

# The West Orange Times

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Winter Garden, Florida

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Three Sections, 36 Pages

50 Cents

## In brief

### Yard waste, recycling will be picked up New Year's Day

Orange County Utilities' yard waste and recycling collection service will continue as scheduled on Wednesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's Day holiday. Customers will receive their regularly scheduled yard waste collection service on Wednesday. Customers with recycling collection on Wednesday will also receive their regularly scheduled service.

Bulky items will not be collected during the holiday week.

Customers are reminded that live Christmas trees can be set out at the curb on a Wednesday for collection and recycling. Trees taller than six feet should be cut in half. Remove all ornaments, decorations and stands before placing trees at the curb. Artificial trees are not collected with yard waste.

For more information, customers can visit [www.ocfl.net/utilities/](http://www.ocfl.net/utilities/), contact the Orange County Utilities Solid Waste Hotline at 407-836-6601 or send an email to [Solid.Waste@ocfl.net](mailto:Solid.Waste@ocfl.net).

### Learn about bugs at nature preserve

The Oakland Nature Preserve is holding an insect lecture this Saturday, Jan. 4, at noon. Christy LeDuc will lead the program, which will be followed by an adventure around the preserve for all kinds of insects with a catch-and-release safari. Nets will be provided while they last. The program is free to the public.

The preserve is located at 747 Machete Trail in Oakland.

### Enter Uncle Don's Chili Cook-off

The city of Winter Garden employees who participate on the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life team are planning another Uncle Don's Chili Cook-Off. The fundraising event will be on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, from 5-8 p.m. There is a reduced chili entry fee (\$15) for both restaurant and home chefs.

Chili entries will compete in three categories: Best Tasting Chili, Most Traditional and People's Choice. Chili entry applications will be available Jan. 1 at [www.wintergarden-fl.gov](http://www.wintergarden-fl.gov) or City Hall, 300 W. Plant St. Final deadline to enter the chili will be Jan. 24.

Call 407-656-4111, Ext. 2266, for more information.

### Inside

- Deaths...2A
- Opinion...4A
- Business...5A
- Winter Garden...6A
- Ocoee...8A
- Oakland...7A
- Windermere...10A
- Social...11A
- Sports...1-3B
- Schools...4-5B.



### Boats on parade

The 9th annual boat parade was held Dec. 21 on Lake Butler with too-warm temperatures and a record number of participating boats. More than 55 vessels traveled the shores of Windermere with many onlookers enjoying the sight from their docks. Enjoying the evening sunset on their snowman party barge are, l-r, Suzanne and Dave Lothrop, Dani Palmer and Doug and Melynn Palmer.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Smith

## Ocoee accepts Taylor Morrison's \$9.9M bid on Crown Point property

By Suzan E. Kurdak

The city of Ocoee received six letters of intent to purchase its 105-acre city-owned Crown Point property, formerly known as the Coca-Cola property. At last week's commission meeting, elected officials listened to a presentation by Taylor Morrison regarding its offer of \$9.9 million.

City Planner Mike Rumer said Taylor Morrison was a top respondent to the letters of intent the city received.

Greg Clark, Taylor Morrison vice president of land development, began the presentation and spoke of how the market had changed since the initial process went through.

"Taylor Morrison was named 2012 national builder of the year by Builder Magazine and currently has 15 active communities in Central Florida," said Clark. "We take this very seriously."

Clark said Taylor Morrison was a "committed partner and would take advantage of the natural amenities such as the West Orange Trail and views of Lake Apopka at Ocoee Crown Pointe."

Maurice Johnson, the company's North Florida Division president, talked about the target customers and buyers.

"More than building a home, we're building a community," Johnson said.

(See Ocoee, 2A)

## Reading Reindeer completes 16th successful year

By Kathy Aber

The West Orange Times staff wrapped up its 16th Reading Reindeer season last week, allowing thousands of children around West Orange County to find new books under their Christmas trees right along with their gifts from Santa.

Donations of \$3,305 and 2,433 books brought the best news of all — all of Reading Reindeer's deliveries were made.

When the Times started this holiday book drive in 1998, it was focused on starting libraries for children who had no books in their homes.

It's hard to believe there are homes in West Orange County with no children's books, but teachers

consistently tell us this is common.

A teacher at West Orange High School alerted the Times to this unsettling reality in 1998, and other teachers have made the same observation almost every year.

The good news this year is that many more businesses and groups have joined the list of friends of Reading Reindeer.

The West Orange Chamber of Commerce alerted its members to the Reading Reindeer drive and collected books at its Business After Hours events.

The Bloom & Grow Garden Society donated more than 200 new books and has committed to another ongoing home library project connected to Matthew's Hope.

Two local high school students, one from West Orange and one from Olympia, put in many community service hours labeling, sorting and boxing up books.

Three local authors donated several boxes of their latest publications.

The Adult Literacy League in Orlando and its volunteers made the largest donation — more than 900 books. Since 1998, ALL also has provided family literacy brochures on the importance of reading to children that are included with each book given out.

The West Orange Junior Service League gave

(See Reindeer, 3A)



Fire personnel (at right) participate in a push-back ceremony for their new pumper fire truck, which arrived mid-December. Photo courtesy of WGFRD.

## Winter Garden Fire Rescue gets pumper truck for Christmas

Not only is Winter Garden Fire Rescue celebrating 100 years of service this year, but it is also celebrating the arrival of a new fire truck just in time for Christmas. The new Ferrara MVP (Multi-Vocational Pumper) fire truck with 750 gallons of water and a 1,250-gallon-per-minute pump has been placed in service at Station 23 on Fullers Cross Road.

To dedicate the new fire engine, the department held a traditional wet down and push-back ceremony. The new engine was sprayed with water from engines representing stations 22 and 24, it was dedicated and blessed by Fire Chaplain Joshua Sauers, and then it was manually pushed

back into the station by a team of on- and off-duty firefighters attending the ceremony.

"Dedicating a new fire truck is not something we get to do every day, so we wanted to do it up right," said Fire Chief John Williamson.

This is a tradition that dates back to 1769 under Ben Franklin when the fire pumps were pulled by horses. Since the horses could not back the fire pump into the station after returning from a call, the firefighters would disconnect the horses, wet down the fire pump carriage to clean it, and then manually push the fire pump backward into the station.

The new fire truck replaces a 10-year-old unit that will



be moved into reserve status. Williamson credits the mayor, commissioners and the city manager for their support in making this purchase a reality. With the cost of new fire trucks averaging \$500,000, the fire department took a fiscally responsible approach to bring the fire truck purchase in below \$450,000. This was done by establishing an apparatus committee led by Deputy Chief Matt McGrew that

evaluated every component and feature of the truck to get the best value and function needed for the city of Winter Garden.

"The term 'that's how we've always done it' was prohibited in committee discussions," said Chief McGrew.

This resulted in a shorter, more maneuverable and versatile truck with greater storage and a new bolder look.

The committee included

Fleet Manager Todd Atchison; mechanic Dennis Meneses; lieutenants Nick Palmer and Sean Riser; engineers Michael Gurney and Jason Schneider; and firefighters Tim Hickman, Ricky Del Valle and Jordan Sabat.

This is the department's fourth unit that has been built by Ferrara Fire Apparatus, a family-owned manufacturer

(See Firetruck, 2A)

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**Obituaries**

**MARILYN RUHLE** entered her heavenly home on December 28, 2013. Born May 12, 1932, in Hammond, Indiana, she graduated as a registered nurse. She married Frank Ruhle on November 28, 1953. They moved to the Central Florida area in the early 1960s. They were members of the Winter Park Ski Club. After moving to West Orange County, Marilyn was involved with community service, volunteering for the Boy and Girls Scouts of America, the Women's Club of Ocoee, Ladies Auxiliary at Health Central Hospital and as a Sunday School Teacher. Marilyn was a dedicated servant of God as a Charter Member of Faith Lutheran Church, now known as the People of Faith. She was devoted to family and her many friends. Once retired she and Frank traveled extensively by RV and boat. Marilyn is survived by her daughter Karen Wheeler (David), son Robert (Cherie) of Ocoee and son Roger (Valli) of Apopka; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and her sister-in-law, Jeannine Ruhle of Rockledge. Marilyn was preceded in death by her son, James Kenneth, and husband, Frank. Visitation for friends will be held on Friday, January 3, 2014, from 4-6PM followed by a 6PM service at Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home - Winter Garden Chapel, 428 E. Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787. Please sign and view the family guest book at www.baldwinfairchild.com.



**BENSON EUGENE BYRAM**, 85, of Dothan passed away Saturday, December 14, 2013, at a local hospital. Services were held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2013, at Sunset Funeral Home with Kevin Presley officiating. The family received friends from 9-10 a.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. Mr. Byram was born March 19, 1928, in Dublin, GA, and moved to Winter Garden, FL, at an early age. He later resided in Apopka, FL, and Birmingham, AL, prior to moving to Dothan in 2010. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was employed with Martin-Marietta as a troubleshooter for their missile projects in the calibration department. He was later employed with Walmart as a greeter for 15 years until his retirement. Mr. Byram was a member of the Hartford Highway Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Byram. Survivors include his son, Darryl Byram; his daughters, Charlotte (Richard) Marsh and Cheryl Byram; grandchildren, Thomas, Matthew, Rebecca, Lakeshia, Zack, Kerry and Melissa; 4 great-grandchildren; brothers, Charles (Blondell) Byram and Ralph Byram; sisters, Christine Tyson and Mettie Davis; several nieces and nephews also survive.

**CHARLYNE JACOBS SMITH**, 77, died on December 26th. Born in Rienzi, Mississippi, she was raised in an extended family that included her mother, Audrey; aunts, Joree and Maureen; and grandparents, Daisy and Charles Gallaher. After graduating Canton High School, she married and eventually settled in the Winter Garden area, where she raised five sons. She loved to read and write and published several children's books. Charlyne also loved gardening, Jazzercise and coffee with friends. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence; sons, Richard, Wesley and Brian and their families, which include 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**WALTER "OPI" HAHN**, 81, Winter Garden, died Dec. 9. Woodlawn Funeral Home, Gotha.

**TONYA HERNANDEZ**, 40, Winter Garden, died Dec. 22. Gail & Wynn's Mortuary, Orlando.

**ZELMA O'NEILL**, 83, Winter Garden, died Dec. 20. Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Winter Garden Chapel.

**JOHN PAUL RITCHHART**, 66, Winter Garden, died Dec. 23. All Faiths Funeral Alternatives and Cremation Service, Orlando.

**CHARLES MICHAEL WILGOSZ**, 60, Winter Garden, died Dec. 19. Cremation Choices, Minneola.

**Local police and fire reports**

**Man threatens 3 with knife**

On Sunday, Dec. 22, at approximately 5 p.m., a man later identified as David Michael Higgins entered a residence in Oakland at the Lake John's Motel, 15992 West Colonial Drive #8, pulled a knife and threatened numerous times to kill the three people inside, according to Oakland police. Two of the victims escaped, but Higgins forcibly detained the third, police said.

The police were called, and one victim returned with a baseball bat to convince the suspect to flee, police said; Higgins left before the arrival of law enforcement. Once the Oakland Police Department arrived, it was determined that Higgins is a resident of Apopka, and with the cooperation of the Apopka Police Department, Higgins was arrested at 625 E. Tenth St. in Apopka.

The suspect was taken to the Orange County Jail and is being charged with three

counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count of false imprisonment.

**Windermere police**

The Windermere Police Department reported 63 calls for service and 41 for back-up assistance from Nov. 1-30, as well as the following:

- Incident report — 15
- Community events — 2
- Traffic stops — 415
- Truck stops — 3
- Citations — 276
- Warning citations — 82
- Parking citations — 3
- Courtesy notices — 54
- Business checks — 392
- Alarms — 8
- Assistance to public — 111
- Arrests — 28
- Vehicle accidents — 6
- School foot patrol — 9
- Signs removed — 34
- Patrol phone assist — 25
- Training session — 3.
- The 28 arrests include, but are not limited to, these charges:

Failure to register vehicle, driving under the influence, driving with license suspended with knowledge, no tag attached, expired driver's license more than six months, no valid driver's license, possession of cannabis more than 20 grams, out-of-county warrant, attached tag not assigned, suspension for financial responsibility, domestic violence battery at large, non-resident registration and possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

**Winter Garden fire**

The Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department (stations 22, 23 and 24) responded to 91 calls for assistance from Dec. 15-21

- Fires — 2
- Emergency medical calls — 70
- Vehicle accidents — 7
- Automatic fire alarms — 3
- Public assistance — 2
- Hazardous conditions — 3
- Calls for service — 4.

**Ocoee**

(Continued from 1A)

Johnson said he anticipates the selling range to be \$240,000 to \$450,000.

"We believe Taylor Morrison and this community will link up very well."

The company asked to purchase the property at \$9.9 million, with a proposed closing date of Dec. 15, 2014.

City Manager Robert Frank said it was staff's recommendation to accept the bid. He said the city owed "about 3.7 million on the property."

Commissioner Rusty Johnson said: "I think we need to get something happening, and I think we need to move ahead. [We] don't want to keep running in circles."

Commissioner Joel Keller questioned "whether it was worth it to wait."

"We got a good price," said Keller. "The recovery's here,

but nowhere faster or easier than we expected it to be."

The commissioners voted to accept Taylor Morrison's offer of \$9.9 million. Mayor Scott Vandergrift opposed, stating he felt the city could wait for higher bids.

In other business, the commission:

- reduced the code-violation fines from \$58,650 to \$2,000, payable within 60 days or it reverts back to original fine, for property at 1714 Palmerston Circle.
- approved of the code enforcement agreements with the towns of Oakland and Windermere with a 3 percent adjustment to help cover the city of Ocoee's costs.
- agreed to extend the reduction of impact fees and deferral of transportation impact-fee payment until July 1.

held the first reading for the annexation and rezoning of a future retention pond at Wurst Road. A second reading and public hearing will be held Jan. 7.

agreed to rotate and contract with several citywide towing services.

approved the capital improvements element of the Ocoee Comprehensive Plan.

The commission voted by consensus to approve the following:

- the extension of water and sanitary sewer utilities to the Southwest Utility Service area and to employ Pegasus Engineering, LLC to design and permit the facilities for no more than \$88,500.
- the annexing of water services for Homes in Partnership Inc. for property on First Street.

**Show artistic side in 127 SoBo marathon**

The Winter Garden Art Association is presenting its first live art marathon at 127 S. Boyd St. this month in a themed event called "Art is Alive 365 in Winter Garden" to kick off the New Year with greater creativity and inspiration. Artists and visitors are welcome to create their own unique art at the visual arts gallery this Friday, Jan. 3, through Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

Various art activities will be available for all art levels, and all ages can attend.

Beginner to advanced artists can create "Spontaneous Art." Participate by signing in upon arrival at the event. Bring all your own supplies to create artwork in the style and

techniques that stimulate you most, and bring your preferred canvas. Paint or draw from a favorite photograph or local surroundings or be inspired by the other attending artists. Photographers are also welcome to attend, too. For a \$5 fee, artists can have their work shown in the gallery throughout January. Limit of two art pieces per artist.

Various art demonstrations are scheduled throughout the event.

