

BREAKING NEWS 24/7 AT PALMBEACHPOST.COM

DÉCOR OVER DIAMONDS?
WOMEN SAY 'YES!'



Plus! Neighborhood of the Week: Frenchman's Reserve

IN FLORIDA HOME

SUPER BOWL XLIV MIAMI

MAGIC MOMENTS
Champs recall joy, tears
IN SPORTS



JOSE LAMBIET
Snoop Dogg's party
IN SPORTS, 4C

PICK YOUR OWN PRODUCE!

New local market cuts out middleman
IN BUSINESS, 6B



Is Tiger out of sex rehab – and poised for a return to golf?
IN SPORTS, 2C

THANK YOU!
Season to Share program raises \$624,688
IN ACCENT



YOUR WEATHER

TODAY

Partly cloudy

HIGH: 75 LOW: 49

NATION AND WORLD FORECASTS ON BACK PAGE OF SPORTS
LIVE WEATHER RADAR AT PALMBEACHPOST.COM

3-DAY FORECAST

SUNDAY
Mostly sunny
68/52
MONDAY
Mostly sunny
72/59
TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
79/61

The Palm Beach Post

Saturday, February 6, 2010

First edition | One dollar

IN THE NEWS

Obama concedes overhaul may die

Health care reform is in doubt after his comments and Sen. Scott Brown's swearing-in. **3A**



ALEX BRANDON/The Associated Press
Vaccines have been effective in combating the epidemic.

U.S. swine flu outbreak shows signs of ending

The chances of another wave arriving this spring seem to be declining, officials say. **3A**

Twin bombings in Iraq kill 40 Shiite pilgrims

The third major attack this week threatens to add to the nation's election turmoil. **2A**

Tea Party Convention seeks return to ideals

Many conservative activists at the national gathering sense a loss of American pride. **2A**

Report reveals blunders in 8 U.S. troops' deaths

They received inadequate support while defending a worthless Afghan outpost. **3A**

LOCAL

State officials to test water, soil in Acreage

The decision relieves parents who seek the cause of their children's brain cancer. **1B**

Evidence can be public before Merhige's trial

Lawyers for the media and the Jupiter slaying suspect agree to a compromise. **1B**

FAU's faculty Senate backs medical school

Despite concerns about costs, an independent program could start in fall 2011. **1B**

BUSINESS

Census' Super Bowl ads draw fire from McCain

He says the \$2.5 million effort to boost participation in the count is a waste of money. **6B**

European debt crisis: Trouble in Greece and Portugal triggers worldwide fears. 6B

Toyota apology: Its president vows improvements but stops short of a Prius recall. 7B

SPORTS

Cortez Kennedy hopes for call to Hall of Fame

The ex-UM defensive tackle is among 17 finalists for the pro football honor today. **3C**

Danica at Daytona: The IndyCar driver will start 12th in her stock car debut. 2C

Cook to defend title: The Heat guard enters the All-Star Weekend 3-point contest. 9C

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FATAL SHARK ATTACK

Powerful shark was out to kill, expert says

The kiteboarder's wounds were far more severe than 'hit-and-run bites.'

By MICHAEL LaFORGIA
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

STUART — A shark attack that killed a kiteboarder on Wednesday was the rarest and most frightening kind of strike, a case of a powerful

9-foot predator likely meaning to kill and eat its human prey, a leading shark expert said Friday.

"There's a big difference between the normal hit-and-run bites that we see on the coast of Florida and what we're unfortunately experiencing here this week," said George Burgess, keeper of the University of Florida's International Shark Attack File. "This thing here was closer to

our preconception about what a shark attack is."

That preconception, stoked by books and movies, doesn't hold for the vast majority of shark bites, which occur when sharks snap at humans while going after fish. But in rare instances, a shark will come across a human bobbing in the waves and attack with intent.

That's what happened to Stephen Schafer, 38, in the

water south of Stuart Beach on Wednesday, Burgess said.

"This was the real thing," Burgess said. "This was a bigger shark apparently seeing a human as an appropriately sized item worth pursuing."

