

Celebrating more than 110 years in West Orange

VOLUME 86, NO. 2

FREE · JANUARY 10, 2019

## **Bobcats win national titles**

YOU. YOUR NEIGHBORS. YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

The West Orange Bobcats' 10U and 12U squads were crowned AAU national champions. PAGE 11.

## **Blooming business**



Front row, from left: Hugo Putigna, Ayantu Putigna, Jaime Landis, Ayana Putigna, Ella Putigna, Jonas Putigna; middle, Katelyn Landis, Taylor Landis, Maja Putigna and Magnus Putigna. Back row, from left: Flor Putigna, Niesa Putigna, Lize Landis and Gregg Landis.

Oakland's Farm 9 is cultivating fresh flowers from seeds and bulbs and becoming a popular booth at local farmers markets. **SEE PAGE 4** 

## Reckless driving charges dismissed

Prosecutors dismissed two reckless driving charges against a Winter Garden driver accused of killing two pedestrians.

GABBY BAQUERO NEW EDITOR

Although Tammer Magdy Mansour, 36, of Winter Garden, still faces charges of vehicular homicide, prosecutors dropped two charges of reckless driving following a deadly crash during the Ocoee Founders' Day Festival Nov. 2.

The crash, which occurred around 10:50 p.m., took the lives of Richard Gianazzo, 54, and Diana Marie Cole, 55. The two were found dead on Silver

**SEE VEHICULAR PAGE 4** 



Courtesy photo

Plastic bags are one of the biggest cause for recycling being rejected because they can clog recycle-sorting machines.

## Contamination sends recyclables to landfills

It's been a year since China imposed restrictions on imported recyclables, and those restrictions are impacting recycling in Orange County.

#### **ERIC GUTIERREZ**

STAFF WRITER

After the Chinese government imposed new restrictions last year on imported recyclables, the recycling industry around the world changed, and those impacts have been felt close to home. At one point, about 45% of the world's recyclable plastics were sent to China, but that changed when the country passed its National Sword policy in 2017 – which took effect in January 2018 – to help combat climate change.

#### **SEE RECYCLING PAGE 6**

#### **YOUR TOWN**

#### SENIORS: GET BILL ASISTANCE

Qualifying senior citizens can get a reduction of up to \$35 on their utility bill from the city of Winter Garden. To qualify, residents must be 65 years old or 62 and receiving Social Security benefits, they must have been a continuous Winter Garden resident for the past five years, and monthly household income must not exceed \$1,322.47 for single residents and \$1,848.85 for married.

Applications are available at the reception desk at Winter Garden City Hall, 300 W. Plant St. or by calling (407) 656-4111, Ext. 2297. The deadline to apply is May 1.

# **YOUR CALENDAR**

THURSDAY, JAN. 10 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

#### 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, in Building C, Room 204, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road. This support group is designed for parents of children and teens on the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Share challenges, ideas, concerns, success stories and fellowship. A trained facilitator from UCF CARD offers a brief topical lesson each month. Email care@st.lukes.org or call (407) 876-4991, Ext. 262, to register to attend.

#### WEST ORANGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the West Orange Country Club, 3300 West Orange Country Club Drive, Winter Garden. Topic is one of WORWF's goals: To organize for Orange County. Donations collected will go to both Edgewood Children's Ranch and Matthew's Hope. Lunch is \$20. RSVP to Rebecca Mellen at (407) 230-5968.

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 11 "IT'S IMPROVISED AT THE 129"

8 to 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Dragonfly Studio 129, 129 W. McKey St., Ocoee. The show is hosted by the improv comedy team, Four First Names (Richard Paul and Chris Barry). Tickets are \$10 at Eventbrite.com.

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 12 CARAVANING THE LAKE APOPKA WILDLIFE DRIVE

8:45 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 12, starting at Magnolia Park, 2929 S. Binion Road, Apopka. Experience the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive with a caravan of drivers. There is no entrance fee, but donations are encouraged with checks made payable to Friends of Lake Apopka and mailed to P.O. Box 770355, Winter Garden, FL 34777-0355. RSVP with the number of people in the group and daytime phone number to cupletfern@gmail. com.