- SoBo Hallpaper project — draw or paint on paper tiles to decorate the art center.
- Collaborative painting project — produce a large acrylic or mixed media painting over the course of the weekend.
- Artist demonstrations by

various artists.

The one-of-a-kind art pieces produced at the art marathon will then be part of January's gallery exhibition. The opening reception is Thursday, Jan. 9, from 6- 8 p.m. There will be live music by the Retro Ramblers and a live demonstration by glass mosaic artist Lou Ann Weeks.

Artwork is on display through Feb. 1 and can be viewed at 127 S. Boyd St. during regular gallery hours.

Interested in participating in this community event by creating art, showcasing a technique or viewing art in the making? Then be part of the art marathon.

For more information or details on the daily programs, email mkeating@wgart.org.

**Elementary kids can audition for WOHS show**

The Thespians at West Orange High School will be presenting the Florida premiere performance of a new children's play titled *Once Upon a Time...* This new production will bring a collection of fairy tales to the stage just as they were originally written.

The show takes the audience on a journey through the pages and adventures of several classic fairy tales, including *Hansel and Gretel*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Cinderella*.

These stories will be presented visually as one would find them in a classic edition of children's fairy tales. The author has not set any of the stories in an updated time or place. In one scene, audience members will join Jack as he climbs the beanstalk and meets the Giant, who will be a life-sized puppet created especially for this production.

Director Ken Rush said: "This promises to be a colorful and enchanting production for all ages from 3-90. Adults will be brought back to a time when someone special in their lives used to read these classics to them as they do now to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren."

There are parts available for young people in the community to get involved with the high school theater group. The director is looking for 10-20 children from preschool age of 4 or 5 years old through present eighth-graders. The children do not have to be enrolled in an OCPs school at this time. Those cast will play a variety of roles from forest animals to forest gnomes.

Auditions will be held Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Anyone auditioning should come prepared to perform a brief song or poem, tell a joke or tell a brief story. These students will also be taken through a

brief movement exercise while they are at the auditions.

Those who are cast in the show will be required to pay a \$150 production fee, which will take care of the majority of their costumes and expenses. In addition, cast members must sell 20 tickets. Parents of the students cast must also help backstage with the young people on at least one performance or pay an additional fee.

Rehearsals will begin Monday, Jan. 13. Every effort will be made to see that the youngest cast members be rehearsed as little as possible until the week before the show.

The production will have three in-school performances that cast members will need to

attend. These performances will be on Feb. 4, 6 and 7 and will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon. There will also be five public performances on Feb. 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and two matinees on Feb. 8 and 9 at 2:30 p.m.

All involved in the show must be available for all performances. For more details, call Director Ken Rush at 407-905-2400, Ext. 6162282.

**Fire truck**

(Continued from 1A)

of emergency vehicles located in Holden, La. Due to the manufacturer's strong connection with its customers, and with the continued help of Phil Lincoln, the Ferrara representative out of Ocala, the department is provided an integral role in the design and development of its emergency vehicles.

Chief Williamson is confident that this newly designed unit will serve the citizens of Winter Garden for many years.

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# 2013: The year in pictures



Members of Forte are Sean Panikkar (from left), Dr. Phillips resident Fernando Varela and Josh Page made it to the final 12 on 'America's Got Talent' in September, ultimately placing 4th out of the 75,000 acts that auditioned for the NBC show.



Semone Adkins and Travjuan 'Bubba' Hunter don their crowns after being named Homecoming queen and king at West Orange High School in October. This is the first time 2 students with Down syndrome have won the honor in Florida.

Former U.S. gunner Melvin Jenner of Ocoee and German-born Barbara Kaiser share hugs and tears after meeting in March. Jenner participated in the Berlin Airlift, and Kaiser was a 4-year-old girl who had her 1st taste of chocolate during routine candy drops in Berlin after World War II.



Sophomore right-hander Kelsey Morrison (No. 5) and senior third baseman Madison Paulson played key roles during West Orange High's run to the Class 8A state semifinals. Morrison pitched 126 innings this season and won 17 games.



Two eagles rest on a limb at dusk this summer while watching the cars go by on East Plant Street in Winter Garden. The bald eagle was chosen on June 20, 1782, as the emblem of the United States. It was selected for its majestic looks, great strength and long life.



In April, West Orange High School Principal James Larsen (far right) congratulated Class of 2013 seniors set to attend military academies. Recruits include Winston Chastang (from left), Rhea McFarland, Jared Holmgren and Nate Ozdemir.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony held in September signified the opening of the 1st phase of development in the 640-acre Hamlin community in the Horizon West area. Cutting the ribbon at Hamlin are (l-r) West Orange Chamber Chair David Billsborough, Orange County Commissioner S. Scott Boyd and Scott Boyd of Boyd Development.



Significant contributors and donors broke ground in October, paving the way for construction of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation's History Research and Education Center.



The Windermere Little League Softball All-Stars celebrated a state championship in the 10-11 Division in August. Windermere defeated South Tampa 18-8 in the title game on July 23 in Lake Wales. Pictured are (l-r) District 14 Administrator Debbie Dobbs, Coach Jim Kernohan, Rebecca Prince, Coach Don Gaus, Brett Good, Jaime Kernohan, Sally Golden, Riley Fromberg, Alexis Gaus, Allison Sartini, Cassidy Steiner, Katie Benedict, Marissa Thomson, Elli Lucas and Manager Max Fromberg.

# Opinion

## Reader opinions Letters to the editor

### Bella's Bash organizer grateful for all involved

Editor,

On Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, the city of Winter Garden helped me to provide a wonderful and memorable day for Bella Brown, who is 3 years old and has already undergone 3 heart surgeries. Bella's Bash was made possible by so many, but a special thank you from me to Chief Williamson, Winter Garden Fire Department, and Lt. Pearson, Winter Garden Police Department.

Having Bella on Santa's sleigh with the police escort was heartwarming to see, and it will be something the family will never forget. Winter Garden Pizza Company was outstanding with their pizza party, as well as FOXTV35 Orlando for its coverage of the event.

Having a front-page article in The West Orange Times was the icing on the cake!

This dream day for Bella started off with the family as a customer of mine at Lowe's, where I work. It has become a friendship that I will always cherish, and the memories from that day will live on forever.

Thank you, city of Winter Garden!

*Bill Vitanyi  
Winter Garden*



### 60 years ago

The Rev. R.G. Lemp, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, addressed the Winter Garden Rotary Club stressing the need for Christian leadership in America today... President Fred Roper reminded the group that there were still a few tickets available for the Tangerine Bowl game.

Parents of Winter Garden youngsters have a new problem in common with city officials. During the last week, 14 street lights have been destroyed, and police believe that most of the wanton damage is caused by children with Christmas air rifles.

### 45 years ago

Al Valdes offered his services as a make-up man for the participants in the live Nativity scene staged during the Christmas in Winter Garden program produced by the First United Methodist Church.

From Barbs & Bouquets by Don: A wise man once said that marriage is probably the first institution to offer on-the-job training. He also suggested that a wedding ring is merely a tourniquet worn on the left hand to stop circulation of the whole body.

### 40 years ago

West Orange Memorial Hospital's \$2.4 million expansion project is progressing on schedule according to hospital administrator Bob Barber. The soon-to-be completed hospital wing is due to have ultra-modern equipment.

L.A. Grimes Agency is proud to announce Connie Crawford as a new Associate in its

branch office located at 578 Hwy. 50 in Winter Garden.

From Editor's Notebook: Sign on Kirkman Rd. near Valencia Community College "Forget about college and no one will be the wiser... especially you."

### 30 years ago

Most aspects of Florida's agriculture were affected by a killing freeze Dec. 24-25. Moving in Christmas Eve, the below freezing temperatures spelled gloom during the holiday season.

Mark Parker, 19, of Winter Garden, an Orange County correctional officer, was seriously wounded as he sought to subdue an armed assailant who went on a shooting spree in the Orange County Courthouse. He is a 1982 graduate of West Orange High School.

### 25 years ago

Universal Studios Florida is teaming with Valencia Community College on the largest technical film training program in the United States.

The great Luciano Pavarotti took Orlando by storm and it was a memorable New Year's Eve for all those who attended his concert at the Orange County Convention Center. It was even more memorable for those who joined the opera star for a gala dinner and celebration. Among those pictured were Birgitta and Hermann Engelmann, Phyllis and Art Grindle and Alice and Bill Amidon.

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# Worship Directory

<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 125 E Plant St., Winter Garden 407-656-2352 Sundays 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Bible Study 11:00 am Contemporary Wednesdays 6:45 pm Bible Study Group for all ages. Pastor Tim Grosshans www.fbcwg.org</p> <p><b>BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 671 Beulah Road, Winter Garden (407) 656-3342 Pastor Jathan Murphy</p> <p><b>STARKE LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 611 West. Ave., Ocoee Pastor Jeff Pritchard (407) 656-2351 Email: starkelakebaptist@gmail.com</p> <p><b>WEST ORANGE BAPTIST</b> P.O. Box 278 • 200 Tubb St. Oakland, FL 34760 (407) 656-9749 Pastor David Pruet</p> <p><b>WEST ORLANDO BAPTIST &amp; CHILD DISCOVERY CENTER</b> 1006 E. Crown Pt. Rd. Ocoee, FL. www.westorlandobaptistchurch.com 407-905-9508</p>	<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p><b>RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 1211 Winter Garden-Vineland Rd. Winter Garden. 407-656-3113</p> <p><b>HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH</b> Rev. Father Michael Smith Jr. 483 Wurst St. Ocoee, FL 34761 Sunday Mass 10:30 am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm We look forward to seeing you 407-450-4413 www.holynameoffjesusocoe.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHRISTIAN</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 1450 Daniels Rd. Winter Garden 407-656-2770 www.cocwo.com 9:30 am Worship Gathering 10:45 am Bible Communities 5:00 pm Adult Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHRISTIAN &amp; MISSIONARY ALLIANCE</b></p> <p><b>SOUTHWEST CHURCH</b> Roper YMCA. 100 Windermere Rd. Bible Hr. 9:15am Worship Serv. 10:30am Tom Welch Pastor 407-903-1384</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHURCH OF GOD</b></p> <p><b>Ocoee Church of God</b> Pastor Thomas Odom 1105 N. Lakewood Avenue, Ocoee 407-656-8011</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><b>VINELAND ROAD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 890 Vineland Rd. Winter Garden 407-656-3949 Sundays: 10:30 am &amp; 6:00pm Wednesday: Family Night 7:00pm www.vrcfellowship.org <u>WHERE EVERYONE FEELS LIKE FAMILY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EPISCOPAL</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH</b> On the corner of Main St. and Tilden. (407) 656-3218 Sunday services at 8AM, 9:30AM 11AM &amp; 7:00PM with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30. Child Care &amp; Youth Ministry. www.churchofthemessiah.com</p> <p><b>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION</b> 4950 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd. Orlando, FL 32819. 1 block south of Conroy-Windermere Rd. on right. 407-876-3480 Sunday Services 8:30am, 10:30am, and 6:30pm. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am and Children's Chapel at 10:30am. Childcare provided. www.ascension-orlando.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERDENOMINATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 5425 South Apopka-Vineland Rd. 9:45 AM, Sunday School, 11:00 AM, Worship Service. www.orlandoccc.org 407-909-9495</p>
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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WINTER GARDEN

*Words to live by....*

HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME.  
HE HAS ALSO SET ETERNITY IN THE HEARTS OF MEN;  
YET THEY CANNOT FATHOM WHAT GOD HAS DONE  
FROM BEGINNING TO END. - ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NIV)

**FBCWG.ORG**

*A Place to Grow!*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUTHERAN</b></p> <p><b>PEOPLE OF FAITH CHURCH</b> 220 Windermere Rd, Winter Garden Serv. 8:30am &amp; 10:45am 407-877-3937 www.PeopleOfFaith.ORG</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENTECOSTAL</b></p> <p><b>GRACE WORSHIP CENTER</b> Temporarily meeting at Baldwin Fairchild of Winter Garden 428 East Plant Street Winter Garden, FL 34787 Pastor Ricky L. Faircloth</p>	<p>Worship on Wed. 7:00 - 7:30 PM "Come hear the Gospel" Rev. Ferdinand Brits www.pcol.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b></p> <p><b>WINDERMERE UNION CHURCH</b> 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Rd. Windermere, FL 34786 407-876-2112 Worship times: 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship www.windermereunion.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>METHODIST</b></p> <p><b>Ocoee Oaks UMC</b> 201 S. Clarke Road, Ocoee, FL. 8:30am Traditional 10:00am SS Sunday: 9:45am Interactive 11:00am Contemporary. Monday night services at 7:00pm. Pastor Eric McCrea 407-293-0700</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>OAKLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 218 E. Oakland Ave. Oakland, FL 407-656-4452 www.oaklandpres.org Near exit 272 off the FL Turnpike Worship at 8:45 am and 11 am Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am. Nursery provided during worship. Dr. Robert P. Hines, Jr., Pastor. Call about our preschool.</p>	<p><b>WINDERMERE UNION CHURCH</b> 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Rd. Windermere, FL 34786 407-876-2112 Worship times: 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship www.windermereunion.org</p>

*"Ordinary people, empowered by an extraordinary God, building the community of Christ in West Orange County"*

**Meeting @ the Roper YMCA**  
Sunday at 10:30 AM  
100 Windermere Rd, Winter Garden, FL, 34787  
Tom Welch, Pastor - 407-903-1384  
www.GoSWC.org

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# Reindeer

\$1,500, and the Rotary Club of Winter Garden provided \$1,000. These donations will help Reading Reindeer continue the gift of a new Dr. Seuss book to newborns at Orlando Health Central throughout 2014.

This year, recipients included children served by the West Orange Christian Service Center; toy programs sponsored by the Ocoee and Winter Garden police departments; Winter Garden Children's Health Center; West Orange Neighborhood Center for Families; Migrant Education Program of Orange County Public Schools; Edgewood Children's Ranch; Maxey Center; HeadStart and pre-kindergarten at Maxey Elementary School; Play and Learn Day School Inc.; angel tree families at St. Jude and Resurrection Catholic churches; Boys and Girls Club in Winter Garden; and residents at the Center for Drug-free Living.

Thanks, also, to our book donation sites at the four libraries, West

Oaks in Ocoee, Windermere, Winter Garden and Southwest; and the West Orange Chamber office.

Every year, Reading Reindeer touches more individuals. Besides building home libraries for West Orange County children, Reading Reindeer is also aimed at drawing attention to the literacy needs in our community, where one in five adults can't read a daily newspaper.

Improving literacy skills and demonstrating the importance of reading to children, even in infancy, is key to making every citizen a fully functioning adult.

The Times is committed to improving literacy levels in West Orange County. And the growing community support for this literacy drive has been heartwarming.

There is no way to measure how a book will touch a child. One might be inspired to discover a cure for cancer, while another might decide to fly into outer space or design skyscrapers.

Daily we all affect the next generation. Thanks for supporting Reading Reindeer again and joining the Times in helping make a bedtime story a nightly tradition in every West Orange County home. This is the first step to improving literacy skills for all our children and creating successful adults.

