



Members of the Aircraft Rescue Firefighters are getting mandatory training so they will be prepared for aircraft fires. About 30 are participating in the training, which continues today.

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## SPORTS

Tallahassee volleyball powers Leon and Maclay meet tonight.

Page 1C

## CONVERSATION

Nearly 50 applied. Twenty were chosen. Meet the members of the 2007-08 Tallahassee Democrat Teen Board in Local Conversation and online at Tallahassee.com.

Page 1B

## STOCKS

**Dow Jones**  
-61.13, 13,759.06

**Oil Prices**  
-0.1 cent/gallon at pump  
\$2.809 (national average)

For more business news, see Page 8A.

## ONLINE

Wondering what's hot, what's new and what's coming up on Tallahassee.com? Check out Page 2 to see what's the latest for our Web site.

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**Today:** high 80s  
**Tonight:** low 70s  
**Rain:** 20%  
**Weather:** 8C

# Florida consumers may pay the price if La Nina develops



MIKE EWEN /Democrat

Chapman Produce worker John Kazmirski loads fruits and vegetables into his truck on Thursday. Due to possible weather conditions, many fruits and vegetables may have to be imported from other states.

## More produce would need to be imported

By Jennifer Jefferson

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida may not be able to handle a dry winter, but that's what may happen, a group of climatologists say.

The Southeast Climate Consortium has issued a La Nina watch.

A watch means that conditions are likely for the development of a full-fledged La Nina event.

"It is very likely that it will be a La Nina," said David Zierden, a climate scientist at Florida State University's Center for

Ocean Atmospheric Prediction Studies and state climatologist of Florida. If so, an official La Nina declaration will be made.

Under La Nina conditions, sea surface temperatures along the equator in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean are a few degrees colder than normal for a minimum of five months, according to Jim O'Brien, meteorology and oceanography professor emeritus at FSU.

Locally, La Nina

Please see **CLIMATE, 2A**

■ Listen to David Zierden, a climate scientist at Florida State University's Center for Ocean Atmospheric Prediction Studies and state climatologist of Florida, describe what La Nina is and how it affects Florida on Tallahassee.com.

### ON THE WEB

■ More information on the developing La Nina and its potential impacts is available at [www.AgClimate.org](http://www.AgClimate.org) and [www.CoastalClimate.org](http://www.CoastalClimate.org).

TALLAHASSEE.COM



Rep. Corrine Brown and some state legislators in Jacksonville for a news conference Monday, urging a heavy voter turnout on Jan. 29. Brown recalled the "disenfranchisement" of about 27,000 voters in her area in 2000 and predicted that the DNC won't want to be known for refusal to "count all the votes" in the primary.

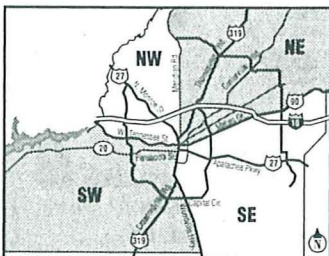
"I'm going to Denver with 209 of my closest friends," Brown said. "We will be seated."

Thurman said the party can apportion its delegates on the basis of the Jan. 29 primary and appeal to the convention's credentials committee for seating. She said the DNC has only 25 votes on that committee, while the party nominee has 161, so Thurman predicted the convention frontrunner will want to bring Florida into the arena and let bygones be bygones.

"At the end of the day, we're going to be part of the decision because they need us," said Thurman.

She also said she wasn't concerned that candidates will boycott Florida under the "four-state pledge." Thurman noted that with the state primary in March "we never saw any of them anyway" in past presidential campaigns.

The Republican National Committee also has a Feb. 5 rule for Florida but will only take away half the GOP delegation — 57 votes — in St. Paul, Minn., for defying it. The state party plans to challenge the RNC rule on the convention floor next summer.



#### Key

- NE** East of Meridian Road/Monroe St. north of Tennessee St./Mahan Dr.
- NW** North of Tennessee St., west of Monroe St./Meridian Road
- SW** South of Tennessee St. west of Monroe St./Woodville Highway
- SE** South of Mahan Drive, east of Monroe St./Woodville Highway

## CLIMATE

### From Page 1A

conditions usually bring a warmer and drier cool season from October through March.

For Mike Quinn, general manager of Chapman Produce Co., a drier and warmer winter may mean more produce will be bought from California, which is a big loss for the Florida agriculture market.

"It can have catastrophic effects if it's continuous," said Dann Sleep, a supervisor and senior analyst for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in reference to the dry conditions.

Farmers may also pass the loss on to consumers.

"The farmers may not feel the brunt, but consumers will," Sleep said.

For the Florida Panhandle, southern Georgia and southern Alabama, the probability of moderately dry conditions is 50 percent and the chance of very dry conditions is 30 percent, which will contribute to an increase in wildfires.

The last La Nina started in 1998 and weakened in 2000, causing a multi-year drought. It typically returns every two to seven years.

"Drought conditions were bad in April and May," Zierden said. "With the return of La Nina, it may return again in the winter and intensify in the spring season. If the water table drops, there will be water-supply concern."

For small fruits, a warmer winter could mean that farmers could reap an early harvest, said Stephen Leong, director of the Florida A&M University Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research. However, if a freeze follows, the crop would be ruined.

## Lottery results

### FLORIDA LOTTERY

WINNING NUMBERS FOR 9/24/07

**CASH 3:** 9/24 -1-6-2; 9/23 -3-5-7

**PLAY 4:** 9/24 -4-3-8-2; 9/23 -2-6-0-5

**FANTASY 5:** 9/24 -9-22-29-35-36; 9/23 -1-12-14-29-32

**LOTTO:** 9/22 -1-5-10-21-27-38

**MEGA MONEY:** 9/21 -8-17-38-44

— 8

For lottery information, call (850) 487-7777.

### GEORGIA LOTTERY

**CASH 3 (noon):** 9/24 -9-0-4

**CASH 3 (night):** 9/24 -4-2-5

**CASH 4 (noon):** 9/24 -7-5-1-7

**CASH 4 (night):** 9/24 -9-2-5-9

**FANTASY 5:** 9/24 -1-7-11-16-23

**WIN FOR LIFE:** 9/22 -6, 12, 17, 18, 34, 37 — 30

**MEGA MILLIONS:** 9/21 -5-21-23-33-45 — 43

For more on Florida Fantasy 5 and Georgia Fantasy 5, see Page 3A.

## CORRECTIONS

To report a correction, please contact Jane Parrish at 599-2349 or fax 599-2295.

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