



VALENCIA VOICE

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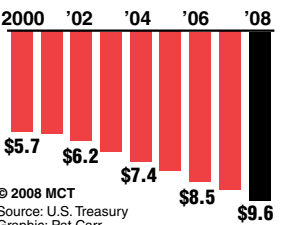
Markets in turmoil, investors seek safer assets

Mounting debt

The bill for the U.S. government's bailout of the financial sector could be more than \$1 trillion, adding to an already steep national debt.

In the hole

U.S. national debt, as of Sept. 30 in previous years and Sept. 18 this year, in trillions:



© 2008 MCT
Source: U.S. Treasury
Graphic: Pat Carr

On the hook

Amounts U.S. government has pledged in recent bailouts:

JPMorgan for Bear Stearns

Up to \$29 billion

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac

Up to \$200 billion

AIG

Up to \$85 billion

Buying bad loans

About \$700 billion

U.S. gov't take over of AIG yields little success, international markets affected

By Kevin G. Hall
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government this year has placed on its books the liabilities of a major investment bank in March, two mortgage-finance giants earlier this month, and this week, the nation's largest insurer.

The world of free-market finance as we know it is over. Turmoil was the word of the day Wednesday as global stock exchanges plunged and investors flocked to safer havens. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished down 449.36 points to 10609.66, while the S&P 500 shed 57.20 points to 1156.39 and the technology dominated Nasdaq lost a whopping 109.05 points

to 2098.85. All three indexes were off by more than 4 percent. Contracts for future delivery of gold, an ever-ready hedge against declining asset prices, rose \$85 an ounce in trading before settling up \$70, or 8.9 percent, at \$850.50.

If the Federal Reserve's Tuesday night rescue of insurer American International Group was supposed to calm global financial markets, it didn't happen Wednesday. Russian markets were so volatile that authorities halted trading in stocks and bonds, and Brazil's Bovespa index fell almost 6 percent.

Adding to the fear on Wall Street and beyond were problems in money markets, usually considered among the safest places for

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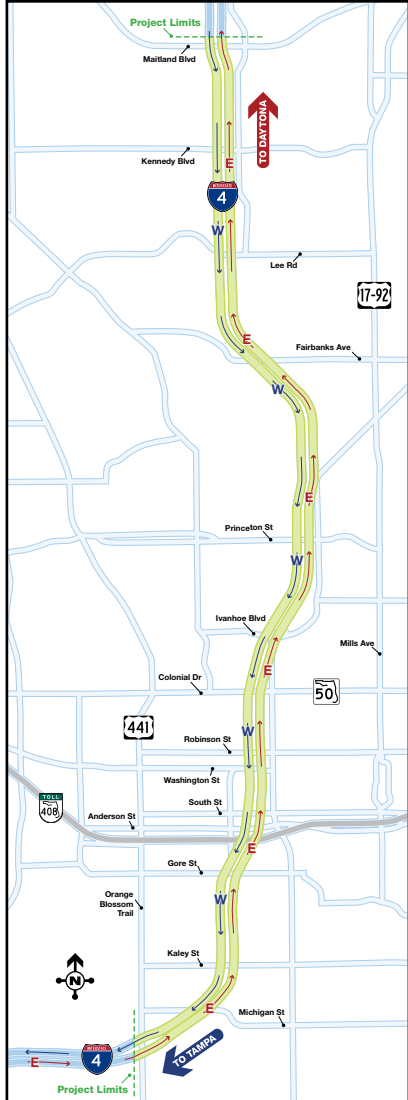
Changing speeds on I-4

FDOT installs variable speed limit signs on crowded Interstate

By Caleb Fooks
Valencia Voice

The Florida Department of Transportation officially initiated ten digital highway signs between the Orange Blossom Trail and Maitland Boulevard portion of Interstate 4 on Sept. 15.

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FDOT Press Release

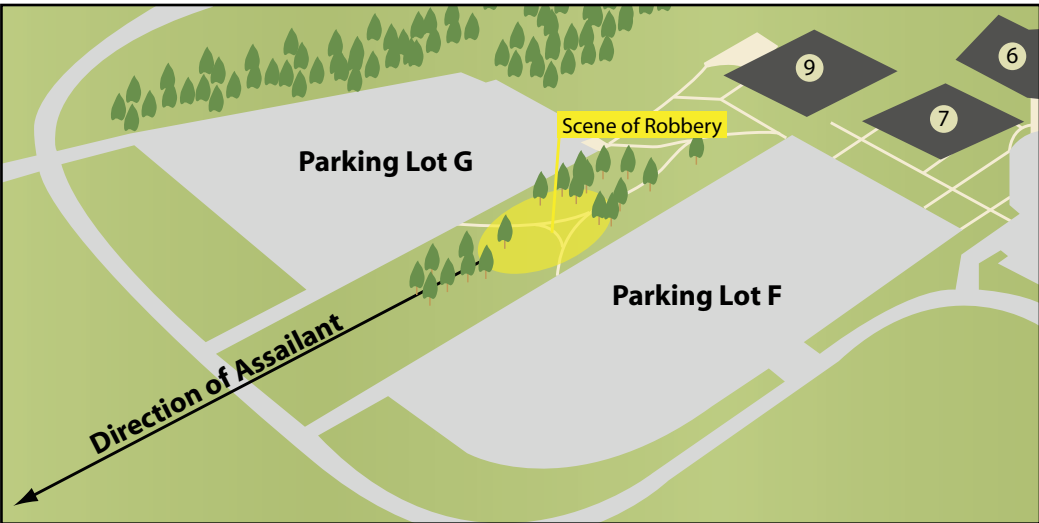


Illustration by Robert Navaille / Valencia Voice

The robbery occurred between parking lots G and F. The unnamed assailants fled in the direction of the apartment complex to the north of Valencia West Campus.

Robbery at West

OPD responds to 911 call, fails to alert campus security

By Trey McConnell and Devin Heflin
Valencia Voice

A student walking to his car on Sept. 16 was approached by two males asking him for the time. When he looked up to relay the information a gun was pointed at him while one assailant demanded, "We're taking your property."

The victim, who remains unidentified, told police he was walking to his car, which was between parking lot F and G, at approximately 2:02 pm when he was set upon by two unidentified black males.

A witness recognized the confrontation as the robbers laid claim to the victim's cell phone and laptop which were being carried on his person. They then fled on foot over the grass embankment toward the apartment complex which neighbors the campus, with one of the suspects discharging his weapon once into the air.

The victim immediately called the Orlando Police Department with the witnesses' cell phone. The interesting facet of the case is that the officer who patrols the lots went off duty at 2:00 pm. The robbery occurred approximately two minutes after the officer's shift ended.

Fortunately, there was an officer waiting at the Raleigh and Kirkman light who responded to the call. OPD's routine at this point is to alert Valencia that there has been an officer called to campus.

"Security was not even notified when this hap-

pened. We are supposed to get a call from the agency and it is very unusual the call wasn't made this time," said, Thomas Lopez, Assistant Vice President of Risk Management. Lopez is in liaison with a company which is responsible for security on all campuses but is housed exclusively at the West Campus.

Campus security attempted to draw up their own conclusions as to why their response to the situation was a bit more laggard than expected. When they gained light of the incident they immediately sent an e-mail to all students and faculty alerting them of what happened.

"Our first response was to be diligent but most importantly to be visible," said Lopez. "Our first instinct was to gather the troops. I mean, we aren't an armed service but police officers get shot at and that's why they hold guns."

Research indicates that no robberies by force were accounted for since 2007. Security reports most of their offenses are from students leaving their personal belongings around for people to pick up and never return to the lost and found services.

"Valencia is one of the safest educational facilities; for this to happen here in the middle of the day is crazy. There's 14,000 enrolled students at West Campus, hopefully one of them can come forward and give us some information," said Lopez. "We haven't sat down yet and decided what we can do for next time."

'Mad' night at Emmys

By Verne Gay
Newsday

So, a "Mad" night after all.

