



Furry friends flock to town for annual Pet Fest. **SEE 11.**



VOLUME 3, NO. 23

FREE · THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

## Teen anxiety: Digital dilemma

Experts say an increase in stress is related directly to social media. **SEE HEALTH MATTERS.**

### Windermere man convicted of rape charges



Darryl Patterson faces up to 45 years in prison after being convicted of rape charges.

**ERIC GUTIERREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

A Windermere man was found guilty of attempted sexual battery and sexual battery with physical incapacitation during a jury trial March 6.

Darryl Wayne Patterson, 51,

**SEE PATTERSON PAGE 4**

## SHOUT IT OUT LOUD!



Courtesy photo

**F**our Keene's Crossing Elementary School teachers achieved rock-star status last week in their quest to inspire their students for the Florida Standards Assessment test. J. Renee Maples, Deborah Watkins, Jennifer Drone and Elizabeth Long donned the classic makeup of the rock band KISS. This photo was shared on the school's Twitter page — and then shared by the band KISS itself. "When we saw KISS retweet (the photo), at first we were in shock and astounded that they even saw the tweet," said Keene's Crossing Principal Sherry Donaldson. "We wanted to do something that was high energy (and) that was different that would motivate the students. ... We thought about rock 'n' roll, and they (the teachers) decided to dress as KISS."



**BLACK TIE**

**HEART FOR HELP**  
Coalition hosts Hearts of Gold Gala.  
**PAGE 9.**

### OCPS: Bridgewater teacher's tweets do not violate policy

A Bridgewater Middle School parent who first complained about the teacher's tweets in September 2017 feels the district's response was inadequate.

**GABBY BAQUERO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Twitter posts belonging to a local teacher are under scrutiny following a parent's decision to publicly share screenshots of the tweets on Facebook.

The tweets, which may be interpreted as anti-Islamic, were written by Sundai Brown, a Bridgewater Middle School civics teacher employed by the school since 2009.

**SEE TWEETS PAGE 4**



**POWER PLAYERS**

Dr. Phillips High School's volleyball team sets its sights on a return to the FHSAA State Playoffs.

**PAGE 15.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15  
INDEPENDENCE  
FOOD TRUCKS**

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the Independence Town Square Residents Club, 14213 Pleach St., Winter Garden. This month's trucks include 900 Degrees, Hayburner, Sweet City Gelato, Union Jacks, Tacos' Mazatlan and Sea Dog Brewing Company. (407) 654-7479.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16  
CROOKED CAN CELTIC FEST**

4 to 11 p.m. Friday, March 16; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 17; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at Crooked Can Brewing Company, 426 W. Plant St., Winter Garden. This festival will feature three Days of live Celtic music, Irish dancers, vendors, food, beer and more. All ages welcome.

**LENTEN FISH FRY**

4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the Parish Hall of Resurrection Catholic Church, 1211 Winter Garden-Vineland Road, Winter Garden. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The menu includes baked or fried cod, French fries, vegetables, cole slaw, hush puppies, drink and dessert. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. (407) 656-3113.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

**MARCEL DUCHAMP:  
FATHER OF MODERN ART**  
Noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at the Winter Garden Art Association's SoBo Gallery, 127 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden. Marcel Duchamp set the art world on fire when he submitted a urinal to an art show in 1917. When it was rejected, he

used his art career to continually push the limits of the artistic elite and to call into question the very definition of art. Session 2 will dive into Duchamp's fascinating art career and the powerful messages of his "Readymades" and discuss the Dada art movement and the way it changed modern art and the art world forever. Tickets are \$10 for WGAA members and \$15 for others. Reservations and payments can be made by calling (407) 347-7996 or by going online at [wgart.org](http://wgart.org).

**WINDERMERE ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY CELEBRATION**

4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at Windermere Town Hall, 520 Main St. Includes live music from the Down Brothers, food trucks, bounce houses, adult games, a silent auction and green beer and Guinness. This is an annual fundraising event of the Windermere Police Department Foundation. (407) 876-4028.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20  
CODING WITH OZOBOTS**

3 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Southwest Library, 7255 Della Drive, Orlando. Learn the basics of coding and computer programming using a miniature Ozobot robot. No prior coding knowledge needed. Ages 6 to 12. Registration required at (407) 835-7323.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23  
LENTEN FISH FRY**

4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Parish Hall of Resurrection Catholic Church, 1211 Winter Garden-Vineland Road, Winter Garden. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The

menu includes baked or fried cod, French fries, vegetables, cole slaw, hush puppies, drink and dessert. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. (407) 656-3113.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24  
DALI & DUCHAMP**

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Winter Garden Art Association's SoBo Gallery, 127 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden. Marcel Duchamp and Salvador Dali shared the titles of "genius" and "madman" because of their striking and shocking approaches to art. Both artists worked to change how people view and interpret art but went about it in different ways. Session 3 of this lecture series discusses the relationship between Dali and Duchamp, as well as Surrealism and Dadaism and their effects on Modern Art. Tickets are \$10 for WGAA members and \$15 for others. Reservations and payments can be made by calling (407) 347-7996 or by going online at [wgart.org](http://wgart.org).

**EVENING AT THE POPS**

4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Newton Park, 29 W. Garden Ave., Winter Garden. Sit under the stars and enjoy the Orlando Philharmonic Symphony. This annual event by Lake Apopka supports the Rotary Club of Winter Garden to benefit local charities. An instrument petting zoo will be available at 4:30 pm.; the concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance and at the gate. VIP tickets are available also. For more, visit [facebook.com/eveningatthepops](http://facebook.com/eveningatthepops).

## County OKs 23-acre expansion of Hannah Smith development

County commissioners approved a request to expand the Hannah Smith planned development with an additional 23 acres.

**GABBY BAQUERO**  
NEWS EDITOR

**ORANGE COUNTY** The Hannah Smith planned development, located north of Interstate 4 and south of Fenton Street, received the green light to add 23.6 acres originally belonging to the Ruby Lake planned development.

The request to add 23 acres, put forth by applicant Jim Hall from VHB Inc., was approved unanimously at the Orange County Board of County Commissioners meeting Tuesday, March 6.

The property owner's initial plan was to build 282 hotel rooms, 564 timeshare units and 195,723 square feet of tourist commercial uses, but it purchased land from Lot 10 of the Ruby Lake planned development to have space for multi-family residential units.

With the additional 23 acres bringing the total acreage of the planned development to 82 acres, plans now include 282 hotel rooms, 564 timeshare units, 487,765 square feet of tourist commercial uses and 250 multi-family residential units.

"They just got their zoning approved, basically, but they still have to get their devel-

opment plan approved by the development review committee and get their building permits," said John Smogor, of the Orange County Planning Division. "They're fairly ready to begin. We haven't seen any of the development plans yet, but we would anticipate to probably see the multi-family development come in next. But they haven't submitted anything yet, and I don't know what their construction timeline is."

The applicant also is requesting four waivers from Orange County code relating to the multi-family building height and separation, building setbacks and building coverages.

The waiver request pertaining to building heights is for a maximum building height of 75 feet (six stories) for multi-family buildings internal to the PD with a separation of 20 feet from single-family buildings.

The requested waivers and property expansion did not require a community meeting, but anyone interested in more information about the development may contact Orange County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey at (407) 836-7350 or by email [District1@ocfl.net](mailto:District1@ocfl.net).

Choose a  
team dedicated  
to heart health.  
**Choose**  
Orlando Health.

When it comes to your heart, you deserve to be in the very best hands. Orlando Health has an entire institute dedicated to collaborative care to create the best treatment plan for you. When you choose Orlando Health Heart Institute, you choose an experienced team of cardiovascular experts equipped with the latest technology and committed to keeping you healthy. And with 15 office locations throughout Central Florida, you have convenient outpatient services right in your own community.

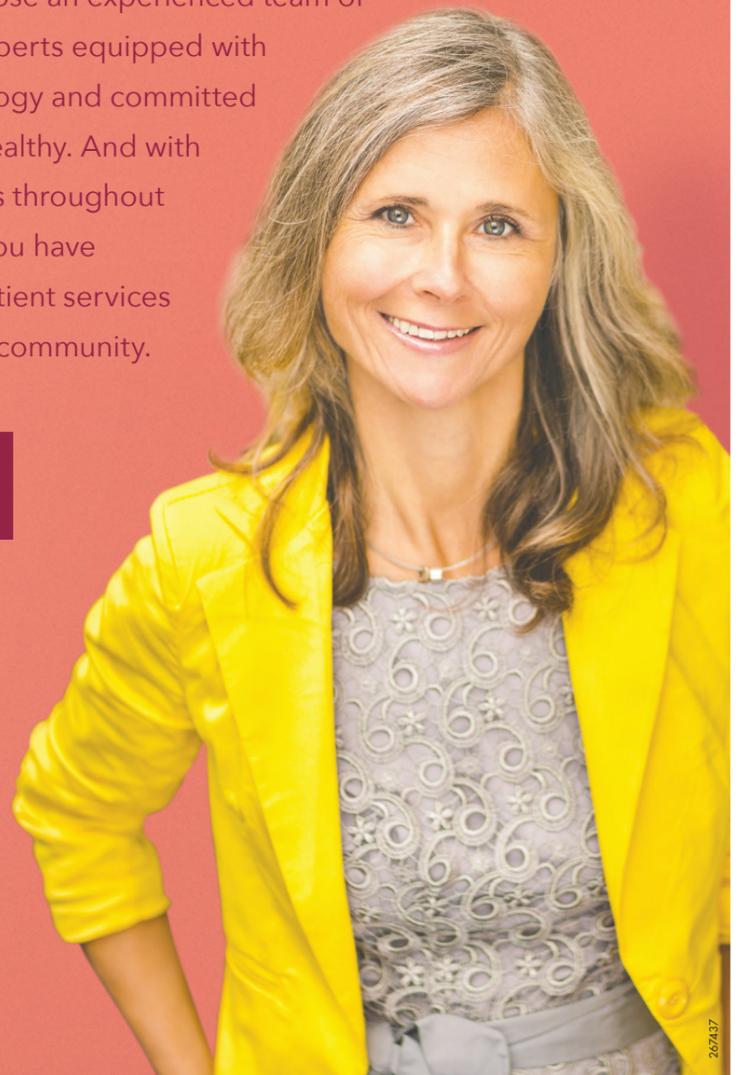
Next-Day Appointments Available for New Patients

ORLANDO  
HEALTH®

Heart Institute

[OrlandoHealth.com/Cardiology](http://OrlandoHealth.com/Cardiology)

321.841.9690



# Festival of flavor

**F**rom Jell-O shots and macaroni and cheese to sliders, sandwiches and martinis, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce's 16th annual Best Fest offered it all.

Held Thursday, March 8, at Bill Breeze Park in Ocoee, the event is an annual community favorite. Restaurateurs and local businesses come together to offer the best of their food and drinks, and to represent their respective organizations. The event this year drew hundreds, who bundled up on a chilly evening to mix, mingle and taste the best of West Orange.

— OBSERVER STAFF



Melissa James and Mark Delgado took a selfie with mascots from the Orlando Magic, Orlando Solar Bears and the Florida Fire Frogs.



OCPS culinary student Seamus Samson grilled shrimp and lobster tails.



