



LONDON OFFICIALS FIND AND DEFUSE TWO CAR BOMBS

An ambulance crew finds the first vehicle near a popular nightclub early in the morning. When that was taken care of, police found another and then try to figure out who put them there. **Times 2, 4A**

Rays lose pitchers' duel in Cleveland

Ben Francisco's leadoff home run in the bottom of the ninth inning gives the Indians a 2-1 win over Tampa Bay, the Devil Rays' fifth loss in a row. **Sports, 1C**

Band-Aid bandit gets 149 years

After bank employees tell a judge what going through a robbery did to them, Rafael Rondon is sentenced to the maximum for robbing six banks. **Local & State, 1B**

Border barrier built over the border

A structure meant to keep people from driving through the desert into New Mexico was actually built in Mexico, which wants it taken down now. **Times 2, 4A**

State of U.S. tennis evident in London

With James Blake's loss on Friday, Wimbledon has only one American man left in the draw. It's staggering, says columnist Gary Shelton. **Sports, 1C**

Fed to lenders: Time to get tough

Federal regulators release new standards for lenders, hoping to stem the rising rate of defaults, especially in the shaky subprime mortgage market. **Business, 1D**

Skimmed milk, straight from source

Researchers in New Zealand found cows genetically capable of producing milk lower in fat. Now they are looking for a way to spread the ability. **Business, 1D**

Get a bargain you can wear all year

Summer is always in style in Florida. So as stores bring in fall merchandise — and discount the summer stuff — take the opportunity to stock up. **Floridian, 1E**

Hide this report card

Schools get grades, and it's not good news. Officials say raising the bar brings improvement.

A mixed message

The letter grades of nearly as many Pinellas County schools rose as fell. **Local & State, 1B**

Online education

To share your thoughts on the grades, visit itsyourtimes.com.

To see how the local schools fared in an interactive map, visit education.tampabay.com.

Visit the gradebook blog at blogs.tampabay.com/schools.

BY RON MATUS
Times Staff Writer

School grades across Florida dipped this year under a modified grading system, with slightly fewer A's and B's and double the number of D's and F's, according to state data released Friday.

Many district officials knew it was coming, but the lash of a bad grade still stung as much as ever.

"If we were under the old grading scale, we would be a B," said Denny Oest, principal of Lennard High School, which became Hillsborough County's first-ever F high school. "But with the new scale, we

ended up with a failing grade."

The number of D schools rose from 122 to 220, while the number of F schools quadrupled to a record 82. Meanwhile, the number of A schools increased slightly and the number of B's dropped nearly 25 percent.

The way state education officials see it: No pain, no gain.

The tweaks in the grading formula were designed to raise the bar, which the state has done several times since former Gov. Jeb Bush instituted the school-grading system in 1999. Each time, grades

Breakdown of school letter grades

As released by the Florida Department of Education.

State breakdown

Schools earning	A	B	C	D	F
2007	1,472	469	588	220	82
2006	1,467	610	570	122	21

County breakdown

Hernando	8	5	5	2	0
Hillsborough	106	37	48	16	5
Pasco	37	10	17	3	0
Pinellas	70	23	24	6	0

iPhone 'pretty darn cool'



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN | Times

Nick Starr, 26, of St. Petersburg, films his new iPhone after purchasing it at the Apple Store in International Plaza. Starr was first in line at the store to buy the new phone, having waited since 9 a.m. Thursday. "It's pretty darn cool," he said.

The reaction

"My feet are elevated, my body is ready to go to sleep."

Mirlene Belcher, 23, Tampa, who stood in line for 10 hours

"Apple has a knack for creating very easy-to-use products. Their touch in the cell phone market is long overdue, I believe."

Pablo Defendini, 28, New York

"I'm gambling with next month's rent, but it's worth it."

Jerry Taylor, 54, San Francisco

By the numbers

Apple is predicting as many as 200,000 iPhones could be sold in the first two days through 164 Apple stores and AT&T's 1,800 outlets. The phones are \$499 or \$599, depending on the model, and a two-year service contract from AT&T runs at least \$59.99 per month. Both companies' stocks fared well Friday. Apple closed at \$122.04, up about 42 percent in the past six months. AT&T's stock price is up close to 9 percent in the past six months.

