

**TERRIFIC TOMATOES**

State crop worth putting on a pedestal

FOOD & DRINK, PAGE 3D



The Daytona Beach  
**News-Journal**  
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES

**WEDNESDAY**

APRIL 2, 2008

**TODAY'S FORECAST**

At least it won't be chance of acid rain.  
High: Lower 80s. Low: Mid-60s. **PAGE 8C**



**GATORS' RUN DONE**

Florida bounced from NIT

SPORTS, PAGE 1B

www.news-journalonline.com

FINAL EDITION

50 cents

**THE FAST LANE**

Keeping you on track for today, tomorrow

**In a surprise, stocks soar**

Stock prices began the second quarter with an impressive pop Tuesday, with investors willing to believe — at least for a day — that Wall Street is nearing the end of its painful subprime mortgage saga.

**KEY NUMBERS:** The Dow Jones industrial average soared 391.47 points, or 3.2 percent, coming in just shy of its third 400-point gain in less than a month.

**MORE: YOUR MONEY, PAGE 13A**

**OIL CHIEFS ON DEFENSE**

Oil industry executives testifying before Congress on Tuesday explained their companies' huge profits in the face of escalating gas prices.

**PROFIT AND PRICE:** Lawmakers pressed big oil companies to explain why they should continue to get billions of dollars in tax breaks when they made \$123 billion last year.

**MORE: YOUR MONEY, PAGE 6A**

**Once critical of religion, Turner joins churches in charity**

Ted Turner, who once called Christianity a "religion for losers," launched a \$200 million partnership Tuesday with Lutherans and Methodists to fight malaria in Africa.

**SO SORRY:** Turner, 69, said he had only made a few disparaging comments a long time ago. "I regret anything I said about religion that was negative," he said.

**THE CAUSE:** Turner's United Nations Foundation launched the project with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the United Methodist Church. The Protestant groups have been working overseas for more than a century.

— Associated Press

**Brits not leaving yet**

Britain delays its troop cuts as the Iraqi death tolls surge.

**WAR IN IRAQ, PAGE 14A**

**Coming Thursday: Make a decision already!**

ACCENT



Abby 4D  
Classified 7D  
Comics 5D  
Deaths 6C  
Horoscope 10D

Letters 4A  
Movies 4D  
Puzzles 4D,10D  
Records 6C  
Television 2D



Vol. LXXXV  
No. 93  
4 Sections  
© NJ 2008  
News-Journal Corporation

LEGISLATURE 2008

**Florida attempts to go green**

Radical proposals to change energy laws fuel volatile debate

By **JIM SAUNDERS**  
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU CHIEF

**TALLAHASSEE** — With Gov. Charlie Crist making climate change one of his signature issues, Florida lawmakers are in a high-stakes debate about reducing air pollution and revamping the

state's energy laws.

The House and Senate are considering proposals that could have broad implications for utilities, businesses and homeowners.

The proposals seek to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, increase energy

efficiency and help build more nuclear-power plants. At the same time, some lawmakers and interest groups worry the proposals would drive up electric bills for consumers.

jim.saunders@news-jrnl.com

**Key Issues in the Debate:**



**THE BIG PICTURE**

- Congress and many states, including Florida, are trying to find ways to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and other pollutants that scientists say are warming the planet.
- By now, most people have seen the images of Arctic ice melting. But scientists warn global warming also will cause rising sea levels that could threaten Florida's coastlines.
- While the House and Senate bills try to address global warming, the issue also is intertwined with making Florida more energy independent. One example: Lawmakers want to beef up the use of renewable sources of energy, such as solar power.
- Crist has spearheaded the issues in Florida, signing executive orders last year aimed at reducing emissions by electric utilities, making state buildings more energy efficient and using more renewable energy sources like solar and ethanol.



**CLEANING UP UTILITIES**

- The House and Senate are considering a market-based approach to get utilities to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.
- The approach would work like this: The state would set an overall limit on power-plant emissions, and each utility would be allocated part of the emissions under that limit.
- The utilities could buy or sell allocations among themselves — a system known as "cap and trade." A utility in danger of not meeting its requirement could buy part of the allocation of a utility that is under its limits.
- Jerry Karnas, Florida climate project director for the group Environmental Defense, said Congress also is considering a national cap-and-trade system. He said that makes it important for the state to develop a plan.