Melissa Rodriguez and Hermela T. represented Orange Technical College.



Above: Kyle Martin, Tracy Swanson, Tricia Wiles and Lesa Boettcher represented Healthy West Orange and its mascot, Westley.



Pam Gould, Lisa Thornton and Lori Burschan loved hanging out together.



Left: Scott West, Marilyn Johnson, Ocoee Mayor Rusty Johnson and Stacy Williams chatted over food samples.

**ONLINE**  
See more at [OrangeObserver.com](http://OrangeObserver.com)

## Vineland Pointe developer forgoes plans for commercial space

The developer announced the change in plans during a community meeting held Monday, March 12, at Sand Lake Elementary School.

**GABBY BAQUERO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Orange County hosted a community meeting March 6 to discuss changes for a planned development called Vineland Pointe Apartments.

The 33.9-acre project, developed by Pride Homes of Vineland Pointe LLC, is to be located north of Lake Street, east of Daryl Carter Parkway and west of Lake Willis Drive on what is currently vacant land.

The project already has had its zoning and future land use designation approved by county commissioners, and the project has gone through several community meetings before the more recent

changes were made to the development plan.

But the developers needed to go through the community meeting process one last time because of its condition of approval for the development plan changes.

"There were 680 units approved when we went through the community meeting and PD process last time," said Tom Sullivan, a real-estate attorney with the development team. "But after we laid it out ... we decided on 567 units. So it's about 113 less than what the maximum was. There was also about 50,000 square feet of commercial entitlements that were also approved years ago, and those have been removed from the plan."



Courtesy

According to the site plan, the project will have 228 one-bedroom units, 336 two-bedroom units and three four-bedroom townhomes.

The end result of the changes amounts to a request to construct 567 multi-family residential dwelling units on a total of 33.93

gross acres, as opposed to the original 680 units with 50,000 square feet of commercial space. According to the site plan, the

luxury-home apartment complex includes three four-bedroom townhomes, 1,059 parking spaces, 228 one-bedroom units and 336 two-bedroom units that range from 750 to 1,200 square feet. A recreational clubhouse with a pool and a walkway around the property's perimeter featuring workout stations will also be included, Sullivan said.

If all goes according to plan, Omar Fonte — the owner and a managing member of Pride Homes — expects construction to take about 18 months over three phases. A construction start date has not yet been identified; the new development plans still need to be approved by the development review committee.

Anyone with questions about this development may contact Orange County case planner Marla Molina at (407) 836-5945.

# Tweets protected as free speech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The parent who posted the screenshots, Maleha Kikhia, is a mother of two seventh-graders at Bridgewater. Kikhia said she found the teacher's Twitter account in September 2017 once she Googled the teacher's name after being informed that her son's friend had overheard Brown make an inappropriate comment about immigrants.

While scrolling through Brown's tweets and retweets, she found several she took as being highly offensive to Muslims.

One tweet, dated July 28, 2017, read: "Imams worldwide instruct Muslims to invade western countries, outbreed them, overthrow governments, kill infidels and implement sharia law."

Another, dated May 23, 2017, read: "When will we be more concerned with protecting the very lives of people than the FEELINGS of Muslims and the 'religion' of Islam?"

Kikhia took screenshots and contacted the school to make an official complaint and request her daughter be removed from Brown's class.

"I was afraid for her," she said. "When I send my child to school for eight hours a day, I would expect that if any other child at school says something to my daughter, the teacher would

defend her. I don't think that she would defend her."

She discussed her concerns with Bridgewater Middle School Assistant Principal Nicole Mutters and was informed the case would be sent to district officials.

On Nov. 29, she followed up with an email to Mutters to inquire about the investigation's status.

"The administration did complete the investigation and the issue was addressed appropriately with the teacher," Mutters wrote in an email addressed to Kikhia on Dec. 7. "There is not a case number as that is not a piece of the process, and no other investigative information may be shared at this time. Please be assured we have followed through and completed the appropriate action from the school and district."

Feeling the district's response was unsatisfactory, on March 6, Kikhia forwarded the email thread to Gregory Moody, the district's area superintendent for the west learning community. Moody replied with an assurance the incident was addressed appropriately.

"I didn't get any resolution from any of it," Kikhia said. "And everything at this point was still up and the teacher was still employed at the school. So I messaged him back to ask how

was this dealt with ... and I didn't get a response back from him. So I just want to make it clear that I didn't just run to the media. I've been going through all the right channels. I emailed. I waited. It's been months, and nobody is helping me."

Brown's Twitter account has since been deleted.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Some parents emphasized Brown is free to exercise her freedom of speech as long as it does not interfere with her teaching.

"Teachers are human, and they should have a right to do or say what they want outside of school as long as it doesn't affect the students," said Rhonda Walker, a mother of two students in Brown's class. "At some point, we're not going to have any good teachers because they can't do anything. She's a great teacher. She sends us emails at 11 at night. All she does is work for these kids, and you want your kids to learn from someone who is knowledgeable."

OCPS Media Relations Manager Lorena Arias said the district does not fire its employees for their political views.

"OCPS finds the political views expressed by Ms. Sundai Brown to be offensive, and inconsistent with our mission statement and anti-discriminatory policies," Arias wrote in an email. "How-

ever, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of all persons, including public employees, to have offensive, and even abhorrent political beliefs. ... Because there are no pending allegations that Ms. Brown has acted in a discriminatory manner in the workplace to either students or colleagues, her political views, which she has made public, can have no bearing upon her current employment by OCPS no matter how offensive they may be."

To date, the district has received two complaints about Brown, neither of which presented evidence that Brown had discriminated against her students or colleagues.

## QUESTION OF ETHICS

But Kikhia believes someone harboring such extreme views should not be employed in an educational role, particularly one with daily contact with young minds.

"I believe this should be considered a violation of their code of ethics," she said. "I already pulled my child out; she's not at risk anymore. But my concern is for the children who are exposed to her every day. I don't believe that she can teach and be unbiased, especially civics."

"I don't understand how her beliefs, as extreme as they are, how she would be able to check that at the door," she said. "To defame or share wrong information insulting a minority group of any kind; teachers should not be able to do that. I believe they should be held to a higher standard than other people because they come into contact with kids every day — kids from all different types of backgrounds, races, religions and nationalities."

*"OCPS finds the political views expressed by Ms. Sundai Brown to be offensive, and inconsistent with our mission statement and anti-discriminatory policies. However, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of all persons, including public employees, to have offensive, and even abhorrent political beliefs. ..."*

— OCPS Media Relations Manager Lorena Arias

# Patterson convicted in rape case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

faces up to 45 years in prison for the two charges. He will be sentenced on May 4, according to Orange County court records.

"My office invested a lot of time, hard work and commitment to reach a guilty verdict, that we believe was warranted based upon the evidence and facts of the case," said State Attorney Amaris Ayala. "We are pleased with the jury's verdict and satisfied justice was served."

It has taken a number of years to achieve Patterson's conviction. In 2012, a woman who previously dated and lived with Patterson turned in a collection of videos to the Orange County Sheriff's Office. She told Orange County investigators she took the tapes when she moved out of Patterson's Windermere home and later viewed a portion of one of the tapes. She told investigators the recording she saw appeared to show Patterson engaging in sex acts with a woman who may have been unconscious or drugged, according to Patterson's search warrant.

An Orange County detective viewed some the tapes and reported other recordings also appeared to depict Patterson engaging in sexual acts with other unidentified, incapacitated female victims. Orange County investigators learned that some of the crimes occurred at Patterson's Windermere home, and the case was then

turned over to the Windermere Police Department, according to the warrant.

Once the videos made their way to the Windermere Police Department, investigators viewed the content. However, they determined the case as unfounded. One investigator, Detective Gene Powell, indicated he did not observe any of the victims resist and added he was unable to "determine if the female victims were being 'raped' because they woke up during the incidents and seemingly participated in the sex acts," the warrant states.

The tapes were supposed to be returned to the Sheriff's Office. Instead, they sat in a storage shed until rediscovered in late December 2014, after Patterson came into the Windermere Police Department to report that he'd been a victim of fraud, said current Windermere Detective John Allen.

Allen said one of his fellow officers recognized Patterson from the 2012 incidents. At that point, Allen started looking into the incidents. After finding no documented reports, they discovered the collection of tapes in a storage

shed in the parking lot of the Windermere Police Department.

"Fortunately for us, there was a wadded-up Sheriff's Office police report (with the tapes)," Allen said. "At this point, we looked at the videos ... and obviously we were concerned, because these women were unconscious. One woman, she never really regained consciousness on the tape, so you're concerned she could be dead."

Windermere investigators then attempted to identify some of the women from the tapes and brought Patterson in for questioning in February 2015. About a month after questioning, Allen said Patterson attempted to rape another woman.

"He had essentially gotten this woman to meet him at a restaurant and (talked) her into taking him home," Allen said. "He got her to his house and he gave her drinks, she got sick and started throwing up, (she) passed out and woke up with him on top of her."

Allen said the woman fought Patterson off and ran from his home, but she did not report the incident until later.

"With the tapes and this recent

*"Our primary concern is just making sure these women are OK. I'm certainly pleased this jury found him guilty. ... Because of the way this case was originally handled — it wasn't handled appropriately — it took a lot of skill on the part of the prosecutors ... the two prosecutors who worked on this case were outstanding."*

— Windermere Police Detective John Allen

WINDERMERE

Observer

"If we are to build a better world, we must remember that the guiding principle is this — a policy of freedom for the individual is the only truly progressive policy."

Friedrich Hayek

"Road to Serfdom," 1944

**Publisher** / Dawn Willis, [dwillis@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:dwillis@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Executive Editor** / Michael Eng, [meng@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:meng@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Design Editor** / Jessica Eng, [jeng@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:jeng@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Senior Sports Editor** / Steven Ryzewski, [sryzewski@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:sryzewski@OrangeObserver.com)  
**News Editor** / Gabby Baquero, [gbaquero@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:gbaquero@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Community Editor** / Amy Quesinberry, [amyq@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:amyq@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Black Tie Editor** / Danielle Hendrix, [dhendrix@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:dhendrix@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Staff Writer** / Eric Gutierrez, [egutierrez@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:egutierrez@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Advertising Executives**  
 Michelle Gentry, [mgentry@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:mgentry@OrangeObserver.com)  
 Cyndi Gustafson, [advertising@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:advertising@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Creative Services**  
 Tony Trotti, [ttrotti@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:ttrotti@OrangeObserver.com)  
**Customer Service Representatives**  
 Allison Brunelle, [abrunelle@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:abrunelle@OrangeObserver.com)  
 Katie Rehm, [krehm@orangeobserver.com](mailto:krehm@orangeobserver.com)

## CONTACT US

The *Windermere Observer* is published once weekly, on Thursdays. It provides subscription home delivery. The *Windermere Observer* also can be found in commercial locations and at our office, 720 S. Dillard St., Winter Garden. If you wish to subscribe to, visit our website, [OrangeObserver.com](http://OrangeObserver.com), call (407) 656-2121 or visit our office, 720 S. Dillard St., Winter Garden.

## TO ADVERTISE

For display or digital advertising, call (407) 656-2121. For Classifieds, call (407) 656-2121.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Let us know about your events, celebrations and achievements. To contact us, send your information via email to Michael Eng, [meng@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:meng@OrangeObserver.com).