Reading Reindeer's 2013 donors:

- Nancy Lahey, Janet Sgama, Kate Hensler, Ron Martin, the West Orange Junior Service League, Kristen and Lori McKenney and the Bugey family, all of Windermere;
- Jennifer Walker, Cathy Restivo, Montessori of Winter Garden Charter School, Lauren Powers, Heather and Daniel Kuhl, West Orange Chamber of Commerce, West Orange Montessori School, Robert Foster, Myers, Jack and Gloria Quesinberry, the Rotary Club of Winter Garden, Active 50+, USA Dance, Lois Godbold and Lucy and Harry Bradford, all of Winter Garden;

- Jane Heppner and Jann Martin, both of Ocoee;
- Ingrid Blackburn of Oakland;
- Kurt and Karen Ardaman of Gotha;
- Kenneth and Barbara Whitaker of Groveland;
- the Morans family of Clermont;
- Charles and Marca Benton, Olympia High School National English Honor Society and the Adult Literacy League, all of Orlando;
- Zoe Taylor and the Candlelight Circle from the First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden;
- the Bloom & Grow Garden Society, Nidhil Kalva, Matt G. and Michael Greenwald;
- Debbie Cox and William and Carol Cox, all of Saugus, Maine;
- the patrons of the West Oaks, Windermere, Winter Garden and Southwest libraries.
- many anonymous donors.

(Continued from 1A)

# Big Orange Awards set for Feb. 6

In roughly one month, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce will celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of some of the Chamber's most deserving members.

At the annual Big Orange Awards, the Chamber honors those who have facilitated opportunities and contributed to the betterment of the West Orange Chamber community.

This year's event, sponsored by Orlando Health, Duke Energy and the city of Ocoee, will be held at the new Ocoee Lakeshore Center. Sponsorships are available until Jan. 3.

In addition to announcing the Small and Big Businesses of the year, the following awards

will also given: the Chairman's Award, the Sam Hovsepian Award, the Mary Van Deventer Award, the Spirit of West Orange, Ambassador of the Year Award, the George Bailey Award, the Bert Roper Award and the Dannel J. Petro The Bright Future of West Orange Award.

Nomination forms are available for the 2013 Member Business of the Year. The awards will be given at the Chamber's Big Orange Awards on Feb. 6.

Attendees will enjoy a gourmet meal prepared by TableTop Catering, drinks, a silent auction and the announcement of the winner of the WOCC Business Member of the Year. Tickets are available for purchase at wochamber.com.



Once the books were sorted and labeled, representatives from the organizations visited the Times office to pick them up, including Karen Flynn, above, of the West Orange Christian Service Center and, at right, the Ocoee and Winter Garden police departments.

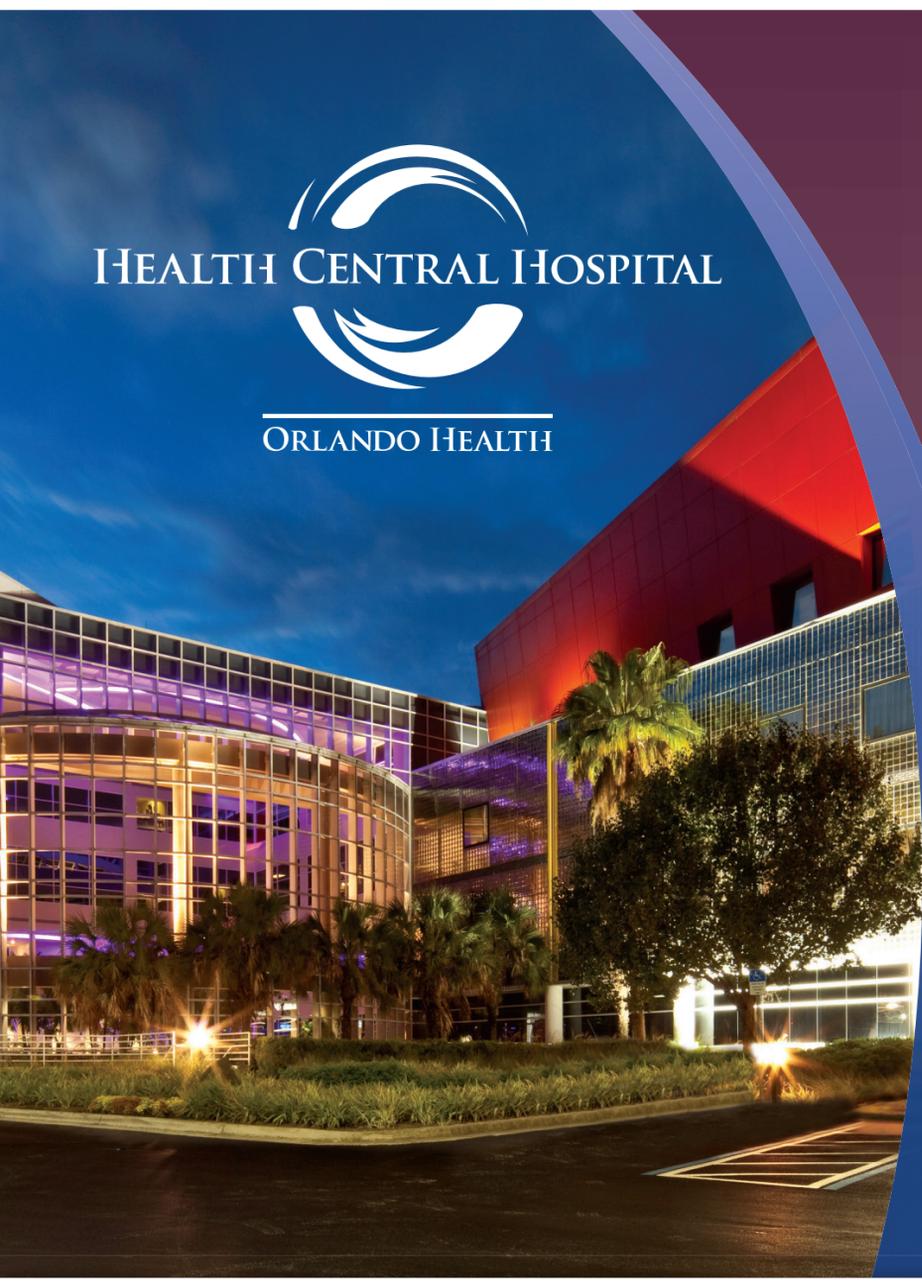


## Helping the homeless

Betsy VanderLey of the West Orange Chamber group Leadership on Fire, made a donation of much-needed items such as blankets, canned meats, pasta and vegetables to Pastor Scott Billue, founder of Matthew's Hope. Leadership on Fire has adopted Matthew's Hope as its service project for 2014, and rather than doing just one day of service or a single event, members have committed to one project each month, as well as a fundraiser to benefit Matthew's Hope on April 17. To learn more about Matthew's Hope, visit [www.matthewshopeministries.org](http://www.matthewshopeministries.org) or call 407-905-9500.



American Legion Post 63 Commander Judd Kuneman (right) presents a check for \$1,000 to Pastor Scott Billue of Matthew's Hope, in support of lending a hand to the homeless veterans, men, women and children in the community. For more information, visit [www.matthewshopeministries.org](http://www.matthewshopeministries.org) or call 407-905-9500.



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# Winter Garden



## Elk hold initiation

The Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165 recently held its final initiation of 2013 in December. At the installation ceremony are, l-r, new members Thomas Brown, Lake County Sheriff's Office, and Todd Theisen, Fabricator; Elk President Bob Szollosy; and new members Randy Conyers, Ocoee Police Department, and James R. Crane, retired. New members not pictured are Sean Peterson, Duke Energy; and John Schardine, Maitland Police Department. This brings the total lodge membership to 382.



## Scouts share catnip treats with shelter cats

The Girl Scout Cadettes of Troop 567 from Winter Garden visited the SPCA of Central Florida in Orlando recently. As a part of Operation Happy Sock, the girls created and delivered catnip toys to the homeless cats in the animal shelter. The simple toys, called Happy Socks, are made by stuffing catnip and polyester fiberfill in the toe of a sock and tying a knot at the ankle. For stressed-out cats stuck in strange surroundings, a whiff of catnip can be therapeutic, and a Happy Sock is the feline equivalent of a cuddly teddy bear. The girls took a tour and learned about the shelter and the homeless animal crisis in Central Florida. They also met the dogs and played with the many cats that are still looking for a loving home. Above, Tara Lance (2nd from right), SPCA Community Educator, accepts the donation from Shelby Quillinan (from left), Alex Reyes and Grace Ray.

## Activities at the Winter Garden Library

- Try Your Hand at Trivia — Saturday, Jan. 4, 11 a.m. Challenge yourself with trivia questions. Test your skills and have some fun. Ages 7-12.
- Get Ready for K — Mondays, Jan. 6, 13, 27 and Feb. 3-17, 10:30 a.m. Preschoolers will hear songs and stories to help them begin learning the skills they will need to start kindergarten. The series of six programs will introduce reading, math, basic concepts and skills, health and safety and art. Ages 3-5. Registration recommended. Sponsored by Target.
- Affordable Care Act Information and Enrollment Session — Monday, Jan. 6, 6-8:30 p.m. Affordable Care Act navigators will discuss enrollment in the healthcare marketplace and changes in healthcare. This information and enrollment session will provide answers to questions about the marketplace and provide assistance with enrollment.
- Crafternoons — Wednesdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, 3:30 p.m. Enjoy an hour of crafting fun for the whole family. All ages welcome.
- Winter Wishes — Friday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy snowflake fun with stories, crafts and surprises. Ages 3-5.
- Appreciate a Dragon Day — Thursday, Jan.

16, 4 p.m. Show dragon support with a story and craft hour. Ages 6-12.

- Kid Inventor Day — Saturday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m. Explore the world of kid inventors at the library. See how you can change the world by trying your hand at inventions. Ages 6-12.

- Snapshot Day — Wednesday, Jan. 22. Libraries across the state are participating in Florida Library Snapshot Day by collecting statistics, comments and photos. Stop by any OCLS location and use computers, check out books, attend a program and visit with library staff. Snap a photo at the library and tag it on social media #oclssnapshot14 or e-mail photos to oclssocial-media@gmail.com.

- Weight Loss Seminar — Thursday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m. Kick start the New Year by losing weight, getting fit and healing your body from the inside out. The non-diet approach to weight loss incorporates lifestyle management that will teach you how to lose weight and keep it off. For more information, please visit, [www.UnityFamilyChiropractic.com](http://www.UnityFamilyChiropractic.com).

- Celebrate Chinese New Year — Friday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. Have fun reading stories and making crafts to celebrate the Year of the Horse. Ages 3-5.

## Learn about WGPLD at citizens academy

Ever wonder what goes on inside your police department? Get your questions answered at the next Citizens Police Academy class.

This is a free nine-week course meeting every Wednesday evening at the Winter Garden Police Department training room from 6-9 p.m. The classes are instructed by Winter Garden

police officers and staff who will discuss such topics as crime prevention, defensive tactics and investigations. Class participants will also be eligible to go on a ride-along with an officer.

The next class starts Wednesday, Jan. 22. Anyone 18 years or older interested in participating can download an application at [www.wgpd.com](http://www.wgpd.com) or pick one up

at the WGPLD, 251 W. Plant St. Participants must be a resident or work in the city of Winter Garden in order to attend. Additional eligibility requirements are listed on the website. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15. Seats fill up fast.

For questions, contact Officer Sarah Price at 407-656-3636, Ext. 4076.

cwgd.com.

The department is looking for the following information: their full name and years of service, whether they were paid or unpaid, their titles or ranks, whether or not they

retired from the department, where they are currently living and their contact information.

The WGPLD would also like to collect their memories of working with the department, as well as photographs.

## Donate glasses to Lions Club

A donation box is located at Westside Tech to collect unwanted eyewear for the Lions Club for distribution. Glasses can be any shape, style and condition; they will be refurbished.

Westside is at 955 E. Story Road, Winter Garden.

## Record show coming to Winter Garden

Do you have a thing for records, for the sound the needle makes when it hits the vinyl, for the artistic album covers?

There will be a record and CD show at the American Legion in Winter Garden (271 W. Plant St.) on Sunday, Jan. 12, starting at 10 a.m. and running until 4 p.m. The entry fee is \$3 (or \$10 for early admission at 8 a.m.).

There will be multiple vendors and thousands of 45s and LPs and some CDs for sale.

Anyone wanting to set up a vendor table can contact Lynn at 407-877-8364 or email him at [najp@embarqmail.com](mailto:najp@embarqmail.com) for information and fees.

## Figuroa graduates from basic training

Army Pfc. Ryan J. Figuroa has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., after nine weeks of training.

He is the son of Jacqueline Santana of Winter Garden and Sheldon Figuroa of Riverview and is a 2009 graduate of Eastbay High School, Gibsonton.

## Program for seniors at Dixon Center

Senior Time is a program geared toward seniors, and it meets each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon at the West Orange Neighborhood Center for Families (Mildred Dixon Activity Center).

Participants can enjoy activities, exercises, meet-and-greets, games, reading time and snacks. The center is located at 303 S. West Crown Point Road, Winter Garden. For more information, call 407-905-5100.



## Helping provide a better Christmas

Lauren Rushing, Brooke Prum and Zoe Sutherland made Christmas ornaments and sold them to raise money for the Winter Garden Police Department's annual toy drive. The girls made the ornaments over their Thanksgiving school break and then sold them for \$1 each. This is the 2nd year the girls have raised funds for the toy drive. With them is Ruth Rambissoon, executive assistant for the police chief.

## American Legion activities

The American Legion post building, located at 271 W. Plant St., Winter Garden, will be open from 4 to 6 p.m. on Fridays, for information or a chance to tour one of the city's historic buildings.

The legion is looking for historical articles, pictures or memorabilia about Post 63 as part of preparations for the 100th anniversary celebration. Contact 407-656-6361 and leave a message if you have items to donate or loan.

Bingo Nights are 6:30 p.m. Mondays and 6 p.m. Wednesdays. The proceeds from bingo are used to support the legion's charitable donations.

The post is making available new dry chemical fire extinguishers and 3-foot by 5-foot America flags for \$15, with proceeds going to benefit local and national charities.

See any American Legion member, email [alp63wg@embarqmail.com](mailto:alp63wg@embarqmail.com) or call 407-656-6361.

## Enter Uncle Don's Chili Cook-off

The city of Winter Garden employees who participate on the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life team are planning another Uncle Don's Chili Cook-Off. The fundraising event will be on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, from 5-8 p.m. There is a reduced chili entry fee (\$15) for both restaurant and home chefs.

Chili entries will compete in three categories: Best Tasting Chili, Most Traditional and People's Choice. Chili entry applications will be available Jan. 1 at [www.wintergarden-fl.gov](http://www.wintergarden-fl.gov) or City Hall, 300 W. Plant St. Final deadline to enter the chili will be Jan. 24.

Call 407-656-4111, Ext. 2266, for more information.



## NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Winter Garden, Florida, is scheduled to hold a municipal election on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at which time the following two officials are to be elected to serve a 3-year term:

**Commissioner District 1  
Mayor/Commissioner District 5 (city-wide)**

Candidates shall have been a resident of the city and district in which they run for one (1) year and have been a registered voter in the district they run for one (1) year prior to the end of the qualifying period. Those elected to office shall maintain their district residency and voter registration while in office.