**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- Florida relies heavily on coal, natural-gas and nuclear-power plants to fuel its economy and keep the lights on.
- As the state tries to reduce emissions and become more independent, the House and Senate are considering ways to increase the use of renewable sources, such as solar and wind energy.
- The House has proposed a bill that would require utilities to steadily increase their supply of renewable energy from 2.25 percent in 2009 to 5 percent in 2021. The Senate bill does not include such specific targets and calls for the state Public Service Commission to come up with renewable-energy standards.
- Crist and environmental groups want higher standards than the House proposal. But other groups, including the senior-advocacy group AARP, worry that the Senate approach could lead to possible standards that would drive up electricity costs.

Photos from News-Journal files

- **CONTINUE THE DEBATE:** Discover what the other key points are in this important discussion. **PAGE 9A**
- **MORE ONLINE:** What's your take on global warming? Link to what the EPA says. [news-journalonline.com](http://news-journalonline.com)

**Students plead not guilty to school plot**

By **PATRICIO G. BALONA**  
STAFF WRITER

**DELAND** — Charlene Russell cried when a judge ordered her Tuesday to remain at a Daytona Beach behavioral treatment center after pleading not guilty to planning a massacre at her school.

Russell's grandmother told the court the family wanted the DeLand Middle School seventh-grader to remain at Halifax Behavioral Services because they are seeing improvements in her attitude and behavior.

Russell, Austin Mohr and Tyler Christian, all 13, have been at the behavioral facility since March 18, when Circuit Judge Hubert L. Grimes ordered them to remain in secure detention for 21 days.

Tuesday morning, the State Attorney's Office charged each of the teens with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and



News-Journal/PETER BAUER

Charlene Russell, left, Austin Mohr and Tyler Christian learned Tuesday they will be charged as juveniles for their alleged massacre plot at DeLand Middle School.

conspiracy to discharge a firearm on school property.

Prosecutors, who charged the teens as juveniles, said they conspired to kill two students and/or other DeLand Middle School students with a firearm and con-

spired to discharge the firearm on the school grounds during school hours.

SEE **STUDENTS**, PAGE 8A

patricio.balona@news-jrnl.com

**Justice Dept. sues Wal-Mart for not rehiring ex-airman**

By **AUDREY PARENTE**  
STAFF WRITER

**DELTONA** — In a rural neighborhood, a barefoot 21-year-old wearing a T-shirt and jogging pants stepped out onto a flag-draped front porch and shut the door behind him.

Sean K. Thornton, a former airman with the U.S. Air Force, is taking on retail giant Wal-Mart to get his job back after an early discharge from the military, and he has the U.S. Department of Justice on his side.

Thornton can't comment on the case, but the lawsuit filed on his behalf by the Justice Department claims the company violated the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 by failing to give Thornton his job back after the Air Force dis-

charged him.

From October 2005 to May 2006, Thornton, a 2005 Pine Ridge High School graduate, worked at the Orange City Wal-Mart Supercenter, earning his way to cashier, with seniority and benefits, the lawsuit states.

After giving two weeks' oral notice and a handwritten note to a personnel manager that he was leaving to join the Air Force, Thornton reported for duty on May 30, 2006,

SEE **WAL-MART**, PAGE 8A

audrey.parenthe@news-jrnl.com

**NASA faces job flight**

Shuttle era's end in 2010 to force losses

By **SANDRA FREDERICK**  
SPACE WRITER

**KENNEDY SPACE CENTER** — In the world of space travel, there are many unknowns. Faced with questions about the loss of 8,000 space industry jobs at Kennedy Space Center, Director Bill Parsons found himself in a similar black hole.

"There is a lot we can't predict," Parsons said at a press conference Tuesday afternoon. "The numbers in the report are very preliminary."

The report Parsons referred to was a transition study released Tuesday that looked ahead to the end of the shuttle era in 2010 and NASA's shift to the Constellation Program, which will take the nation back to the moon and beyond within five years.

The bleakest job loss forecast was issued for Kennedy Space Center, where just 1,600 to 2,300 shuttle employees were expected to remain in 2011, a cut of up to 80 percent from its current 8,000 shuttle workers. The Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans was forecast to

SEE **NASA**, PAGE 8A

sandra.frederick@news-jrnl.com

**Clipping NASA Jobs**

Breakdown of likely job losses at NASA and at companies that contract with NASA:

**AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER:**

**8,000 to about 1,600-2,300**

**AT MICHOU D ASSEMBLY FACILITY:**

**1,900 to about 600**

**TOTAL JOB LOSS:**

**21,000 to about 12,500-13,800**



PARSONS