National view

Throughout the country, the scene was the same anywhere an Apple store or an AT&T company outlet stood: crazed masses eager to get their hands on the iPhone, Apple's multimedia device hailed as "revolutionary" by many industry analysts and a must-have product for countless techies. At 6 p.m., the months of unprecedented hype officially ended and the first wave of iPhones started to fly off the shelves.

Prized possession

The iPhone: In Tampa, a good thing comes to those who wait. **Business, 1D**

The accessories: Companies making iPhone peripherals had to guess on specs amid Apple's silence. **Business, 8D**

Coollest gadgets

The iPhone is the latest nifty technological innovation. What are the coolest gadgets of the past 10 years? Vote at news.tampabay.com

Court to hear Gitmo appeal

The high court reverses itself and agrees to rule on rights of detainees.

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court reversed itself Friday and agreed to consider whether detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been unfairly barred from the federal courts by the Bush administration and Congress, a move that may determine legal rights for foreign-born terrorism suspects.

The case will address whether subjecting the detainees to military commissions instead of allowing them access to federal courts violates the Constitution. In April, the court had decided not to hear an appeal from the detainees.

Friday's decision to change course and hear the case was so unusual that lawyers and court experts went to the archives to try to find the last time it had happened. The only consensus was that it had been decades.

"The Supreme Court is going to decide the simple question: Does the Constitution protect the detainees?" said Georgetown University law professor Neal Katyal, who successfully argued a detainee case the court decided just a year ago. In that case, the justices said President Bush did not have authority to set up the military tribunals the administration thought should hear the cases against the detainees.

Congress later passed legislation designating detainees as enemy combatants and stripping them of any right to use the federal courts to challenge the legality of their detention. That law also mandated special military trials for the detainees.

Detainees challenged the law, and their appeal reached the Supreme Court this year. On April 2, the court turned down

» See **GUANTANAMO, 5A**

Push takes deadly toll on troops in Iraq

The past three months have been the most dangerous for U.S. forces since the war began.

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An attack in the south of Baghdad that killed five U.S. soldiers Thursday added to the deadliest three-month period for Americans since the war began.

The deaths brought to 99 the number of U.S. troops killed this month, according to an Associated Press count. The toll for the past three months — 329 — made it the deadliest quarter for U.S. troops in Iraq since the

March 2003 invasion. That surpasses the 316 soldiers killed during November 2004 to January 2005.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., who heads U.S. forces in the Iraqi capital, said U.S. casualties had mounted because Sunni extremists are "starting to fight very hard" as U.S. forces press

into areas of the capital where militants once had free rein.

"This is a skilled and determined enemy. He's ruthless. He's got a thirst for blood like I've never seen anywhere in my life," Fil told reporters. "And he's determined to do whatever he can."

» See **IRAQ, 8A**

Billions spent, but drug trade grows

Critics and farmers say old approaches aren't working in Colombia.

BY DAVID ADAMS

Times Latin America Correspondent

TENCHE, Colombia — Numar Tirado used to make money on the side growing coca bushes, the notorious plant whose leaves make cocaine.

But the dairy farmer stopped two years ago after a U.S.-financed aerial spraying campaign reached this remote corner of the Andean foothills, turning hillsides into withered gray-brown dead zones.

Tirado went back to legal, but less profitable, farming. He invested in some more cattle and planted new pasture.

But then the spray planes came again last month. In seconds his best grazing land was wiped out. With not enough left to graze on, he sold half his herd of 72 cattle before they starved.

"The planes came over the hill and shot a spurt over there, and then came back and did another over there," he said pointing to

two gray patches of dead grassland. "It doesn't make any sense. Do you see any coca here?"

Despite its apparent lack of precision, U.S. and Colombian officials defend the spray program as the most efficient means of eliminating coca production in Colombia, the world's largest producer of cocaine.

But critics of antinarcotics policy in Colombia say the latest data shows that eight years of



DAVID ADAMS | Times

Leofanor Mosquera, next to a coca plant, would like an alternative income source for his town of Tenche, Colombia.

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