Engrossing, brilliantly acted and written, yet low-rated, AMC's "Mad Men" wasn't necessarily a lock to win commercial TV's highest honor Sunday night. But win it did: the show set in the 1960s advertising business became the first basic-cable drama series to win an Emmy for best drama.

Ironie? Slightly, perhaps, if only because the rest of the night celebrated broadcast TV's history past - sixty years past. Otherwise, ABC's "60th Prime-time Emmys" telecast went mostly according to script, or almost. The shocker of the night: Bryan Cranston - who played teacher-turned-meth dealer Walter H. White on AMC's "Breaking Bad" - won for best actor in a drama, beating out such worthies as "Mad Men"'s Jon Hamm and "House"'s Hugh Laurie.

Meanwhile, Glenn Close won best actress in a drama, for her role as a morally compromised lawyer on FX's "Damages." Alec Baldwin and his indelible network exec Jack Donaghy

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PGraylock, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

Actress/writer Tina Fey picked up a few Emmys including the Outstanding Actress in a Comedy series. Her hit show 30 Rock won best Comedy.

Getting out the vote on Constitution Day

Valencia clubs, organizations team up to get students voting

By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice

With the upcoming presidential election coming up, Valencia is doing its part to get students motivated to vote in this historic election, especially since the lowest voter turnout has been from young adults aged 18-24 years of age.

That job was left up to Student Development and SGA West Campus with Constitution Day.

Many students came together on September 17th on the SSB Patio at West Campus, registering to vote and stating their opinions on the issues.

"It's important for us to think about the Constitution because the presidential election is coming up," said Jenny Lee, who is the Valencia Volunteer Coordinator, "We need students to be excited for this historic event."

Members of SGA were handing out copies of the Constitution to students while Phi Theta Kappa members were trying to get as many students as possible to register to vote.

T.J. Cole, president of SGA West Campus urged students to register as well.

"The purpose of Constitution Day is to spread awareness about the Constitution, while we increase our involvement on campus while promoting that students know more about the issues at hand," said Cole, "Plus it gives SGA another chance to mingle with students."

As PTK members were registering people to vote, there were other agendas in mind, such as Fairness for all Families, which is an organization seeking to let all people keep their health care, and banning Amendment



Shaneece Dixon, Valencia Voice

Attendees of the Constitution Day event were entertained with a balloon artist, food, debates, and a movie.

2 in the Florida state constitution.

Many Floridans are already going against the passing of this amendment. Though it doesn't do anything against legal, hetero-

sexual marriages, it does ban legal domestic partnerships, which causes partners to lose many, if not all their benefits.

"With Amendment 2, people lose out on

health care benefits and hospital visitation rights," said Katie Farney, president of Phi Theta Kappa West Campus.

In fact, several students and even faculty members were really riled up about talking about the issues.

What appears to be among the biggest concerns is the actual interpretation of the Constitution.

Whoever will be the next President of the United States will most likely nominate new justices for the Supreme Court, who make interpretations off of the Constitution to implement decisions in court cases.

These interpretations could affect decisions based on issues such as abortion and gay rights.

"The president should know what our forefathers meant when they wrote the Constitution," said Jennifer Rodriguez, who supports strict interpretation of the revered document.

Some students, however, already knew who they were voting for and were very excited for the upcoming election. "We need a fresh face for politics," said Matt Bradley, "It's been the same people running for president."

Alongside Bradley was Castkra Demosthene, who supports Obama for his views on health care and ending the war in Iraq.

"It's time for a change. We're tired of high gas prices and a falling economy. It doesn't help that a lot of Americans are unemployed right now," Demosthene said.

The biggest economic issue that has Americans at an uproar is the current financial crisis in Wall Streets, where banks such as AIG and Merrill-Lynch are trillions of dollars in debt. Lou Marasco is one of those concerned Americans.

"This election is very important due to the economic situation. Too many people are given mortgages just so the mortgage companies make a profit," Marasco said.

Constitution Day is just one of those reminders of how effective and substantial it is not to just vote in this coming election, but to be an active voter in America.

Valencia writers, poets shine 'under the stars'



Olivia Pullinger, Valencia Voice

The participants from left to right: Margaret Laving Housez, Megan Elder, Trish Urdzick, Austin "The Skipper" Holbrook, Mercedes Gosnell, Gary Duncan, Jenna Helmuth, Jackie Zuromski, and Jan Karlo Gonzales.

By Omshante Lee
Valencia Voice

The cool evening air and dim patio lighting made a perfect setting for the Celebration Under The Stars, held at 7:00p.m. this past Thursday night at Valencia's West campus.

This insightful event, complete with cliff hanging narratives, and note worthy prose can only be enjoyed once a year, accompanying the release of "The Phoenix", a literary magazine that essentially gets its title from an anecdote symbolizing growth and rebirth. "The Phoenix is reborn every year," explains

student advisor Jacquelyn Zuromski, when asked about the process of the competition that makes the magazine's publication possible.

Students from each campus are allotted a certain amount of time to send their pieces in to an anonymous board whose job is to then narrow down the number of works to be published.

Next, Jenna Hellmuth, the Editor-In-Chief took part in an experience which proved to be both challenging and rewarding. Dedicating much time to the Phoenix, Hellmuth played a key part in making everything come together,

and was presented with a scholarship by the SGA for her efforts. She spent months categorizing the entries and coupling art with words.

Every contributor's hard work paid off in the end and the final product is a diverse compilation of poetic, literary, and visual art, submitted by everyone from freshman to alumni, ranging in a variety of subjects in each genre.

Audience members enjoyed the show, and felt that the relaxing and entertaining mood rose above their expectations. "Normally when you think of poetry, you think of depressing subjects, but I enjoyed it. I thought it was very interesting," shared a visitor from Devry University.

Other listeners were writers themselves and got exactly what they hoped for. "I had read through the entire [issue] before tonight, and all of the stories that were read here, are ones that I had picked out as my favorites," shares Tara Nelson, an English major who plans to participate in next year's competition.

In fact many audience members had plans for the Phoenix in their future. "I definitely plan on contributing," assures Jessie Everingham, an Education major who specializes in poetry and short stories.

But until then the audience enjoyed the diverse pieces of the night, whose subject matter ranged in everything from "celebrity dragons", to "the struggles of being 'overly cautious'".

Mercedes Gosnella, a Humanities major, recited "Hypochondria," a cleverly entertaining poem that gives a humorous twist to a serious subject.

She wrote with the help of real life motiva-

tion. "It's true. Since I was twelve I've freaked out at the thought of getting diseases and things," she chuckles. "It's gotten better now, but since I was younger I have always been cautious about germs. It prevents me from doing all sorts of stupid things that people do."

To get involved with next year's issue of the Phoenix, contact Jackie Zuromski at jzuromski@valenciaccc.edu, or check with your Atlas e-mail to find out how to submit your writings, sculptures, sketches and photographs.



Olivia Pullinger, Valencia Voice

Margaret Laving Housez reads her composition.

Poll: Obama, McCain in dead heat for Florida's voters



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel, MCT
Sarah Palin praising McCain in The Villages, Florida.

By William E. Gibson
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla — Democrat Barack Obama has pulled virtually even with Republican John McCain to create a very competitive presidential race in Florida, a state considered crucial for Republicans to win the nationwide election.

Obama has overcome McCain's earlier advantage in the state to reach a statistical tie of 45 percent to 46 percent, according to a statewide poll of likely voters conducted last week for the Sun Sentinel and the Florida Times-Union. The 1-percent-age-point difference is within the poll's margin of error.

"It's competitive, no question, and obviously the economy is the top issue," said Del Ali of Research 2000, an independent pollster who conducted the telephone survey.

"What took place on Wall Street this week helped Obama in Florida," Ali said.

"His numbers went up with each day we polled. For him to win Florida, it's obviously important for the economy to stay the top issue."

Following national conventions and the selection of running mates, the poll shows voters returning to their traditional party loyalties and the usual gender gap.

Women in the poll favored Obama over McCain 48 percent to 41 percent. Men favored McCain by 51 percent to 42 percent.

In South Florida, where Democrats predominate, 58 percent of those polled intend to vote for Obama. McCain's strongest area was Northeast Florida, where he was favored by 56 percent.