Individuals may announce their candidacy and open a campaign account by completing forms provided by the City Clerk at City Hall, 300 W. Plant Street, Winter Garden, anytime prior to the qualifying period.

The candidate qualifying period will begin at noon, Tuesday, January 21, 2014 and will close at noon, Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Additional qualifying forms and the qualifying fee will be required during this time.

If you should have questions or require additional information, please contact the City Clerk at 407-656-4111, extension 2254.

Kathy Golden, CMC  
City Clerk/Supervisor of Municipal Elections

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# Oakland



## After-School Science Club set

This spring, the Oakland Nature Preserve will once again be offering the After-School Science Club for students in first through fifth grades. The program is a good way to get children outdoors after school. It is a hands-on learning experience for environmental and cultural understanding and utilizing the trails, museum and classroom at ONP.

The club is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 4-5:30 p.m. and will meet for 12 consecutive Tuesdays, with the last meeting on April 8. There will not be a meeting March 25, which is during spring break.

During this spring session, students will be studying the animals that find refuge in the preserve's wetland and upland restoration areas, specifically focusing on the gopher tortoise, the black bear and the (near) countless bird species found at the preserve.

Club members will also learn how humans fit into the picture, whether just enjoying the natural world or surviving Florida's unique climate. Other ecological topics include studying the aquifer, controlling exotic invasives and understanding the importance of cyclical fire events.

The cost is \$50 for students with an ONP family membership or \$75 for non-members, which includes a family membership. Club membership is limited to 20 students. Heidi Beck, Oakland Avenue Charter School science teacher, and Shane Overstreet, ONP education team member, will be working with the club again this semester. They are developing new programs and have a variety of activities planned.

For more information, call 407-905-0054 or visit the website at [www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org](http://www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org).

## Taking aim

Oakland Nature Preserve held its 1st archery workshop last week, and despite the overcast day, the 4-hour event was deemed a success. Participants were, l-r, Max McClusky, George Wilson, Jake Solomon, Karlen Randle, Lindsay Fox, Henry Sines and Joseph Donnelly. At right, Donnelly removes the arrows from the target so students can try to perfect their aim the next time. The preserve plans to hold another archery workshop in the future.



## Oakland Presbyterian Church

218 E. Oakland Avenue  
(State Road 438) Oakland, FL 34760

407-656-4452

[www.oaklandpres.org](http://www.oaklandpres.org)



**Dr. Robert P. Hines, Jr.**  
Pastor

**Jennifer Hunt**  
Music Director

**Diane Flagler**  
Organist

**Daphne Miller**  
Pianist

**Bonnie Litteral**  
Children's Choir

**Tiffany Goggans**  
Director of Christian Education

**Joshua Hosseinzadeh**  
Director of Youth

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
Tuesday 7am

Nursery Care  
Children & Youth Ministry  
Senior Citizen Events  
Outstanding Music Program  
Upward Basketball  
Football and Cheerleading Program  
Vacation Bible School  
Preschool

**Sunday Worship**  
8:45 a.m. Informal & Contemporary  
11:00 a.m. Traditional

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m.

## Preserve plans Science Saturday lecture series

The Science Saturday lecture series at the Oakland Nature Preserve is free to the public. ONP is located at 747 Machete Trail in Oakland. For more information, call 407-905-0054 or visit the website at [www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org](http://www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org).

Jan. 25 — Attracting Backyard Birds with Native Plants. Gallus Quigley, park ranger, Lake County Parks and Recreation. This lecture offers information on Florida native plants and native and migrating birds.

Feb. 22 — Open House Appreciation Day at ONP, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (early-morning birding tour to be announced). ONP is grateful for all the community support it receives and is thanking everyone who has a hand in the preserve. Visit and find out what officials have been up to all year with a series of lectures, guided hikes, food and music.

March — Birds of Prey with Eagle Lady Doris Mager. Date to be announced. At 86, Mager is still teaching about birds of prey and the important role they play in nature. If the full moon falls on the right night, might take the group owling.

April 26 — Is the climate changing? Can we make a difference? Thinking local. No

matter what side of the debate people are on — things are changing. Find out about the

effects climate change could have on people and the effect they have on the climate.

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# Ocoee



Geoff Downey (2nd from right) is the new associate pastor of Lake Sherwood Church. With him are, l-r, Gail Mininger, Dr. Larry G. Mininger (senior pastor) and Heather Downey.

## Lake Sherwood installs new associate pastor

Lake Sherwood Presbyterian Church, Orlando announces the installation of its new associate pastor, Geoff Downey, by members of the Presbytery of the South of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC).

At the ordination service, Dr. Larry G. Mininger, Lake Sherwood senior pastor, served as moderator, led the worship and gave the charge to the congregation. The Rev. Jon Falk, associate pastor of Falls OPC, Menomonee Falls, Wis., gave the charge to Downey. Downey

previously ministered in English and Spanish under Falk in Uruguay, South America. The Rev. Larry Westerveld, pastor of Trinity OPC, Hatboro, Pa., where Downey interned this past year, preached the sermon.

The Rev. Downey completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at UCLA and his Master of Divinity at Westminster Seminary California. He has served as pulpit supply in five states. Earlier, he worked in telecommunications and insurance. His

wife, Heather, holds a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from Temple University and has been a professor at Eastern University.

As Downey begins his ministry at Lake Sherwood Church, he shares preaching and pastoral responsibilities with Senior Pastor Larry G. Mininger and is beginning a new young adult ministry.

Lake Sherwood Church is located just north of State Road 50 at 8200 Balboa Drive between Hiawassee and Good Homes roads.

## Watch Ocoee parade on TV

The city of Ocoee and Ocoee Lions Club Christmas Parade can be seen on BrightHouse Channel 200 through Jan. 6:

- Mondays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 and 10:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 and 4:30 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays, 4:30 and 10:30 p.m.

## W.O. Seniors schedule events

The West Orange Seniors hold their events at the Tom Ison Veterans and Seniors Center at 1701 Adair St. in Ocoee.

The movie *The Horse Whisperer* will be shown Jan. 8 at 12:30 p.m. after a noon lunch.

The group is taking a casino tour to Biloxi, Miss., Feb. 4-7. The cost is \$199.

Free arthritis chair exercises sponsored by Health Central take place at the senior center on Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 a.m.

Line dancing is held weekly on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The minimum donation is \$2.

Dominos, walking, social, TV and coffee are held on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Free belly-dancing exercise sessions are held on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Bingo is held every Sunday 3-6:30 p.m. and every Monday from 1-3:30 p.m.

Card games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seniors can work on crafts every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The group will meet at a restaurant for lunch first.

Chorus practice is held on Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Go to [westorangeseniors.yolasite.com](http://westorangeseniors.yolasite.com) or call 407-592-4498 for more information.

## Youth basketball league registration to begin

The Ocoee Parks and Recreation Department is inviting children in kindergarten through ninth grade to play recreational basketball. Open registration will be held Jan. 4-25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jim Beech Recreation Center.

The league focuses on development and sportsmanship. Interested participants are encouraged to register and complete a skills assessment at the Jim Beech Recreation Center, 1820 A.D. Mims Road.

All interested participants must register, perform a skills assessment and bring their birth certificate and proof of residency. The skills assessment will be held Jan. 25. Practices will begin Jan. 27. The first game will be played Feb. 8.

The program will include an eight-game schedule and tournament, referees, team uniforms, participation awards and T-shirts for the tournament champions. For Ocoee residents, the cost is \$65 for the first child and \$55 for the second. For non-residents, the cost is \$75 and \$70.

The city is also seeking volunteer parents and coaches. Anyone who is interested must attend a coaches meeting Jan. 23 at the Jim Beech Center at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 407-905-3180.

## Support group meets at Emeritus

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets monthly at Emeritus of Ocoee, 80 N. Clarke Road. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on the program, call 407-299-2710.

## Ocoee planning MLK Unity Parade Jan. 20

The city of Ocoee will host its 8th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Parade, "The Color of Freedom and Justice." The parade, presented by the City of Ocoee's Human Relations Diversity Board, will be held on Monday, Jan. 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. The parade route begins at Citrus Elementary School, 87 N. Clarke Road, and ends at the parking lot at the West Oaks Mall.

Organizations interested in participating in Ocoee's 8th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Parade can download a parade registration form at [www.ocoee.org](http://www.ocoee.org).

For more information, call 407-905-3100.

## Food Trucks and Movie in the Park

Start off the new year at the city of Ocoee's Food Trucks and Movie in the Park events. Guests can bring the family for dinner and watch a movie under the stars. Food is available from 6-9 p.m. These events are held the third Friday of each month at Bill Breeze Park, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive.

Jan. 17: *Despicable Me 2*, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 21: *Miracle*, 7 p.m.

March 21: *Monsters U*, 7:30 p.m.

Several food trucks will offer gourmet treats, including Yum Yum Cupcake Truck, Treehouse Truck, Twisted Cuban and Monsta Lobsta. Movies will show on a 20-foot by 12-foot outdoor screen.

For more information, call the Ocoee Parks and Recreation Department at 407-905-3180 or visit [www.ocoee.org](http://www.ocoee.org).

## 2014 calendars available

The 2014 Ocoee community calendar is available and features scenes around the city. It can be picked up at several city facilities, including City Hall, the Jim Beech Recreation Center and public works office.

Residents can also get their cameras focused and start snapping shots of Ocoee for the next calendar.

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**Goodies handed out in Tildenville**

Orange County Commissioner Scott Boyd (far right) and his team of volunteers delivered more than 180 pairs of new shoes to children living in the Tildenville area during his annual Holiday Gift Giveaway. Many community partners assisted to make the event possible, including the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orange County Public Schools, Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association, Junebug Foundation, HAPCO Mu-

sic Foundation, McKinnon Corporation, Vista Clinical Diagnostics, Infinity Landscape Management, Oakland Commissioner Joseph McMullen, Stoneybrook West Storage and Mail Boxes, Etc. Volunteers included OCPS School Board Member Pamela Gould, Jae Nale of Orange County, Florida, Communications, Sebrina Brown of the city of Winter Garden, Sharlene DeWitz of Just 1 Book and volunteer Kelly Johnsen.




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# Windermere



Students with Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance attended the Florida Dance Masters banquet, l-r: 1st row, Anna Lee, Gabriella Badua, Melina D'Argenio; 2nd row, Patricia Victor, Jacquelyn Pritz, Jenna Latham; 3rd row, Elizabeth Victor, Lauren Mogg; back row, Cammy Lake, Caroline Lee and Savannah Spears.



Jenna Latham performs.

## Dancers perform at Orlando convention

Dancers from Elizabeth Parsons School of Dance participated at the Florida Dance Masters Thanksgiving Convention in Orlando.

Jenna Latham placed as third runner-up in Jr. Miss Dance and received a ballet scholarship. Caroline Lee was a finalist in Jr. Miss Dance. Other competitors were Gabriella Badua, Lauren Mogg and Jacquelyn Pritz. Anna Lee, the reigning Rising Star for 2012, performed a special piece titled Thank You For the Music.

Other convention participants were Melina D'Argenio, Cammy Lake, Savannah Spears, Elizabeth Victor and Patricia Victor.

Florida Dance Masters advances the art of dance through quality education for teachers and students, promoting excellence in dance. Elizabeth Parsons has been a member of National Dance Masters since 1958 and FDM since 1987 and was awarded her 55-year pin at the Florida Dance Masters Banquet.

## Grehl receives Toastmasters award

Metrowest resident Gloria Grehl, DTM, recently received the 2013 Earl K. Wood Outstanding Toastmaster Award from a local Toastmasters International Club, Orlando Conquerors Toastmasters. The award was presented Dec. 16 at the Orlando Conquerors Toastmasters' awards banquet.

This award is given to the club member who has contributed excellent and dedicated service to the club above and beyond their regular responsibilities, served as a club officer and participated actively in club and district activities. The award was named after former Orange County Tax Collector Earl K. Wood, who was a member of the club for 56 years.

Grehl has served as club secretary and assistant vice president of education for the past year and has been active as an event facilitator for the Florida Toastmasters District 84, which is composed of 190 Toastmaster clubs in central and north Florida.

Orlando Conquerors Toastmasters Club 1066 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Doc's Streetside Grill, 1315 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations.



GLORIA GREHL

## Activities at the Windermere Library

• Snapshot Day — Wednesday, Jan. 22. Libraries are participating in Florida Library Snapshot Day by collecting statistics, comments and photos. Stop by any OCLS location and use computers, check out books, attend a program and visit with library staff. Snap a photo at the Library and tag it on social media #oclsnapshot14 or e-mail photos to oclsocialmedia@gmail.com.

• Mateo Blanco "The Voice" — Monday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m. Colombian singer Mateo Blanco has performed for celebrities such as Robert DeNiro and former President George H.W. Bush.

• Make Your Own Jams — Thursday, Jan. 16, 6 p.m. Virginia Hartley, owner of Ginger's Jams, Jellies and Such, will teach you how to cook the best jams in town. Get tips on making jams and jellies and try tasty samples. Call 407-835-7323 to register.



The children's choirs at First Baptist present a Christmas musical.

## Student choirs perform at First Baptist Windermere

The middle school PowerSurge choir and elementary prayZkids choir at First Baptist Church Windermere presented the musical Noelle, The First. Under the direction of Lynn Bowman and Mary Ann Vermillion, the students began working in August to learn the music, drama, dance and choreography for the presentation.

Noelle (played by Mimi Copeland) and Miss Gloria (Katie Vermillion) and their angel friends celebrated the long-awaited birth of Jesus before the world. It was a picture of the very first Christmas pageant.

The program was a collection of traditional Christmas songs, hymns and some new tunes. The middle school handbell choir played a rendition of Silent Night accompanied by Olivia Bowman on

the flute.

The PowerSurge choir, made up of students in fifth and sixth grades, rehearses each Sunday afternoon from 4-5:30 p.m. under the direction of Lynn Bowman. The children's choir rehearses each Wednesday with open enrollment beginning again on Jan. 8. The choir, for grades one through four, meets from 4-5:30 p.m. at the church's downtown campus, 300 Main St.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Vermillion at 407-654-3872. All choirs are open to the public.

Members of PowerSurge are Mimi Copeland, Rebecca Gatewood, Miguel Gil, Briana Quiroz, Julissa Quiroz, Tatiana Quiroz, Harrison Seays, Christine Sechrest, Abby Taggart, Rachel Toadvine and Emily Whitt.

Members of prayZkids

are Brooks Adams, Delaney Adams, Maria Bance, Grace Bennett, Kaitlyn Bonet, Joshua Brannon, Noah Brannon, Emma Grace Carter, Sophia Carter, Joshua Craichy, Sofia Dorta, Morgan Gustovich, Emily Hamilton, Jack Hamilton, Priscilla Hayden, Laura Hobbs, Lauren Jackson, Sarah Jackson;

And Janella Laaksonen, Azalea Marcum, Journey Mullin, Emily O'Brien, Presley Parrish, Nicole Phillips, Emma Grace Porth, Gabriella Porth, Rainer Porth, Jackson Queenan, Brody Riffe, Cambrie Riffe, Grayson Riffe, Leanna Saintfleur, Tonisha Saintfleur, Ashlyn Salvaggio, Ella Salvaggio, Joanna Meischafer, Bennett Seays, Annabelle Sharp, Ryan Stevenson, Lauren Toadvine, Natalia Valdes, Rachel Vance and Brianna Wall.

