



**Early Christmas gift.** Jake Luhn, director of sales and marketing with Lifestyle Homes, gets a hug of appreciation Tuesday from Deborah Wangrycht as her husband, Michael, reads a new home greeting card

Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

from the staff at Lifestyle. The Wangrychts lost their home on Torrington Street during the Palm Bay wildfires earlier this year. Lifestyle Homes built a new home on the same site, at cost.

# Family gets its Christmas wish

## Couple move into new home after losing theirs to May fires

BY KIMBERLY C. MOORE  
FLORIDA TODAY

PALM BAY — With smiles, a hug and a kiss on the cheek, Lifestyle Homes' Jake Luhn welcomed Michael and Deborah Wangrycht to their new home Tuesday morning.

"This is our Christmas present," said Michael Wangrycht, whose home burned down in the May arson fires. "Nothing like being home for the holidays."

The Wangrychts began moving into their new home at 6 a.m. Tuesday. By noon, a delivery van from Appliance Direct was backing into their driveway at 1148



**Legacy of Flames**

floridatoday.com/fireseason2008

Torrington St. with a new washer and dryer and refrigerator.

"It's a beautiful thing," Michael Wangrycht said, showing off the clean white rooms and gray tile of the home, which overlooks the only survivor of the firestorm — the family's swimming pool.

Wangrycht contacted Lifestyle Homes to build the house after the fires tore through the city, burning down 33 homes in Palm

■ **House destroyed by fire**  
1148 Torrington St.



Bay and three others nearby beginning on Mother's Day.

Luhn said they decided to forgo any profit on building the home, in order to keep the costs

down for a family who had lost everything and was starting over.

"Palm Bay is where Lifestyle Homes was founded in the early '80s, and it's just awesome to be able to contribute back to somebody rebuilding their life after such a tragic circumstance," said Luhn, whose father, John, and a business partner, started the company in 1984. "They envisioned a company that would be not only a successful business, but also deeply embedded themselves in the community, and what goes along with that is giving back when people are in need of things that are at our disposal."

In addition, the subcontractors caught the spirit of giving and kept their costs down, as well.

See WISH, 5B



Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

**New home.** The Wangrychts start moving into their new home, built on the site of the home, **right**, they lost in May's arson fires.



May 2008 FLORIDA TODAY file

**Charred ruin.** The Wangrychts managed to retrieve only a few items from the ashes of their old home..

# Satellite offers hurricane clues

## Jason-2 will help map out ocean heat that feeds storm intensity

BY JIM WAYMER  
FLORIDA TODAY

A new satellite about 800 miles above Earth will help scientists better understand hurricane strength, rising sea levels and global warming.

Researchers worldwide can access the first climate data from the international satellite named Jason-2, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday.

The satellite, named after the

mythological Greek leader of the Argonauts, will help scientists create a clearer picture of sea-level increases and changing ocean features around tropical cyclones. The satellite maps ocean heat that feeds storm intensity.

The near-real-time Jason-2 data is crucial for predicting sea-level rise, a leading NOAA scientist said.

"The sea level is rising at a rate of 3.2 millimeters per year,

nearly twice as fast as the previous 100 years," Laury Miller, chief of NOAA's Laboratory for Satellite Altimetry, said in a news release. "If this rate continues unchanged during the coming decades, it will have a huge impact on coastal regions, with erosion and flooding."

From low orbit, the spacecraft monitors 95 percent of the world's ice-free oceans every 10 days.

Jason-2, launched June 20 from California, is a joint effort between NOAA, NASA and European agencies. ■

Contact Waymer at 242-3663 or jwaymer@floridatoday.com.

## 2009 predictions

On Dec. 10, William Gray's team at Colorado State University predicted 14 named storms between June 1 and Nov. 30, 2009. They expect seven of the 14 storms to become hurricanes. Of those seven, three will develop into intense or major hurricanes (of Category 3, 4 or 5) with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater, the team said.

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Learn more about the Jason-2 satellite, and read "Fay's Aftermath: Underwater and underinsured," a special report by FLORIDA TODAY.

