



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: ***"Don't say anything you are not willing to see reduced to a six word headline." - Ron Nessen***

MONDAY, 9/13/04

[US Airways Files for Bankruptcy Protection](#)

(09/13/2004 © Miami Herald)

ARLINGTON, Va. - US Airways Group Inc., the nation's seventh largest airline, filed for bankruptcy protection Sunday for the second time in two years. The company's president vowed to continue restructuring the airline into a low-cost carrier during the bankruptcy process.

[Storms hold lessons of road safety](#)

(09/13/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

If Florida were one enormous classroom, we could regard our recent nasty weather as a big, wet, teachable moment. So class, in terms of roads and transportation, what have we learned so far?

[Lawsuit: In-Car Sobriety Devices a Hazard](#)

(09/13/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

A lawsuit filed by a two-time drunken driving convict claims a dashboard device intended to stop people from driving while intoxicated can actually be a safety hazard.

[Keys relieved, but Florida's Panhandle residents leery of Ivan](#)

(09/13/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

KEY WEST, Fla. - The only whooshing sound Hurricane Ivan stirred in the Keys and populous South Florida on Sunday was a sigh of relief from residents no longer fearful the 160-mph storm would make a direct hit.

[PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH FLORIDA'S TRAFFIC CONGESTION](#)

(09/13/2004 © Miami Herald)

Most of the traffic woes in South Florida are caused by poorly synchronized traffic signals. For proof, simply drive any stretch of U.S. 1 from Interstate 95 to Cutler Ridge, or any other major artery for that matter. Each time that a red light turns green, it follows that the next light will turn red just as the driver approaches.

TUESDAY, 9/14/04

[Heckscher bridge will stay open after all](#)

(09/14/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Heckscher Drive motorists in northeast Jacksonville had two reasons to be relieved

Hurricane Ivan's path is moving west. They won't face Ivan's powerful force, and they won't have to put up with a two-week closure of the Heckscher Drive bridge over Shad Creek after all.

[Accusations of 'cash cow' are unfounded](#)

(09/14/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

We would like to respond to the article "Causeway toll to create big profits" in the Sept. 9 The News-Press because it inaccurately characterizes the county's financial motives in the replacement of the Sanibel Causeway bridges. Our only motive is to replace the causeway with new structures that protect the health, safety and welfare of the traveling public.

[Airline Jobs Change as Industry Evolves](#)

(09/14/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

For decades, an airline job was a coveted plum. Good pay, generous benefits, strong unions and the glamour of air travel made pilots, flight attendants, mechanics and even baggage handlers the envy of their neighbors. Now there are two airline industries -- one that created those attractive jobs but can no longer afford them, and another that is thriving in large part because it has avoided creating them.

[Sorting Out the Winners if US Airways Doesn't Survive](#)

(09/14/2004 © Lakeland Ledger)

US Airways' second trip to bankruptcy court holds both promise and peril for the nation's other major airlines. US Airways' decision to seek Chapter 11 protection on Sunday could jolt unions at Delta, Continental and Northwest to make wage and benefits concessions, executives at the carriers said yesterday.

[A few major airlines near financial crises](#)

(09/14/2004 © Naples Daily News)

WASHINGTON — Several long-suffering airlines appear to have reached breaking points, with fuel prices unrelentingly high, cash reserves dwindling and customers addicted to cheap fares. US Airways might file for bankruptcy court protection a second time and could be forced to liquidate, Delta is on the precipice of bankruptcy and United is battling an employee revolt as it aims to scrap its pension plans.

[Hurricane 2004: Travel industry returning to 'business as usual'](#)

(09/14/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Southwest Florida International Airport looked like normal Monday. Most flights were operating as usual. After long lines and many overnight guests in the last hurricane-riddled month, the airport was calm as the projected path of Hurricane Ivan was beginning to miss the area. "As it sounds right now we are looking like business as usual," airport spokeswoman Laska Ryan said.

[Airport traffic feels the impact](#)

(09/14/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie dented passenger traffic at Tallahassee Regional Airport in August, and Hurricane Frances was expected to drop the September passenger numbers, an airport official said Monday. "With Charley, we had a lot of

cancellations. People weren't flying south at all," said Phil Inglese, assistant airport director.

WEDNESDAY, 9/15/04

[State lawmakers to examine laws relating to hurricanes](#)

(09/15/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

The Florida House is going to take a broad look at hurricane-related issues, including insurance, power-company response and gasoline supplies, which could influence the agenda if, as expected, it meets in special session after the November elections. On Friday, Speaker-designate Allan Bense, R-Panama City, appointed St. Petersburg Rep. Leslie Waters to head a working group to determine whether Florida laws need to be changed in the wake of what might become a hurricane three-peat if Ivan strikes the state's Panhandle this week.

[FDOT workers prepare for Ivan](#)

(09/15/2004 © Gainesville Sun)

The Florida Department of Transportation has enacted its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which will bring dozens of additional employees to the Panhandle to help with roadway clearing and clean-up following Hurricane Ivan. District Three FDOT Information Director Tommie Speights says 146 additional employees from other districts will be arriving in Chipley Wednesday afternoon.

[Report: Segment of I-75 fails to cope with traffic](#)

(09/15/2004 © Naples Daily News)

An annual assessment of Lee County infrastructure shows a stretch of Interstate 75 is now failing from a traffic standpoint, but officials say the news is actually better than expected.

[The bad part of recovery: Tolls, road work return](#)

(09/15/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Getting back to normal after Hurricane Frances isn't only about air conditioning, working telephones and fully-stocked frozen food cases at the grocery store. It also brings a few unpleasanties — like road construction and tolls on Florida's Turnpike.