## Windermere offers farmers market

The Windermere Downtown Business Committee presents the Windermere Farmer's Market every Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market is located in Town Square at 614 Main Street.

To be a vendor, call Cheryl Fishel Event Management LLC at 407-625-3818 or email cherylfishel@cfl.rr.com. Space is limited.

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## Windermere Union to focus on black history

Black History Month is not only an annual national celebration but a continuous one at Windermere Union Church, United Church of Christ, 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Road, every February. The church will begin a series of sermons by the church pastor, the Rev. Barton Buchanan, focusing on great African-Americans in history.

Also, music for the services will follow the same theme with African-American spirituals and gospel music under the direction of Kevin Harris.

Several widely known African-American artists will perform, as well as the church's Praise Team.

The forebears of the United Church of Christ have long fought for equality for all. They were among the first mainline churches to take a

stand against slavery as early as 1700.

The community is invited to attend Sundays at 10 a.m. in February to celebrate the long and continuing road to equality. For more information, call 407-876-2112 or log onto [www.windermereunion.org](http://www.windermereunion.org).

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# Social

## Valencia presenting 3 in Motion concert

Valencia College's resident dance company, Valencia Dance Theatre, along with the Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet Program and professional modern company Yow Dance, will present 3 in Motion, a performance of modern dance on Valencia's East Campus on Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.

This is the 13th year that these three groups have collaborated to present a community dance concert.

Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for students,

alumni, faculty, staff and senior citizens. Tickets are \$6 for children 6 and under.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.valenciacollege.edu/arts](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/arts), at the box office or by phone, 407-582-2900.

If purchasing online, use the code "VALENCIAWEB" for a \$2 discount on each ticket. The discount is for online purchases only.

Valencia's Performing Arts Center is located at East Campus, 701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando.

## Go pole walking at Southwest Library

Walk your way to health with Nordic pole walking this Saturday, Jan. 4, at 1:30 p.m. at the Southwest Library. Registration is required. Attend an educational and hands-on demo and presentation to discover what pole walking is all about and why it is catching on in America. There will be a drawing for a hands-free walking waist pack.

The Southwest Library at Dr. Phillips located at 7255 Della Drive, Orlando. For more information and registration, call 407-835-7323 or email [southwest@ocls.info](mailto:southwest@ocls.info).



## Feeding the children

During the past 2 months, the Crossings, a Community Church, partnered with People of Faith Lutheran Church, Feeding Children Everywhere and West Orange High School to pack meals for starving children around the world. Students from these churches and

the community raised more than \$9,300, which translates to 37,000 meals packed in 2 hours in the WOHS cafeteria. Feeding Children Everywhere sends these protein-enriched meals to starving children around the world.



Sandy Shugart will perform with his band at the Garden Theatre.

## Valencia's Shugart to play benefit concert

Sandy Shugart, president of Valencia College, and his band will play a benefit concert on Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. at the Garden Theatre in Winter Garden.

Tickets are \$25 each (\$15 with a Valencia ID). Tickets can be purchased at [www.gardentheatre.org](http://www.gardentheatre.org). The proceeds from the concert will support the Garden Theater in its partnership with Valencia College's arts programs.

Shugart, who has served as Valencia's president since 2000, taught himself to play guitar at age 10 and later attended the University of North Carolina, where he played in coffeehouses and was influenced by musicians such as Livingston Taylor, the folk-singer brother of James Taylor.

Although he now leads one of the nation's largest two-year colleges, Shugart continues to make time for music. He has

performed in acoustic and folk-rock venues in California, Texas, the Midwest and Canada. In recent years, he has combined his musical life as a singer-songwriter with his speaking life as an academic, weaving songs and poems into his speeches.

His latest CD, *Distances We Keep*, was recently released on FlatFoot Records, a label operated by students in Valencia's Music and Sound Technology program. The disc features nine songs, most self-written, and several covers, including Jimmy Webb's pop ballad "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress."

Over the past 10 years,

Shugart has recorded three other CDs, which have been recorded and engineered by Valencia's FlatFoot Records.

Shugart, who calls his music "urban folk," plays acoustic guitar and sings. His band includes fiddler Jason Thomas, bass guitarist Dan Minkler and Stu Kinniburgh on mandolin.

## Audition for Garden Theatre's 'Hairspray'

The Garden Theatre has announced auditions for its self-produced spring musical, *Hairspray*, directed and choreographed by Rob Winn Anderson. Auditions will be held primarily at the theater at 160 W. Plant St. in Winter Garden.

This large production requires a minimum of six adult females, six adult males and 30 or more female and male teenagers (ages 14 and older). All performers will be asked to sing and dance during the audition.

Those auditioning should prepare 32 bars of an up-tempo song befitting the style and period of the show (early 1960s). No a cappella singing. Accompanist will be provided, and use of the piano is preferred. CD playback is acceptable. Participants should be prepared to dance in clothing they can move in. Dance shoes or tennis shoes must be worn; open-toed shoes cannot be worn.

The first round of auditions is Jan. 5-9, and round two will be held Feb. 3-8. Callbacks begin Feb. 6.

For more audition information, including what to prepare, visit [gardentheatre.org/auditions](http://gardentheatre.org/auditions).

*Hairspray* will run April 25 through May 25, with Friday

and Saturday evening performances, and matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday.

For tickets or additional information, contact the Garden Theatre Box Office at 407-877-4736.

## Set construction help wanted

The Garden Theatre is seeking volunteers to help with set

construction for *Hairspray*. Construction will take place weekday evenings later in January. Experience in painting, carpentry and set design is preferred but not required.

Workers should bring with them any carpentry and painting tools they might have. Schedules are flexible. Those interested should email their contact information to [emily@gardentheatre.org](mailto:emily@gardentheatre.org).

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## Tutors needed for Adult Literacy League

The Adult Literacy League has seen its waiting list grow to 107 residents seeking help with the English language and basic learning, triggering an immediate call for volunteers to help tutor adults and children. The ALL currently serves 1,400 students with 343 active tutors.

The Adult Literacy League provides adult literacy services through one-to-one tutoring and classes.

To become an Adult Literacy League tutor, email [zlynn@adultliteracyleague.org](mailto:zlynn@adultliteracyleague.org) or call 407-422-1540.

## Christian Service Center

The West Orange Christian Service Center in Ocoee is looking for volunteers to help during its after-school program on Wednesdays from 3-4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Karen at 407-719-9035.

## W.G. Heritage Foundation

The Winter Garden Heritage Foundation is looking for volunteers to donate their time each week to help keep things running at the foundation's History Center, Heritage Museum and Central Florida Railroad Museum.

To become a volunteer, call 407-656-3244 or go to [www.wghf.org](http://www.wghf.org).

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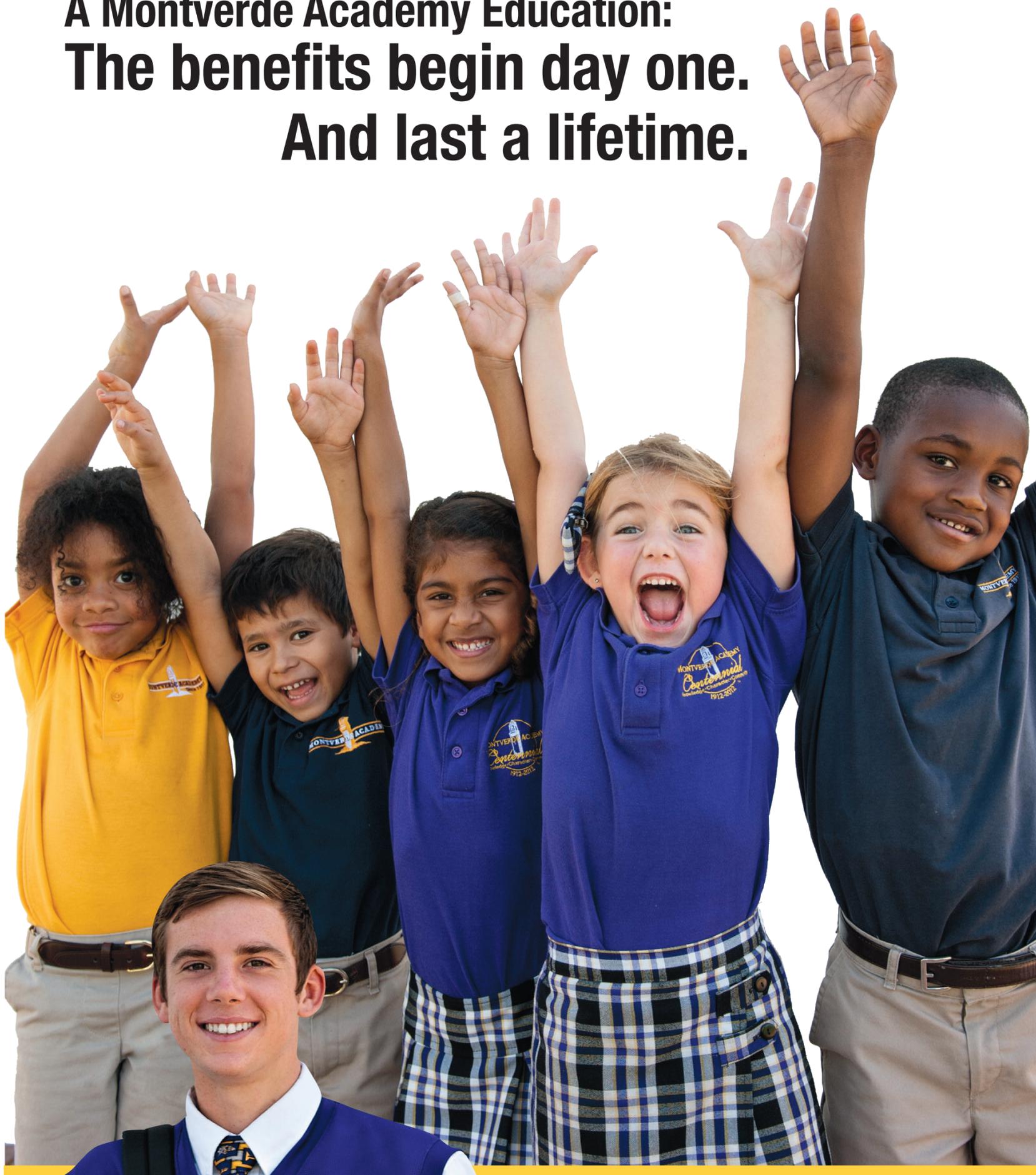
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Despite morning thunderstorms, Tiger Woods (center, white shirt) drew a large following during the Arnold Palmer Invitational Pro-Am at Bay Hill Club & Lodge in March. Woods eventually posted a 2-stroke victory over Justin Rose for his 8th career victory at the event.



The West Orange Wildcats Jr. Pee Wee football team made a memorable run to the 2013 Pop Warner Super Bowl held in December at Disney. The Wildcats won their Division II national quarterfinal against Colorado Springs before going up against the Virginia-based Norfolk Saints in the semifinals.



Cameron Lawrence of Windermere became the youngest champion in Trans Am Series history. Lawrence won the 2013 TA2 class in dominant fashion.



The West Orange High boys varsity soccer team battled Cypress Bay for the 2013 Florida High School Athletic Association Class 5A state championship. The Warriors won 19 consecutive matches before receiving the state runner-up trophy in Melbourne.



Olympia shortstop/pitcher and Florida State signee Nick Gordon was the Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year and the Jackie Robinson Award recipient as the Perfect Game Player of the Year.

## 2013: THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

Photos by Chris Mayer and courtesy of Kent Keoppel, Charlie Fee, Debbie Drennen, Alexandra Paparsenos and P1 Groupe Inc./John Thawley Motorsports Photography



More than 100 athletes from 30 countries visited the Isles of Lake Hancock community in September for the U21 World Water Ski Championships. The final day of competition featured partly sunny skies and a light breeze, as the United States clinched the team gold medal.



Ocoee High's Mark Drennen not only bowled a 300 game during the fall season, but the Knights senior also won an individual district title and placed 3rd in the boys' individual bracket at the FHSAA Finals.



The T-shirt said it all: West Orange High's varsity football team won on the road at Evans High in Week 10, securing the program's first state playoff berth since 1999. The Warriors finished the 2013 season with a 9-2 record under new coach Bob Head.

## Briefs

## All-Star football

The South outscored the North, 44-24, to win the 59th annual Florida Athletic Coaches Association All-Star Classic held last month at Firemen's Field in Sebring.

Dr. Phillips High senior defensive lineman Auggie Amone was on the roster for the North, which held a 10-7 lead in the first half before being outscored by 23 points the rest of the way.

Tampa Bay Tech's Tajee Fulwood received MVP honors for the South, while North Florida running back Jonathan Vickers was named the North MVP.

The 2014 Under Armour All-America High School Football Game is scheduled for 4 p.m. this Thursday, Jan. 2, at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. The Under Armour Game is now in its seventh year; tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com, by calling 1-800-745-3000 or at Ticketmaster outlets.

## Going bowling

Junior wide receiver Isiah Myers (Olympia) and redshirt sophomore linebacker Darryl Monroe (Dr. Phillips) were in uniform for Washington State University when the Cougars played Colorado State in the 2013 Gildan New Mexico Bowl.

The game was held Dec. 21 at Branch Field in Albuquerque, N. Mex., with Colorado State rallying late in the fourth quarter to win 48-45.

Myers caught a 22-yard touchdown pass from Connor Halliday with 9:35 remaining as Washington State built a 45-30 lead. Myers finished with three receptions for 45 yards.

Monroe made 13 tackles, including five solos, and had 1.5 tackles for loss for 3 yards.

## Girls weightlifting

The Ocoee High girls weightlifting team will bring a 4-4 overall record into a Jan. 8 sub-district meet hosted by Evans High. The Knights completed their December schedule with wins over Evans (48-40), Olympia (52-38) and West Orange (45-43) and a loss to Wekiva (54-32).

Against Olympia and West Orange, Knights senior Megan Moore topped the 110-pound weight class with a 225-pound total, highlighted by a career-best 120 pounds in the clean and jerk. Isabelle Howard took second in the 119-pound class with a 220-pound total and freshman Laniya White took second in the 129-pound division with a 220-pound total.

Senior Marisa Dukes (240-pound total) and Jasmine Brown (220-pound total) finished first and second, respectively, in the 139-pound class and Felcia Vertus and Savaughn Ray both finished with 250-pound totals to take first and second, respectively, in the 154-pound weight class. Cindy Pierre also won the 169-pound division, taking top honors by 40 pounds en route to a 240-pound total.

Against host Evans and Wekiva, Moore again dominated at 110 pounds with a 220-pound total and Dukes took first place at 139 with a 235-pound total.

Dr. Phillips ended December at 5-2-1 overall following wins over host West Orange (51-38) and Jones (47-42). Top lifters for the Panthers included Ketondra Cuyler (355-pound total lift), Keithlethia Cuyler (280 total), Alex Moise (230 total), Adjanie Benoit (225 total) and Briana Ballatt (190 total). DP is also preparing for the sub-district meet at Evans on Jan. 8.