#### SECRET MISSION: CODE NAME LIBRARY

2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Winter Garden Library, 805 E. Plant St. Your mission is to break into a rouge agent's lab and recover the plans before time runs out. Recommended for elementary-age students. (407) 835-7323.

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 13 GRIEFSHARE: LOSS OF A SPOUSE

2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, in the Building C Attic at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando. This one-time free program is open to anyone who is grieving the loss of a spouse no matter how long ago. Learn how to process your grief and face the future with hope. Register online at st.lukes.org/Grief-Sharespouse. Email care@st.lukes.org or call (407) 876-4991, Ext. 262, for more info.

#### MONDAY, JAN. 14 RAILROAD SOCIETY MEETING

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden. The Central Florida Railway Historical Society presents Phil Piet and "To Mount Lowe with Love." The program is free. (407) 656-0559.

#### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16 ONP PUBLIC MEETING

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in the Education Center classroom at the Oakland Nature Preserve, 747 Machete Trail, Oakland. The public meeting is being held to propose renovations to the ONP boardwalk. All are welcome. (407) 905-0054.

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 17 CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at Orlando Health — Health Central Hospital, 10000 W. Colonial Drive, Ocoee. Celebrate and network at the West Orange Chamber of Commerce's first event of the year with heavy hors d'oeuvres, complimentary beer and wine and door prizes. Cost is \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door for chamber members; and \$25 in advance and at the door for others. RSVP at wochamber.com.

#### LET'S CROCHET: BLOCK OF THE MONTH

6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Winter Garden Library, 805 E. Plant St. This class helps beginners build their crochet skills block by block. Create a unique square that can be enjoyed alone or joined together as a blanket. (407) 835-7323.

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 18 BIRDS OF A FEATHER GATHER TOGETHER

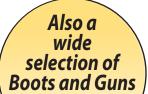
7 to 10 p.m. at Oakland Manor House, 620 N. Tubb St., Oakland. Representatives from the Orange Audubon Society will be discussing the annual Central Florida bird migration, and guests who take photos of the birds in their yard can have them identified. (407) 614-8219.

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 19 LEGO BLOCK PARTY

2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Winter Garden Library, 805 E. Plant St. Is there anything you can't build with LEGO? Join friends for lots of building fun. The library provides the LEGOs, participants provide the creativity. LEGO will be provided but cannot go home with guests. Recommended for lower and upper elementary. (407) 835-7323.

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 22 BOY SCOUT OPEN HOUSE FOR TEEN GIRLS

7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at Camp Ithiel, 2037 Hempel Ave., Gotha. Boy Scouts of America will hold an open house for girls ages 11-17 who are interested in the scouting program. Active scouts and adult leaders can answer questions, provide information and have applications for youth and adults wanting to join the program. Multiple troops for girls will have representatives present to help locate the best troop for each girl.





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Dr. Jeffery Redding is in high demand as a guest conductor and lecturer.

## 'We do it together'

#### Dr. Jeffery Redding, director of choral activities at West Orange High School, is one of 10 finalists for a Grammy Music Educator Award.

#### **AMY QUESINBERRY** COMMUNITY EDITOR

. Jeffery Redding has earned top accolades as an international choir director, national honor choir director and Teacher of the Year. And come Feb. 10, he could be adding a Grammy to his trophy shelf.

The director of choral activities at West Orange High School and the executive director of the Garden Choir is among the 10 finalists for the Grammy Music Educator Award, given to one teacher for his or her role in shaping students' lives through music.

The winner will be announced Feb. 7 and attend the Feb. 10 Recording Academy Grammy Awards program.

Redding was notified last spring he was among the 188 quarterfinalists out of a field of about 2,800 nominees. In September, he learned he and 24 other educators, including Michael Antmann, of Freedom High, were in the semifinals. Last month, Redding's name was included in the top 10.

