

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 60 Low: 44 Precip: 20%	High: 58 Low: 46 Precip: 30%	High: 58 Low: 46 Precip: 50%

IN BRIEF

September consumer prices pick up momentum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Consumer prices picked up momentum in September, especially hitting the pockets of people paying for medical care, education costs and gas. Although out-of-control inflation is not a current danger to the economy, the accelera-

tion justifies an interest rate increase next month by the Federal Reserve, analysts said. They expect the Fed at its Nov. 10 meeting to boost short-term interest rates for a fourth time this year to ensure inflation doesn't become a problem.

U.S. to Get 2.6 Million Flu Shots in January

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Federal health officials said Tuesday that another 2.6 million doses of flu vaccine will be available in January to augment existing supplies as they sought to calm fears about the shortage. "We've successfully worked through vaccine supply problems in the past, and we're doing so this time as well," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. "We need all of us to take a deep breath."

Social Security recipients to receive check increase

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 47 million Americans will get a 2.7 percent increase in their Social Security checks starting in January, meaning an additional \$25 per month for the typical retiree. But almost half of that gain will be gobbled up by a record increase in Medicare premiums. The cost of living adjustment, or COLA, announced Tuesday by the Social Security Administration will be the largest percentage gain since a 3.5 percent increase in 2001. The increase last January was 2.1 percent.

U.S. prods China to resume stalled beef trade

BEIJING — The United States is pushing China to lift import bans on beef and poultry imposed because of mad cow disease and bird flu

outbreaks, a senior state department official said Tuesday.

Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Alan Larson said the United States has "taken all the steps necessary to show we are free of avian influenza."

"We would like to see that trade resume," Larson told reporters at a news briefing.

China was one of about 25 countries that banned imports of all U.S. poultry products in February when avian

influenza, commonly known as bird flu, was discovered in Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey.

In Asia, more than 20 people have died after contracting the disease.

An 11-month ban has been in place for beef imports because of mad cow disease after U.S. officials announced that a cow in Washington state had the brain-wasting disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

— The Associated Press

# Low-rise jeans cause ruckus among Italy's high-schoolers

School officials take a stand against the fashion trend of baring it all, suggest more conservative dress

BY ANGELA DOLAND  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME — In an era of low-rise jeans, one Italian high school has launched an uprising.

A school in central Italy asked students to stop wearing low-slung trousers that expose navels, underwear and sometimes much more. In a nation that prizes kids and fashion, the suggestion unleashed a debate among parents, teachers and students, and at least one other school followed suit.

Throughout Italy, the question is whether Vitruvio Pollione Scientific High School in Avezzano overstepped the boundaries of student freedom of expression, or whether school wardrobes in Italy have grown a tad too free and expressive.

A letter read out loud to Avezzano students this month singled out "low-rise pants, which expose parts of the body that would be better off covered up, for good manners, in the school setting."

Deputy Principal Nazzareno Desiderio elaborated in a phone interview: "It's a piece of advice for their educational reflection."

The school's principal came up with the idea during a class trip, when he saw one boy's baggy pants

slide to his feet.

The letter has sparked a sea of Internet blog entries and letters to newspapers. A parents' group called Moige applauded the appeal for good taste, while the consumer group Co-dacons advised principals to stop worrying about fashion and fix up dilapidated school buildings instead.

Although attention has focused on Avezzano, other school officials have made similar requests, including one principal in the Alpine town of Ortisei who was reportedly worried that exposed bellies would make students vulnerable to stomach aches.

Despite the hullabaloo, the measure in Avezzano was not a strict dress code, just a suggestion. Dress codes and school uniforms are all but unheard of in Italian public schools.

"We didn't want a spirit of prohibitionism," Desiderio said. "You can't put a ban on fashion; you'd have to be joking."

Italians, known for being at ease with their bodies and always on the forefront of sexy fashion trends, seem to have embraced low-rise pants more than many other Europeans. Two of the hottest brands of jeans — Diesel and Miss Sixty — are Italian-run and offer countless

low-slung styles. High-schoolers are big fans.

At a prestigious Rome school whose alumni include atomic pioneer Enrico Fermi and Pope Pius XII, teenagers stream out of the heavy wooden doors at lunchtime exposing their midriffs and the waistbands of their underwear.

Inspired by the decision in Avezzano, the principal of Rome's Visconti High School has suggested that students show less skin and proposed a debate on the matter. In an interview, he lamented the lack of mystery of the modern young woman's wardrobe.

"Today, boys are less tickled by such visions (of skin), because there's no more big effect in seeing a girl's legs or shoulders, lower back and navel," principal Antonino Grasso said.

Most kids have simply ignored such concerns. Ludovica Gaudio, 14, wore ultra-low pants, orange cotton underwear and a bare midriff to class. It was chilly, so she accessorized with a matching orange scarf.

Another 14-year-old suggested she would probably respect the school's request, simply for practical reasons.

"I don't really feel at ease" in low-slung pants, said Sarah Lattanzi, who covered up with a hooded sweatshirt. "In winter, when it comes down to it, it's freezing."

**COSTUME RENTALS**  
365 E. 13th St. • 343-6842  
Mon - Sat 11-6 • Sun 12-4

*Nobody's Baby • Time Warp*

*When Being Someone Else Matters!*

"Best Meal for a Deal," 2nd Place, "Best Omelette," 2nd Place, "Best Breakfast," 2nd Place, "Best Vegetarian Fare" 2nd Place, Register-Guard Reader Poll, 1987. • "Best ... to Town Magazine 1999," "Best Breakfast," In Town Magazine, 1995 • "Best Choice," Oregon Daily Emerald, 1996 • "Best Eater before 9 a.m.," Comic News • "Best Dinner Under \$8," Eugene Weekly, 1996 • "One ... Thing About ...," 1998 • "Best ...," 1998 • "Take Visitors When You Pay," 1st Place "Best Breakfast," 1st Place, "Best Sunday Brunch," 2nd Place "Best ...," Eugene Weekly, 1999 • "Best Dinner Under \$12," 1st Place, "Best Lunch Under \$8," 1st Place, "Best Breakfast," 2nd Place, "Best Soup," 3rd Place Eugene Weekly, 2000 • "Best ...," Best of Teen, Register-Guard, 2001 • "Best Breakfast," 2nd Place, "Best ...," Eugene Weekly, 2002 • "Best ...," Eugene Weekly, 2003.

**GLENWOOD**

Defining the taste of Eugene for over 25 years.

2588 Willamette St. 541-687-8201 | 1340 Alder Street 541-687-0355

*Auditions*

Eugene Concert Choir

October 21  
Call 687-6865

Repertoire includes:  
Beethoven,  
Missa Solemnis,  
Rachmaninoff Vespers,  
Broadway Musicals.

**Healing Chakra Festival**  
Call for a free Chakra Energy Evaluation!

Student discounts!

Healing Chakra — All day Saturday, December 4th • Drumming Festival — Friday Evening Dec. 3rd  
Martial Arts Festival — Sunday Morning, Dec. 5th

Visit BRyoga.com or call 541-686-0207