The Super Metro Girls Weightlifting Championships are also slated for Wednesday, Jan. 15.

## Golf news

Winning Identity, which develops industry leading business solutions for golf professionals, will release the newest version of its software at the 2014 PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. A new Mobile Swing Analysis Application is part of the suite of programs that can seamlessly integrate videos from the driving range directly into a player's profile.

The 2014 PGA Merchandise Show will be held at the Orange County Convention Center on Jan. 22-24 with a Demo Day on Jan. 21.

## Times email

Readers interested in submitting items for consideration in *The West Orange Times* sports section can do so via email at sports@wotimes.com. Please include a name and contact number with any submission.

## Varsity Soccer

## Ocoee teams prepare for tourney play

Ocoee High's girls and boys varsity soccer teams will open the new calendar year with tournament appearances.

Head Coach Russell Borde's girls squad is headed to Hickory Point Park in Tavares for the Hickory Point Invitational. The tournament features eight teams divided into A (Gulf Breeze, Mount Dora, Ridge Community and University) and B (Ocoee, Rockledge, Boone and Eustis) pools, as well as a playoff round based on accumulated points in pool play.

Ocoee (7-5-2) kicks off its schedule at 2 p.m. this Thursday, Jan. 2, against Rockledge. The Knights then face Eustis at 8 a.m. Friday and Boone at 4 p.m. Friday.

Crossover playoff matches will be held Saturday, Jan. 4.

The Knights, who following the tournament will have one remaining regular-season match (vs. Cypress Creek on Jan. 10), concluded their Class 5A

District 4 schedule with a 7-3 loss to Olympia on Dec. 19. Ocoee finished 2-3-1 (7 points) in the seven-team standings.

For the third consecutive season, Ocoee High's boys program will host the Mid-Season Showcase. The Knights won the inaugural event, while Timber Creek returns to the field this year as the defending champion.

Head Coach Peter Moore's Knights finished the month of December at 3-9-1 overall and 1-3-1 in the Class 5A District 4 standings. Ocoee enters the Mid-Season Showcase coming off a 3-1 loss to Evans on Dec. 20, and the Knights finish their district schedule on Jan. 10 at Olympia.

Ocoee and Timber Creek square off in the first of nine matches that will make up the 2013 Mid-Season Showcase. Start time is 1 p.m. this Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Ocoee Athletic Complex.

The Knights will also face Cypress Creek at 1 p.m. Friday and Osceola at 1 p.m. Saturday, although games and times are subject to change.

Olympia (6-6-3) is scheduled to play Osceola (3:15 p.m. Thursday), Timber Creek (3:15 p.m. Friday) and Cypress Creek (3:15 p.m. Saturday) during the tournament. The Titans have been led in part offensively this season by senior Tyler Williams, while junior Jackson Mumford is among the top defenders.

Elsewhere, Olympia takes a 2-3-0 (6 points) district record into its 5A-4 finale against Ocoee on Jan. 10. The Titans also have Mount Dora (away Jan. 8) and Colonial (away Jan. 9) on next week's schedule.

Ocoee also returns home to play Edgewater on Jan. 7.

## Girls varsity roundup

Dr. Phillips has three regular-season

games remaining, starting with a trip to Boone on Jan. 7. The Panthers, who finished 2-3-1 in Class 5A District 4 after falling to Apopka on Dec. 17, wrapped up their December schedule with a 1-0 win over Trinity Prep.

Caitlyn Brown's through pass in the 60th minute found Shae Veveva, who sent a shot into the back of the Trinity Prep net for her 13th goal of the season. Goalkeeper Sarah Kollas turned away 12 shots, including a penalty kick to preserve her fourth shutout this season and Catherine Moffitt, Jamie Bolling Marissa Stockwell and Brown played well defensively as DP moved to 6-8-2 overall.

Windermere Prep enters the new calendar year with a 12-0-2 record that included a pair of draws against The Geneva School. The Lakers blanked Class 1A District 4 foe Circle

(See Soccer, 3B)

## Knights, Panthers part of Metro-Polk field

By Chris Mayer

Last season Ocoee High boys varsity basketball coach Rob Gordon watched from the stands within Boone High's Wayne Rickman Gymnasium, as teams competed during the Metro vs. Polk County Challenge.

Gordon will have a closer view from the bench this season since the Knights are part of the 12-team field for the 2014 event. Boone High will once again serve as the host school, helping to stage six games this Saturday, Jan. 4.

Ocoee was placed in the tournament's opening game at 11 a.m. against Ridge Community High. The Knights and Bolts also met in the championship game of the 2011 Rumble on the Ridge holiday tournament.

The Knights made it four straight wins – upping their overall record to 8-4 – last Thursday with a 72-37 win over Hilliard in the opening round of the 20th annual Hitchcock's Challenge. The 16-team tournament ended Monday in Alachua, but results were unavailable at press time.

Ocoee also improved to 3-2 in the Class 8A District 3 standings thanks to an impressive 73-55 win over Apopka on Dec. 20. In a game televised live on the Bright House Sports Network, Ocoee built a 31-4 lead on Grant Riller's dunk with 3:14 left in the second quarter.

The Knights held a 27-20 scoring edge in the third quarter to go ahead 61-30 and cruise to their second win over Apopka in 17 days.

The Metro vs. Polk County Challenge will also feature Dr. Phillips, which tips off against Auburndale at approximately 2 p.m. The Panthers (10-2) will have had some much needed rest after posting a 2-1 record at last month's Gus Gibbs DeLand Rotary Christmas Tournament.

DP finished in third place at the Gus Gibbs event after a 50-49 win over Westminster Academy on Dec. 23. The Panthers, who were playing without two injured starters, received 14 points off the bench from freshman Nick Smith and Ira Warren contributed 13 points, nine rebounds and two assists.

Freshman Chaundee Brown had eight points and four rebounds. Freshman Emare Hogan added seven assists and four steals – both



Photo by Chris Mayer

Windermere Prep junior guard Quinton Forrest (right) sets up the offense during the Slam 'N' Jam championship game against Jacksonville Potter's House Christian Academy on Dec. 21. The Lakers resume tournament play this Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Great Florida Shootout.

team highs – and Jonathan Laurent had six points, five rebounds, five assists and two blocks. Laurent also made the game-deciding free throw with five seconds left.

DP earned a 65-25 victory over New Smyrna Beach in the quarterfinals and dropped a 73-53 decision in the semifinals to Oviedo High.

The Panthers will also play their first home game of the season on Tuesday, Jan. 7, against Evans High.

Windermere Prep's boys varsity basketball team hosted a pair of holiday tournaments, starting with the Slam 'N' Jam event from Dec. 19-21.

The Lakers opened with wins over Downey Christian (111-45) and West Oaks (65-54) to reach the championship game against Jacksonville Potter's House Christian Academy.

Led by 6-10 sophomore Udoka Azubuike (28 points) and senior guard Malik Carter (22 points), Potter's House pulled away from WPS in the second half for an 81-75 win. The Lions outscored the Lakers 22-9 to start the fourth quarter – extending a 56-52

lead – before Windermere Prep countered with a 9-0 run to close within 78-70.

Windermere Prep was plagued in part by foul trouble – 6-11 senior center David Ndiaye fouled out with 4:34 remaining – in dropping to 8-3 overall. Parker Davis led the Lakers with 25 points and Quinton Forrest had 20 points before fouling out with 44 seconds left.

The Lakers also hosted their annual Rock Holiday Classic on Dec. 27-29, but results were unavailable at press time.

Windermere Prep's tournament schedule continues with an appearance at the Great Florida Shootout, Jan. 2-4, at Osceola High. The Lakers face Tampa Chamberlain in the first round at 4 p.m. this Thursday.

West Orange High's boys varsity basketball team will be part of this Saturday's 7th annual Dante Anderson Memorial Invitational at Gainesville Eastside. The Warriors will play Williston High in one of five games on tap.

West Orange spent time in Georgia for the 4th annual McDonald's Invitational

Tournament on Dec. 27-28, but results were unavailable at press time. The Warriors, who dropped to 2-7 overall with a 63-49 loss to visiting Boone on Dec. 20, also have a home make-up game this Friday, Jan. 3, against Apopka.

Olympia High traveled to the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex during the holiday for the KSA Events Holiday Basketball Tournament. The Titans were listed in the boys' eight-team Brown Bracket (Dec. 27-30), but results were unavailable at press time.

Head Coach Mark Griseck's team was 5-7 overall and 3-2 in Class 8A District 3 after a 67-48 setback to Evans on Dec. 20. The Titans also host Jones on Jan. 6.

Foundation Academy's boys varsity basketball team made a successful trip to the Amway Center in Orlando on Dec. 21. The Lions improved to 7-4 overall with a 54-51 win over Sarasota Christian as Jeff London scored 18 points and Troy Freyzer added 17 points.

Foundation opened play at the Hitchcock's Challenge



Ocoee and Dr. Phillips high schools hosted girls varsity basketball games

last week as part of the 6th annual Florida Prospects Christmas Invitational.

West Orange High earned its sixth win of the season last Thursday with an opening-round 55-33 triumph over Gateway in the Silver Division at Ocoee High. The host Knights dropped a 51-40 decision to West Boca Raton.

This season's Florida Prospects Christmas Invitational featured 48 girls teams playing within one of six divisions and at one of three different sites including Dr. Phillips and Jones High.

DP (Platinum Division) and Olympia (Bronze Division) were placed in different brackets at the Dr. Phillips site.

The tournament continued last Friday and concluded Saturday, but results were unavailable at press time. Check the Jan. 9 sports section for details.

last Thursday and fell 59-51 to Fort White, and results of the Lions' remaining games were unavailable at press time.

The Lions, who return home Jan. 6 to face ICS, also posted a 66-16 win over Class 2A District 4 opponent Halifax Academy on Dec. 20.

Legacy Charter's boys varsity basketball team played four games in as many days prior to Christmas.

The Eagles (5-5) scored a 56-48 home victory over Foundation Academy on Dec. 17 as Chris Vanegas and Dominic Monzon tossed in 15 points apiece.

Legacy then took the floor at the Amway Center in Orlando on Dec. 18 and defeated Cornerstone Charter, 48-24, behind Deontrey James' 14 points, six rebounds and three assists.

Trinity Prep handed Legacy a 59-40 defeat on Dec. 19, and on Dec. 20 the Eagles opened play at the Lake Mary Prep Rock Holiday Classic with a 53-50 loss to East Lake.

Legacy is home Jan. 7 to Circle Christian and visits The Villages on Jan. 8.

## Wrestlers gear up for January stretch

West Orange's varsity wrestling team will be in the field for the upcoming Viper Duals.

Space Coast High hosts the annual multi-team tournament Friday, Jan. 3, and Saturday, Jan. 4, with team awards for first and second place as well as a Most Outstanding Wrestler Award to the top individual.

The Warriors will also be on the road Wednesday, Jan. 8, for a dual match against Class 3A District 2 rival Olympia.

It marks Senior Night for Olympia, which competed in the Lyman High's Bill Scott Memorial Christmas Tournament as well as the Lakeland Invitational (results were unavailable at press

time) during the holidays.

West Orange managed a 6-2 record during last month's Bulldog Brawl Duals hosted by St. Cloud High. Orange Park topped the standings with an 8-0 record, the host school tied West Orange with six wins and Celebration was fourth at 5-3.

Olympia finished 12th (98 points) out of 32 teams at the Bill Scott Tournament.

Chris Elliott placed third at 126 pounds after a 9-2 decision over Trenton Swanson of Fort Myers Riverdale, and Titans teammate Todd Rylands secured fifth place at 113 pounds with a 5-4 decision over Riverdale's Dominick Rhodes. Nick Williams won the

seventh-place match at 170 pounds – 9-3 over Miami Palmetto's Avery Davis – and Alex Molina split his six tournament matches and came in eighth place at 145.

Dr. Phillips excelled in the upper weights en route to 15th place showing at the Bill Scott Memorial Tournament with 91.50 points.

Freshman Dylan Meeks came in second to Jacksonville University Christian's Trey Miller at 195 pounds, winning four of his five matches. (Meeks was the Class 1A state runner-up at 195 pounds while competing for Central Florida Christian Academy as an eighth-grader.)

Colby Meeks added a runner-up fin-

ish at Lyman High in the heavyweight bracket. The aforementioned junior also went 4-1 during the tournament and faced a University Christian wrestler (Jamal Fiffer) in the final.

Edison Munnings won five matches and finished fourth at 220 pounds, while David Hellinger placed eighth at 182.

Dr. Phillips was scheduled to compete at Osceola High's Knockout Christmas Classic last week, but results were unavailable at press time. The Panthers also have their House of Payne Duals on the radar Jan. 11.

Ocoee High returns to the mat this Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Edgewater for a dual match against the Eagles.



**10U West Orange Bobcats Cheerleaders**

The 10U West Orange Bobcats Cheerleaders took home a 1st- and 2nd-place trophy from the 2013 AAU National Cheerleading competition held at the University of Central Florida. The cheerleaders had a fantastic season supporting and cheering for the Bobcat football team. Squad members include (l-r): front row, Sahara Eichelberger, Allison Nasser and Gabby Schmelzle; middle row, Sarah Boudreaux, Kenzie Best, Kaitlyn Somers, Melanie Somers, Isabella Smedley, Makayla Blunt and Megan Wright; and back row, Miracle Johnson, Madelyn Boudreaux, Madison Muchnok, Emma Trabazo and Brooke Allen. Sign up for the 2014 West Orange Bobcats will take place this spring. Please visit [www.westorangebobcats.com](http://www.westorangebobcats.com) on the Internet for more information.



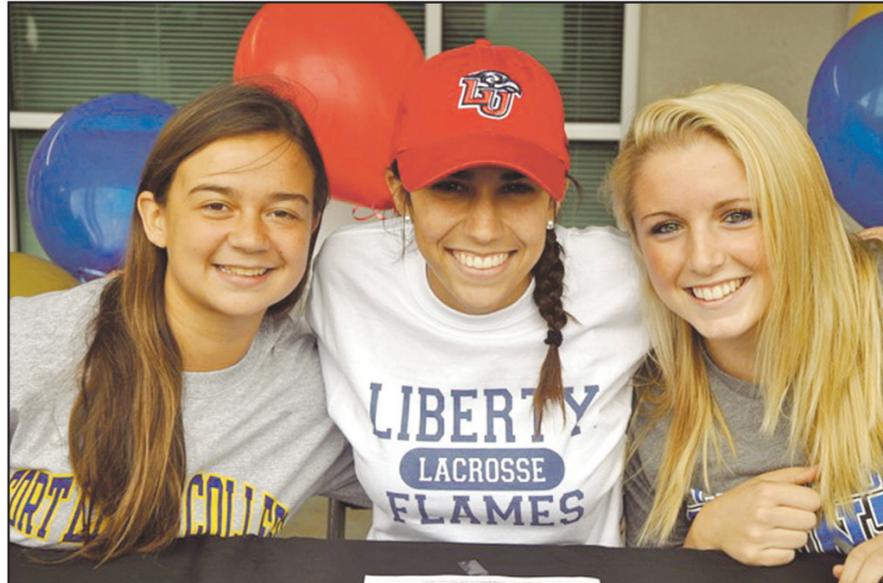
**Ocoee High Lacrosse**

The Ocoee High School boys lacrosse team competed in a fall ball tournament at the University of Central Florida. Hudson Lowe – pictured at left shielding a defender – and the Knights participated in the Developing Varsity division and posted victories over the West Orange Gorillas (7-4), South Tampa (8-3) and Team 99 (8-4). Ocoee reached the playoff round before falling to the Lake Mary Mohicans, 8-3, and the Boone Renegades by a score of 7-6. That left the Knights with a 4th-place overall finish in the tournament.



