentation and Amanda Nalley's blog.

event was part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Awareness Tour.

Read more, Page 3A.

## Lawmakers give Florida Forever land-buying program \$300 million

By Bruce Ritchie

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

House leadership has agreed with the Senate to provide \$300 million in the upcoming state budget for the Florida Forever land-buying program, according to a House staff member.

At the same time, environmental groups

and home builders have struck an agreement to allow relocation of threatened wildlife species to state conservation lands from development sites.

It's a key part of a plan to extend the conservation-land buying program beyond its 2010 expiration.

House leaders were not

available after the chamber adjourned Thursday night.

House Speaker Marco Rubio and budget chairman Ray Sansom had said schools, health care and public safety, rather than environmental conservation, were priorities while state revenue is in decline.

Environmental advocates said they were excited by the House decision to join the Senate in approving money for the program this year.

"It means our most important environmental program is still in business," said Eric Draper, policy director for Audubon of Florida. "I think

there are landowners breathing a sigh of relief because they know the state will be able to buy their land."

The state has bought more than 535,000 acres under the Florida Forever program with \$300 million a year since 2000.

Please see FOREVER, 2A

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