

GETTING HIS DUE

Dan Marino ready for his day in the sun, C1

HOME MOVIES

Home theaters, DVDs may add to summer movie slump, E1

MODEL BEHAVIOR

Veteran shares his big love for planes on a small scale, B1



Port St. Lucie News

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High 88. Low 71. Chance of rain 20% Details, C8

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Sunday, August 7, 2005

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Shuttle crew begins long trip home

Discovery's return to Earth

WHEN: 4:46 a.m. Monday
WHY THAT TIME?: The time is dictated by the way the shuttle's orbit brings it in line with the approach to Cape Canaveral; if necessary, a second opportunity would come at 6:21 a.m.
WHERE: The shuttle will approach Cape Canaveral from the southwest, flying over Nicaragua, Cuba, the western Everglades and Lake Okeechobee.
WHAT ABOUT WEATHER?: The forecast looks favorable for Cape Canaveral, but bad weather would force Discovery to go to the backup landing site in California on Tuesday.
WHAT TO EXPECT: A horizon-to-horizon plasma streak across the pre-dawn sky. A sonic boom also might be heard on the Treasure Coast as the shuttle slices through the atmosphere at a velocity faster than the speed of sound.
Sources: NASA Web site and wire reports

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — With the most anxiety-ridden part of their flight still to come, space shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven set off for home Saturday after leaving the International Space Station.

Monday's planned pre-dawn re-entry will be the first by a space shuttle since Columbia's catastrophic descent 2 1/2 years ago.

The two space station residents wished the Discovery crew a safe landing.

"It has really been a pleasure and, no,

ON THE NET

NASA: www.nasa.gov/returntoflight
Amateur videotaping tips: www.nasa.gov/returntoflight/crew/photo\_tips.html

we are not glad to see you go," said station astronaut John Phillips.

Once undocked, Discovery looped around the space station for the first full photographic survey of the orbiting outpost since the last shuttle visit in late 2002, and then sped away into the blackness.

The departing astronauts reported they might have seen a piece of debris fly

off the space station, but Mission Control assured them it was just a camera reflection.

Deputy shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said the so-called anomaly list for the 13-day flight had 47 items "that people have thought about, worried about."

At Saturday's mission management team meeting, "We went through the entire list ... and agreed that none of the issues pose a landing concern that we have not already addressed and worked through, and so we are good for landing on space shuttle Discovery."

St. Lucie schools start critical year

Growth is the district's top priority, but others are jockeying for attention



photos by ALISON SIDLO staff photographer

Alex Ross, 5, left, and L.J. Ross, 8, color while their mother Amy Ross, back left, talks to Alex's kindergarten teacher Clarissa Duskin during Oak Hammock K-8 school's open house on Wednesday. Oak Hammock is the newest St. Lucie County school.

By Margot Susca staff writer

The students are here. And more are coming.

But as St. Lucie County school officials attempt to deal with staggering growth, there are other issues jockeying for priority: achievement. Building needs. Funding. Tougher federal mandates. Teacher recruitment.

By School Board policy, it also is the last year of the current controlled choice system, so that controversial program of student assignment also is undergoing a major overhaul.

Facing all those priority issues, school officials consider this a critical year, one that can make or break everything from economic development to preparing children for high-tech futures.

"I think it's a pivotal year for this

SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR

See last year's FCAT information and school grades. PAGE A4

school system," school board Vice Chairwoman Kathryn Hensley said. "What we're seeing right now, this year, is a nexus, where everything is coming together."

The "everything" Hensley is talking about centers largely on growth — officials are projecting a student population spike of 8 or 9 percent.

School begins on Monday.

As of noon Friday, St. Lucie County student enrollment was 37,987, up more than 3,000 children from about the same time period last year, according to officials.

That number likely will drop in the

See SCHOOLS, A2



Sean Murray, building automation specialist for the St. Lucie County School District, places caps over the old intake vents beside newly installed dehumidification units at Mariposa Elementary in Port St. Lucie. The units will draw in more fresh air and better regulate interior temperature, which will help curb mold growth.