## WINDERMERE OBSERVER

The *Windermere Observer* (USPS 687-120) is published weekly for \$40 per year (\$50 outside of Orange County) by the Observer Media Group, 720 S. Dillard St., Winter Garden, Florida 34787. Periodical postage paid at Winter Garden, Florida. POSTMASTER send address changes to the *Windermere Observer*, 720 S. Dillard St., Winter Garden, Florida 34787.

## Observer Media Group Inc.

1970 Main St. • Sarasota, FL 34236  
941-366-3468

Editor and CEO / Matt Walsh  
Vice President / Lisa Walsh  
Chairman / David Beliles

Publishers of the  
 Longboat Observer, East County Observer, Sarasota Observer, Siesta Key Observer, Palm Coast Observer, Plant City Times & Observer, Ormond Beach Observer, West Orange Times & Observer, Windermere Observer, Winter Park/Maitland Observer, Business Observer, Jacksonville Financial News & Daily Record, Jacksonville Realty-Builder Connection, LWR Life, Season Magazine and Baldwin Park Living

OrangeObserver.com

# Town of Windermere to begin stormwater drainage improvements

Construction will begin soon in the First Avenue and Forest Street area.

**DANIELLE HENDRIX**  
BLACK TIE EDITOR

By the end of the summer, Windermere residents in the First Avenue and Forest Street area will notice significant stormwater drainage improvements.

The town awarded recently a bid for construction to All State Paving & Development Inc. to construct drainage infrastructure along First Avenue, Palm Street, Butler Street and Forest Street to improve water quality prior to discharging to Wauseon Bay.

In 2004, the town initiated an inventory and evaluation of various stormwater outfall locations to determine the extent of improvements needed for control and minimization of pollutants draining into the nearby lakes. This project was identified as one of the priority outfall improvement projects, and the town decided to conduct capital improvements to fix it.

"The project is partially funded by the South Florida Water Management District under Agreement No. 4600003529, with the condition that the project construction be completed by Sept. 30, 2018," said Michael Galura, president and principal engineer of Michael Galura Engineering Consultants, which provided the

project engineering analysis. "The SFWMD will be contributing \$175,000 in construction funding. The town will provide the remainder of the construction contract through monies generated from the Town Stormwater Utility and General Revenue funding."

Project improvements include the construction of a French Drain system to allow collected stormwater to filter through coarse, aggregate filter media and the underlying soil into a shallow aquifer. The excess stormwater runoff collected by the system will then go into a vegetated swale along the north side of First Avenue, which is controlled by a concrete weir. The weir acts as a regulator of the rate and volume of stormwater draining into Wauseon Bay.

"The project drains a watershed of approximately 23 acres of single-family residential with dirt streets that drain to Wauseon Bay," Galura said. "There is little or no drainage infrastructure in existence within the project boundaries. The project will improve the collection and conveyance of stormwater runoff, will address any localized and repetitive flooding and will improve the quality of stormwater discharged

*"The SFWMD will be contributing \$175,000 in construction funding. The town will provide the remainder of the construction contract through monies generated from the Town Stormwater Utility and General Revenue funding."*

— Michael Galura

to Wauseon Bay."

According to the project executive summary, the town previously constructed the drainage infrastructure along Forest Street, including a sodded swale along First Avenue that was expanded to increase the treatment volume available and is controlled by a concrete weir. That project also included a 15-inch pipe that extends from Forest Street to the First Avenue swale, but the new project improvements will incorporate the features from the original project into the improved drainage infrastructure.

In the end, the new filtration added will reduce the levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, suspended solids, heavy metals and more in the stormwater runoff.

Construction will not result in flooding of adjacent properties but rather improve the drainage conditions where flooding currently persists, Galura said. It also will improve the water-quality treatment for the area prior to its discharge into Wauseon Bay without eliminating or displacing any wildlife.

The project is estimated to take place over about 150 days, with expected completion by the end of July.

## Get hooked on great Service!

Trane Comfort Specialists. Quality Work & Customer Satisfaction is our #1 Priority

Call us and catch a great deal!

**407-470-7014**

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION • MAINTENANCE



1319 Green Forest Ct, Suite 412  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**DUNCAN'S**  
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING, INC.

[www.DuncansACOrlando.com](http://www.DuncansACOrlando.com)



## Joseph Shirer M.D.

Dermatology & Dermatological Surgery. Board Certified

### General Dermatology & General Skin Examinations

*Specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer*

Exemplary surgical experience. Over 25 years in practice. Accepting new patients.

Located inside Health Central Hospital  
10000 W. Colonial Drive, Suite 481

**407-521-3550**

Office hours M-F by appointment

ADVERTORIAL

## LAKE APOPKA NATURAL GAS DISTRICT CELEBRATES THIRD ANNUAL NATURAL GAS UTILITY WORKERS' DAY

*District Honors Workers with Week-Long Celebration*

**Winter Garden, FL (March 15, 2018)**

– In its third year, National Gas Utility Workers' Day 2018 honors employees who provide communities nationwide with one of their most valuable assets – their natural gas utility. While officially recognized on March 18th, Lake Apopka Natural Gas District has celebrated workers throughout the week prior with employee engagement and appreciation events.

The significance of March 18th comes from the date in 1937 when a school explosion in New London, Texas led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution, and the employees of distribution companies like the District endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

This exciting week of festivities is dedicated to the hard work of natural gas utility employees and their accomplishments in the community. Lake Apopka Natural Gas District workers have been presented with many safety awards and accolades, most recently including the prestigious American Public Gas Association's national S.O.A.R. (Systems Operational Achievement Recognition) award – the second time the coveted honor was bestowed upon the District.

These devoted employees play a crucial role in the area's energy efficiency and are committed to the wellbeing of its resi-

dents. In celebration, the District will host a company-wide appreciation breakfast and presentation to honor their utility workers and highlight that safety is job number one.

Since its founding in 1959, Lake Apopka Natural Gas District has proudly provided safe, dependable and cost-efficient natural gas into the homes and businesses of Clermont, Apopka, Winter Garden and the surrounding communities. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, natural gas can help to achieve energy security and build a more competitive economy.



*Lake Apopka Natural Gas District provides clean, efficient and economical natural gas service to more than 20,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Orange and Lake counties. The District has been honored with the SOAR Silver Award by the American Public Gas Association for excellence in operations. For more information on natural gas service for your home, business or vehicle, please contact the LANGD Marketing Team at (407) 656-2734 x307 or [marketing@langd.org](mailto:marketing@langd.org), or visit [www.langd.org](http://www.langd.org).*

269487



Hola  
**DID YOU KNOW**  
that you're close to a  
**Florida Blue Center?**



434 N. Orlando Ave.  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
Located in Winter Park Village  
321-441-2020  
#BetterHealthStartsHere

Every month, we offer free events like fitness and wellness education programs to all Floridians. Join your friends and neighbors at your local Florida Blue Center.

**Florida Blue**

[floridabluecenters.com](http://floridabluecenters.com)

Florida Blue is a trade name of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

91675 0218 WHV

264000

**Spring cleaning?**  
 Donate your gently used building supplies, furniture, appliances and more to the ReStore!

Call (407)905-0406 for FREE pick-up or bring smaller items to the ReStore  
 13369 West Colonial Drive  
 (between 9th and Dillard Street, behind Taco Bell in Winter Garden)

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm  
 Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm. Closed Sunday

Saturday, March 24 • 11 am to 1 pm  
 Come in to do an Easter egg craft and have a cupcake.



West Orange Habitat for Humanity | ReStore  
 www.westorangehabitat.org

# Westbrooke's Winter Wonderland



Above: Ross Lumsden held his two daughters Mia, left, and Emma, right, during a slow dance.

Memories were made as dads danced the night away with their daughters at Westbrooke Elementary School's Winter Wonderland Ball Saturday, March 3, at The Pines at Windermere. Dads and daughters enjoyed an evening of sweet treats, commemorative photos and dancing.

— ERIC GUTIERREZ

**BLAIR M. JOHNSON**  
 Attorney At Law • 407-656-5521  
 425 S. Dillard St. • Winter Garden, FL 34787

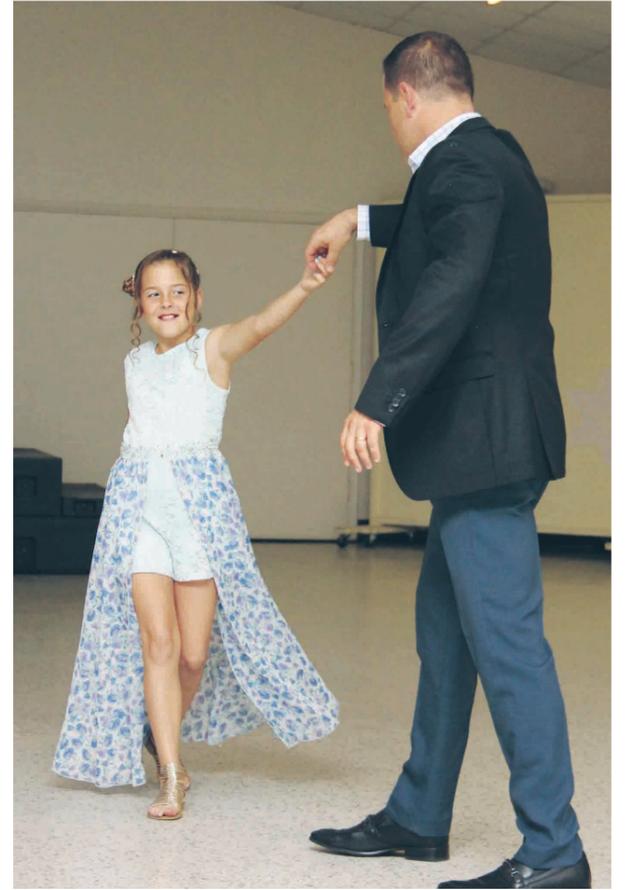


- Wills/Advance Directives
- Estates
- Corporation/LLC
- Commercial transactions
- Landlord/Tenant
- Real estate: Contracts, Closings, Short Sales, Deed in Lieu
- And other matters

Proudly serving West Orange County for over 36 years.  
 www.blairjohnsonlaw.com



Left: Kiersten Rose and her dad, Doug, joined hands for a slow dance.



Faith Fazzone showed off her dance moves with her dad, Tony.



Left: Brian Smith held his daughter, Lauren, close as they slow danced.

**MVA Summer PROGRAM PREVIEW**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
 • Ages K-8  
 • Full and half-day programs  
 • Only 25 minutes from Orlando!

