Were you an early voter?
Did you take advantage of Florida's early voting op-
tion during this past presi-
dential election? If so, re-
porter John McCarthy would like to speak to you about what you liked — or dis liked — about the expe-
rience. If you'd like to share your thoughts, you can reach McCa th at 752-5018 or e-mail your thoughts to jmccarthy@florida.com. If you do send an e-mail, please include your phone number where he can reach you for more in-
fomation.

Storm cancels Delta flights

BY DONNA BALANCA
FLORIDA TODAY

Winter weather along the East Coast is disrupting airline service to and from Central Florida. Delta Air Lines officials said Fri-
day that 1,000 flights were canceled.

Customers traveling to Atlanta and other cities on Delta, Song or Delta Connection flights may be affected by delays and cancellations.

Among Delta's Melbourne flights, those that were canceled as of Friday evening were a flight Fri-
day night and the following flights today: Flight 852 depart-
ing at 5:35 p.m., Flight 855 depart-
ing at 7:29 a.m. and Flight 625, de-
parting at 12:40 p.m. Incoming flights to Melbourne also will be affected. Delta is the dominant airline from Melbourne.

Passengers missing flights out of Orlando or planning to pick up arriving passengers there today also should check with their air-
line on possible delays or cancel-
lations.

Delta said customers booked on flights to or from Atlanta, and other affected cities in the South,
-east, may make adjustments to their travel schedule due to the potential impact of winter storms. Friday and today. Customers who have a flight canceled may request refunds.

Affected cities include Asheville, N.C.; New York; Orlando; Chicago; Charlotte, N.C.; Columbus, Ohio; Greensboro, N.C.; Greenville, N.C.; and Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

For additional cities and updates on flights, go to www.delta.
t.com or call 800-323-1999.

Contact Balanca at 242-3647 or dbalanca@florida.com.

Manatee count dispute

Spotters find 3,142 sea cows Jan. 26 along Florida's coasts

By Jim Waymer
FLORIDA TODAY

State biologists on Friday re-
leased the number that spawters a year ago in the Manatee ad-
vocate colonies and boatin-
groups. This year, the number is 3,142.

Spotters counted that many
manatees Jan. 26, the second highest count in 14 years, during a ded-
ential and ground survey of the state's waterways. They saw 1,548 manatees on the Gulf coast and 1,594 on Florida's east coast. A total of 26 were seen in Brevard, most near warm la-

goos-water discharge pipes at two power plants near Port St.
John. This year's count prompted the usual disagreement about what the number means.

"It's good that they're holding steady, but it doesn't really mean anything," said Pat Thompson of the Save the Man-
te Club, an environmental group based in Maitland. "If they're looking for scientific evidence that manatees are in-
creasing, they just can't use these surveys for that purpose."

Boaters, however, take the high count as more evidence that manatees are doing fine.

Tom McGrath, a charter captain on Merritt Island, estimates there are more than 6,000 man-
teas in the wild in Florida.

"I think it was a poor count, because I think the water tem-
perature was too warm," McGrath said, adding that manatees leave warm-water effluent areas.

See MANATEE, 4B

Florida Tech keep growing

Foundation funds construction of Olin physical sciences facility

By James Dean
FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE — With a can-
dle flame and a little shriek of hand Friday, Florida Tech chemical professor and ama-
teur magician Neil Neese ign-
ited the ceremonial ribbon on the university's new $14 mil-

lion F.W. Olin Physical Sci-
ences building.

In doing so, he completed the university's modern transforma-
tion from a respected regional school to a research in-
stitution with national aspira-
tions.

"There is no doubt in any-
one's mind today that the F.W. Ol-
in Foundation and this uni-

versity's board have trans-
formed Florida Tech into a great American tech-
nical university," University President Anthony Catanese told a crowd of several hundred guests gath-
ered for the dedication cere-
mony.

It was the New York-based F.W. Olin Foundation's 1997 pledge of $50 million — which has since grown to more than $60 million with matching gifts — that reshaped Florida Tech's campus.

Named for a nineteenth cen-
tury industrialist and entre-
preneur, the foundation special-
izes in funding science facilities at private colleges and universities.

A "matting dance" with then-
university President Lynn Ed-
ward Weaver resulted in the foun-
dation's largest gift, aside from one that established Olin College in Massachusetts.

"Our support for Florida Tech is based on the belief that Florida is emerging as a major tech-
nological center," said Lawrence Milas, president of the foundation.

Private institutions, Milas added, are necessary to better public universities through competition but need support since they can't rely on public funds.
The three-year, $70,000-square-foot Physical Science Building, which opened this semester, is the last of three Georgian-style build-
ings fully funded by the founda-
tion that now anchor the south-
end of the campus.

The others, the F.W. Olin Engineering Complex and the F.W. Olin Life Sciences Center, opened in 1995.

Who was F.W. Olin?

F.W. Olin was born in 1860 in Vermont lumber camps. Without a high school diploma, he qualified for Cornell University, paying his way in part by playing professional baseball. He later founded the Olin Corp., a Fortune 100 company that makes Winchester am-

What is the F.W. Olin Foundation?

Started by Franklyn W. Olin in 1938, the New York-based foundation has awarded grants totaling more than $300 million to construct and fully equip 72 buildings on 57 independent college campuses. In addition to Florida Tech, recipients in-
clude Babson, Bucknell, Carleton, Case Western, Col-
gate, Cornell, DePauw, Har-
vard, Marywood, Johns Hopkins, Marquette, Rose-Hulman Insti-
tute, Tufts, University of San Diego, University of Southern California, Vander-
bilt, and Worcester Polytech-

nical.

Source: Olin College

Gala dinner

Tickets to tonight's farewell gala dinner are still available. For in-
formation, call 447-1941 or visit the Florida Tech web-
site at www.fit.edu. For in-
formation, call 447-1941 or visit the Florida Tech web-
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Olin Foundation

Since 1997, the New York-based F.W. Olin Foundation has given Florida Tech more than $60 million, including matching gifts. The money funded three major new buildings on the south side of campus:
- F.W. Olin Engineering Complex
  - Size: Three levels, 58,500 square feet
  - Cost: $21 million (combined with Life Sciences)
  - Opened: January 2000
  - What’s inside: The College of Engineering’s Division of Electrical and Computer Science and Division of Engineering Sciences; 26 research and teaching labs; 450-seat multimedia lecture hall.
- F.W. Olin Life Sciences Building
  - Size: Two levels, 38,265 square feet
  - Cost: $21 million (combined with Engineering Complex)
  - Opened: January 2000
  - What’s inside: All biology, ecology, and marine science departments; 20 research and teaching labs.
- F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Building
  - Size: Three levels, 70,000 square feet
  - Cost: $14 million
  - Opened: January 2005
  - What’s inside: A dome housing a 32-inch telescope, the largest in Florida; 62 research and teaching labs; 41 faculty/staff offices; three theaters.

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- Broyhill -

$299 QUEEN PANEL BED
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- Also available: King panel bed $499.

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Was $3999. Formal French styling lends its influence to Haverty’s entertainment ensemble. Botanical influences that inspired the impressionists of Giverny can be seen in the fluid embellishment of oak and ash veneers create softly curved molding, and an “Old World” finish gives the ensemble its warm, aged patina. Includes a light brown finish, left and right curio pier units. *1.4000173.

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