Toxic toads a nuisance, threat to your pets

The invasive bufo toad population, which thrives in hot, humid climates, continues to grow along the Treasure Coast.

By Megan V. Winslow staff writer

Pillowcase in hand, George Ward darts across the tennis court, crisscrossing the service lines and weaving in and out of bounds.

His movements are calculated — each sprint commences with a squat on the asphalt and then he's up again with a leap.

"Here, toady, toady, toady," Ward says after tossing another unwary specimen into the cotton bag.

Twenty minutes and 32 bufo toads later, he's done, his back drenched in sweat, the bag damp with toad urine.

During the humid South Florida summers, the Cane Toad, or Bufo marinus, is in its prime, setting up house in moist cardboard boxes and dining on bugs and small animals.

To Ward, an invasive species collection care specialist at the Herpetological Breeding Research center in Fort Pierce, the commercial market for bufo toads, including demand at scientific research facilities and in western Europe as pets, represents a supplement for the facility's production costs.

But it is the exotic bufo toad's lack of natural predators that makes it an unwelcome neighbor to many Treasure Coast residents.

See TOADS, A2



JASON NUTTLE staff photographer

George Ward, with Herpetological Breeding Research in Fort Pierce, holds a bufo toad caught in Fort Pierce. The poisonous toad's toxin is released when its parotid glands are squeezed.

Trapped sub surfaces

A Russian submarine that was trapped for three days under the Pacific Ocean surfaced on Sunday. PAGE A7

Pressel in Amateur final

Boca Raton's Morgan Pressel to play for the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship today. PAGE C1

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Table with 2 columns: Topic and Page Number. Includes Americas, Advice, Books, Business, Classified, Crossword, Horoscopes, Movies, Obituaries, Offbeat, Opinion, Sports, Today, Weather.



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Storm Harvey still going east; depression organizing

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Harvey moved northeast Saturday in the open Atlantic Ocean, while a tropical depression to the south was becoming better organized, forecasters said.

At 11 p.m., Harvey had sustained winds near 60 mph and was about 585

miles east-northeast of Bermuda, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. On Thursday, Harvey dumped more than 11 inches of rain on Bermuda.

Harvey made a small loop Saturday afternoon, but was resuming a north-northeast motion near 9 mph and only was a threat to shipping.

Meanwhile, the hurricane season's ninth tropical depression was moving toward the west near 10 mph over the open tropical Atlantic, about 1,230 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands, forecasters said.

The depression had winds of 35 mph but little strengthening was forecast Saturday.

TODAY IN  
**Florida history**

In 1840, survivors of the Seminole massacre at Indian Key were rescued.  
**Sources:** Florida Historical Society and Tebeau-Field Library of Florida History. The Web site is <http://www.florida-historical-soc.org>.

TODAY IN  
**U.S. and world history**

In 1782, **George Washington** created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.  
In 1934, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling striking down the government's attempt to ban the controversial **James Joyce** novel "Ulysses."  
In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.  
**Ten years ago:** Ten days before he was to be put to death for the murder of a police officer, black activist and radio reporter **Mumia Abu-Jamal** won a reprieve from the original trial judge in Philadelphia.  
**Five years ago:** Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate **Al Gore** selected Connecticut Sen. **Joseph Lieberman** as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jew on a major party's presidential ticket.  
**One year ago:** Iraqi interim Prime Minister **Ayad Allawi** signed an amnesty for minor criminals.

# People etc . . .

LOS ANGELES

**Anderson sued**

Former "Baywatch" **Pamela Anderson** is being sued for breach of contract for allegedly not making herself available for promotional events.



**Anderson**

United Licensing Group Inc., which is arranging for the manufacture of the star's perfume, clothing and other merchandise, claims Anderson has not been sufficiently available at signings, shoots and trade shows, according to a Superior Court lawsuit filed Thursday.

United Licensing claims it has a five-year contract but that Anderson repeatedly decided against licensing proposals.