The region that could tip the race is the Tampa area, where 47 percent intend to vote for McCain and 46 percent back Obama.

Obama has drawn many voters, especially younger ones, who have not been politically active but like his policies for changing government and the economy.

A third of voters, 33 percent, rated the economy and jobs as the most important issue, followed by oil/gas/energy prices and health care. About 46 percent said they put more trust in Obama to deal with the economy, while 38 percent put more trust in McCain and 16 percent were undecided.

"Obama is the new blood in politics. He exemplifies change, which is what's needed," said Darwin Sealey, 37, a real estate agent in Lake Worth, who was not part of the poll. "We are beyond recession. And one way to improve the economy would be to take the money that is going to the war in Iraq and use it for

something at home."

Most pre-convention polls in Florida showed Obama trailing McCain beyond the margin of error. A Quinnipiac University poll immediately after the Republican convention gave McCain a lead of 7 percentage points.

But a blitz of advertising over the past few months, a network of volunteers and dozens of field offices have helped Obama close the gap.

"I applaud John McCain. I respect anybody who shed blood for this country," said Dwayne Russell, 42, a chef from Deerfield Beach, Fla., who was not polled. "I just don't feel he represents the political direction we should go right now."

Nevertheless, McCain, a Navy veteran who was based near Pensacola and Jacksonville before and after his service in Vietnam, remains a popular war hero in much of this military-minded state.

Many voters say McCain has the experience and resolve to best safeguard the nation and protect its interests abroad.

"We need a president who can fight against the enemy, and the enemy is terrorists around the world," said Barbara Vasquez, 63, of Hallandale Beach, Fla., who did not take part in the poll.

"This is someone who knows about international matters. He is a hero. He knows how to fight them, because he has already fought them."

About 49 percent of those polled said they put more trust in McCain to handle the war in Iraq, while 41 percent put more trust in Obama.

McCain also benefited from his selection of vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, whose views on social issues reas-

sured conservative voters.

Almost half of those polled, 46 percent, said McCain's choice of Palin made them more likely to vote for him, while 7 percent said it would make them less likely; 47 percent said her choice had no effect.

"I have similar values to her values," said Susan Parbhoo, 69, of Lake Worth. Parbhoo, who was not polled, said she had considered voting for a third-party candidate until Palin was added to the Republican ticket.

"I know McCain was already pro-life, but on some other issues he wasn't so strong," she said. "She is. And because he invited her to share the ticket, she will influence him in other ways too. I hope and pray that is the case."

Both candidates barnstormed through Florida last week, a sign of its importance as the largest state that could swing either way. McCain crisscrossed the state on Monday and Tuesday, when the polling began, which might have given him a small boost.

Republican leaders acknowledge that if they lose Florida they are unlikely to win the election nationwide. Obama hopes to deliver a knockout punch in a state that has cast its electoral votes for Republicans in six of the past seven presidential elections.

Only 4 percent in the Sun Sentinel poll said they are likely to change their minds and 6 percent were undecided.

"I think people are engaged and locked in," Ali said. "It's coming down to a difference of 1 or 2 percentage points — a very close race."

—MCT Campus

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Saturday, October 4th, at 9:30 a.m.

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Online shopping: friend or foe?

By Bethany Prange
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — The little black dress looks gorgeous on the hanger. The supermodel on the website can definitely pull it off. But once it's on your body, you look like you've gained 15 pounds and faded to pale.

It happens all the time, says Louise J. Wannier, chief executive officer and founder of www.myShape.com.

"The designers make the patterns, and the clothes can be really great and attractive," Wannier says. "But it's not until you put them on that you can see if they work on your body."

Trying on clothes ahead of time would be ideal, if only it weren't such a nightmare.

Dressing rooms are crowded, time-consuming and often flanked with screaming children.

Some women, such as Laura Schulte of St. Louis, opt to buy it all and try it on at home. That tactic means a lot of trips back to the store to return what doesn't work.

Online shopping is convenient, but the guesswork of what size and style to order often means costly returns and shipping hassles.

Many women admit it's just too much work to return clothes that don't fit. So that means ever-expanding wardrobes that aren't exactly what they wanted.

The idea to bridge the gap between women and clothes that fit their bodies and match their style came to Wannier when she was in design school.

The self-described "serial entrepreneur" launched myShape.com in February 2006. So far, roughly 300,000 women have signed up, with thousands more joining every day.

MyShape does online what a personal shopper would do in the store — picks the clothes that best suit each woman's taste and body. Best of all, the service is free.

The site offers each user a "personal shop" filled with clothing suggestions specifically for her. The shop has dresses, skirts, blouses, pants and more that match her measurements, body shape, style and fit preferences.

Schulte, 39, is an admitted shopaholic. With two young sons, she was not a fan of dressing rooms.

When she read about myShape in a magazine more than a year ago, she immediately



CLINT AUSTIN, DULUTH NEWS-TRIBUNE
An increasing pattern shows students turning to online shopping for clothing needs.

gave it a try and has been hooked ever since. She even convinced her sister and 64-year-old mother to become members.

Schulte first discovered personalized online shopping with www.zafu.com. That site gathers style and body shape information to help women hunt and capture that elusive animal of the fashion wilderness — the perfect jean.

"We wanted to focus on the difficult products that are harder to fit," says Blair Newel, vice president of product development for zafu.com. "That's the service we can best provide."

Zafu's hipster site tries to establish each

customer's style identity with pointed questions such as: Do you consider your style to be that of an "it girl," a "power broker" or a "mainstream mom"?

Site users also take fit quizzes for bras, jeans or pants. With a click, Zafu will offer each woman pages of jeans or bras that will fit her best and connects her directly to the place to get them. Finding the right fit on the first try is what makes these sites so helpful.

MyShape thoroughly questions users, getting to know them like a trusted best friend.

The site asks for exact measurements,

with handy instruction windows that pop up to guide users through the online body chart. If you don't have a tape measure, there's one available via the site, or myShape will mail one to you.

Using their trademarked ShapeMatch, myShape factors in your measurements, proportions and fit preferences to determine which of their seven different body shapes each woman fits into.

For each body shape, myShape describes the details that will flatter the positives and hide the negatives — down to the types of fabric to wear and the type of cuffs to have on pants.

"It's not just your measurements, it's how the proportion of the clothing looks on your figure," Wannier says.

Once the fit is right, style is determined by having the users choose which photos of clothes they like best.

MyShape asks questions such as: Do you like to dress romantic or glamorous? What is your style risk level — safe, variable or daring?

But just because you have a specific taste doesn't mean myShape won't offer you the chance to spice things up.

MyShape has expanded Schulte's fashion horizons by offering her some items that are outside her typical fashion "uniform."

"The myShape site has turned me on to a lot of designers I wouldn't have otherwise tried on," Schulte says. "There are a lot of clothes that I didn't feel I could wear or fit comfortably that I've bought from there that I absolutely love."

On a whim, she took the site's advice and bought a multicolored wrap shirt that she never before would have considered. She received so many compliments that the shirt is now one of her favorites.

Both sites offer a price range for users to search in and have clothes suitable for just about any budget.

These personal shopping experiences ask lots of questions initially, but once users have their shape and style programmed in, they're fast and easy to use, Schulte says.

The sites will keep finding things that suit your taste and your body. If one or the other changes, just adjust your profile.

Now, Schulte is ready for the biggest fashion fit challenge of all. She says she can't wait for myShape to bring on the swimsuits.

— MCT Campus

Attention Fashionistas Millenia Mall home to designer fashion

By Ebony Chance
Valencia Voice

Great Place to find Unique Fashion:The Mall at Millenia.

Orlando isn't exactly the fashion capital of the world, but we do have a mall that carries fashions to set you apart and make you stand out from the girl next door.

If high fashion isn't your thing, you also have a variety of choices.

Thanks to the popular Millenia Mall that opened in 2002 we can buy the latest fashion trends, that are being worn in bigger cities such as New York City and Los Angeles.

With stores such as Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's we are now more likely to see haute couture (high fashion) pieces when out on the town.