**Wilson World Pro-Am Golf Tournament**

Scottish PGA golf professional Kenny Nairn, who serves as chief operating officer and executive vice president for Celebration Golf Management, was the top finisher in the 2013 Wilson World Pro-Am Tournament held at picturesque Pebble Beach in California. The 72-hole team tournament was open to teams of three amateurs and one club pro, scoring 1 low gross and 1 low net on each hole. The professionals played a Stableford format as Nairn posted rounds of 16-19-17-18 for a 70 total, good for a 1st-place ranking in the professional division. The Celebration Golf team, which included (l-r) Rudy Aribas, Kenny Nairn, Willis Milner and Brent St James, finished 3rd in the gross division.



**Olympia High Girls Lacrosse**

A trio of senior leaders from the 2013 Olympia High girls lacrosse team inked a National Letter of Intent during the early signing period. (L-R) Francesca Malabad (Fort Lewis College), Lindsey McNamara (Liberty University) and Kristy Garrison (Limestone College) had played lacrosse together since the 6th and 7th grades. All 3 began playing for the Orange County Youth League and then continued on to Olympia High School where they were all 4-year varsity players under Head Coach Brooke Tobin. At the club level, Malabad played for the RC Elite Team and McNamara and Garrison for the Lax Maniax. Malabad received recognition to the All-District and All-Metro Teams and has been awarded Olympia High's Mighty Titan Award and Most Valuable Defender. Malabad also considered included Pfeiffer, Belmont Abbey and Florida Southern. McNamara, a 3-year starter at defense and midfield for the Titans who also considered Florida Southern and Stetson, used her athleticism and speed to post a team-high 54 goals and 61 points during her senior season. She also received First Team All- Metro and All- District recognition. Garrison, a hard-working attack player for Olympia, spent last summer playing for the Florida National Team during the US Lacrosse Women's National Tournament in Pennsylvania. Garrison also considered Rollins, Pfeiffer, Florida Southern, Goucher and Belmont Abbey.

**Soccer**

(Continued from 2B)

Christian, 6-0, on Dec. 12 behind Taylor Duran's three goals and one assist.

West Orange (12-2-0) finished 5-1-0 in the Class 5A District 4 girls standings with the lone loss coming in the waning seconds to Apopka, which will host the district tournament later this month. The Warriors completed their regular-season district schedule with a 9-0 win

over Wekiva on Dec. 18.

Olympia (8-7-0) followed closely behind West Orange in the district standings at 4-2-0. The Titans return from Christmas break to host East River on Senior Night Jan. 7.

**Boys roundup**

West Orange improved to 11-0-2 overall and 5-0-1 atop the Class 5A District 4 stand-

ings with a 7-1 win at Apopka on Dec. 20. Felipe Silva had three goals and one assist and Jonathan Barnes added two goals and three assists for the Warriors.

Dr. Phillips opens its January schedule on Monday at Timber Creek. The Panthers (6-3-4) are 2-1-2 in Class 5A District 4 with a home match remaining against Apopka on Jan. 10

**HOLIDAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS**

(All games, dates and times subject to change)

**Metro vs. Polk Boys Basketball Challenge**  
(Saturday, Jan. 4 at Boone High)

Ocoee vs. Ridge Community, 11 a.m.; Winter Park vs. Vanguard, 12:30 p.m.; Dr. Phillips vs. Auburndale, 2 p.m.; Evans vs. Haines City, 4 p.m.; Boone vs. Lake Gibson, 6 p.m.; Wekiva vs. Lake Wales, 8 p.m.

**The Great Florida Boys Shootout**  
(At Osceola High)  
**Thursday, Jan. 2**

Tampa Chamberlain vs. Windermere Prep, 4 p.m.; Winter Haven vs. Miami Pace, 5:30 p.m.; Gateway vs. South Miami, 7 p.m.; Rockledge vs. Osceola, 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 3**  
Consolation and championship semifinals  
**Saturday, Jan. 4**  
Seventh-, fifth, third- and first-place games

**Dante Anderson Memorial Invitational**  
(At Gainesville Eastside High)

**Saturday, Jan. 4**  
West Orange vs. Williston; Leesburg vs. Hawthorne; Miami Norland vs. The Rock School; St. Petersburg Lakewood vs. Gainesville; Miami Southridge vs. Eastside.

**Crown Jewel Boys Basketball Classic**  
(At Leesburg High)  
**Thursday, Dec. 19**  
Dr. Phillips 63, Leesburg 54

**Slam 'N' Jam Boys Basketball Tournament**  
(At Windermere Prep School)

**Thursday, Dec. 19**  
Windermere Prep 111, Downey Christian 45; West Oaks 77, Liberty Christian Prep 46; Jacksonville Potter's House 68, IMG Academy 25; Faith Christian 59, Tampa Bay Christian 54

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
Windermere Prep 65, West Oaks 52; Potter's House 62, Faith Christian 57 (OT); Liberty Christian 90, Downey Christian 53; Tampa Bay Christian 63, IMG Academy 26

**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
Championship: Potter's House 81, Windermere Prep 75; Third place: Faith Christian def. West Oaks; Fifth place: Tampa Bay Christian def. Liberty Christian; Seventh place: IMG Academy def. Downey Christian

**Gus Gibbs DeLand Rotary Boys Basketball Christmas Classic**  
(At DeLand High)

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
Quarterfinals: Dr. Phillips 65, New Smyrna Beach 25  
**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
Championship semifinals: Oviedo 73, Dr. Phillips 53  
**Monday, Dec. 23**  
Third place: Dr. Phillips 50, Westminster Christian 49

**Hitchcock's Boys Basketball Challenge**  
(At Santa Fe High)

**Thursday, Dec. 26**  
Ocoee 72, Hilliard 37; Fort

White 59, Foundation Academy 51; Suwanee 49, Bell 32; Williston 65, Gainesville Buchholz 57; Hawthorne 77, Cornerstone Academy 34; Lake Weir 63, Atlantic 62; Gainesville Eastside 55, Northwestern 53; Santa Fe 59, Osceola 51.

(Results of Dec. 27-28 and Dec. 30 games were unavailable at press time.)

**6th annual Florida Prospects Girls Christmas Tournament**  
**Thursday, Dec. 26**  
At Ocoee High

**Silver Division:** West Orange 55, Gateway 33; West Boca Raton 51, Ocoee 40; Orlando Christian Prep 46, Tampa Alonso 40; All-Saints' Academy advanced to championship semifinals.  
(Dec. 27-28 results unavailable at press time.)

**KSA Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament**  
At ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex

**Brown Bracket** (Dec. 27 first-round games): Olympia vs. Pisgah (N.C.) High; St. Cloud vs. Fairlawn (N.J.); Balfour Collegiate (Ontario, Canada) vs. Mingo Central (W.Va.); Hanover Park (N.J.) vs. Owen J. Roberts (Pa.)

(The tournament ran through Dec. 30, but results were unavailable at press time.)

**4th annual McDonald's Boys Invitational**  
(At Tift County High, Ga.)  
**Friday, Dec. 27**

**Pool 1:** Mill Creek (Ga.) vs. North Florida Educational Institute; West Orange High vs. Tift County High. (Dec. 27-28 results unavailable at press time.)

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# Schools

## Students selected for Sunshine State Scholars Program

Two students and an alternate student are selected to represent Orange County Public Schools in the Sunshine State Scholars Program. It is a mathematics/science recognition program for high school juniors throughout Florida.

The Sunshine State Scholars Recognition program honors students with outstanding mathematics and science grades. A goal of the program is to encourage these high-ranking students to attend Florida colleges and universities.

Miah Davis of Dr. Phillips High School was named an alternate. Davis would like to im-

part the lives of others through her study and application of virology to serve and protect humanity. She "wowed" the interview panelists with her solution for how as a principal she could increase interest in STEM-related courses at her school and with her passion for the field of virology.

The two district scholars are Matthew Shinner of Boone High and Daniela Castro of Winter Park High.

The scholars, their parents and one teacher of the scholar's choice will be invited to attend the 2013-14 Sunshine State Scholar program in February.



MIAH DAVIS

## Southwest Middle



Southwest Middle School has started a Girls on the Run team, thanks for parent volunteer Belinda Kaufman and teacher volunteer Amy Lawrence. The girls meet weekly and recently participated in the Lake Eola 5K. Girls on the team are, l-r, Aileen Reyes, Erin Connor, Gaby Gissy, Sydney Kaufman, Melanie Lamarche and Sophia Castellano.

## Palm Lake



Attending the Palm Lake Elementary School Mother Son Event last month were, l-r: front row, Andrew Cole, Jackson Bokash, Owen Robbins; back row, Candy Cole, Shelli Bokash and Kristin Casanas.

## Foundation Academy



Foundation Academy's elementary students performed a Christmas drama to celebrate Christ's birth, l-r: Josie Williams, Carlin Whitney, Ola Umeh, Mel Moreno and Sisley Geloso.



Foundation Academy congratulates its middle and high school Thespians who competed at districts and were awarded superior ratings in two categories. The winners were, l-r: back row, Emmanuel Abreu, Jonathan Nevius, Abby Johns, Chad Steiner, Cody Moore, Derick Murphy, Maddie Conover, Nick Mazini, Carolyn Conover and Clayton Grimm; front row, Brooke Siracusano, Jaclyn Grimm, Casey Kenoyer, Maddi DeStafano and Momo Earl.

## Tildenville



Students of Tildenville Elementary and Foundation Academy's middle school worked together to collect canned food last month. Students in both schools collected food items to be boxed up and passed out to families in need for the holidays. Among the students helping are, l-r, Marvia Reid, Margarita De La Cruz, Luciano Zapata, Parker Bellhouse and Victor Rivera.

## CFCA



Students in the 2nd grade at Central Florida Christian Academy enjoy Mrs. Stone's computer lab that was turned into a 'Winter Wonderland.' Getting in the holiday spirit are, l-r: front, Haily Long, Jeremiah Belleus, Noah Stoll, Liv Newton, Ruth Bernadin, Aubrey Horn, Siera Johnson; back, Christian Bour, Brenden Thomas, Eric Rudnitsky, Sebastian Rodriguez Zambrana, Jacob Faecher, Hannah Vann and Tunimise Afolabi.

## West Orange High



The West Orange High School JROTC Drill Team is off to an amazing start this year, even though it currently has more freshmen on the team than ever. Winning Overall School at the Bellevue High School Drill Competition can be attributed to the seniors and the tremendous amount of extra training they have provided to the new cadets. The cadets are, l-r, Amarylis Bennett (freshman), Jasmine Lawson (senior), Sophia Perez (freshman), Alexia Reyes (senior), Carla Leon (freshman), Kayla Semino (senior), Alexia Cardenas (freshman), Brianna Taylor (senior), Victoria Asselta (freshman) and Araceli Gonzalez (senior).

## Lakeview Middle



Lakeview Middle School congratulates the Lakeview Unified Sports teams that competed in the county playoffs on Dec. 8. Both 3-on-3 teams won 2nd place at the playoff, and both 5-on-5 teams won 1st place. All 4 teams will be moving on to compete in the regional playoffs on Jan. 11. Players are, l-r: front row, Shane Bacchus, Demarcus Brunson, Justin Jones, Andy Smith, Tyler Morgan, Ryan Austin and Brianna Schultz; back, Brian Brothers, Toby Smith, Naquan Reynolds, Christian Dominquez, Shawn Bradford, Joseph Thames, Jamarcus Brunson and Mickel Price.

## Retired educators plan to meet

The Orange County Retired Educators Association will meet Thursday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. at College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton St., Orlando. Mary Ellen Clark will present a program on adult-day care centers. Visit [ocrea-fl.org](http://ocrea-fl.org) or call 407-677-0446. Anyone who has worked in education is invited to join.

## Ocoee Middle

Ocoee Middle School is holding its first Get Fit Event! The Get Fit event will be held at OMS on Thursday, Jan. 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. This event is open to students, parents and community.

The goal is to have parents and students rotate through different stations to learn how to stay healthy with their child. Stations include: yoga, ballroom dancing, volleyball, football catch, dental health, healthy eating and nutrition.

The school hopes to have mini-prize draw-

ings along with a grand prize drawing for students who participate in all events and are asking if their Partners in Education would be able to help provide donations for this event. Some items they will need include soccer balls, footballs, volleyballs, jump ropes, pedometers, water bottles, exercise balls, stretch bands and, for the student grand prize, an iPod Nano with Nike Plus Chip or a gift card to Sports Authority, and for the faculty drawing, a \$25 Sports Authority gift card.

**Family Christian**



Mrs. Harm's 3rd-grade class at Family Christian School celebrated Thanksgiving by having a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving feast. In the middle of the table was a 'Thankful' tree, and the students wrote all the things in which they are grateful for this year and tied them to the tree. Seated at the table are, front to back: at left, Grace Horton, A.J. Javar, Jaz Napolitano, Jonas Putigna and Macy Ramsey; at right, Jack Caffey, Dawson Johns, Ben Spurlin, Lola Ackman and Mia Janney.

**WO Montessori**



West Orange Montessori School kindergarteners Sarah McDonnell, Maia Mansier and Maggie Johnson put their finishing touches on gifts for their parents this holiday season.

**SunRidge Middle**



SunRidge Middle School congratulates its boys volleyball team for being Cluster Champs and currently competing in the playoffs. Players are, l-r: back, Coach Miranda, Tanner Woods, Juan Santos, Diego Marcano, Doug Nikhazy, Chris Mercedes, Antwan King and Matthew Branham; front, Colton Satmary, Hector Marcano, Josh Velazquez, Seamus Magerl, Chad Taylor and Hunter Cole.

**West Orange High**



West Orange High School students Anisha Gupte, 10th grade, and Jacob Zimmerman, 9th grade, were honored authors at a recent book release party. More than 300 students submitted short stories to a writing contest sponsored by the Urban Think Foundation and pg. 15, non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting reading, writing, creative and culture-building programs in Orlando. Anisha and Jacob were among only 15 selected for publication in the anthology 'What Happened to Orlando? Tales of catastrophe and dystopia by Orlando high-schoolers.'

**Windy Ridge**



Windy Ridge School's middle school Drama Exploratory presented 'It's A Wonderful Life,' a play in 2 acts by James W. Rodgers and based upon the film by Frank Capra and the story by Phillip Van Doron Stern. This play was published by Dramatic Publishing and directed by Teresa Pancotto, Windy Ridge School middle school Drama and Elementary music teacher.