LOS ANGELES

**Abdul sits out show**

Scheduling conflicts will keep **Paula Abdul** from appearing in the new Fox TV talent contest "So You Think You Can Dance," her publicist said.



**Abdul**

Abdul will be too busy promoting an "American Idol" DVD and working on the show's new season, publicist **Ken Sunshine** said in a statement Friday. She had planned to appear as a guest choreographer in several episodes of "So You Think You Can Dance."

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

**'Passion' re-enactment**

Hollywood actor-director **Mel Gibson** has been asked to re-

create the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in the streets of Sydney if the city is selected to host a major Catholic gathering in 2008, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Gibson's staging of the Stations of the Cross, a live interpretation of Christ's final hours, would be part of a bid by the city to secure the Catholic Church's World Youth Day in 2008, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

The crucifixion re-enactment — similar to scenes from Gibson's hugely successful film "The Passion of the Christ" — would begin with the Last Supper staged at Sydney's landmark Opera House at sunset, and would end with the crucifixion of Christ at St. Mary's Cathedral, according to bid documents the newspaper said it obtained.

**Names in the news**

**SEYMOUR TO GET FUNNY:** **Jane Seymour**, known to TV viewers for her 1990s series, "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," has been signed to star in the WB's new comedy "Modern Men." Seymour will play Dr. Stangl, a life coach who helps three men in their 20s at different stages in their romantic lives.  
**COMEDIAN SPLITS FROM WIFE:** Actor-comedian **Eddie Murphy**'s wife filed for divorce Friday, citing irreconcilable differences, his publicist confirmed.

**Birthdays today**

Humorist **Garrison Keillor** is 63. Singer **B.J. Thomas** is 63. Country singer **Rodney Crowell** is 55. Actor **Wayne Knight** is 50. Rock singer **Bruce Dickinson** is 47. Actor **David Duchovny** is 45. Actress **Charlotte Lewis** is 38. Actress **Charlize Theron** is 30.

— from wire reports

**Space watch**

**Launches**  
► Atlas 5, launch window: 7:54 a.m. to 9:39 a.m.  
**Space shuttle sightings**  
► Monday, 6:07 a.m., four minutes, W to N.

**LOTTERY NUMBERS**

LOTTO			FANTASY 5			MEGA MONEY		
Sat., Aug. 6	16-22-25-28-39-53		Sat., Aug. 6	3-4-17-28-36		Fri., Aug. 5	15-21-25-41	
Wed., Aug. 3	4-11-21-30-32-46		Fri., Aug. 5	15-20-22-32-34			Megaball: 8	
Sat., July 30	19-22-24-29-30-34		Thurs., Aug. 4	1-8-13-32-34		Tues., Aug. 2	2-8-14-33	
Wed., July 27	7-9-26-32-40-51		Wed., Aug. 3	2-3-11-24-32			Megaball: 7	
						Fri., July 29	13-24-29-31	
							Megaball: 16	
Payoffs for Wed., Aug. 3:			Payoffs for Fri., Aug. 5:			Payoffs for Fri., Aug. 5:		
Correct	Winners	Payoff	Correct	Winners	Payoff	Correct	Winners	Payoff
6 numbers	rollover	\$10 million	5 numbers	1	\$237,714.20	4 + Megaball	rollover	\$2M
5 numbers	62	\$4,813.50	4 numbers	224	\$171	4 numbers	8	\$2,824
4 numbers	3,636	\$66.50	3 numbers	8,187	\$13	3 + Megaball	62	\$796.50
3 numbers	73,126	\$4.50	2 numbers	89,645	Ticket	3 numbers	1,390	\$106
*Rollover amounts refer to next drawing			Florida State Lottery information <a href="http://www.flalottery.com">www.flalottery.com</a>			2 + Megaball	2,397	\$43
						2 numbers	20,460	\$5
						1 + Megaball	45,564	\$3.50
						Megaball	48,515	Ticket