# Dog abuser faces jail by Friday

## Judge gives Abrams bond deadline

BY MICHELLE SPITZER  
FLORIDA TODAY

VIERA — A Brevard County judge ruled that a woman convicted of abandoning her dog, which starved to death, can remain free while her case is being appealed if she posts \$5,000 bond by noon Friday.

Christine Abrams, 30, technically only has to pay 10 percent of the bond, \$500, which her attorney said in court Tuesday is feasible. Judge Kelly McKibben also ruled Tuesday that Abrams must surrender her passport, obtain permission before traveling outside the state, cannot own an animal and must check in with a probation officer once a week.

When approached by FLORIDA TODAY after the hearing, Abrams said she had no comment.

Her attorney, Andrew Stine

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View more photos of convicted dog abuser Christine Abrams' hearing before Judge Kelly McKibben in Viera.

PHOTO GALLERY

of West Palm Beach, said his client deserved to remain free during the appeal.

"She is not by any means a threat to the community," Stine said. "She is not going to flee."

Prosecutor Michael Raska said the state wanted Abrams ordered to jail Tuesday, but the judge's ruling was not a surprise.

"Our main concern is over her jail time," Raska said.

Abrams pleaded no contest

See DOG, 3B



Michael R. Brown, FLORIDA TODAY

**Running the gauntlet.** Convicted dog abuser Christine Abrams tries to hide her face from the crowd of animal lovers and the media as she approaches the courtroom for a hearing Tuesday at the Moore Justice Center in Viera.

# Service groups, arts obtain county funds

BY RICK NEALE  
FLORIDA TODAY

VIERA — Despite the economic recession, North Brevard Charities, the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation and a dozen other service organizations will receive county grant funding this year.

Tuesday, the Brevard County Commission unanimously voted to award \$979,895 to social- and human-service agencies that help the poor, elderly, children and other vulnerable residents.

In a similar move, commissioners voted 4-1 to award \$293,000 to 29 Brevard cultural groups, such as the Space Coast Ballet, Strawbridge Art League and Titusville Playhouse. Andy Anderson voted no.

The outlays, which total more than \$1.27 million, will be financed using the county general fund.

Commissioners agreed that the service agencies provide essential services to the impover-

ished that would cost the county more cash to provide on its own.

Jason Steele, chairman of the Brevard County Republican Party executive committee, lobbied in favor of the funding. He is a board member of PRE-VENT! of Brevard, one of the 14 service agency grant recipients. And he said he struggled with drug addiction in 1985.

"Tens of thousands of people in this community are faced with these problems. And, unfortunately, what it does to government is incredible," he said.

When considering service-organization funding, Steele asked commissioners to put themselves in the shoes of a pregnant woman who gets beaten by her husband.

Prior to the \$293,000 cultural-funding vote, in light of the Christmas season, a cellist and violinist with the Brevard Symphony Orchestra performed Mozart for the commission.

"Man's very existence is defined by his culture, and by the

See FUNDS, 7B

## INSIDE

### Christmas party benefits the needy

Hundreds of families are expected to turn out in Fellsmere this weekend as a Operation Hope, a longtime community organization, presents an event that ensures the needy have food, toys and clothes for Christmas. **4B**

### Judge rejects request for second autopsy

A judge denies requests from the mother of missing Florida toddler Caylee Anthony to force investigators to turn over photos, videos and drawings from the woods where a child's remains were found, and also denies motions from Casey Anthony's attorneys to allow a second autopsy, **FLORIDA, 10B**

# Man charged in death of toddler

BY J.D. GALLOP  
FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE — Veda Van-Cleave was born on Valentine's Day 2007 but never had a chance to see her second birthday.

Now prosecutors have charged 23-year-old Shane William George, the boyfriend of the toddler's mother, with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse in connection with Veda's death. George, who had a bond hearing Tuesday, remains held at the Brevard County jail in Sharpes on a \$100,000 bond.



**Shane William George, 23, remains held at the Brevard County jail on Sharpes on a \$100,000 bond.**

"Basically, we followed up on the case and there was enough information to have it presented to the grand jury," said Cmdr. Ron Bell, spokesman for the Melbourne Police Department.

The child's death becomes Brevard County's 22nd reported homicide and the eighth

## Data Center

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slaying in Melbourne this year.