Catch a SNEAK PREVIEW of Montverde Academy's summer programs! We've got camps including day camp, camp invention, tennis, baseball, golf, swim, equestrian, yearbook, and soccer. We offer before/after-care and hot lunches for most full-day camps.  
 Summer Programs at [montverde.org](http://montverde.org)

**DAY CAMP** June 18 - July 27  
 Grades K-8  
 Boys & Girls

**EQUESTRIAN** June 4-8 | June 11-15  
 June 18-22 | Grades 3-8

**CAMP INVENTION**

**Day & Overnight TENNIS**

Session 1: June 11-14 | Session 2: July 30-Aug. 2 | Grades K-6

Two day sessions: July 9-14 | July 16-21 | Overnight camp July 8-21

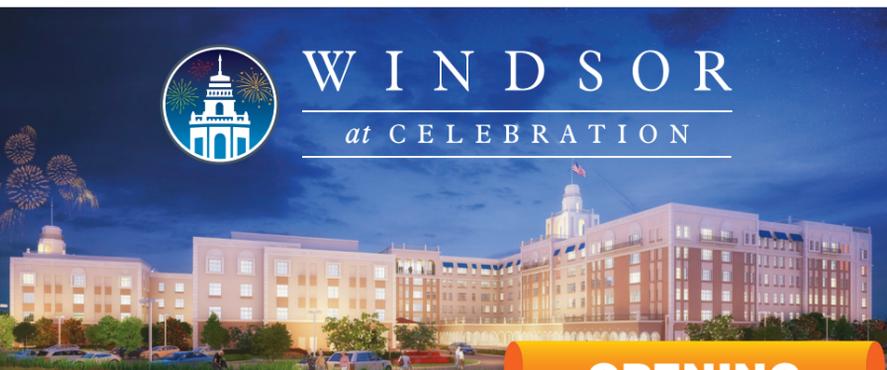
**CAMPS ARE STILL BEING ADDED!**  
 Check our website daily for new camps, pricing, dates, times, and camp details. Have more fun and more choices, all in one great location!

17235 Seventh Street, Montverde, Florida 34756 Summer Programs at [montverde.org](http://montverde.org)

**JUST IMAGINE!**

Thoroughly modern senior living with imagination & innovation.

**WINDSOR**  
 at CELEBRATION



**OPENING SPRING 2018**  
 PREMIUM VIEWS going fast!

(407) 870-1561  
 info@WindsorAtCelebration.com  
 WindsorAtCelebration.com  
 Windsor at Celebration Discovery Center  
 715 Bloom Street, Suite 140 in Downtown Celebration

A BIG ROCK PARTNERS Senior Housing Development | Managed by Life Care Services®



## ALSO INSIDE:

Coalition for the Homeless: Hearts of Gold Gala. 9

Children's Home Society of Florida: An Evening of Hope. 10

# BLACK TIE

ORANGEOBSERVER.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018



The Gift of Swimming's board was delighted with the fundraiser's turnout.

# Making waves

The Gift of Swimming nonprofit teaches underprivileged children how to swim.

**HARRY SAYER**  
BLACK TIE REPORTER

**N**ot everyone knows how to swim — and that is something those who attended the Gift of Swimming's poolside social hope to change.

Held Friday, March 9, at the SouthWest Aquatics swimming facility, 205 Windermere Road, the annual affair is one of the Gift of Swimming organization's major fundraisers and brings the West Orange swimming community together to support those who need it.

The nonprofit's aim is to provide underprivileged children basic swimming survival lessons — a skill its leaders feel is a necessity in the Sunshine State.

"In Central Florida, there's water everywhere — ponds, pools, lakes," Executive Director Susan Polder said. "Florida unfortunately usually leads the nation

SEE SWIMMING PAGE 8



Yellow Dog Eats founder Fish Morgan, Mike McGinty and Don Burns caught up before bingo.



Above: Lisa Biedermann and Larissa Vargas dressed warm.



Left: South-west Aquatics swim instructors came out en masse in support.

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

# WARHOL

flowers in the factory



THROUGH JUNE 30

LEAD SPONSORS: Amicus Foundation Inc., Betsy and Doug Elder, GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA

## WARHOL NIGHTS

AT SELBY GARDENS

Tickets available at Selby.org

4/11 - SARASOTA BALLET  
5/16 - FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE  
6/13 - SARASOTA MUSIC FESTIVAL

BMO Wealth Management  
GOLD COAST EAGLE  
STELLA ARTOIS

## Andy's Art Factory

MARCH 17, APRIL 21, MAY 19 AND JUNE 16

FREE with general admission.

The Family Togetherness Program is underwritten by:

tervis COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Sarasota County Michael & Marcy Klein TANDEM CONSTRUCTION

900 SOUTH PALM AVENUE, SARASOTA FL 34221  
SELBY.ORG



Alexandra Cecchi, Carin Nagy and Melissa Kylce met up for a fun night.

## Swimming soiree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in drownings, and most of them occur with children 4 and under.”

The swim lessons — packaged in a five-week training schedule where children as young as 6 months are taught to float and stay above water — are the same ones offered to paying customers. Polder said families who receive food stamps or have assistance from social programs are eligible for the nonprofit’s scholarships.

The group was founded 15 years ago by Joy McGinty, owner of SouthWest Aquatics and a swim coach for more than two decades. Although McGinty typically found herself in the water teaching lessons five days a week, she had time to find new students.

“Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I had the ability to swim some kids, so I called some pediatricians I knew and the church across the street to see if people who couldn’t afford it needed lessons,” McGinty said. “I ended up teaching 26 children. Come January, I knew there were a lot of kids out there that needed help learning how to swim.”

Between the poolside socials, which started three years ago, and annual 5K races, the nonprofit brings in around \$40,000 for scholarships, Polder said.

McGinty believes children can benefit from swimming both physically and mentally.

“My children took swim lessons when they were young, and I was just amazed at how it made them more self-sufficient,” McGinty



Vi Ngo took her son, Meelo Schlekeway, to the party.

said. “(Children taking lessons) come out the other end confident and have learned to control themselves in a completely different environment. Just learning how to float teaches them how to be calm even if you’re not feeling calm.

“It’s just a wonderful thing to learn in life, some of us struggle even as we grow older to just relax,” she said.

The social was catered by the Yellow Dog Eats restaurant and had a silent auction consisting of items donated to SouthWest Aquatics from the community throughout the year. The various community members, sponsors and swim instructors eventually sat down to mingle and play bingo right next to the pool.

SEE HOW

# Love wins

THIS EASTER AT ST LUKE'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9:00, 10:15, & 11:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, & 11:15 A.M.

Present this ad at a welcome tent on Easter to receive a free gift.



4851 S. APOPKA-VINELAND RD. • ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819  
407.876.4991 • www.st.lukes.org

# PILARS LOVES A PARTY!

HAVE YOURS HERE.

SOIREE? INTRODUCTION? SESSION? GALA? BIRTHDAY? RENDEZVOUS? FESTIVITY? BLOWOUT? CEREMONY? FUNCTION? EVENT? ANNIVERSARY? RETIREMENT? PARTY? CELEBRATION? SURPRISE? CLUB? BUSINESS? MEETING? POWOW? HOLIDAY? OCCASION?

Book Your Party Today!

(407) 369-8900 pilarsmartini.com



146 W. Plant St., in downtown Winter Garden

BLACK TIE



Terri Rotz, Heather Stark, Sam Stark and Tom and Leigh Zehnder perused the silent auction.

## Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida's Hearts of Gold Gala



Debbie Hammonds, Austin Flowers and Brittany Hammonds lived it up in the private section.

Guests spread their wings Saturday, March 11, at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida's 25th Hearts of Gold gala.

The function, which raises money to provide food and shelter to Central Florida's homeless, was held in the Orlando Magic's Magic Carpet Aviation Hangar. Flight attendants welcomed guests into the venue, where they enjoyed drinks, checked out the silent auction and listened to live music.

— HARRY SAYER



West Orange  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

### JOIN THE WOMEN BUILD MOVEMENT

REGISTER for the MINGLE to learn more about being one of 50 Women Strong to fund and build homes!  
Green Oaks Row - An affordable home community in East Winter Garden.

**Women Build Wine Mingle Kickoff**  
Thursday, March 22nd • 5:30-7:00 pm

*Conversation – Wine – Inspiration – Wine – Community - Wine*

**2018 WOMEN BUILD CHAIRS**

- JoAnne Quarles, Treasure Title
- Pam Billue, West Orange Habitat Board
- Dawn Willis, West Orange Times/Observer
- Lisa Bennett, WG City Commissioner
- Julie Kleffel, EVP, Seacoast Bank

Register for the mingle to learn more:  
[www.westorangehabitat.org](http://www.westorangehabitat.org)

Contact Marilyn Hattaway, CFRE  
407-421-1885 • [mhattaway@westorangehabitat.org](mailto:mhattaway@westorangehabitat.org)

268903

## GROOVE - at - THE GROVE

### Cinema Under the Stars

Friday, March 16 at 6:30 pm

Movie starts at 7:45

**Preshow: Zero to H.E.R.O.** Anti-Bullying puppet show at 6:30pm (45 min.)

A family-friendly feature based on a best-selling novel, the movie tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time.



For More Information visit

[www.TheGroveOrlando.com/SpecialEvents](http://www.TheGroveOrlando.com/SpecialEvents)

[f /TheGroveOrlando](https://www.facebook.com/TheGroveOrlando)

4750-4757 The Grove Drive | Windermere, FL  
At the corner of Apopka-Vineland and Conroy-Windermere Roads

269432

## IZZIBAN

SUSHI & BBQ

**OPEN UNTIL 2AM**

- METRO WEST** Next to Publix  
407 868 9999  
6996 Piazza Grande Ave #100, Orlando, FL 32835
- SAND LAKE**  
407 850 5088  
1700 W. Sand Lake Rd. Orlando, FL 32809
- EAST. COLONIAL**  
407 270 8811  
5310 East Colonial Dr. Orlando, FL 32807



**AYCE**  
\*Bento Lunch \$10.99  
-Sushi and Hot Foods  
-Mon-Fri  
\*Sushi \$17.99  
-From Select Menu  
-All Day

**Weekend Lunch Special**  
-Starting \$8.00~  
-11Am-3Pm  
All Day will be serving  
Korean BBQ & Shabu Shabu

**Happy Hour Menu & Buy 1 Get 1 Free Drinks**  
2Pm-6Pm

**One Free Glass of Wine**  
with single coupon  
from 7:00pm - 12:00am  
Expires 4/30/18



**All Day Starting \$19.99**  
AYCE Shabu Shabu, Korean BBQ & Sushi

265491



"Everyone Has Been Affected by Cancer!"

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:  
SPONSOR, DONATION, AND AUCTION ITEMS**

**DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

✉ SARAH.CARLSON@CANCER.ORG  
(407) 581.2503

259070

**BLACK TIE**

# Children's Home Society of Florida's An Evening of Hope



Chris and Kristin Coffey, Kari Cox and Bo Sutton shared smiles and laughs.

The Children's Home Society of Florida turned part of the Loews Portofino Bay hotel at Universal Orlando into a Mardi Gras celebration for its annual gala, An Evening of Hope.

Held Saturday, March 10, the gala drew about 500 guests and community leaders together to support efforts of The Faine House, a CHSF program.

Since 2013, The Faine House has provided guidance for young adults exiting foster care in five basic essentials for a successful adulthood: education; housing and transportation; employment; health and wellness; and personal finance.

— DANIELLE HENDRIX



Melody Lynch, Elisha Gonzalez and Kevin Bonnewitz chatted during cocktail hour.



Tiffany Geyer and Mark and Jennifer O'Mara were delighted to see one another.

## 18th Annual Spring Fever in the Garden



**April 7th • 9 am – 5 pm**

**April 8th • 11 am – 4 pm**

In beautiful Historic Downtown Winter Garden

Join us for a two-day festival with many plant, nature and wildlife related vendors.