About 4:15 p.m., Schafer was a quarter-mile offshore when at least one large shark, probably a bull or tiger, attacked and mortally



Schafer
■ Martin lifeguard's actions called heroic. **16A**

See SHARK, 16A ▶

D.C. area shuts down, fears 30 inches of snow

South Florida expects dry, cool weather Sunday

'Potentially epic' storm clogs Super Bowl travel



CHARLES DHARAPAK/The Associated Press

Snow covers the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Friday. The mid-Atlantic storm caused Palm Beach International Airport to cancel flights to and from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

By ELIOT KLEINBERG and JULIUS WHIGHAM II
Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

All week, organizers of Sunday's Super Bowl in Miami Gardens worried they'd be plagued by bad weather, as they were in 2007 when a steady rain dampened the big game.

But South Florida's not the problem this time.

A vicious winter storm

moving Friday into the mid-Atlantic brought the nation's capital to a halt, with strong winds and up to 30 inches of snow predicted for the Washington area.

Airlines canceled flights, schools closed and the federal government sent workers home, where they could be stuck for days in a region ill-equipped to deal with so much snow.

The National Weather Service in Baltimore warned residents to "plan for substantial disruptions to travel ... through the weekend."

Jane Lubchenco, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, called the blizzard "a potentially epic

See STORM, 14A ▶

ECONOMY IN CRISIS

Jobless rate below 10%, but 20,000 workers cut

As shoppers avoid big-ticket items, retailers refrain from hiring.

By ALLISON ROSS
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Jennifer Millman would love to see the "vacancy" signs on commercial buildings turn into "help wanted" signs from retailers looking to hire.

But, she said, it's just not happening yet.

The national unemployment rate dipped to 9.7 in January, down from 10 percent in December, the Labor Department reported Friday. But even as the jobless rate declined, a separate report showed that employers shed 20,000 positions last month.

"We all want to put a positive spin, to hear some good news, but the truth is the residential housing market in South Florida needs to recover still," said Millman, a vice president at Millman Search Group, a retail consulting firm with an office in Boca Raton.

"People are still playing it close to the vest. They're just not making big-ticket, nonessential purchases right now, and until they do, you're not going to see

See JOBLESS, 14A ▶

As NASA mission shifts, Endeavour trip may be among last manned flights

By ELIOT KLEINBERG
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Endeavour is set to lift off early Sunday for what is expected to be the last night launch ever — and one of the last five shuttle missions.

It also might be one of the last times for a long while that the U.S. government sends people into space.

The Obama administration said this week it wants to scrap the spacecraft that was to replace the aged shuttle fleet and farm out manned flights to private industry.

Under its proposed budget, the ambitious return to the moon pitched by then-President George W. Bush after the 2003 Columbia disaster would be history. Future missions to the far planets would be done in collaboration with other countries. NASA would hire commercial carriers, or strike deals with the Russians, to ferry its astronauts to the interna-

See SHUTTLE, 8A ▶

PALM BEACH POST CONTINUING COVERAGE DEVASTATION IN HAITI

'A child in God's hands': Haiti orphan finds shelter amid rampant trafficking

By DAPHNE DURET
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — He was hungry.

Rodrigue "SonSon" Cesar had spent nearly two days walking alone among the refugees, the injured strangers and the weeping women downtown.

He had been playing outside with his friends Rafael, Garvins and another kid whose name he can't remember when they felt the ground tremble on Jan. 12.

When the shaking stopped,

More coverage inside

■ U.S. vows to continue searching Hotel Montana for remains. **12A**

■ Boynton man's father one of two killed in helicopter crash. **12A**

he ran home to his mother. He found her underneath the rubble. Her eyes were open, but she wasn't looking at him.

Neighbors who searched the Cité Soleil house told him that his father was dead, too.

See HAITI, 12A ▶



LANNIS WATERS/Staff Photographer

Rodrigue 'SonSon' Cesar, 12, lost his parents in the quake. He found relief workers who got him into an orphanage.