

Brace yourselves: Record lows possible, B3

Local News

Killer doesn't want loved ones to help him, B5

\$1.135M

Orlando's allocation for buying replacement PCs, according to the city's 2007-08 budget. For more on city spending, visit OrlandoSentinel.com/data

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1940s: Newly discovered archived photographs show the Pinecastle Jeep Range, where homeowners worry about World War II-era debris.

BOMB CLEANUP: HIT OR MISS?

Sweep for World War II debris won't be yard to yard

By **RICH MCKAY**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

More than a year ago, when U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials promised angry residents in southeast Orlando that they would clean up the bombs and debris the military left behind after World War II, there was an unspoken caveat:

They never intended to search every single yard on and near the 12,483-acre former Pinecastle Jeep Range.

"Where we know bombs were dropped, we looked at every yard," said Randy Curtis, the corps project manager overseeing the cleanup. "But for the rest of the area, we're looking where it's logical to look based on the history of the site."

The corps' search has cost more than \$9 million since July 2007 and found more than 220 unexploded bombs and rockets and 14 tons of bomb debris on and near the range, which was used from 1943 to 1948.

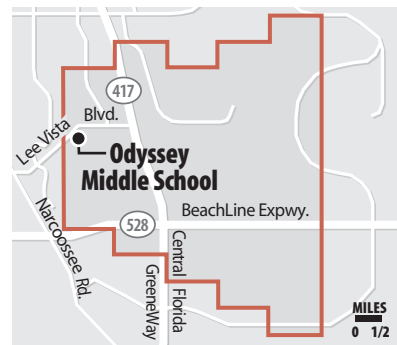
But only about 500 acres have been closely searched, mostly neighborhoods off Lee Vista Boulevard and Econlockhatchee Trail and near Odyssey Middle School.

That leaves 12,000 acres that haven't been searched, including about 1,000 acres that have been developed.

Curtis said the corps plans to check about 20 percent of the remaining area, enough to give a statistically accurate view of what may be there.

SITES UNSEEN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it won't search every yard near the former bombing range. Former bombing range



PLEASE SEE **BOMBS, B4**



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

1940s: Archive photographs show the skies above the wartime bombing range that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to clean up.



RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE

2007: Brian Neely (right) of NAEVA Geophysics uses ground-penetrating radar in the Warwick subdivision off Lee Vista Boulevard.

Deficit dampens opening of Legislature

By **AARON DESLATTE**
and **JOSH HAFENBRACK**
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — State legislators officially opened the 2008-10 Florida Legislature on Tuesday, a normally jovial occasion weighed down this year by a multibillion-dollar budget deficit and a worsening recession.

The 35 new House members and seven rookie senators who were sworn in immediately heard warnings from the new presiding officers that Florida's cash-starved government would require further cuts because of the recession.

Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, said he would name a bipartisan panel to gather input across the state on how to jump-start Florida's economy and report before the legislative session begins in March. The panel could propose legislative and constitutional changes to the state's "financial infrastructure."

But he made clear his belief that government has grown too big — despite a \$66 billion budget that's already \$6 billion below last year's and will require further cuts.

"From tax policy to regulation, Florida government at the state and the county and local level is increasingly seen as spending too much and taxing too much and holding back the growth of our economy in a tangle of regulation and bureaucracy," Atwater said. "Our government must encourage entrepreneurship, not impede it."

House Speaker Ray Sansom, R-Destin, meanwhile, said he would continue to pursue property-tax cuts and scaling back state regulation of businesses.

"We have an economy that has slowed down and needs to be

PLEASE SEE **SESSION, B2**

Churches are allies in activism

By **JAY HAMBURG**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

At recent meetings of FOCUS — Federation of Congregations United to Serve — crime has been the hottest topic.

One of the largest, held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, drew worried residents from throughout the city who told stories such as a woman's daughter who was shot to death in Pine Hills, a family home ransacked in east Orange County, and dozens of witnesses to gang violence and drugs.

Among the results: A pilot program to create after-school activities for local youth and a parent-neighborhood watch to look out for kids walking home from school through crime-ridden neighborhoods.

For almost 15 years, FOCUS has been at the heart of an effort to help churches reach out to the world beyond their sanctuary walls.

Their method is simple: Ask people what they need.

"It's not from the top down," said Jim Malcolm, who attends John Calvin Presbyterian Church and took part in a recent forum on crime. "It's finding out what the community problems are from the people who live

PLEASE SEE **CHURCHES, B2**

Aboard in transition

All 3 new Orange County School Board members campaigned on opposing the schedule change to swap middle-school and high-school hours to economize on bus service. The new members join 4 current members, 1 of whom opposed the change.

New members



VICKY BELL
District 4
Opposes swap



NANCY ROBBINSON
District 6
Opposes swap



CHRISTINE MOORE CURTIS
District 7
Opposes swap

Current members



JOIE CADLE
District 1
Supports swap



DARYL FLYNN
District 2
Supports swap



RICK ROACH
District 3
Opposes swap



KAT GORDON
District 5
Supports swap

A new vision for Orange schools

Election shake-up could reverse decision about schedule swap

By **ERIKA HOBBS**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The Orange County school district is kicking off what likely will be a grueling budget and political year with a revamped School Board.

The board chose two new leaders: Joie Cadle as chairwoman, and Rick Roach as vice chairman. "I know we will build a strong team together," Cadle said.

Three new members took seats: Vicky Bell, Christine Moore Curtis and Nancy Robinson.

Kat Gordon, whose district includes downtown Orlando, also was up for election this year. Because she ran unopposed, Gordon automatically took her seat, beginning her third term.

"I will make the best decisions for all the chil-

dren in the school district," Gordon said.

The new board is headed for a year of change. In the past, the seven board members governed by consensus, and issues rarely divided members. But Bell and Curtis ran as reformers and have vowed to "shake things up" when they can.

The new board will steer the nation's 11th-largest public-school district through the worst budget crisis in decades, as well as through an extremely unpopular school start-time change, intended to save money. It also will continue a debate to change its own governing structure.

This year, district officials face shaving as much as \$93 million from a \$1.4 billion operating budget as the state stares down a massive revenue shortfall. State lawmakers warn the cutting may not be over, and, they say, the fiscal picture will be even worse next year.

Hoping to save \$15 million, the Orange district decided to change its middle- and high-school

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOLS, B2**

After DNA test, inmate released with tight rules

By **SATTA SARMAH**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Bill Dillon, a Brevard County man who was convicted of murder, will spend Thanksgiving with his family for the first time in almost 28 years.

Dillon, 49, was released on bail Tuesday, after new DNA evidence led a judge to grant him a new trial.

Dillon donned a black T-shirt emblazoned with the phrase "Not Guilty" after leaving the Brevard County Jail, saying in a televised news conference that he wasn't bitter about spending more than half his life in prison.

"I have settled it in my heart, and God has allowed me to settle it," he said.

Dillon was convicted in 1981 of killing James Dvorak, whose beaten body was found in the palmettos along Canova Beach.

Recent DNA testing proved that Dillon's DNA was not on a bloody T-shirt used as a key piece of evidence to convict him.

Dillon was released on \$100,000 bond, though his family and the Innocence Project of Florida, the organization that pushed for the DNA test, had to come up with only a portion of that in cash — \$2,500.

PLEASE SEE **RELEASED, B5**