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**SCHOOLS**

FROM A1

first days of school, considering children who moved away over the summer months, but Marty Sanders, the district's top growth official, is clear about what schools face in the months ahead.  
"We're growing all year long," Sanders said.  
More than two dozen new portable classrooms — with capacities of about 22 children each — are being delivered this month to handle the influx — but they are far from ideal when considering group learning and technology uses in the classroom, Sanders said.  
Oak Hammock, a kindergarten through grade eight school in western Port St. Lucie, opens for 1,600 children Monday. Ground breaks on

another K through eight, this one on Cashmere Boulevard north of St. Lucie West Boulevard, later this month.  
Planning for new schools is one thing; paying for them is another.  
Later this month, the county planning board will consider raising the education impact fee, an act that ultimately needs County Commission approval. The fee is expected to generate \$250 million to \$450 million in the next two decades.  
But that represents only a fraction of what officials project is needed to fund growth in a school system expected to reach 42,798 children by October 2007.  
To meet those funding demands, a renewal of the half-percent sales tax is on the ballot Oct. 18. That tax, which expires in June, would generate another \$250 million

in 20 years.  
Although capacity and growth are major challenges, St. Lucie County also faces tough sanctions under federal law if it fails performance targets again this year.  
School board members are facing ever-increasing pressure from community leaders to boost school grades.  
To help, 14 schools are implementing a new curriculum system designed to give proven lessons to teachers, who are being recruited more aggressively than ever.  
"I'm optimistic we're going to have a great year and it is a critical year," school board member John Carvelli said. "When the schools improve, we're going to be a part of the economic engine."  
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**TOADS**

FROM A1

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, bufos made their first Florida appearance in 1936 when the University of Florida's Agricultural Experiment Station released 200 of them in Palm Beach County to control sugar cane beetles.  
"It wasn't a very well thought-out program because cane beetles tend to fly and toads don't," said Raymond Goushaw, owner of the HBR.  
Buffy toads originally hail from wet, hot climates like those found in Central America and the Amazon Basin and early populations acclimated easily to Florida's subtropical weather.  
Although they are most prolific south of Brevard County and Lake Okeechobee, bufos have started to make their way upstate by burrowing in the pots of plants used in landscaping, Goushaw said.  
And as the bufo toad population continues to grow along the Treasure Coast, small colonies congregating behind shopping centers and

on the tennis courts of Whispering Pines Park in Port St. Lucie, are becoming an increasing nuisance and potential hazard.  
Buffy toads will eat almost anything made of protein — even fellow bufo toads — and they enjoy snacking on pet chow, placing them in proximity of pets fed outside.  
When a curious cat or playful pup puts a bufo in its mouth, a pair of glands behind the toad's ears release a toxic milky substance that can prove deadly for animals under 40 pounds.  
"I've had people tell me that their animal came in contact with a bufo and within five minutes, it was dead," said Ken Gioeli, a wildlife specialist with the St. Lucie County Agricultural Extension office of the University of Florida.  
But contrary to common belief, bufos cannot squirt poison impulsively, Goushaw said.  
The toxin is only released when the toad's parotid glands are squeezed.  
Palm City veterinarian Michael Coughlan estimates that during the summer, he treats about one pet a week

affected by bufo toad toxins.  
He encourages pet owners to thoroughly rinse out their dog or cat's mouth if contact with a bufo is suspected.  
A few years ago, St. Lucie Falls resident David Claeys was walking his fox terrier, Rocky, when the little dog lunged and attempted to gobble up a bufo toad.  
By the time Claeys got Rocky to a vet, the dog couldn't stand and was convulsing.  
Rocky survived the incident and eventually died of old age, but Claeys said he is still wary about walking his other dog after dark, when bufo toads abound.  
"They have no fear," he said. "They'll stand off a dog — they'll eat their food. They're gross."  
To Ward, the only thing gross about bufos are the people who presumably lick them for the hallucinogenic potency of their poison.  
"Me myself, I wouldn't lick a toad ... it's pretty heavy-duty stuff," he said. "I wouldn't say it would kill somebody, but it's not fun to play with."  
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