The mall's website boasts "The Mall at Millenia offers the finest collection of luxury brands in Orlando," since there is such a wide variety for any age shopper to choose from.

When looking for a great designer handbag you have many options. They included Louis Vuitton, Dior, COACH, and Gucci just to name a few.

The mall caters to all age groups. You can see that when walking into Hollister , Amer-

ican Eagle, and even the Abercrombie & Fitch with its children's store abercrombie.

Those styles fit your common everyday needs and are widely seen throughout a majority of the student population.

The store that seems to be the favorite among young ladies is the larger than life Forever XXI store on the top floor.

This store carries the latest fashion from cocktail party dresses to punk rock graphic tees. It also carries a large number of accessories and intimate wear.

You can always see a line or two filled with mothers and their daughters buying accessories and the newest skinny jeans.

For the more urban-chic shoppers there is Urban Outfitters. Adjacent to Forever XXI, it too is another large retail haven.

Urban Outfitters has a more laid-back style, with sneakers and ballet flats for the everyday commute.

For your business attire there are stores such as Ann Taylor Loft, which caters to the older professional woman.

Because of its variety in clothing styles and abundance in designer brands when looking to shop in Orlando, The Mall at Millenia is always there to supply the entire family's need.

Opinion:

Sizing up skinny jeans

By Olivia Pullinger
Valencia Voice

Although it is a concept that is often boldly ignored by todays self-proclaimed fashionistas, it remains true throughout every decade: Some trends are just not for everyone.

If I had a penny for every time I have observed the accursed "muffin-top jeans" on a student, I would be a very rich girl indeed.

Not that I am discriminating against any body types. I acknowledge that someone who has an average or curvy build can be just as beautiful and attractive as someone who is conventionally "skinny."

What I'm proposing is merely that many of us need to get our fashion-priorities straight. The need to flatter your individual body type is much more important than your desire to wear what everyone else is wearing.

When uber-fit celebrities like Heidi Klum step out onto the runway or street wearing a new and groundbreaking trend,

your first reaction may be to admire the look, and dole out the cash for your very own version of her outfit. But before you reach for your wallet, remember what Miss Klum does for a living: The most important part of becoming someone who is confident and fashionable is to be accepting of your own body.

Whether that larger-than-average waistline or those D-cups are features you love or want to change about yourself, you have to acknowledge your appearance, and own it.

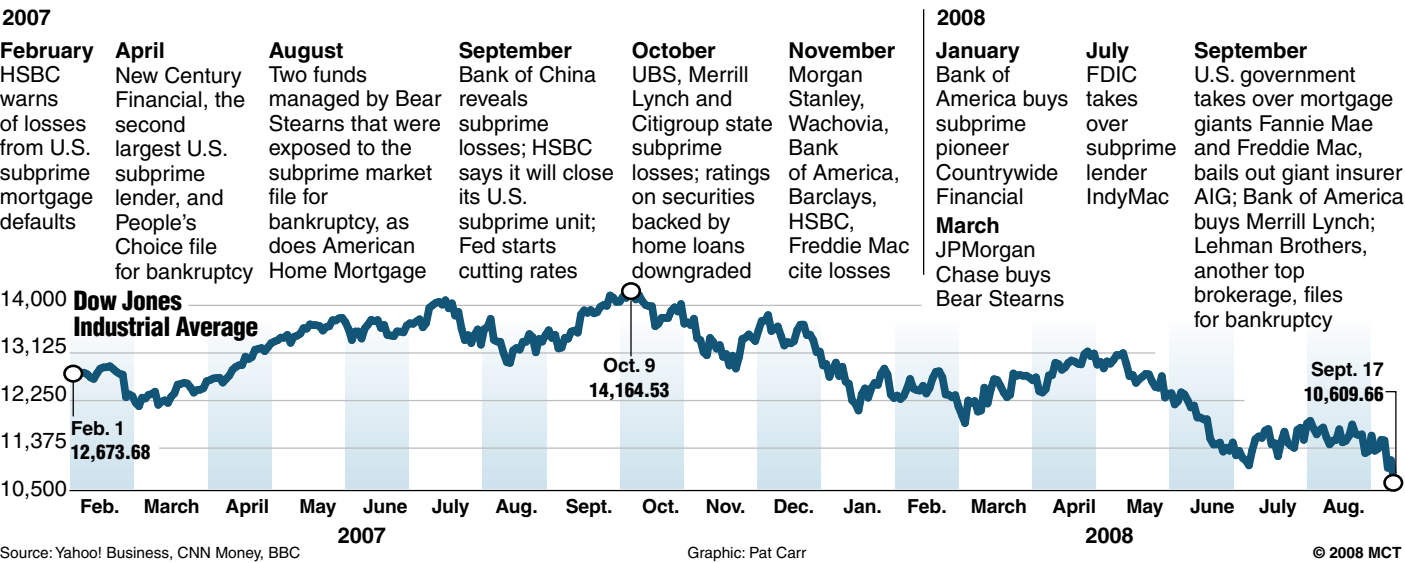
Wearing a pair of too-tight jeans that cause your "love-handles" to spill over the waistband is, in my opinion, a form of denial.

Too many people fail to acknowledge how essential it is to make yourself aware of your exact measurements.

Admittedly, it takes considerably more effort to leave the house in search of a good fit than it does to snap up a pair of Sevens off of ebay, but it's hard to beat that rush of accomplishment that comes after a long, hard day of shopping.

Tracking the crisis on Wall Street

Major events in the current financial crisis that began in 2007 with turmoil in the subprime mortgage market:



Wall Street crisis costing tax-payers billions

Continued from cover

ordinary investors. One of the giants in this field, Reserve Primary fund, which manages \$65 billion, said late Tuesday that it would temporarily suspend some customer redemptions because of its exposure to Lehman Brothers, which filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday.

This led other fund companies such as Vanguard to issue statements that they had no such problems in their money-market funds, but the hint that any player in this market had problems added to the anxiety.

In a span of less than 10 days, the entire landscape of U.S. finance was turned upside down. This week's shakeup followed the Sept. 6 seizure by the federal government of mortgage-finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which together finance about half the mortgages in America.

Wall Street was abuzz with rumors Wednesday that one, or both, of the remaining stand-alone investment banks might get hitched to a commercial bank.

Morgan Stanley's shares fell 26 percent, and shortly after the close of trading, reports surfaced that the company was in preliminary discussions over a potential merger with Wachovia, based in Charlotte, N.C. On Monday, Merrill Lynch agreed to sell itself to Wachovia's crosstown rival, Bank of America. Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs, once run by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, traded down more than 20 percent for much of the day before finishing down just under 14 percent.

The assault by investors on the golden temples of finance came just hours after the Fed shocked the financial world by stepping up with an \$85 billion, 24-month loan to AIG, which effectively bought the government a controlling interest in the global insurer.

The Fed's move was bolstered by an announcement Wednesday that the Treasury De-

partment will auction about \$40 billion in new bonds for use by the Fed in helping AIG access capital and eventually pay off its loan by selling off some of its businesses.

One reason for the panic on Wall Street is fear of where the next shoe will drop. After the clobbering financial stocks have taken, investors are worried that troubled Seattle-based thrift Washington Mutual may be the next domino to fall. If it were to fail, it could test the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures up to \$100,000 per depositor.

The FDIC special fund to insure deposits already is below a congressional limit after the July seizure of lender IndyMac Bank by federal regulators.

WaMu shares have fallen more than 85 percent since the start of the year and closed at \$2.08 a share Wednesday. The company has assets in the hundreds of billions of dollars, and if were to fail, the FDIC would likely have to tap a special line of credit from the Treasury Department — something that has never happened before.

Hoping to avoid the fate of Lehman, WaMu was widely believed to be shopping itself around, and news reports said it had hired Goldman Sachs to help arrange a sale.

On the campaign trail, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain both repeated their vows to enact regulatory changes to avoid repeating these events. Never mind that earlier this year Treasury Secretary Paulson sent Congress a proposal for just such changes that was widely ignored by lawmakers in both parties.