Raffles and festival shirts will be available at the Bloom & Grow booth at Plant St & N. Boyd St.

Kidzone will host educational programs for children of all ages. Learn more about water conservation and your environment.

Live entertainment throughout both days.

Finally don't miss the "Chalkin' It Up" - Sidewalk Art Contest, which will be held on Saturday.



Presented by Bloom & Grow Garden Society and Co-sponsored by the City of Winter Garden

[springfeveringarden.com](http://springfeveringarden.com)

268761

**CERTIFIED MARIJUANA DOCTORS** Get your **Medical Marijuana Card**

Call for a **FREE** consultation

**(407) 755-0012**

**Fast, Friendly Certification**

Medical Marijuana treats over 250 medical conditions. Here a just a few:

**Chronic Pain, PTSD, Cancer, Seizures, Epilepsy, Parkinson's, MS, HIV/AIDS, Chron's, IBS, Glaucoma, Fibromyalgia, & more!**

**No appointment required**

[certifiedmarijuanadoctors.com](http://certifiedmarijuanadoctors.com)

**Walk-in Medical Marijuana Clinic**

7 locations to choose from

1801 E. Colonial Dr  
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 6pm  
Saturday 10am to 2pm

269493



Delaney Tinn, Kennedy Strawn, puppy Evie, Carter Strawn and Jenna Ebinger were pleased to meet Richard Frate, center, and his Saint Bernard, Charlie.

# Fun on four legs



Benny licked his lips after digging into a chicken-flavored sno-cone.

The town of Windermere was abuzz with furry friends Saturday, March 10, during its annual Pet Fest.

The event encourages people to bring their dogs for an afternoon of shopping, eating and playing. Dogs got to enjoy chicken-flavored sno-cones, zipping through an enclosed agility course, sniffing around and making new friends.

Humans got to meet fellow pet lovers, grab a bite to eat at the food trucks, shop around different vendors and even meet pets that are currently up for adoption from local rescues. The event is sponsored by the Animal Clinic of Windermere.

— DANIELLE HENDRIX

Right: Ocoee Police Officer Daniel Schilling wore an arm covering as Winter Garden K-9 Mack latched on.



Ava was one of the adoptable cats at Candy's Cats.



Azalea Anderson gave some love to Iron, a Greyhound.

**ONLINE** See more at [OrangeObserver.com](http://OrangeObserver.com)

So local, it feels like your garage!

**Stoneybrook West Storage**  
IN WINTER GARDEN  
407-654-3037  
www.stoneybrookweststorage.com  
stoneybrookwestss@cfl.rr.com

**Maguire Road Storage**  
IN OCOEE  
407-905-7898  
www.maguireroadstorage.com  
maguieroadstorage@cfl.rr.com

Call Today!

267479

You. Your Neighbors. Your Neighborhood.

For more than 110 years, our award winning news and design team continues to be your credible source for local community news, events and information.

Print. Online. Social Media.

**Observer**  
West Orange Times. Windermere.

www.OrangeObserver.com

**ADVERTISE OR SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
Call us at 407-656-2121  
Email us at [AdvertiseNow@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:AdvertiseNow@OrangeObserver.com)  
or [Subscribe@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:Subscribe@OrangeObserver.com)

269801

A fantastical fairy tale!

**CINDERELLA**  
ROSSINI

March 21-25, 2018

OPERA ORLANDO | SEASON 2017 - 2018

LOVE LOST & FOUND

FEATURING THE **philharmonic ORLANDO ORCHESTRA** CONDUCTED BY ERIC JACOBSEN

www.drphillipscenter.org | 844-513-2014

dr.phillips center

FAIRWINDS CREDIT UNION | Sunburst SHUTTERS | SUNDANCE | United Arts OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

267490



# The Experts in Memory Care

"With my Moms type of Dementia, I couldn't provide the 24 hour supervision and stimulation that my Mom required for a quality of life. I researched residential centers for months and Serenades was the only one that fit our needs of a caring, cheerful, stimulating home. I love that I have a key and can come and go to see her as I choose. I can't say enough about the wonderful, loving care she gets."

Barbara B.

**CALL TODAY FOR A TOUR!**

**Serenades**  
Memory Care Assisted Living  
*by Sonata*

720 Roper Road • Winter Garden, FL 34787 • 407-614-8680

serenadesbysonata.com ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY #12328

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



### EPISCOPAL

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
4950 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando  
Sun. Serv 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:30pm.  
407-876-3480  
www.ascension-orlando.org

### Non-Denominational

**HAVEN OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**  
13520 Foxcrest Blvd.  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
Services 9:30 and 10:30AM  
407-952-0510

**Advertise your Services or Events on this page weekly.**

This page appears weekly in the Windermere Observer and online at orangeobserver.com.

To advertise in the **Church Directory** call 407-656-2121 or email [AdvertiseNow@orangeobserver.com](mailto:AdvertiseNow@orangeobserver.com)



### Matthew's Hope Chest Creations

- Custom Furniture
- Repaired, Refinished and Repurposed Wood Furniture
- Pallet Art & Furniture

Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MatthewsHopeChest/>

Visit our New Workshop Location at 930 Carter Rd. Suite #311, Winter Garden  
1/4 Mile North of W. Colonial Dr. • 407.905.9500 • 8am-5pm Mon - Sat



You are cordially invited to the

# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Easter Sunday Service



## Sunday, April 1, 2018 - 7:30 a.m.

In front of Mosaic at Woodlawn Memorial Park

Easter message with prayers & music

Sermon by Jeff Pritchard of Starke Lake Baptist Church

Continental breakfast will follow service in funeral home lobby



Woodlawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home • 400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road • Gotha, Florida 34734

For additional information, please call 407-293-1361

# Keeping love alive

While serving in the U.S. Army Reserve, Capt. Jeff Snyder wrote poems for his wife. Those poems have now been made into a book called "Odes from the Sandbox: A Field Kit for Letters Between Soldiers and their Beloved."

**ERIC GUTIERREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

When Capt. Jeff Snyder was deployed overseas, like many soldiers, he sent letters to his beloved wife. In those letters, Snyder often included odes and poems. Little did he know at the time, those poems would become a book called, "Odes from the Sandbox: A Field Kit for Letters Between Soldiers and their Beloved."

"(The poems) really kept me grounded," Snyder said. "They kept me ... in my mind at home, because each time I wrote a poem - if I took three days to write a poem or an ode - it gave me that three days of mental contact with my wife at home."

Snyder, 50, has worked in law enforcement for about 30 years. Following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, who both served in World War II, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 2008 as a second lieutenant and served for 10 years before retiring as a captain. He worked on intelligence and operations security during his service. He has been deployed twice to Kuwait and has traveled to 41 different states, 18 different countries and eight seaports during his military career.

In February 2013, Snyder married his wife, Lisa. Two months later, he was deployed overseas to Kuwait.

"It was a tough time," Snyder said. "I was missing her, and I loved her so much. ... When you're in a new relationship, it's all lovey-dovey and you spend time together and you really learn about each other; well we didn't get a chance to be lovey-dovey and spend time together."

"I was scared and worried our marriage was too new for him to deploy," Lisa said. "We talked about it at length before he left, and he told me that staying in touch would help us stay close."

**THEY CAME FROM THE HEART**  
During that deployment, Snyder was sent to another country to do some field work.

"(Experiencing) some scary moments got me thinking, 'I need to communicate with my wife,'" Snyder said. "I do it on the phone,



Eric Gutierrez

Retired U.S. Army Reserve Captain Jeff Snyder wrote a series of poems for his wife while he was deployed.

I do it on Skype and things like that, but I really need to let her know how I feel and what I'm thinking?"

That's when Snyder wrote and sent his first poem.

"My heart burst," Lisa said. "Holding that first poem helped me understand that he was always thinking about me. Each letter became more and more special as I knew that he put his heart into every ode."

Throughout his service, Snyder sent his wife more and more poems with varying themes. Some poems were short, some were long and some were funny.

But they all came from the heart. "Even though she wasn't there when I wrote it, I felt like she was there, because she was on my mind (and) she was in my heart as I wrote these (poems)," Snyder said. "Every downtime (and) every time at night, I got a chance to scribble out these odes and just think about what it would be like to be home. ... It was kind of lonely, so I got to express myself instead by writing these odes."

**ODES FOR THE WORLD**  
Snyder's wife kept all the poems he sent to her, and in 2017, the couple released "Odes from the Sandbox: A Field Kit for Letters Between Soldiers and their Beloved." Snyder explained "Sandbox" is a term that refers to being deployed to an area

with desert-like conditions.

In addition to Snyder's poems, the book includes "call to action pages," where a reader is challenged to write their own poem to send to a loved one. It also includes pages that could be ripped out and turned into postcards for the poems a reader has written. Although the book was targeted toward military personnel and their loved ones, Snyder said it's been accepted by everyone who has picked it up.

"Everyone can use this book," Snyder said. "I thought it was just going to be (for) soldiers and (their) families. What I found out is it's a book for everyone; everyone who wants to communicate with each other, who wants to show their love, who wants to give little reminders of how much they adore their partner."

He added that the impact his book has had on readers has made him very happy.

"I'm the happiest I've ever been - not for writing the book, but for seeing the impact of everyone I'd written the book for," Snyder said.

**WANT A COPY?**

"Odes from the Sandbox: A Field Kit for Letters Between Soldiers and their Beloved." is available for purchase on amazon.com.

**"Because You Care"**  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**All Inclusive Direct Cremation \$795**

THREE LOCATIONS FOR YOUR COMFORT

<b>Maitland</b> 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751	<b>West Orange</b> 1400 Mathew Paris Blvd. Ocoee, FL 34761	<b>Sanford</b> 905 Laurel Ave. Sanford, FL 32771
---	--	--

**(407) 695-CARE (2273)**  
[WWW.DEGUSIPEFUNERALHOME.COM](http://WWW.DEGUSIPEFUNERALHOME.COM)

**Cremation Choices**

"Cremation Choices offers an affordable alternative to expensive funeral homes and cremation services in the Central Florida area."

**Direct Cremation \$675**  
Plus Container

352-394-8228  
921 S. US Hwy 27 • Minneola, FL  
One block north of Citrus Tower  
[www.cremationchoicesfl.com](http://www.cremationchoicesfl.com)

We offer a non-traditional setting for families to feel comfortable when planning for themselves or their loved ones. For more information and a complete list of prices, please visit our website: [www.cremationchoicesfl.com](http://www.cremationchoicesfl.com)

*"We have the largest chapel in West Orange County."*  
*Owned and operated by the Romano family.*

**WINTER OAK**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATIONS

**407-614-8350**

*"That's My Wish"* Direct Cremation for: **\$795.00** Call for details

"Home of the area's first certified therapy dog. Feel free to stop in and say hello to Charley Girl!"

[www.winteroakfuneralhome.com](http://www.winteroakfuneralhome.com)  
1132 E. Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787 • LIC #F080822

**OBITUARIES**

**RUTH M. PARNHAM**  
DIED FEB. 24, 2018.

Ruth M. Parnham, age 97, of Winter Garden, passed away at Orlando Regional Medical Center on Feb. 24, 2018.

She was born on Feb. 11, 1921, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, the daughter of George R. Griffiths and Carolyn Griffiths.

She graduated from McKeesport High School, class of 1939.

