

# Take a bough at festival

CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF HOLIDAY TREES AND MORE, D1

# Orlando Sentinel

**Adoption: A child is waiting. Owens, B1**



REACHING 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE WEEKLY IN PRINT AND ONLINE

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**Nation**  
**KSC jobs' future**  
Kennedy Space Center's new chief said it will lose thousands of jobs whether the shuttle retires in 2010 or not, but he has an idea that may take some of the sting out of cuts. **A5**

**Local**  
**Amendment 2**  
A poll finds an amendment to put a ban on same-sex marriage in the state constitution may not appear to have the support it needs — but don't count it out yet. **B1**

## Clock's ticking

Time to fall back: Turn your clocks back an hour tonight before you go to bed. The first Sunday in November is this weekend, and at 2 a.m. we say goodbye to daylight saving time.



**Business**  
**Forced vacation**  
The rough economy forced Orlando-based resort-development company Land Resource LLC to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and reorganization. **B3**

**Sports**  
**Scoreboard**  
Find out all the scores from a busy Friday night of high-school football. **Also: The Magic fall to the Grizzlies 86-84 at the buzzer. C1, C12-C13**

Central Florida Edition

Isolated showers; 30 percent coverage. **Forecast, B10**

8 A.M. **63°**

NOON **71°**

4 P.M. **75°**

8 P.M. **68°**

**Really overdue:** A book checked out of a Tulsa, Okla., high school in 1947 was returned with \$250 for overdue fees. Martha McCabe Jarrett of Venice recently found 'New Word Analysis: Or School Etymology of English Derivative Words.'

## Campaign 2008

# FEAR AND LOATHING IN THE VOTING BOOTH



By LINDA SHRIEVES and SATTI SARMAH  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

Derrick Fuller, who remembers when jobs were plentiful under President Clinton, worries that if Sen. John McCain wins the election, he'll continue the economic policies of George W. Bush.

"The country is going in the toilet if McCain wins," the Orlando man said after he cast his vote early at the Orlando Public Library downtown this week.

Nearby, early voter Jerome Ridenauer, 30, said he was worried about Sen. Barack Obama's notion of "spreading the wealth."

"Obama's tax plan is socialist," said Ridenauer of Orlando. He's also upset about the possibility of the Democrats getting a filibuster-proof majority in Congress. "With that, it's going to be

PHOTOS.COM

PLEASE SEE **FEAR, A2**



ROBERTO GONZALEZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Long lines continue during early voting Friday at the Supervisor of Elections Office on West Kaley Street in Orlando.

### Glitch at polls

In Orange County, an Internet problem that was later fixed delayed voting Friday for up to an hour at all 10 early-voting sites. **A4**

### Veterans' vote

The *Sentinel's* Darryl Owens talks with two recent returning vets from Central Florida for their thoughts on the candidates. **A3**

### Coming Sunday

Who is most likely to claim victory in Florida: McCain or Obama? Our final Mason-Dixon poll will lay out the latest numbers.

# Feds: Orange should rein in use of Tasers

By WALTER PACHECO || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Justice Department is urging tighter controls by the Orange County Sheriff's Office in its use of Tasers, the stun guns implicated in the deaths of five people subdued by deputy sheriffs.

A report by the agency's Civil Rights Division, which is investigating "an alleged pattern or practice of excessive force" by sheriff's personnel, outlined 35 recommendations for use of the devices.

The list includes a warning against using Tasers on someone under the influence of drugs or showing signs of extreme agitation, bizarre or violent behavior and imperviousness to pain, among other symptoms. It also advises not to stun suspects who are restrained or in handcuffs, or to stun them more than once, which increases the chances of harm.

Critics of Tasers contend they are dangerous, particularly when used on suspects who use drugs or suffer from heart problems.

Federal investigators did not disclose the sheriff's cases that sparked the investigation, which began in June 2007. A reporter's calls to the Justice Department in Washington were not returned Friday.

Sheriff's officials would not comment on the federal

PLEASE SEE **TASERS, A12**

### School Board chairman

# Big businesses raise eyebrows with big bucks

By ERIKA HOBBS || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Central Florida's biggest businesses have poured nearly \$415,000 into a ballot issue that would create an elected School Board chairman in Orange County.

Why would Disney, Darden Restaurants, Realtors, home builders and other corporate powerhouses in Florida — including U.S. Sugar — contribute such a large amount of cash, loans and services to such a parochial cause?

Key proponents of electing a new chairman say, simply, that Orange County needs a dynamic leader to improve its schools.

But critics have a different answer: Money, and access to a new power broker who would wield unprecedented authority over billions of dollars in contracts and other services.

The region's movers and shakers donated a total of \$414,868 to fuel the yearlong drive to put the issue on the ballot, an *Orlando Sentinel* analysis of contributors to both

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOLS, A12**

## Letters from Florida

# Dear Senators McCain and Obama:



DAROSA

After several days and a couple hundred miles traveling Florida's most important battleground, I've reached some conclusions:

Voters are sick about the slumping economy. And your supporters, while sharing similar concerns, are backing you for very different reasons.

Obama-maniacs use fuzzy words and phrases like "hope" and "new direction" and "bringing people together." McCain-iacs flash sharper edges. They talk about "fighting" and "terrorists" and being "scared."

The language is a window into your backers' minds. Take Reynaldo Colon, a 35-year-old father of two who lives in Orange County, the heart of the Interstate 4 corridor. Colon is a corrections officer, and his wife is a medical transcriptionist. They live in a small, middle-class subdivision, the kind that blankets the 165-mile stretch from Daytona Beach to St. Petersburg.

When I found Colon, he was cleaning his garage before pulling an overnight shift at Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Sumter County. I noticed an Obama sign in his yard and asked why he was supporting you, Senator.

"Because the middle class has been getting the short end of the stick," Colon said. "And Obama's talking about changing that."

The "message I'm hearing," Colon said, "is that he cares about us and not just rich people."

Now cross the street with me, Senators, and walk four houses down. There you'll find Mary. She might not give you her last name — she wouldn't tell me — but she was happy to talk politics.

Mary's first choice for president was former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, but she has warmed to you, Sen. McCain. She's impressed by your grit, your commitment and your patriotism. And she's unfazed that you're 72

PLEASE SEE **SENATORS, A2**



## Campaigns in Central Florida

The schedules may change. Check [OrlandoSentinel.com/politicalpulse](http://OrlandoSentinel.com/politicalpulse) for the latest information and live reports from the events.

### TODAY

**Sarah Palin** will be at an 11:45 a.m. rally at Fantasy of Flight in Polk City, 1400 Broadway Blvd. S.E. She also is set to appear in Ocala at the West Port High School baseball stadium, 3733 S.W. 80th Ave. She is expected to arrive about 2 p.m.

**Hillary Clinton** will be at the Winter Park Community Center, 721 W. New England Ave. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Preprogram begins at 2:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY

**Joe Biden** will be in Volusia County at a rally at the ICI Center at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 600 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Daytona Beach. Doors open at 5 p.m. Program begins at 7:15 p.m.

### MONDAY

**John McCain** is expected to campaign along the Interstate 4 corridor. Details TBA.

**Barack Obama** is expected to make a campaign stop in Jacksonville. Details TBA.

The *Sentinel's* Jim Stratton is on the road, asking voters a simple question: "If you could talk to the presidential candidates, what would you tell them?"

VOTE

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