Now that there's little doubt now that new regulation is coming, the debate will be over what form it takes. In an interview with McClatchy Newspapers, Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat and the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said he expected that the days of market discipline, or allowing markets to police themselves, are over.

"We can rely on market discipline within a sensible framework," he said, noting that anti-trust laws and securities laws can coexist with a degree of market policing, but "there needs to be regulation."

Frank expects that Congress will mandate higher minimum capital requirements of banks and some limit on the ability of lenders to leverage their investments. Overleveraging is one big cause of the current crisis, with banks and other players borrowing money to make big bets with insufficient cash on hand if those bets don't pay off.

Even Sen. Richard Shelby, an Alabama Republican and the former chairman of the Senate Banking Committee when Republicans controlled Congress, seemed ready Wednesday to accept greater regulation.

"I never advocated a lot of overregulation, but where the federal government and the taxpayer is involved . . . you've got to have oversight," he told CNBC, calling for more hearings on the matter. "We've got to find out what's wrong with our regulatory bodies."

The problems in the banking sector are now dwarfing the closest crisis in modern times, over savings-and-loans, which like today's mess had its origin in bad mortgage lending.

"There was nothing like this in the S&L crisis," said Bert Ely, a banking expert who closely studied that turbulent period in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Today's financial crisis is far more complicated because of the many complex financial instruments and unregulated markets for which little information is available.

"The systemic risk pieces are much more complicated. We don't begin to see the full picture. With S&Ls you knew who they were, they had quarterly reports. Today we don't have that," Ely said.

— MCT Campus

FDOT updates I-4 speed limit signs

Continued from cover

The department's objective is to remotely adjust speed limits according to the flow of traffic, ultimately creating a safer and more efficient commuter highway.

When the road is congested, the speed limit will be lowered, in theory allowing for a more stable flow of traffic.

Mounted sensors along I-4 are monitored by traffic management software which analyzes and gives recommended speed changes based on he data. However, the automated speed limit recommendation does not make it to the interstate until it gets the human OK. Regional Transportation Management Center operators then review the traffic camera feeds and the computer's suggestion, adjusting the signs themselves.

"The response time to traffic slowdowns will be within seconds," said FDOT District Five Traffic Operations Engineer Rick Morrow in a statement released six days before the signs' planned activation.

The speed limit adjustments will primarily be made during rush hour traffic or in response to lane closures, but the system can be used at anytime of need including during evacuations or other high traffic emergencies.

"Keeping cars from rushing into a congested area will do wonders," said Morrow. "Imagine I-4 at rush hour as a funnel. If you pour a cup of rice all at once through the funnel you'll get just a trickle coming out, if anything at all. But if you pour the rice at a slow, even pace you get a steady stream moving right through."

The department is confident that the new signs will make for an im-

provement, but point out that it's up to the drivers.

"Once people get used to it, I think they will love it," said FDOT District Five Secretary Noranne Downs. "Faster travel times, fewer accidents, better gas mileage and less sitting still in traffic. What's not to like?"

Daily I-4 commuter Eric Spencer expressed no love for the signs. "If they slow down the traffic when it's already slow it will remain slow. I pass by the new signs everyday and people don't seem to mind, they'll go 60 when the sign says 50 or 45. I mean, it's not working now so its probably not going to work out in the future."

Still, some students remain optimistic about the new traffic signs. "If they use it at the right times it might actually help with congestion, like five o' clock traffic," said freshman Ky Boyd.

This new high-tech method of traffic monitoring is a part of a bigger operation called iFlorida. The program began in early 2003 when FDOT received an intelligent transportation system model deployment grant from the Federal Highway Administration after competing with 16 other states.

The road signs were originally put into place in early 2005 but were not activated until this past week due to glitches in the software that measures speeds on highways of Central Florida.

Eventually the plan is to improve all of Florida's highways using intelligent traffic networking and speed limits.

"It might take some time for people to remember to check and follow these variable speed limits," said Downs, "but once it's in drivers' minds, we know it'll make a great impact."

Emmy Awards get 'Rock'ed

Continued from cover

won best actor/comedy, while crediting another of the night's big winners, his "30 Rock" co-star Tina Fey, as "the Elaine May of our generation."

A few minutes later, Fey was up on stage for best actress in a comedy series for her work as sketch show honcho Liz Lemon.

And "30 Rock?" A winner for best comedy. So a very big night for Fey, who also took home a Best Writing, Comedy statuette.

Here are some other highlights and lowlights:

— Yada Yada Yada. The opening was better than usual: A montage of performers uttering memorable TV catchphrases. The best? Each surviving cast of "Everybody Loves Raymond" intoning Frank Barone's (the late Peter Boyle) trademark "Holy crap!"

— O, No. Oprah Winfrey was in the house last night But why? Oprah confers a little elegance and some big numbers - in daytime - but here? No. Just Oprah. She was the opening act for the opening act or - in other words - redundancy upon redundancy.

— Not-So-Fab Five. Five reality hosts hosted the Emmys last night, though viewers must have wondered why. Howie Mandel, Jeff Probst, Heidi Klum, Tom Bergeron, and Ryan Seacrest did try to explain: "We have nothing, we have nothing," said Mandel and "as a matter of fact if you turn around in your seats (to see the TelePrompTer), we don't have an opening." Nearly three hours later, Probst was the ultimate "Survivor" - he beat out his cohosts to take home the best reality show host award.

— Ricky's Revenge. Ricky Gervais declined to show up last year to accept his best actor/comedy award (too far to travel?) but he was there last night to collect the award rightfully his - from Steve Carell, playing along in the audience. Of all last night's pre-cooked bits, this may have been the most amusing.

— Tommy, Boy! There wasn't supposed to be much political commentary - (AKA anti-Bushisms) - and for the most part, there wasn't. But what do you expect when Tommy Smothers shows up to accept a commemorative writing award? He hasn't had a primetime series in nearly forty years, when "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" was canceled by CBS chief William S. Paley. After accepting his award, he observed: It's "hard for me to say silent when I hear that peace is only attainable through war. There's nothing worse than watching ignorance through action." Truth, he closed, "is what you get other people to believe."

— Just Sit Right Back: And you'll hear Josh Groban performing a rapid-fire rendering of two dozen (or so) TV theme songs, from "Gilligan's Island" to "The Simpsons" and "M*A*S*H" (complete with a chorus line!). Groban had a warm style that worked best with theme songs that convey the same emotion, less so with those that don't.

— Beautiful Downtown Burbank Lives! "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" changed TV, although you'd have to be pretty much over 45 years old to understand how. That's why last night's tribute - featuring a "sock-it-to-me" montage and cast members Lily Tomlin, Alan Sues, Jo Anne Worley and Ruth Buzzi - was a show highlight. It was a blast from the past for those old enough to remember, and a head-scratcher for everyone else.

— One Happy Hockey Puck. We got a double dose of Don Rickles. As a co-presenter with Kathy Griffin (who commanded the audience to rise and give Rickles a standing ovation) and as a winner for Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program (for HBO's "Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project.") "It's a mistake," he declared upon accepting the award. "I've been in the business 55 years and the biggest award I got was an ashtray from the Friar's in New York."

— MCT Campus

Jackson carries ‘Terrace’

By Trey McConnell
Valencia Voice

The central problem that arises with “Lakeview Terrace”, a discourse on racial politics and vindictive hate, is that the director, Neil LaBute, didn’t take the responsibility of writing the script.

LaBute is a notable playwright (“Bash”, “The Mercy Seat”, “Fat Pig”) who presents to us misanthropist men who so playfully introduce their personalities as decent and well behaved but slowly reveal their base instincts.

“Lakeview Terrace,” written by David Loughery and Howard Korder, is too obvious in its approach when you most want it to be hidden and stealthy.

Samuel L. Jackson stars as LAPD veteran Abel Turner, a widower who is overly concerned with his two kid’s actions (Regine Nehy, Jaishon Fisher) and even more concerned with his new neighbors.

Chris Mattson (Patrick Wilson), a white man, and Lisa Mattson (Kerry Washington), his black wife move in next door to Abel. Interracial coupling isn’t an ideal Abel is very fond of and he certainly doesn’t shy away from defending this.