Her first career was as a big band singer in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. She married major league pitcher Louis Norman "Bobo" Newsom in 1942 and traveled with him to all of the major league venues. In 1953, she and "Bobo" retired to the Orlando area, and she has been a resident of this area ever since. She also worked at Diana Shops and Petrie Stores. She married James Parnham in 1991.



Ruth is survived by her brother, George Roger Griffiths; brother-in-law, Bob Cutting; four nephews; one niece; and six great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Jean Cutting; and two husbands.

A celebration of Ruth's life will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. March 27, 2018, at Hyde Park Community Center in Winter Garden. Please come and share stories and memories of Ruth with her family and friends.

**Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home**  
**Winter Garden**

*For the celebration of a lifetime, let us plan every detail.*

We Proudly offer:

- Traditional Burial and Cremation Services
- Prearranged Funeral Services

**Dignity**  
MEMORIAL

**407-656-2233**  
[www.baldwinfairchild.com](http://www.baldwinfairchild.com)  
428 E. Plant Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

LIFE WELL CELEBRATED®

**REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • FRENCH DOORS • ENTRY DOORS • GLIDING DOORS**



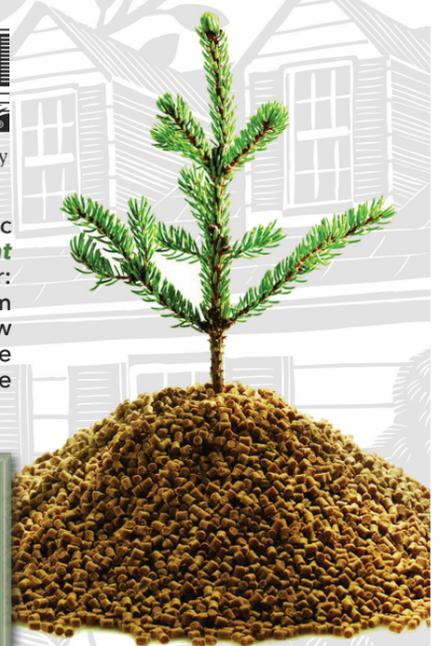
**FIBREX<sup>®</sup> 2X**  
**COMPOSITE WINDOWS STRONGER THAN VINYL**  
*No Scraping, Painting or Rotting, Ever!*

Never before have you seen a material quite like this one – it's durable, weather resistant, beautiful and versatile! Where wood can rot and vinyl can warp, **FIBREX<sup>®</sup>** gives you the same great look but without all the maintenance.

Andersen **AW**

**Renewal by Andersen**  
 WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

Fibrex blends wood grain and a thermoplastic polymer, which is made up of **40 percent reclaimed wood fiber by weight**. Even better: we source much of this material right from Andersen Corporation's local wood window manufacturing facilities. As such, you enjoy the highest SCS certified recycled content available from a trusted window company.



**\$299 Off Every Window\***  
**\$699 Off Patio Doors\***

**▶ 31 DAY SALE! ◀**

*plus* **NO Money Down  
 NO Payments or  
 NO Interest for  
 ONE YEAR!\***



**LESS THAN 31 DAYS** left to schedule your **FREE window diagnosis!**  
**407-734-2971**  
**RBAFLA.com**

\*LIMITED TIME OFFER begins 3/1/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Minimum purchase of 3 windows and/or doors required to qualify for offer. Present this offer at initial appointment to apply savings. No money down, no payments, no interest for 12 months financing is available through third-party lender on approved credit only. Other conditions may apply. See sales consultant for complete details. Offer subject to change without notice. Offer not available in all areas. Renewal by Andersen of Central Florida license numbers available upon request. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

267291

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WINTER GARDEN PRESENTS

# EVENING AT THE POPS

FEATURING THE ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH | 6:30**  
 AT NEWTON PARK, WINTER GARDEN

**General Admission \$15**  
 (Children under 10 Free Admission)  
**VIP Tickets \$75**

All proceeds benefit charities supported by the Rotary Club of Winter Garden.  
 General Admission & VIP tickets are available at Winter Garden City Hall.

**Bring a Blanket and enjoy an outside concert under the stars**  
 Instrument petting zoo for children will begin at 4:30 PM

For General Admission ticket holders, snack foods, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for purchase. VIP admission includes parking, dinner, beer, wine and indoor restrooms at Tanner Hall.  
 If needed, Rain Date is scheduled for 3/25/2018

For additional information contact Observer Media Group offices at 407-656-2121  
 For online tickets go to: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search "Evening at the Pops"



268548

# THANK YOU

The West Orange Chamber of Commerce would like to relay a heartfelt thank you to the restaurants & businesses that participated in this event, we could not make this event a success without you. Also, a sincere thank you to the sponsors, volunteers and supporters of our 2018 BEST FEST 'The Taste of West Orange':

PRESENTED BY: **CenturyLink**

PREMIUM SPONSOR: **HEALTHY WEST ORANGE**

PREMIER SPONSOR: **Ocoee**

PARTICIPATING SPONSORS: **Bright Future ELECTRIC**, **RENTALAND TENTS AND EVENTS**

MEDIA SPONSORS: **Lake Apopka**, **CENTRAL FLORIDA LIFESTYLE PUBLICATIONS**, **Observer**, **SOUTHWEST**

Clear Channel Outdoor

EVENT SPONSORS: **Critical Intervention Services, Inc. | Reed Nissan**

269 West Wine Lounge, 4Rivers Smokehouse, Alarie Design Associates, Black Rock Bar & Grill, Brain Balance Center of Winter Garden, Bright Future Electric, Cathie Brady Catering, CenturyLink, Chick-fil-A Ocoee and Winter Garden, City of Ocoee, Clear Channel Outdoor, Cracker Barrel, Computer Business Consultants, Costco Business Center, Critical Intervention Services, Crooked Can Brewing Company, Disney Springs, Edward Jones, Ellie Lou's Breads & BBQ, Foundation Academy, Gator's Dockside, Giant Recreation World, Hagan O'Reilly's Irish Pub and Restaurant, HAPCO Music Foundation, Healthy West Orange, House Blend Café, Husse Whole Pets, Jeremiah's Italian Ice, Kona Ice of NW Orlando, Lake Meadow Naturals, Matthew's Hope Ministries, Ms. Bee's Popcorn & Candy Shoppe, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Observer Media Group, Orange Buick GMC, Orange County Pottys, Orange Technical College Culinary Team, Pammie's Sammies, Pilars Martini, Press'd Juice Bar & Kitchen, Reed Nissan, Rentaland, RusTeak Restaurant & Wine Bar, School of Rock, San Jose's Original Mexican Restaurant, SeaWorld Orlando, Southwest Orlando Bulletin, TakeoutWaiter.com, Table Top Catering, The Vineyard Wine Bar and Healthy Bistro, TooJay's Restaurant and Deli, UFC Gym, UNO Chicago Grill, VS Media Group - Central Florida Lifestyle Publications, West Orange Habitat for Humanity, Westerly's at MetroWest Golf Club

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS**

**BEST Food:** Disney Springs | **BEST Drink:** Pilars Martini | **BEST Dessert:** Nothing Bundt Cakes | **BEST Healthy Option:** SeaWorld Orlando | **BEST Business Booth:** Observer Media Group

THE 16TH ANNUAL WEST ORANGE CHAMBER **BEST FEST** "THE TASTE OF WEST ORANGE"



267299

# SPORTS

Junior Caryssa Orland does it all for the Olympia softball team. Page 16.



## HIGH 5

**1** The Dr. Phillips softball team just keeps winning. The Panthers (12-1) made it 11 consecutive victories March 12 when they held on for a 6-4 victory over Windermere. Dr. Phillips has a pair of important district games against Lake Nona this week.

**2** The Olympia High boys water polo team won the Ian Supra Memorial Tournament last weekend, topping Dr. Phillips 10-5 in the final. Gulliver Prep won the girls tournament at the event.

**3** Olympia High volleyball standout Mya Wilson announced her commitment to Bucknell University March 12 via her Twitter account. Wilson, a junior, was a key part of the Titans' run to the state semifinals last fall.



File photo

**4** The Windermere High baseball team has won four consecutive games, including a district sweep of East River, as of March 12. In the game against East River March 9, Bryce Hubbard and Palmer Bittick combined to shutout the Falcons in a 6-0 victory. The Wolverines have district games this week against Liberty and will host a Spring Break event next week.

**5** Malik Williams, an alum of The First Academy who also played for Dr. Phillips during his varsity career, is one of two alumni in the Windermere Observer/West Orange Times & Observer coverage area to be part of a college basketball team in the NCAA Tournament. Williams, a freshman at Clemson, is joined by Ocoee High alum Grant Riller, a sophomore at College of Charleston.

# FAST START

Upon its return from a high-level tournament in Miami, the Dr. Phillips boys volleyball team is off to a 7-2 start and has its sights set on a return to the FHSAA State Playoffs.

**STEVEN RYZEWSKI**  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

The regular season for boys volleyball in Florida spans eight weeks, from the last week in February through April 21. During that time, the Dr. Phillips Panthers will play about 25 games — the final number will depend on how they fare in some of their week-end tournament events.

Because of some quirks of the schedule, though, the bulk of that schedule is packed into a two-week stretch during which the Panthers will play 15 games. It is a gauntlet that second-year head coach Jeremy Fonnott hopes will tell him all he needs to know about his team's moxie.

"It's just how the district had it and how the tournaments happened to be," Fonnott said, reflecting on the rugged stretch. "I want the guys to realize that, win or lose, we're going to play the best teams in the regular season — then, in districts, we're ready for it."

Halfway through that

**SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 16**



Steven Ryzewski

Panthers standouts Sam Barnett, left, Blake Inlow and Jonathan Diedrich are excited about the team's potential this spring.

## Winless in 2017, Lakers are soaring

After going 0-12 a season ago, the Windermere Prep softball team is 5-3 this season, with hopes of contending in its district.

**STEVEN RYZEWSKI**  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

A year ago the Windermere Prep softball team did not win a game — the Lakers finished 0-12.

Two years ago, in 2016, the school did not have a team.

The Lakers are singing a different tune so far in 2018, though.

Windermere Prep is 5-3 and 4-1 so far within its district. J.D.

Wood, an assistant coach for the team last year and a longtime assistant for the school's football program, was promoted to head coach during the offseason and has guided the program as it has blossomed so far this spring.

"It's a total reversal from last year," Wood said. "Wins begin to change environments, environments begin to change practice and practice begins to change the way you play the game — they're amped to come to practice now."

Last week, the Lakers swept a pair of district games against Lake Mary Prep and Legacy Charter by a combined score of 22-0.

The week before, on March 2

**SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 16**



Steven Ryzewski

The Lakers have won three consecutive games and are 4-1 in their district.

## Olympian Ryan Lochte stops by WPS to promote clinic

Lochte and three other Olympians will be at Windermere Prep April 14.

**STEVEN RYZEWSKI**  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

There was one Olympian on campus at Windermere Prep the morning of March 12 — and on April 14, there will be four.