George surrendered to authorities last Wednesday after the grand jury indicted him on charges stemming from Veda's death nearly eight months ago. George, who had not been

See TODDLER, 6B

## New features available at floridatoday.com.

We have changed floridatoday.com's home page to better give you the news and information you want to click on. Here are some of the highlights of the new features you'll find:

■ **More photo galleries:** Our popular photo gallery feature is expanded, now giving you instant access to six of our most-popular galleries, including Zap Squad, On the Town and arrest mugshots.

■ **Enhanced story search:** Search articles posted during the past seven days by typing

in the headline or other key-word from that story.

■ **'The Slider':** A rotating menu of clickable features, "The Slider" gives you access to many of our in-depth multimedia projects, plus Moms LikeMe.

■ **More stories and sections:** On the bottom half of the home page, you'll see links to many more floridatoday.com sections and links to many more local and national stories, including Associated Press News of the Weird. ■

## On 2B

AROUND OUR COMMUNITIES . . . Dense fog advisory issued for north Brevard County . . . Brevard County Democrats elect new officers . . . Palm Bay woman tried to hide bottle of wine, other shoplifted items in a car seat beneath her 10-month-old baby, police say





At about 5 p.m. May 12, Wangrycht was helping a neighbor protect his home when the trees on their block erupted in flames.

 PHOTO GALLERY

The couple has six grandchildren, and they are looking forward to their first Christmas in the new home.

**Contact Moore at 409-1423  
or [kmoore@floridatoday.com](mailto:kmoore@floridatoday.com).**



**Hope grows again.** Jake Luhn, left, and Mike Vittitoe of Lifestyle Homes carry a plant to Deborah and Michael Wangrycht's rebuilt home on Torrington Street in Palm Bay on Tuesday.

**CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR 12/17/2008 - 12/23/2008 - Cont.**

05-2008-CA-049812-XXXX-XX 12/19/2008 AUTO NEGLIGENCE-HEARING; D-KELVIN GRANADOS ET AL; P-PEGGY LIFORD; JUDGE LISA DAVIDSON.  
05-2008-CA-053859-XXXX-XX 12/19/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-ARCH INSURANCE COMPANY INC; P-SUNBELT RENTALS INC; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2008-CA-057443-XXXX-XX 12/19/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-KATHLEEN CONEYS; P-RICHARD CONEYS; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-061637-XXXX-XX 12/19/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-PAUL VIN HUIS ET AL; P-US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; JUDGE LISA DAVIDSON.  
05-2008-CA-024846-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-BREAVARD COUNTY ET AL; P-PALM BAY CITY OF; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-067317-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY; P-DON MERLINO PHD; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-049941-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-DIXON BUILDING SERVICES INC ET AL; P-TGO REALTY INC; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-052575-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-LEVIN F PATRICK ET AL; P-LEVIN F PATRICK ET AL; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2007-CA-022374-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-WATSON PAVING ET AL; P-CITY OF ROCKLEDGE; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2007-CA-025354-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER NEGLIGENCE-HEARING; D-GREGORY BROEDLING ET AL; P-KATHY MAYNOR; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2007-CA-067968-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-TRANSFLORIDA CORP ET AL; P-CNH CAPITAL AMERICA LLC ET AL; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2007-CA-068481-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-JAMES MASSA ET AL; P-FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2007-CA-072455-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER NEGLIGENCE-HEARING; D-CORLEY HOLDINGS INC; P-AMELIA M CARDI; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-072505-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-KIMBERLY E GRANT; P-LASALLE BANK NA; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2007-CA-073383-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-BONNIE TO STOKES ET AL; P-REGIONS BANK F/K/A AHSOUTH BANK; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-007319-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JIMMY COLLINS ETC; P-SEA GULL CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION INC; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-008180-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-BENJAMIN RAY ET AL; P-PULASKI FARGO BANK ET AL; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-012724-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-DW HIGGINBOTHAM ET AL; P-DEAN DARLING; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-013720-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-TACTICAL TRANSPORT LLC ET AL; P-BREAVARD EXTRADITIONS INC; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-022069-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-NATHAN FRACOM ET AL; P-BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-024427-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-LINCOLN JOHNSON ET AL; P-LASALLE BANK NA; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-024669-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-028345-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-CHAD D STEWART ET AL; P-BENEFICIAL FLORIDA INC; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-029293-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-REBECCA GAY ET AL; P-WACHOVIA BANK NA; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-029586-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-ROBERTO G QUINONEZ SR ET AL; P-US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-033065-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-TAVON WILSON ET AL; P-NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC ECT; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-034247-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JOHN N FOUNTAIN JR; P-CYNTHIA D MINOT; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-034266-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE-HEARING; D-ALLISON MENDERS & MELBOURNE INTERNAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATES PA; P-RAMONA CRUZ; JUDGE CHARLES G CRAWFORD.  
05-2008-CA-035085-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-ROBERTA E TORRES ET AL; P-CITIMORTGAGE INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-035144-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-DANIELE BAUBIEN ET AL; P-CITIMORTGAGE INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-038665-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-DANIEL FIORE; P-STEVEN PODNOS TRUSTEE BREAVARD PULMONARY SPECIALISTS 401 K PLAN F/BO STEVEN PODNOS; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-041836-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JOHN J WIEGEL; P-BREAVARD PULMONARY SPECIALISTS 401 K PLAN ET AL; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-045989-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 CHILD SUPPORT-HEARING; D-THE DEBARTOLIS; P-BENIHSPALIS LLC; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2008-CA-052491-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JOHN J FASTIGGI ETC; P-DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2008-CA-052567-XXXX-XX 12/22/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-ARTURO D CALERO ET AL; P-BREAVARD COUNTY SHERIFF; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2001-CA-006717-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JANE G MCBRYDE ET AL; P-JACK HURT; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2003-CA-053606-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JAMES J CONVILLE ET AL; P-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2004-CA-015193-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-CRESCENT BEACH CLUB CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION INC; P-SCOTT KRUEGER ET AL; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2004-CA-019175-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-BARBARA DIANE BELLANDREA ESTATE ECT; P-MURRAY ABRAMOWITZ ET AL; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2005-CA-030757-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-WALKABOUT RESIDENTIAL COMPANY LLC; P-DRIH INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2008-CA-030930-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-ANTHONY BRYCE ET AL; P-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2008-CA-010778-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 OTHER NEGLIGENCE-HEARING; D-SUDATH COMPANIES ET AL; P-PHILLIP B CARDIN JR; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-006273-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY; P-RONALD JACKSON; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2007-CA-019182-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 OTHER CIRCUIT CIVIL-HEARING; D-HEALTH FIRST INC ET AL; P-RICHARD A HYNES MD FACS ET AL; JUDGE ROBERT A. WOHN JR.  
05-2007-CA-019387-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 CHILD SUPPORT-HEARING; D-PAULETTE L BRYCE ET AL; P-DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY; JUDGE TONYA B. RAINWATER.  
05-2007-CA-019763-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-ROM MAK ET AL; P-DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-020194-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 AUTO NEGLIGENCE-HEARING; D-PATRICIA H MEACHAM; P-SHALANDA N SMITH; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2007-CA-025341-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-DEBRA S SCOUTEGUZZA; P-KAREN BRAVO; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-025347-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JACK KRAVINSKY; P-GEORGE D STREIFER ET AL; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2007-CA-068792-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 CONTRACT & INDEBTEDNESS-HEARING; D-BARACUDA CONSTRUCTION INC ET AL; P-UNIVERSAL SUPPLY OF BREAVARD INC; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-069923-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-DONNA E EVANS ET AL; P-CITIMORTGAGE INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2007-CA-072023-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-WILFRED LUMB ET AL; P-SUPERIOR TRIM & DOOR INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER.  
05-2007-CA-072037-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-CHARLES KUTLER ET AL; P-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION; JUDGE BRUCE W. JACOBUS.  
05-2007-CA-072507-XXXX-XX 12/23/2008 REAL PROPERTY/MTG FORECLOSURE-HEARING; D-JUSTIN GANTHER ET AL; P-GREENPOINT MORTGAGE FUNDING INC; JUDGE GEORGE B. TURNER