The plot is designed around one simple concept; an interracial couple moves next door to a resentful, veteran cop who dislikes their relationship but never builds off of that. The rest of the movie is just an excuse for Jackson to scream and terrorize everyone in



Chuck Zlotnick, Sony Pictures
Samuel L. Jackson’s performance, both thought-provoking and menacing, is really all this film has to offer.

his path while throwing out his usual facetious one-liners.

“Lakeview Terrace” stretches the morality of a PG-13 movie and presents itself with a vengeance. Jackson, a very talented actor star, adapts superbly to this role and makes an unusual transition from mirth to menace.

Even then, LaBute never takes full advantage of a highly adaptable Jackson. By the time Abel commands his reign of terror, the events to come virtually jump off the screen and scream directly in your face.

Although the story remains at a stand still, there are a few engaging scenes where there is limited dialogue; where Jackson observes contemplatively on one focused subject. There is even a symbolic scene where Abel stands tall while the background displays blazing, boisterous Californian forest fires all over the picture.

Besides lacking depth and resolution, “Lakeview Terrace” unfolds an old social issue that has plagued us all while adding a dementedly new twist keeping it fresh and original. Surprisingly, it has an exceptional soundtrack as well.

Since the only thing that kept me in this movie was the fact that Samuel L. Jackson got to be himself, I feel it necessary to only award it three out of five stars.

Dane Cook steals ‘Best Friend’s Girl’

Not-quite-typical rom-com saved by great performance

By Louie Rodriguez
Valencia Voice



Claire Folger, Lionsgate
Jason Biggs’ performance is less than stellar

In “My Best Friend’s Girl,” Tank (Dane Cook) brilliantly masters the art of the perfectly manipulated date: a date that would scare any woman away and quickly send them back to their ex-boyfriend. After Dustin (Jason Biggs) and Alexis’s (Kate Hudson) relationship starts crashing to the ground Tank is needed to revive what could be left of their seemingly hopeless relationship.

In the middle of his mission, he falls in love himself, with his best friend’s girl.

Here we have two best friends, the two different archetypes of a boyfriend. Dustin the humble, timid, nice guy versus Tank, the rude, hilarious, witty, grotesque yet still somehow charming man.

Professor Turner (Alec Baldwin) comes into the picture in the role of Tank’s father and asks the question “Are you the best it’s going to get for her?”

The plot starts off truly one of a kind, yet it ends as just another quest of a man on a mission to steal a girl’s heart.

Right from the start, Dane Cook impressively displays his never-ending humor in this romantic comedy.

His behavior is so horrendous right from the get-go I could not help but ask myself “What in the world is going on?” I surely hoped he wasn’t being serious in the shocking words he chose to use on his first date.

It turns out he was not, it was all part of the job after all.

Tank plays the role of a slightly more evil cupid.

What he does is unforgivable but in a way he is giving couples second chance-

es. As long as the tricks of the trade are not exposed, everyone will get what they want.

Dane Cook is a comedic genius and he fits the role superbly.

Jason Biggs’s insincere acting didn’t help the movie and neither did the brutally awful soundtrack my ears were exposed to.

Kate Hudson played her seemingly typical role as the girl being pursued and it is starting to get somewhat old.

It seems as if that’s all her acting career will consist of e.g Penny Lane in “Almost Famous,” “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” as Andie, “Le Divorce” as Isabel Walker, “You Me and Dupree” as Molly, even as far back as 1999 where she plays the role as the cute but clumsy girlfriend in “200 Cigarettes.”

The movie is worth seeing.

Maybe you’ll pick up a few tips in the realm of dating while you’re watching it. Bring your date with you.

Just hope your girl is more into the character that Jason Biggs plays.

Tank doesn’t bring his date to the movies.

His dates consist of degrading rap music, lots of booze, repetitive foul language, strippers, strip clubs, insulting the religions of the religious ones, and all with the intent of making it back to the bedroom.

The movie in all can be just as typical as any romantic comedy, but this one does hold an original twist. I give it 3 out



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Claire Folger, Lionsgate
Dane Cook steals the show as the perfect date destroye-for-hire, while Kate Hudson is just along for the ride.

Opinion

How hard is it for you to get parked?

By Ashley Gonzalez
Valencia Voice

"Excuse me, are you leaving?"

Chances are, every Valencia student has heard this at least once in their time here. This is the question most often asked in the school parking lots each day that class is session.

It's no secret that parking on any Valencia Community College campus is bad.

The real question when it is too much for students, faculty, and staff members to handle?

It's one thing to wake up late and leave home late expecting to find a parking once you get on campus.

It's a totally different thing when students, faculty, and staff members leave their homes extra early and once on campus they are still unable to find parking.

East Campus recently tore up their parking lots to try to alleviate some of the trouble with parking.

Their plan is to widen the lots so that more spaces will be available.

Questions of whether West Campus, or any other for that matter, will do the same have been circulating since the semester began.

Fortunately, when Valencia Voice asked people on campus what their experiences were with finding parking some of them said they didn't have very much trouble at all.

Others were not so lucky. It seems as though having an early class is better than having a later class.

It's all due to parking. Those who have classes in the morning hours usually find better parking in a shorter amount of time than those with classes near and after noon hours.

As the school grows, it becomes harder and harder to find space to put the students cars, but this is something that will just have to be dealt with for now.



"I get here early so it's quick. It usually takes fifteen to twenty minutes at the most."

-Gabe Montalvo



"It doesn't take me very long at all to find parking. If I'm in a rush I just go straight to the back. The front of the parking lot never has spaces open."

-Jenna Nelms



"It takes me about 3 minutes to get parking but I'm usually here fifteen minutes before class starts."

-Jonathan Corona



"I have a big diesel truck so I'm forced to park way in the back. The first parking lot is too far. I get here around 11:30 am and it's usually easy to find parking."

-Chris Wilson



"It's really hard to find an empty space. It usually takes me about 20-25 minutes to find a spot. I'm often late to class."

-Marina Lebedeva



"I usually park in the staff parking lot. It seems like it would be easier for me but it's difficult. Even the staff parking fills up quickly, especially in the fall semester."

-Kay Fletcher



"I'm usually here around 7 a.m. so it only takes me a couple of minutes to find parking. It's a lot easier in the morning."

-Annesia Jackson



"It usually takes me two minutes to find parking but I have class at 8:30am. There's parking available at that time."

-Bernie Cheatem

Photos by Trey McConnell

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Corrections

The poll graphic in the September 17 issue on page 3 was not properly attributed to the McClatchy news service.

Travis Barker and DJ AM injured in tragic plane crash

By Kristy Eppley Rupon and Rick Brundrett
McClatchy Newspapers

COLUMBIA, S.C.— Federal investigators will continue collecting evidence Sunday from a fiery Learjet crash at Columbia Metropolitan Airport in South Carolina that killed four and critically injured performers Travis Barker and DJ AM late Friday night.

The plane was headed to California after the duo had performed a free concert for thousands of area residents of all ages in Five Points, S.C.

Airport traffic controllers reported seeing sparks coming from the plane as it taxied down the approximately 8,600-foot-long runway about midnight, National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Debbie Hersman said, though she couldn't provide specifics.

Parts of the plane and rubber were found on the runway, she said.

Investigators recovered the plane's cockpit voice recorder, which will be sent to Washington, D.C., for analysis to determine whether there were any conversations between the pilot and co-pilot prior to the crash, which killed them and two passengers, Hersman said late Saturday.

"I have every confidence that we will be able to determine the probable cause of this accident regardless of whether or not the cockpit voice recorder data is good," Hersman said.

The private charter plane flew into Columbia, S.C., about 11:10 p.m. Friday from Teterboro, N.J., to pick up the passengers and take them to Van Nuys, Calif., according to authorities and flight records. The plane refueled before it left New Jersey, Hersman said. It was at the Columbia airport for about 45 minutes before the attempted takeoff.

The jet never got off the ground, crashing at 11:53 p.m. into lights and through the fence



Tracy Glantz, The State (Columbia, S. C.) / MCT
Officials had to wait until they were sure the wreckage was safe to begin investigating

at the end of the runway. It traveled across S.C. 302 and crashed into an embankment on the other side, bursting into flames, authorities said.