Ryan Lochte, a 12-time Olympic medalist, dropped by Wind-

**SEE LOCHTE PAGE 16**

**SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**

SPONSORED BY SHANNON TILLSTATE FARM IN FOWLER GROVES

# Caryssa Orland

The Olympia softball team has won five consecutive games and improved its record to 8-3. Junior Caryssa Orland has been helping to lead the way for the Titans at the plate, on the field and on the pitchers' mound. Orland is hitting .467 with eight doubles and nine RBIs. Along with her sister, freshman standout Cameryn Orland, she is committed to play college softball for FAU. She also has three wins on the mound and has been stellar on defense — Orland had a game-saving catch in center field for the Titans against South Lake last week.

**You made the All-Metro team last season as a sophomore. What was that like?**

I was pretty shocked — I didn't think I was going to make it (because) it's usually juniors and seniors.

**The team has been on a bit of a hot streak. How do you think the season has gone?**

We've been doing (well) — we're playing as a team now. Before, I feel like we played individually. We've all come together, and we work together.

**Of which win so far are you most proud?**

The one against South Lake (March 6, 2-1). We were cheering (each other on), we were all contributing, we had strong defense, and we were hitting (well).

**What elements of your game have you been focused on improving?**

Just trying to hit the ball to right field more and trying to stay on the ball — not popping up.

**Which position is your favorite to play?**

I like center field, because I get to dive and get more range on the ball.

**Which remaining game on the schedule are you most looking forward to?**

I'm looking forward to playing Lake Brantley, because the pitcher there (Gabby Sacco) is committed to FAU, too. (She) and my sister play on the same travel team. It's going to be cool to face her.

**How exciting is it to be on the team with your sister this year and for you both to also be committed to FAU?**

It's pretty awesome. We've dreamed of playing together when we were younger. We really get along.

**Are the Orland siblings competitive with one another?**

My family is very competitive — we all play sports.

**What did you like about FAU that led you to commit there?**

It's beautiful, and it's only two

**THE BASICS**

Year: Junior  
Age: 17  
Positions: Shortstop, outfield, pitcher  
Travel team: Florida Storm  
Hometown: Wayne, New Jersey  
Siblings: Gabby, C.J., Cameryn

hours away. The coaches are amazing, and I have three girls on my travel team that are going there, so I'll know people when I get there. It's two minutes away from the beach — it's a nice area.

**What do you enjoy about playing varsity softball for Olympia?**

I like that I get to represent the school and show that we have a good program.

**What do you think you would like to do for a career?**

Cameryn and I were talking about doing a business together and opening a boutique or a clothing store.

**What's your favorite show?**

Usually when I watch TV, it's only on Mondays, and it's "The Bachelor."

**Do you have a favorite season of the show?**

The season with Sean (Lowe). It was really intense.

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?**

Probably somewhere I can help out kids.

— STEVEN RYZEWSKI



## Softball

FROM PAGE 15

against Celebration High, Windermere Prep earned its first home win in three years, topping the Storm 15-4.

Newcomers with high-level travel experience such as Mia Williams, a seventh-grader who is a verbal commit to the University of Florida, and Lexi King, a sixth-grader who has been an ace on the mound for Lakers, have infused energy into an already-improving lineup

that included talented returners such as sisters Madison and Meredith Workman.

Collectively, along with Wood and his staff, the team's more experienced players have stepped up to lend a helping hand to teammates who joined the team without a mastery of some of the game's basic skills.

"These girls have taken on a leadership role — especially the ones who've been in travel ball," Wood said.

The strong start for the team in its district — Class 3A, District 3 — has the Lakers optimistic they can compete for a spot in the postseason. Winder-

mere Prep's one district blemish was a 9-2 loss to Cornerstone Charter (8-3), the district's top team, but Wood said the team came away inspired to improve for another shot at the Ducks.

The Lakers will return from spring break and face Legacy March 27 at home.

The district tournament won't begin until April 23 — but the players and coaches for Windermere Prep are excited to see where this season will go.

"The girls are really buying in," Wood said. "We're really beginning to come into our own."

## Lochte

FROM PAGE 15

ermere Prep's pool to promote a swim clinic and celebration for the Mac Crutchfield Foundation.

The clinic and celebration are sponsored by TYR Sport, and Windermere Lakers Aquatics — a year-round competitive swim team that operates out of Windermere Prep — will host. The clinic will take place at the Lakers' on-campus pool, while the celebration will take place at The Pines at Windermere.

The clinic is open to youth swimmers of all ages and skill levels, and tickets for the cel-

ebration are open to the public.

Lochte will be joined by fellow Olympians Caeleb Dressel, Jan Switkowski (Poland) and Gemma Spofforth (United Kingdom) at the events.

Lochte, who went to Spruce Creek High and swam for the University of Florida, relishes the chance to share swimming knowledge and technique.

"The kids are why I'm still swimming," Lochte said. "A lot of people say, 'What are you going to do when swimming is all done?' And I'm like, 'You know what? I'm probably going to go around the country or world teaching little kids how to swim.'"

The Mac Crutchfield Foundation was established in 2009 to honor the life of Mac Crutch-

field, who died in a drowning accident at age 12 despite being an accomplished swimmer. The foundation is dedicated to keeping Mac's love for the water alive by inspiring everyone to swim.

Maggie Crutchfield is Mac's mother and the foundation's founder, and her intent has been to develop pro-swimming programs and promote health, fun and safety in the water — including events such as the clinic at Windermere Prep.

"We have so many opportunities to do prevention," Maggie Crutchfield said. "There's no reason not to get out and support something that your community will benefit from."

For more information about the event, visit [maccrutchfield-foundation.com](http://maccrutchfield-foundation.com).

## Volleyball

FROM PAGE 15

stretch, the Panthers are passing the test with high marks.

Dr. Phillips is 7-2 upon its return from the Ransom Invitational tournament last weekend in Miami. The Panthers have victories over rival Olympia, The First Academy and a trio of schools from Miami.

Built around a core of five players with year-round travel experience, Dr. Phillips has asserted itself as a team to watch as the boys volleyball season hits its stride.

"They listen and respond well

to criticism," Fonnnett said.

Fonnnett, a 2003 graduate of Dr. Phillips and former player within the program, took over the varsity team last season after coaching the junior varsity team for eight years. He replaced longtime coach April Ball, who moved out of the area.

In his first season, Fonnnett inherited a team strong enough to win a district title before falling in the playoffs.

The Panther player-turned-coach is appreciative of the culture his predecessor created.

"April did a heck of a job creating a team unity here, where the boys knew what to expect and they had certain goals to achieve," Fonnnett said.

Sam Barnett, Jon Diedrich and Jordan Poventud provide much of the firepower at the net for the Panthers, but the team runs through its setter and unanimous captain, senior Blake Inlow. Inlow is one of a handful of players on the roster with the potential to continue his career in college. But for now, he, his teammates and Fonnnett are focused on improving each day ahead of what will be a rugged district tournament.

"We could lose in the first round of districts — that's how good our district is," Fonnnett said.

Then, he added, "Or we could make it to state."

# Safety First SWIM SCHOOL

**SWIM LESSONS REDUCE RISK OF DROWNING BY 88%\***

**DROWNING IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN 1-4 YEARS OLD.\*\***

\*National Institutes of Health \*\*U.S. Centers for Disease Control

**Safety First Swim School teaches children as young as six months old how to roll on their back and float in case they accidentally fall into water.**



**Athlete of the Week Sponsored by...**



**Family. Friends. Community.**

**We're all in this together.**

State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support West Orange county..

*Get to a better State.®*



**Shannon Till, Agent**  
Fowler Groves • 3279 Daniels Road  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
Toll Free: 855-742-1591  
[www.shannontill.com](http://www.shannontill.com)  
Hablamos Español

1211007

State Farm, Bloomington, IL

call **321-236-0240 ext. 5**  
visit **[www.safetyfirstswim.com](http://www.safetyfirstswim.com)**

# Warriors, Eagles fall in respective state semifinals

Two area teams made it to high-school basketball's biggest stage in Florida last week — the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, home of the FHSAA Boys Basketball State Championships. However, neither the West Orange Warriors or the CFCA Eagles were able to advance past their respective state semifinal games.

Both the Warriors and the Eagles fell to eventual state champions in their classifications.

First, on March 5, CFCA was defeated by Miami Christian, 68-53. The next day, Miami Christian defeated Impact Christian 59-46 in the Class 2A State Final, making it three titles in four seasons for the Victors.

Later in the week, on March 9, West Orange faced the task of trying to knock off the Oak Ridge Pioneers — ranked No. 18 in the nation by MaxPreps' Xcellent 25.

Although the Warriors played tough early, they could not keep pace with the Pioneers and eventually fell 86-64 in the FHSAA Class 9A State Semifinals. West Orange trailed 14-11 early, showing promise in a game where it was clearly the underdog, but the Pioneers went on a 7-2 run to close the first quarter and outscored the Warriors 22-12 in the second — leaving West Orange facing a daunting 43-25 halftime deficit.

West Orange (17-13) was led by 20 points from senior Troy signee



Steven Ryzewski

CFCA's Lorenzo Burdon let a shot fly during the state semifinals.

## PHOTOS

For full game recaps and photo galleries from the respective state semifinal games involving West Orange and CFCA, visit [ObserverPreps.com](http://ObserverPreps.com).

KJ Simon, in his final game as a high-school hoops player. JaMarcus Clark chipped in 10 points.

The next night, Oak Ridge topped Wellington 71-60 to win the Pioneers' first state title.

— STEVEN RYZEWSKI

# Bridgewater takes on Ocoee in hoops playoffs

Local middle-school basketball teams met on the court at Ocoee Middle March 6 for the first round of the OCPS Middle School Boys Basketball Tournament.

Despite leading by 12 points at the end of the third quarter, the visiting Bridgewater Middle School Bobcats could not fend off a rally by the Ocoee Cardinals, falling 38-32 to end their season.

Louis Johnson has six points to lead the Bobcats.



Photo by Steven Ryzewski

— STEVEN RYZEWSKI Caden Simpson made a pass to a teammate in the paint.



Above: Maurice Hill let a shot fly. Hill had five points for Bridgewater.

Right: Corinthian King surveyed the scene as the Bridgewater offense gets set.



Louis Johnson had six points for the Bobcats in their playoff game against Ocoee.

# You. Your Neighbors. Your Neighborhood.

Visit us at [OrangeObserver.com](http://OrangeObserver.com)

OrangeObserver.com

HEALTH ADVERTISE BLACK TIE COPS CORNER CALENDARS LEGAL NOTICES E-EDITIONS 79° Mon, Feb. 26, 2018

WEST ORANGE TIMES WINDERMERE WINTER PARK / MAITLAND SPORTS OBSERVER PREPS ARTS & CULTURE BLACK TIE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT! Visit [HealthyWestOrange.org](http://HealthyWestOrange.org)

**LATEST NEWS**

- Celebration Church plans move to area **NEWS** 1 hr ago
- BLACK TIE: Voight Foundation's Lotus Gala **NEWS** 3 hrs ago
- PHOTOS: Whispering Oak Elementary Father Daughter Dance 2018 **NEWS** 52 hrs ago
- PHOTOS: Windermere softball tops Olympia 4-2 | Observer Preps **SPORTS** 2 days ago
- Winter Garden Commission approves rezoning downtown properties **NEWS** 2 days ago

**FEATURED STORIES**

**Observer**  
West Orange Times. Windermere. Winter Park / Maitland.

ADVERTISE OR SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Call us at 407-656-2121

Email us at [AdvertiseNow@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:AdvertiseNow@OrangeObserver.com) or [Subscribe@OrangeObserver.com](mailto:Subscribe@OrangeObserver.com)

2-668-850



# IMPORTS

PROFESSIONAL AUTO



Your Local European Auto Repair Specialist.