**Whispering Oak**



Whispering Oak Elementary School participated in collecting 365.6 pounds of candy for the non-profit organization Operation Gratitude Orlando 2013. This organization sends individual care packages to soldiers deployed in various combat zones throughout the world. The candy is used as a tool to foster community relations with local village children and is also given to them as a type of currency in exchange for information that frequently saves the lives of U.S. soldiers. Shown with their donated candy is Mrs. Anish's 2nd-grade class, l-r: front row, Nathan Cullen, Noah Larson, Alex Flores, Connor Tyler and Delilah Brueggeman; 2nd row, Dylan Hickey, Cristina Guardiola, Stephen Martinez and Frank Lin; 3rd row, Aidan Billdedeau, Mackenzie Hancock, Jolymar Lopez and Nathaniel Garcia; standing, Hanna Batts-Skipper, Ryan Saba, Sabna Baran, Alexandra Frame and Lena Albarran.

**Westbrooke**



Westbrooke Elementary students in Mrs. Johnson's 3rd-grade class celebrate Grinchmas.

**Ocoee High**

**OHS recognizes...**

Ocoee High School recognizes its December Persons of the Month for 2013.  
 Students of the Month: 9th-grader Akira Joseph, 11th-graders Chloe Newton and Taylor Atherton and 12th-graders Samario Mattachione and Nyasia Crandall.  
 Teachers of the Month: Shawn Knaub and

Tamika Don.  
 Administrator of the Month: Wessal Kenaio.  
 Support Person of the Month: Rose Mazza.  
 Cafeteria Person of the Month: Homero Franco de Leon.  
 Parent of the Month: Tammy Maston.  
 Business Partner of the Month: YMCA Roper Family Center.

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**Super Crossword**

**CANINE NOTABLES**

- |  |   |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b><br>1 Shackle<br>7 Sweeper, for short<br>10 Allegation<br>15 Steep, rugged cliff<br>19 Imprudent<br>20 Anger<br>21 Burly<br>22 Mister, in Munster<br>23 Canine "Midnight Rider" singer?<br>26 Have — in one's bonnet<br>27 Having the flu, e.g.<br>28 Prefix with sex or cycle<br>29 Opera feature<br>30 Making a gondola go<br>32 Canine "Highway to Heaven" co-star?<br>38 Zoo heavyweight<br>40 19th of 24 Greek letters<br>41 Cager Ming<br>42 Examines<br>43 Sponge up<br>45 See 44-Down<br>49 Davenport and divan | 51 Canine 2004 presidential hopeful?<br>57 Trio less one<br>58 Supermarket scanner<br>59 "Hulk" director<br>61 Grainy, as beer or ale<br>66 "Fear Factor" ainer<br>68 By way of<br>69 Hemingway or Tubb<br>72 Canine "Memoirs of a Geisha" novelist?<br>77 "American —" (Richard Gere film)<br>78 Legendary coach<br>79 Parseghian<br>79 Patriotic women's org.<br>80 Moisten, as a turkey<br>81 Same: Prefix<br>82 Heartaches<br>86 "Get him, Fido!"<br>88 Canine "On the Waterfront" Oscar winner?<br>97 "That's easy for you —!"<br>98 Auld lang — | 99 Pope after Adrian I<br>100 Weed killer brand<br>103 Backwoods negative input<br>105 No longer active: Abbr.<br>108 Averages<br>109 Canine 1995-2009 Pennsylvania congressman?<br>115 Port on Lake Erie<br>116 Disaster relief org.<br>117 Stew morsel<br>118 Gobbled up — (Richard Gere film)<br>122 Canine three-time Daytona 500 winner?<br>128 "Garfield" canine<br>129 Central Florida city<br>130 Ethane, e.g.<br>131 "No lie!"<br>132 D.C. ball club<br>133 Alpine warble<br>134 Lyrical poem<br>135 Twitches | 2 Carbon compound<br>3 Around 93-Down<br>4 Twitch<br>5 That, in León<br>6 Snip anew<br>7 Meredith, formerly of "Today"<br>8 Abbr. at JFK<br>9 Joker player<br>10 Sequence<br>11 Extreme folly<br>12 "Near — can tell ..."<br>13 DDE's nickname<br>14 "Skip to —" (kids' tune)<br>15 Ninth-century king called "the Bald"<br>16 Makes a new proposal<br>17 Response to "Am so!"<br>18 Rocker Allman and pitcher Olson<br>24 Muscle woe<br>25 Paid intro?<br>31 "I do" setting<br>33 Hip to<br>34 Popped top<br>35 Great anger<br>36 Simply must<br>37 Greeted the villain<br>38 Rule, in India | 39 "True Blood" ainer<br>44 With 45-Across, recuperation aid<br>46 Peter out<br>47 Toil<br>48 Shroud city<br>50 Less limited<br>52 Ladder part<br>53 Film prefix with Cop<br>54 Virtual greeting<br>55 Mtn. statistics<br>56 Zero out<br>60 To be, to Fifi<br>61 Biblical trio<br>62 Crop up<br>63 State's #2 exec.<br>64 E'en if<br>65 Brynner on Broadway<br>67 Irish county<br>70 BBQ meat bit<br>71 Tchr.'s union<br>73 Parks and Ponselle<br>74 Metal debris<br>75 Part of NE<br>76 Daily Chi-Town paper<br>83 Chimp kin<br>84 Qatari money<br>85 Ungodliness<br>87 Disney frame<br>89 Jocks | 90 Copied cattle<br>91 "I, Claudius" role<br>92 Contact lens cleaner brand<br>93 Middy<br>94 Show times<br>95 Hoop part<br>96 Belittle, in rap<br>100 Alternative<br>101 The Beach Boys "Help Me, —"<br>102 Semihard, mild cheese<br>104 — ball (game played with a plastic bat)<br>106 Unveil<br>107 After that<br>110 "But there is — in Mudville ..."<br>111 Actor George<br>112 Med. group<br>113 City in North Dakota<br>114 Refuge<br>119 Squad<br>120 Has it wrong<br>123 Prefix with tour or type<br>124 In thing<br>125 Family guy<br>126 Sci-fi ability<br>127 Old rival of United |
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### SHOWS LIKE A MODEL! LAKE ACCESS!

BEAUTY SURROUNDS YOU in this 4 bdrm. 3 ba. located in Oakland. This is a dream come true, this home shows like a model. Formal living and dining, family rm with electric fireplace, surround sound, kitchen complete with all high grade stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, beautiful wood cabinets, dry bar with wine cooler. Split bdrm plan, flooring throughout the home is ceramic tile and wood. Bonus rm located on 2nd floor with full bath could be used as another bdrm, perfect for guests, playroom or office. Large screened lanai with heated pool, pavers plus all patio furniture stays!!! Gated community with lake view and lake access to Johns lake... What more could you ask for??? Asking Only \$425,000



### WHAT A DEAL!!!

HONEY STOP THE CAR!!! Wow what a home!!! Located in Winter Garden is this immaculate 4 Bdrm. 3 Ba. formal living and dining, family room with brick wood burning fireplace, wood flooring, breakfast nook, kitchen with all appliances staying, split bedroom plan, inside laundry room with washer & dryer staying!!! Covered and screened 48x16 lanai. Side entry garage with driveway leading to garage and circular driveway. This home is situated on over 1/2 acre. No homeowners association, traditional sale!!! Only minutes from downtown W.G. 429,408 and turnpike. Asking only \$319,000.



### WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

BETTER TAKE A LOOK... Sought after Gated community in Ocoee! Motivated Seller! NOT A SHORT SALE OR BANK OWNED! MOVE IN READY! This home features 4 bdrms., 3 ba. with formal living and dining area, just remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, breakfast bar, island, pantry and breakfast nook over looking screened lanai with heated (solar) pool. All appliances stay! Freshly painted kitchen and family rm with built in entertainment center. Split bdrm plan, master bdrm adjoined by master bath with garden tub, separate shower, separate vanities. Just off kitchen is dry bar with plenty of storage. Conveniently located to shopping and all major highways. Asking only \$318,000...



### JUST LISTED 6 DAYS!!!

Just the place for you to call home, this home is on a corner lot with stately oak trees, walk to downtown Winter Garden, West Orange Trail or just relax in this beauty! 4 bdrms. 3 ba, living/great room with wood burning fireplace, dining area, eat-in kitchen with all kitchen appliances staying, window coverings staying. This home is a split bedroom plan with two master bedrooms, the newer master bedroom with space to spare and grace to match. Luxurious bath, garden bath with jets, separate shower, his/her vanities, his/her closets, beautiful flooring, it is more than you could ever ask for. Sliding glass doors from the living/great room leading to the screened lanai with tile flooring wood ceiling, ceiling fans, fenced yard. This is a great place for morning coffee or the evening just to relax and enjoy the shaded landscaped yard. Asking only \$217,000



### PUT THIS HOME ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!!!

WOW...IT SHOWS LIKE A MODEL!!! Don't pass this extremely nice 4 Bdrm, 2 Ba. formal living & dining, family rm, bonus rm, inside laundry, split bdrm plan, covered lanai, storage/workshop, privacy fenced back yard, 2 car garage and lush landscaping!!! This home has been remodeled with wood laminate flooring, master bath has separate his/her sinks, custom window coverings, decorator colors!!! Newer A/C replaced in 2011, 13 SEER, extended driveway, decorative concrete curbing for landscaping. Minutes away from shopping and extension of the West Orange Trail. This is a rare find!! Asking only \$189,000



### OAKLAND BEAUTY!!!

CUSTOM BUILT BRICK HOME IN OAKLAND... 3 bdrm. 2 ba. Great room, formal dining room, kitchen complete with appliances, breakfast nook, split bedroom plan, inside laundry. Great room has a gorgeous brick fireplace and french doors leading to a large covered screened lanai (35x15) perfect for family breakfast or dinner party. Kitchen comes complete with all appliances staying... Master bath features dual sinks, garden Jacuzzi tub, separate shower, walk-in closet... Oversized garage with plenty of storage... sit on your front porch and enjoy the quietness of the neighborhood. This home has so many features I can't list them all. Asking only \$369,000.



### JUST LISTED 2 DAYS!!!

Nothing to do here but move in!!! This is not a short sale or bank owned property... This is the original owner and it shows...3 bdrm. 2 ba. with living room, dining area, split bedroom plan, freshly painted inside, all kitchen appliances stay, all window coverings stay. Privacy fenced back yard with storage shed, 2 car garage. Walk to the West Orange Trail, minutes away from downtown Winter Garden, 429,408 and turnpike!!! Asking Only \$160,000.

## SELLING OR BUYING A BUSINESS?

For over 30 years we have been assisting buyers and sellers in the sale of their business. Check out our website for available businesses.



Brenda DeArmond  
352-242-0234



### FOR SALE BY OWNER/AGENT

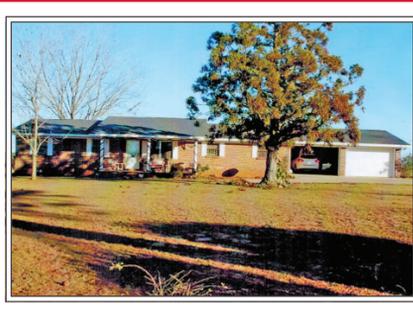
1694 Square Foot  
3BD/2BA house at  
13851 Amelia Pond Dr.  
Windermere, FL  
Summerport  
Asking 228,500.00  
Elementary school in neighborhood. Minutes from Fowler Groves Mall.

Call George Spigener @ 407-925-7098

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### ALABAMA - ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE

Operating ranch/farm 116 +/- acres. Brick 3/2 home approx 2,784 sq ft w/double garage, newer roof & a/c. Rolling pasture fenced and cross fenced leading to woods and 3/2 mobile home near a stream of water. Deer are seen often. Large sheds for equipment & hay storage. Out of area location. Call for info. \$398,000.



### CONDO GATED COMMUNITY

\$75,000 Ocoee 2 bedroom with all stainless steel kitchen appliances. Washer & dryer stay too. Close to SR 50 and 429. Ground floor unit.



### 2 STORY HOME WINTER GARDEN

4 Bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths with 1959 sq ft living area. Two masters. Beautiful tile in downstairs area. Asking \$215,000



### WEST ORLANDO CONDO \$94,000

Enjoy easy living in this single story condo. 1398 Sq ft living area plus 2 car garage. HOA covers all outside maintenance plus community pool and recreation facility.



### NEW ON MARKET 2 STORY \$269,900

Sought after Bella Vida subdivision. 4/2.5 2889 Sq ft home. Tile throughout common areas, granite countertops. 42" Cherry wood cabinets. His & her closets. See today!



### WINTER GARDEN BUNGALOW

Bungalow with Industrial-2 zoning great for office space use. Large side yard. Current use as residential. Asking \$126,900.

### COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE/LEASE

FOR SALE \*\*\* Owner Financing \*\*\*

- 1,000 Sq ft office space w/3 offices \$110,000
- 2,000 Sq ft office space w/6 offices \$215,000

For lease same as above from \$1,200 to \$2400 a month plus tax

## BREAKING NEWS!!

### MAIN STREET REALTY INTERNATIONAL IS NOW

## BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

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**Karen Jorgensen,**  
Realtor, GRI, CNHS, CRS

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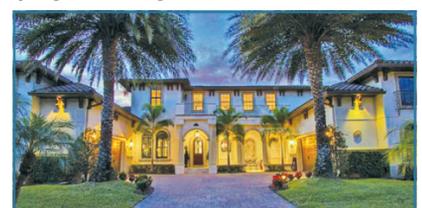
Homes4U@cfl.rr.com

*We're still located in downtown Windermere! Just look at some of the properties that we have to offer! If you're buying or selling, contact me!*



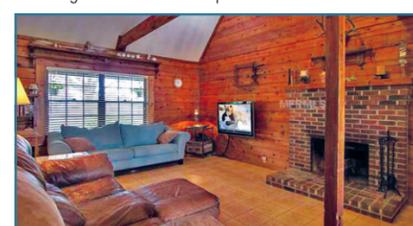
### 1550 LAKE WHITNEY DR, WINDERMERE \$1,890,000

This exclusive 5/6 Waterfront Estate with pool offers both luxury and location. The easy commute to downtown, hospitals and the International Airport allows more precious time spent at home in an environment designed for family, fun and Florida living. The integrity of Mediterranean architecture is evident in the extensive use of travertine, iron, arches and columns. Cherry floors and intricate craftsmanship exude a rich and stunning ambiance. 6450 sq.ft.



### 2423 BUTLER BAY N DR, WINDERMERE \$999,999

Designed to capture the true essence of the Florida lifestyle, offering 4/3 pool home with vaulted ceilings and 4,300 square feet. Lakefront with stunning lake views, sunrise, & updated boat dock power lift with jet skis for many years of water sports enjoyment.



### 9019 LAKE MABEL DR, ORLANDO \$619,000

This charming log house with 4/4 is in sharp contrast to new homes being constructed nearby. Built to last, with western red cedar walls and beams, it exudes character and warms the hearts of all who enter. Picturesque Lake Mabel is so private with over half left natural and untouched by development.



### 6319 MARINA DRIVE FULLY FURNISHED \$4200 A MONTH

Decorator furnished, amazing location in popular Bay Hill, a block from Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. Fully furnished! Newly renovated bathrooms and renovated kitchen has stainless steel appliances. Beautiful pool home with private back yard. Short term rentals negotiable.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Florida Realty,  
401 Main Street, Ste B, Windermere, FL 34786