Hersman described the crash as a "high-speed overrun," though investigators have not yet determined the actual speed. She said the plane traveled "pretty much" in a straight line down the runway.

Killed in the crash were two members of Barker's entourage — personal assistant Chris Baker, 29, of Studio City, Calif., and bodyguard Charles Still, 25, of Los Angeles. Pilot Sarah Lemmon, 31, of Anaheim Hills, Calif., and co-pilot James Bland, 52, of Carlsbad, Calif., also died, Lexington County Coroner Harry Harman said.

Eyewitness William Owens told WIS-TV that he was driving on S.C. 302 Friday night when he saw a fireball go across the road about 800 feet in front of him.

Owens said he stopped his car and saw DJ

AM, 35, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, and Barker, 32, standing in the middle of the road. He said Barker's pants were on fire and he was trying to extinguish the flames.

"We turned to the jet to try and see if there was anything we could do, but immediately, there was nothing anyone could do," Owens said.

"I felt ill or sick to think that these lives were snuffed out at that point."

Federal investigators, who arrived on the scene around 11 a.m., surveyed the crash site and collected evidence to help determine the cause of the crash.

Hersman said the weather was clear with a slight breeze Friday night.

The Learjet 60 was manufactured in 2006 and certified to fly in 2007; it was owned by Inter Travel and Services Inc., based in Irvine, Calif., and was operated by Global Executive Aviation in Long Beach, Calif., Hersman said.

Maintenance records were sealed and on

their way to Columbia Saturday from California, Knudson said, adding it could take a couple of days for the records to reach investigators here.

"We have not yet found anything, but we are looking at everything," Hersman said. "Nothing has been ruled out at this point. . . .We will be looking at the man, the machine and the environment to help us explain this accident."

The agency will investigate the pilots' records and what they had been doing 72 hours before the crash, a routine part of such investigations, Hersman said. The agency also will review paperwork, physical evidence and eyewitness accounts to help determine what caused the crash, she said, adding the S.C. Highway Patrol and the FBI are assisting in the investigation.

The two survivors, Barker and Goldstein, were taken by ambulance to Palmetto Health Richland and then to the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Ga., where they were listed in critical condition Saturday.

The crash shut down air traffic to and from Columbia Metropolitan all day Saturday, leaving hundreds of passengers scrambling for another way to their destinations.


The investigation also closed down a portion of S.C. 302 Saturday; Hersman said that stretch would remain closed until Monday night.

Fire and police units from the airport, Lexington County and the city of Cayce responded to the crash site Friday night to extinguish the flames and help the victims.

The fatal crash was the second at the airport in less than two years.

On Jan. 4, 2007, three Columbia-area men were killed when their single-engine Cessna crashed in woods on airport property while trying to land in foggy weather.

— MCT Campus



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Ryder Cup rookies run rampant

USA sends out 6 first-timers, thumps Europe to take trophy

By Leonard Shapiro
The Washington Post

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A few days before the 37th Ryder Cup matches began Friday, Boo Weekley described U.S. captain Paul Azinger's mostly inexperienced team that included six Cup rookies as "like getting a new pack of hounds when we were growing up and going deer hunting. You don't know what kind of dogs you've got until you run them, so let's run them and we'll see."

In the three days of nerve-racking competition, Azinger saw his team transform from truly legitimate underdogs, winless in their past three competitions against Europe, into top dogs once again at Valhalla Golf Club. The Americans prevailed, 16-1/2 to 11-1/2, their largest margin of victory since a nine-point rout in 1981.

Weekley and fellow rookies Anthony Kim and J.B. Holmes scored pivotal early victories in their singles matches, then watched veteran Jim Furyk defeat Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez, 2 and 1, when his two-foot putt for par at the 17th hole was conceded by Jimenez. Furyk's win earned the Cup-clinching point and assured that Samuel Ryder's precious gold cup would be back on American soil for the next two years.

Furyk had the opposite experience at The Belfry in 2002, when his opponent that day, Paul McGinley, beat him to clinch the cup with a 10-foot putt. "To hear those cheers was a miserable feeling that day," he said. "This is much better."

This also was a far different result from the past two dreary events, when the Ameri-

cans lost by a record nine points both in 2004 at Oakland Hills outside Detroit and 2006 in Ireland. They also prevailed this week without the No. 1 player in the world on their side for the first time since 1997, though injured Tiger Woods was constantly text messaging words of encouragement to Azinger and his friends on the team all week from his home in Orlando.

"I put my heart and soul in it for two years and my guys put their heart and soul into it for this week," Azinger said afterward, choking up with emotion. "I'm just so proud of them."

Said European captain Nick Faldo: "Europe has come up short, but the golf was fantastic. The shot-making was unbelievable, and the putting was unbelievable. This particular week they have done it, so congratulations. They were just a little better in a few different places."

Thousands of Kentucky residents on the grounds also were terribly proud of native sons Holmes and 48-year-old veteran Kenny Perry. With his match against Denmark's Soren Hansen all square after 15 holes, Holmes won the 16th and 17th for a dramatic 2-and-1 victory, including a wedge shot from the fairway at 17 that stopped three feet from the cup. Moments later, he buried the birdie and won the match, raising his arms in triumph, accompanied by a deafening roar.

Perry, a three-time winner on the PGA Tour in 2008 whose only goal this season was to make this American team, also shrugged off a sore shoulder with a gritty 3-and-2 victory over Sweden's Henrik Stenson. It was one of the five early wins that locked up the Cup for the United States for only the sec-



David Perry, Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader / MCT Campus

Ryder Cup rookie Anthony Kim carries the American flag after playing a big role in the U.S. victory over Europe, 16-1/2 to 11-1/2, at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 21.

ond time in the past seven competitions. With a brilliant putting stroke all day, Perry made seven birdies and said afterward, "I figured this was going to define my career, but you know what, it made my career. It's the greatest experience of my life."

"It's just so unreal, the feeling you get out there," Weekley said. "Your arm hairs stand up and you get chills when they start hollering your name and U-S-A! I've fed off it all week long. This is what it's all about."

— Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

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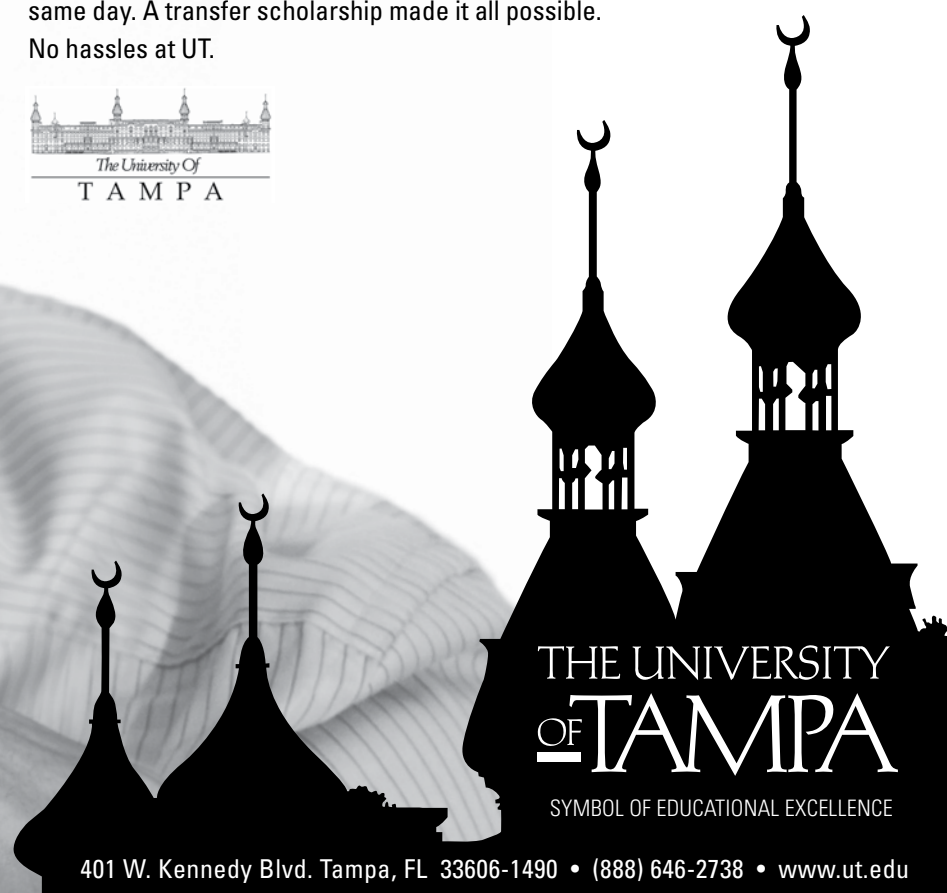
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Georgia wide receiver AJ Green (8) grabs a touchdown pass in front of Arizona State safety Troy Nolan (14) during the first half at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona.