[State says lost tolls could cost \\$30-million](#)

(09/15/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

The free ride on most of Florida's toll roads ends this morning, with state officials estimating that the storm-driven moratorium on tolls could wind up costing the highway system as much as \$30-million in lost revenue. While the losses are not covered by insurance, they are not expected to slow any future road-building projects so long as the state gets through the rest of the storm season unscathed.

THURSDAY, 9/16/04

[FAA blames lax maintenance for computer failure in West](#)

(09/16/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

LOS ANGELES - Failure to perform a routine maintenance check caused the shutdown of an air traffic communications system serving a large swath of the West, resulting in

several close calls in the skies, the FAA and a union official said Wednesday. In at least five cases, aircraft in the sky passed dangerously close to each other Tuesday night after the shutdown knocked out radio contact.

[U.S. Proposes Tire Pressure Indicators](#)

(09/16/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

WASHINGTON - Starting in 2007, the government wants all vehicles to have warning lights that alert drivers to low tire pressure. A proposal Wednesday would require that vehicles have a yellow light that would illuminate when the pressure on any one of the four tires was underinflated by 25 percent or more.

[Merrill Road interchange opens today](#)

(09/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The first Better Jacksonville Plan interchange is scheduled to open for traffic today at the Southside Connector and Merrill Road in Arlington. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is putting the finishing touches on the newly built overpass that will let Southside Connector drivers go over Merrill Road without having to stop for traffic lights.

[State DOT to make quick fix on slippery Mathews grating](#)

(09/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The accident-prone steel grating on the Mathews Bridge in Jacksonville will get a short-term fix using machines that will hammer tiny dimples on the grating's riding surface to add a small measure of skid resistance, according to the state Department of Transportation.

[Transportation runs into pothole](#)

(09/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Like residents of the Gulf Coast, transportation companies are changing their schedules and keeping an eye on Hurricane Ivan. Because of Jacksonville's proximity to the storm's expected landfall, a number of cargo and passenger transportations services are on hold. "It's been a very difficult time," said Gary Sease, spokesman for Jacksonville-based CSX Transportation.

[Tolls back on turnpike](#)

(09/16/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

For drivers on Florida's Turnpike, the free ride of the last two weeks is over. But it came at a price -- a loss of \$25 million in the turnpike's coffers.

[2 relief trains sent to ease gas shortage](#)

(09/16/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

SANFORD -- The first of two special relief trains carrying diesel and gasoline for emergency responders arrived in Florida on Wednesday. The 20-car train was the last to travel CSX Transportation's Interstate 10 corridor from New Orleans to Jacksonville before the line was closed in anticipation of Hurricane Ivan's landfall.

[Fuel ships held up by Ivan](#)

(09/16/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Hurricane Ivan's northward march has trapped fuel vessels bound for Tampa from Louisiana and Alabama refineries, exacerbating Southwest Florida's already tight gas

situation. Some production operations in Gulf states have already been evacuated as the storm approaches.

FRIDAY, 9/17/04

Road damage slows help after Ivan

(09/17/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

State officials are assuring those struck by powerful Hurricane Ivan that "help is on the way," but that help has been slowed by the tremendous road damage between Tallahassee and the city Bush called "ground zero."

Escambia Bay Bridge Collapses, Will Take Weeks To Repair

(09/17/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

Hurricane Ivan left a section of Interstate 10 a swayed and twisted mess over Escambia Bay, as if a giant had picked up the highway and snapped it, leaving sections askew and a long stretch with no roadbed. A quarter-mile section of the eastbound I-10 bridge, called the Escambia Bay Bridge, collapsed into the water Thursday.

Rail service in county comes to end of track

(09/17/2004 © Gainesville Sun)

The Waldo Amtrak station, the last vestige of the rail service that originally brought Alachua County to life and united its towns, will stop offering rail service Nov. 1. It's the first time the county will be without rail service in 150 years, local historians said. The next-closest train stations are in Jacksonville and Palatka.

Airline Passengers Face Tighter Security

(09/17/2004 © Miami Herald)

WASHINGTON - Starting next week, all airline passengers must take off their jackets before passing through metal detectors and more will be subjected to pat-down searches and checks for explosives, the Transportation Security Administration announced Thursday.

Delta, pilots to discuss mass retirements

(09/17/2004 © Miami Herald)

Delta Air Lines (DAL) managers and pilots will meet again today, and likely negotiate through the weekend, to find a way to keep the airline staffed with pilots, as many opt for early retirement. Since the Atlanta airline warned a few months ago it may face bankruptcy, pilots have been taking early retirement at higher rates than usual.

County, city continue to gear up for legal battle over planned overpass

(09/17/2004 © Naples Daily News)

Collier County and the City of Naples are continuing to gear up for legal action over a planned overpass on Golden Gate Parkway that will go over Airport-Pulling Road. The county is planning to build the overpass; Naples is threatening a lawsuit to stop it. The two government entities are debating when to hold a conflict resolution meeting.

NTSB chair criticized by colleagues

(09/17/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

WASHINGTON - Three members of the National Transportation Safety Board are

unhappy with Chairwoman Ellen Engleman Conners for managing the watchdog agency with a heavy hand. The board members have sent her a letter that indicates she has restricted their travel, blocked their hiring and tried to limit their conversations with NTSB staff and the news media.

White House Wants to Cut FAA Budget

(09/17/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration wants to trim the Federal Aviation Administration's budget for buying new air traffic control equipment at a time when more planes are in the air. Air traffic controllers argue that more backup equipment could have mitigated the shutdown of a radio system at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday that left controllers unable to talk to pilots.