We are experts in every aspect of auto repair for imported Asian and European vehicles. Our technicians possess extensive knowledge of a wide range of specialties and always place customer satisfaction as a top priority on every job.

[info@importsprofessionalauto.com](mailto:info@importsprofessionalauto.com)

[www.ImportsProfessionalAuto.com](http://www.ImportsProfessionalAuto.com)

352.432.3934

321 E. WASHINGTON ST • CLERMONT, FL 34715



2-67-705



# HERE'S MY CARD - BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## ATTORNEY



**WE ARE THE AREA'S ONLY MOBILE LAW OFFICE**



**STEPHEN DEH. SCHWARZ II**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**CHRONOS LAW**  
PLAN. PRESERVE. PROTECT.

WILLS, TRUSTS, ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE

P.O. Box 785031 • Winter Garden, FL 34778-5031  
Local: **407-630-8070** • Toll-free: **833-945-5529**  
Steve@chronoslaw.com • www.chronoslaw.com

## AUTO SERVICE



**MIKE THE MECHANIC**



**MIKE BRANKERT**  
1143 E. Plant Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
Phone 407-877-3933  
Fax 407-877-3915  
MTM100@yahoo.com

DOMESTIC AND IMPORT CARS AND TRUCKS

## PEST CONTROL

**FREE REMOVAL**  
of  
**Yellow Jackets and Bees**  
(used for research)



**1-866-852-9317**

## AUTO SERVICE



**407-877-3841** | 2718 Rew Circle, Ocoee, FL 34761 | www.HighLineInc.com

**Keeping You On the Road**  
Specializing in BMW, Mercedes and Volvo Service & Sales



**BRAKE PAD SALE**

BMW 3 Series	Mercedes C-Class
<b>\$179.95</b>	<b>\$179.95</b>
BMW 5 Series	Mercedes E-Class
<b>\$199.95</b>	<b>\$199.95</b>

Service includes: Front or Rear Pads, Parts and Labor.  
Tax and recycling fees are extra. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 3/31/2018.



**P R N D** In House Towing Available  
LICENSED AND INSURED FL# MV80517  
R & D TRANSMISSIONS AND AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR, LLC.

**Ray Cornell Jr.** 930 Carter Rd #202  
**Doug Gallinger** Winter Garden, FL 34787  
Working Owners Telephone: (407) 614-3827  
www.r-dauto.com rdtransautorepair@cfl.rr.com

## PET SERVICES

**Puppy Dreams Pet Hotel**

Your pet's home away from home  
a unique no-cage facility  
daycare and overnight boarding



**(407) 654-8885**  
703 S. Vineland Rd.  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
www.puppydreams.com

## REALTORS

**HOME REBATE REALTY** 407-496-4900  
norb@HomeRebateRealty.com

**50% Commission Rebate!**  
Buying or Selling  
Any Builder or Realtor



**NORB WELLER**  
Broker since 2001  
HomeRebateRealty.com

**CRAWFORD TIRE SERVICE, INC.**

110 Taylor St. • Ocoee • (407) 656-4575

**MORE THAN JUST TIRE VALUES**

- Bridgetone • Michelin • Toyo • BFG Tires
- ALIGNMENT • BRAKES
- SHOCKS • OIL & LUBE SERVICE
- NEW & USED TIRES
- REPAIR & BALANCING
- ROAD SERVICE
- WE INSTALL LIFTS!



MV03215  
**Mobil 1 Oil**  
Amsoil Synthetic

**Budget U PULL IT**

881 S. 9th Street • Winter Garden, FL 34787

**WE BUY JUNK CARS**  
**WE BUY SCRAP METAL**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8AM - 5PM**

- All Engines \$200.00 each
- All Transmissions \$100.00 each
- Tires \$15.00 and up
- Batteries \$25.00
- Warranties on all parts sold!

**407-656-4707**  
www.budgetupullit.com

## ROOFING

**WEST ORANGE ROOFING INC.**  
LIC# RC29027533

Winter Garden's Premier Roofing Company Since 1978  
Serving All of West Orange County  
Fully Licensed and Insured Roof Repairs and Replacement

**407-656-8920** WestOrangeRoofing.com  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

## LAWN CARE

**C&A LAWN SERVICE**

- Cleanups
- Mulching
- Sod Removal & Installation
- Landscape & Design
- Irrigation Repairs
- Light Tree Trimming

**Carlos Arteaga • Owner/Operator**  
**407-625-0742 • cnalawns@gmail.com**  
Licensed & Insured • Commercial & Residential

SEARCH • FIND • POST

**Observer**  
You. Your Neighbors. Your Neighborhood.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Visit OrangeObserver.com/Calendar

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Lawn & Garden Equipment**

**SAWMILLS FROM** only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N fcan3/15

**Merchandise Wanted**

**Jowers BATTERIES**

13178 W. Colonial Dr.  
Winter Garden  
**NOW PURCHASING SCRAP BATTERIES**  
**407-656-3495**

**Schools/Instruction**

**AVIATION GRADS** work with JetBlue, United, Delta and others- start here with hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-242-2649. Fcan3/15

**Auctions**

**LIVE & ONLINE Public Auction.** Tuesday, March 20th at 12:00 PM, 321 Loans Inc. Receivership Case, 1410 SW 3 Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33069. Sale will consist of luxury vehicles including: 2014 Tesla Model S, P85+ (miles: 47,678), 2015 BMW i8, 1.3L L3 Hybrid Super Car (miles: 15,632), 2015 Land Rover Range Rover Autobiography Edition (miles: 28,271), 2006 International 3000 Custom Luxury School Bus (upgraded and equipped) and 2003 Blue Bird Body Co. Custom Luxury School Bus (upgraded and equipped). Catalog and photos available at www.moeckerauctions.com Receivership Case #:0:17-60907-CIV-FAM Preview: Day of sale 9 AM to Noon - 6%-18% BP - \$500 refundable cash deposit to register. (800) 840-BIDS - info@moeckerauctions.com AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin fcan3/15

**Help Wanted**

**POLICE OFFICER** - Police Dept - Town of Windermere is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. For more information to to town.windermere.fl.us. DFW and EOE. 3/29tow

This week's Celebrity Cipher answers  
**Puzzle One Solution:**  
"Dolores O'Riordan inspired me early on ... sad to lose her and am endlessly grateful for her influence."  
- Kiesza

**Puzzle Two Solution:**  
"Bono... is in love with the world... he wants to give the world a great big hug. I want to punch its lights out."  
- Bob Geldof

This week's Sudoku answers

4	9	3	1	6	5	7	2	8
8	5	2	7	3	4	9	6	1
1	6	7	9	2	8	3	4	5
5	2	6	4	7	9	8	1	3
9	7	8	3	1	2	6	5	4
3	4	1	5	8	6	2	7	9
2	8	9	6	4	1	5	3	7
7	1	5	2	9	3	4	8	6
6	3	4	8	5	7	1	9	2

This week's Crossword answers

B	E	L	A	S	C	A	L	E	C	A	T	E	S	T	A	F	F				
O	D	O	R	E	R	R	O	M	I	T	L	I	S	L	E						
G	I	V	E	A	L	O	S	E	T	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	I	O	N		
S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	A	N	N	E	E	V	A	D	E	S			
				M	I	T	E	Y	M	C	A	S	N	I	N	E	S				
S	W	A	M	I	S			B	A	I	O		T	I	S						
T	A	K	E	T	H	E	B	U	L	L	B	Y	T	H	E	H	O	R	N	S	
U	N	I	T	S			E	R	O	S		O	W	E	N	R	I	O	T		
D	E	N					E	R	O	S		T	R	U	A	N	T	A	C	H	E
							N	O	T	I	N	B	O	A	T	A	T	E	I	N	
G	I	V	E	T	H	E	C	O	L	D	S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R	T	O	
E	R	N	E	S				H	O	O	P	B	R	O	O	D					
T	O	E	D				B	Y	L	A	W	S	Y	E	G	G					
I	N	C	L				L	E	E	R		B	A	S	E	R	O	S	E	S	
T	A	K	E	L	E	A	V	E	O	F	O	N	E	S	S	E	N	S	E	S	
							E	M	S		M	I	L	K		A	V	E	R	S	E
							C	A	C	T	I	S	P	E	L	L	D	A	T	E	
R	O	B	O	T	S		P	A	L	E		P	I	P	E	R	A	C	K	S	
S	H	A	R	E	H	O	L	D	E	R	S	A	G	R	E	E	M	E	N	T	
V	O	T	E	R			D	A	R	T		O	R	I	O	N	I	D	E	A	
P	E	E	R	S			D	Y	E	S		B	A	N	N	S	D	E	W	Y	

# FLOORS, CABINETS, COUNTERTOPS, CLOSETS & MORE!



★★★★★  
Stainmaster  
pet protect carpet  
**\$75**  
per month  
installed



★★★★★  
Water proof  
glueless flooring  
**\$113**  
per month  
installed

## HUGE SAVINGS On Floors Storewide!

**NO ADD-ON CHARGES\*\***

- Free Room Measure
- Free Estimate
- Free Delivery
- Free Furniture Moving
- Free Carpet Rip Out

Room prices are based on 450 sf



★★★★★  
48 hour water  
resistant laminate **\$99**  
per month installed



★★★★★  
wood porcelain tile  
6"x36" • 7 colors! **\$125**  
per month installed



★★★★★  
Hard wood **\$125**  
per month installed



★★★★★  
18"x18"  
USA tile **\$88**  
per month installed



"My experience has been 5 star all the way! Everyone was friendly and knowledgeable. When there was a delay, someone brought a new sample to my job! The installers were pleasant and professional. My job was completed on my timeline, and I am thrilled with the work. Thanks to all at Flooring America!"  
- Peggy G.



**Total Kitchen**  
including cabinets  
and granite  
from  
**\$550**  
per month  
installed

## Special 18 Month Financing Available<sup>†</sup>

On purchases of \$500 or more with your Flooring America Wall to Wall credit card when made between 03/01/18 - 04/30/18.

**FlooringAmerica**  
where friends send friends

10897 West Colonial Drive, Ocoee FL  
407-654-7167

4100 US Hwy. 17/92, Casselberry, FL  
407-478-0323

6237 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL  
407-381-8127

Check out more reviews online!  
[flooringamerica.com/review](http://flooringamerica.com/review)



\*Discount applies to materials only on select items. \*\*Minimum purchase of select items required. Certain restrictions apply. All appliances must be unhooked and does not include the moving of consumer electronic equipment. All offers are for retail only; no contract/commercial. Prior orders exempt. See store for details on all offers and warranties. Offers expire 04/30/18. Participating stores only. Prices shown are for materials only; cushion, labor and installation charges are additional. Not all merchandise is available in all stores. Photos are representational only. Actual merchandise may not exactly match photos shown. Although we make every effort to ensure that our advertising is accurate, we cannot be held liable for typographical errors or misprints. †Financing provided by Synchrony Bank. See store for details. Subject to credit approval. With purchase of \$500 or more. FAME-41144.