Brant Sanderlin, Atlanta Journal-Constitution/MCT

The week in college football: Who came out on top?

By Tim Stephens
The Orlando Sentinel

We're a month into the season, which means most teams are now one-third or one-fourth through their schedule, and some things have been clearly established going into the meat of conference play.

We can start to categorize some teams. Some have fulfilled expectations. Some are major disappointments. And some are just great stories_who'd have ever thought we could look at conference standings on Sept. 22 and see Vanderbilt (4-0) leading the SEC or Minnesota (4-0) and Northwestern (4-0) with the best records in the Big Ten?

Let's break down some of the developments, using twists on a few famous coaching rants:

"They are who we thought they were!"

In the spirit of former Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green, these teams are every bit as good as we expected them to be. They are legitimate national-title contenders:

USC: The Trojans (2-0) look like the class of the country, and there's no one in the struggling Pac-10 capable of challenging them this year. The road to Miami for the BCS title game looks smooth.

Oklahoma and Missouri: They don't meet in the regular season but appear on a collision course for the Big 12 title game. If they both make it there unscathed, the winner probably plays for the national title. That game also could win the Heisman for either OU's Sam Bradford or Missouri's Chase Daniel.

Florida and the rest of the SEC heavyweights: The Gators (3-0) are winning with defense and special teams. That's scary because you know the offense will get going. But getting through the SEC will be brutal. Georgia (4-0) and LSU (3-0) are legit. And Alabama (4-0) is much, much better than anticipated. Some of these teams will fall by the wayside like Auburn did Saturday in the final minutes against LSU.

"Bowl game? Don't talk about a BCS bowl game!"

A spin on former Indianapolis Colts coach Jim Mora's famous "playoffs?!" rant could be applied to these teams after a bad performance exposed weaknesses.

Florida State (2-1): The Seminoles on Saturday looked like they have the same mediocre offense with poor quarterback play that we've seen for several years now.

Clemson (3-1): Just can't shake how uninspired they looked in that opening loss to Alabama on Aug. 30, and we know the annual late-season gag (or two) is coming.

Ohio State (3-1): Yes, they'll probably still win at least nine games. But the beatdown administered by USC on Sept. 13 won't be forgotten and will spare us seeing the Buckeyes in the national-title game.

East Carolina (3-1): Thankfully, the Pirates are out of the BCS talk now. Losing to a weak ACC team, N.C. State, doesn't help C-USA's poor reputation.

"Come after me! I'm a man! I'm 40!"

With his team sitting at 3-0, Oklahoma State Coach Mike Gundy isn't on the hot seat_though another loss to Troy this weekend might set off a tirade like his 2007 meltdown. Gundy seems safe, but these coaches are feeling the heat after their teams' poor starts:

Phil Fulmer, Tennessee: The Vols' offense is a mess, and with a road trip to Auburn up next, a 1-3 start seems likely. That would represent Tennessee's worst start since 1994.

Steve Spurrier, South Carolina: The ol' ball coach just can't get the offense going in Columbia. I don't think he's in danger of being fired, but how much longer is he going to want to bang his head against the wall in the SEC East?

Bill Stewart, West Virginia: The first-year coach got an extension after the loss to ECU. Does he get a contract for life when he actually beats a I-A team? WVU might want to rescind that deal if he loses to Marshall on Saturday.

Now it's time to recap the winners and losers from this week.

Champs

Tulsa: Now that the star is off East Caro-

lina, maybe the proper attention will be paid to the best team in C-USA. The Golden Hurricane have one of the most prolific offenses in the country_they've scored more than 40 points in eight of their last nine games_and have the schedule to go unbeaten.

Minnesota, Northwestern and Vanderbilt: If you got a parlay that these perennial doormats would be a combined 12-0 on Sept. 22, you are now very rich. Vandy is ranked in the AP poll for the first time in 24 seasons and Minnesota and Northwestern got votes. The fast starts are likely to be fool's gold for conference play, but it sure is fun while it lasts.

Javon Ringer: The Michigan State tailback should be in the Heisman mix. His 39-carry, 201-yard day in a win over Notre Dame made him the first Spartan in history to go over 200 yards in consecutive games. Ringer leads Division I-A with 11 touchdowns.

Ball State: The Cardinals (4-0) beat Indiana 42-20 for their first win over a BCS-conference team after 43 consecutive losses.

Chumps

Mississippi State: The Bulldogs were thumped 38-7 by Georgia Tech, and the offense just can't score. MSU has three touchdowns this season against I-A competition, and its fourth-quarter garbage TD Saturday snapped a stretch of nine straight quarters against I-A teams in which the offense didn't find the end zone.

FSU administration: Scheduling two I-AA opponents to open the season in no way prepared Bobby Bowden's team for the speed and toughness it faced Saturday night in a third consecutive loss to Wake Forest.

Pac-10: More evidence the Pac-10 is really down came in the form of Arizona State getting dominated by Georgia and in Oregon being outclassed by Boise State. A case can be made this is the weakest of the BCS leagues this fall.

Syracuse: As stated last week, the Orange reserve this spot until they either defeat a I-A team or fire Greg Robinson. They barely beat I-AA Northeastern on Saturday, so it looks like they could be here a while.

Whither the Weatherfords?

During preseason practice, it appeared this might be a joyous and busy fall for the football-playing Weatherford family. Older brother Drew Weatherford was preparing to make his 34th start at quarterback for Florida State while younger brother Joe Weatherford was locked in a battle with Michael Greco to be the starting quarterback at UCF.

Now it appears the Weatherford brothers will spend the season as clipboard holders.

Drew, a senior who expected to become only the second four-year starting quarterback of the Bobby Bowden era, was demoted to third string just before FSU's opener. Saturday, he didn't even get into the game as Christian Ponder and D'Vontrey Richardson took turns struggling during yet another anemic offensive performance against Wake Forest.

Meanwhile, in a loss to Boston College, UCF Coach George O'Leary skipped over Joe, a sophomore, in favor of true freshman Rob Calabrese to share time with Greco. Barring injuries, that would seem to make it pretty clear where the Weatherfords figure into their coaches' plans.This week's best

No. 8 Alabama (4-0) at No. 3 Georgia (4-0), 7:45 p.m., ESPN: The SEC Elimination Tour continues with yet another clash of Top-10 teams. Georgia won an overtime classic in Tuscaloosa last year for its third consecutive victory over the Crimson Tide.

No. 24 TCU (4-0) at No. 2 Oklahoma (3-0), 7 p.m., FSN: The Horned Frogs are playing third-fiddle to BYU and Utah in the Mountain West Conference at the moment, but they can throw their hat into the BCS-buster ring with a stunning upset here. They have done it before, upsetting Oklahoma in the 2005 opener.

Virginia Tech (3-1) at Nebraska (3-0), 8 p.m., ABC Regional: This is Nebraska's fourth consecutive home game, but the first three were against underwhelming competition. The Hokies will give us a much better gauge of where the Cornhuskers stand in Bo Pelini's first year as coach.


—MCT Campus

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Anne Grace Gourdine
Age 68, Myeloma Patient

Crawford Wheeler
Age 4, Leukemia Patient



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