For the last two years, Redding has been nominated and reached the quarterfinal round.

The GME Award is presented by the Recording Academy and the Grammy Museum and supported by the NAMM Foundation, the National Association for Music Education and the National Education Association. It was created to recognize current educators who have made a significant contribution to music education and demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.

On Feb. 6, the winner will be notified and flown to Los Angeles for the live announcement the following day and attendance to the 61st annual Grammy Awards. The nine remaining finalists receive \$1,000, and the schools of all 10 finalists receive matching grants. Redding still can't believe he has made it this far.

"I'm in shock," he said. "I'm honored. I'm humbled by it greatly. But also it gives the message a platform that we've done it at West Orange High School. It's more so about the people who supported me. It's more so about the students I've taught and the administrations that allowed me to do what I do. It gives a greater platform to say, 'Look what we've done.'"

Eager to shift the praise from himself to the students, the principals and the community, Redding is even quicker to credit his success to his mother, a single parent who raised four boys.

"I was that kid who was on food stamps ... on cheese, on powdered milk," he said. "She never made excuses. She was able to create an inspiring and healthy environment ... and never allowed us to be a victim ... and taught us to serve and give back. We were poor, but we were extremely rich.

"I was that kid that people said wouldn't be anything," he said. "So I'm driven to serve."

Redding takes West Orange singers on choir trips every year so they can grow their world.

"Unless you go outside your experiences, you're only going to know what you know," Redding said. "You cannot put a price tag on a life-changing experience."

Winning a Grammy certainly would qualify as a life-changing experience, but Redding remains humble.

"It wasn't about the Grammy," Redding said. "It was about serving the kids, and the Grammy was a result of it. I want to teach kids; that's where my heart is."

Redding directs all the choral programs at West Orange with his associate, Daryl Yasay, and has led his choirs in performances at state, regional, national and international conventions, including multiple first-place finishes. While participating in the International Music Festival in Verona, Italy, West Orange High earned the Gold

#### THE GRAMMYS

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers and all music professionals. The Grammy is music's only peer-recognized accolade and is the highest achievement.

Award for best choir and Redding was honored as top director.

He has been on the Warrior faculty since 1997, barring a few years to work on his doctoral degree and teach for one-and-one-half years of college in West Virginia.

"At West Orange High School, our vision is touching and changing lives through unity," Redding said.

He was asked to re-create this sensation in 2008, when the Garden Theatre was opening, so Redding began directing the community's Garden Choir. In the beginning, it had 20 members; today, there are 140.

What's important, he said, is that his Grammy nomination brings attention to the high-school program and the community.

"My heart is to serve; but we do it together," Redding said. "And we're not done."

Redding has been featured as a guest conductor at many prestigious venues, such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. He has given a TEDx Talk. In November and December, he serves as one of four conductors at Disney's Candlelight Processional at Epcot.

He holds a doctoral degree in choral conducting and music education and a master's degree in music education, both from the Florida State University, and a bachelor's degree in music education from Florida A&M University. He is a graduate of Jones High School.

The choral director holds memberships in numerous musical organizations and has served as chairman and co-chair of multiple musical programs.

## Preschool room named for longtime director

Patty Tate's name now graces the resource room at the First United Methodist Learning Center in Winter Garden.

**AMY QUESINBERRY** COMMUNITY EDITOR

A small room at the FUMC Learning Center preschool that once served as an office and the resource room has been dedihas been placed beside the door. It reads: "Patty Tate, Teacher Resource Room, TLC Director, 1992-2015."

The dedication coincided with the preschool's annual Christmas program. Tate wore her bright yellow preschool T-shirt from 1992 to mark the occasion. She reminisced about her days as director and becoming friends with parents through the years. She sat with parents who needed a listening ear and offered advice when asked, and she got

to interact with their children on a daily basis. She loved hearing the quick footsteps as the preschoolers found their classroom each morning and the conversations that took place when they were picked up in the afternoons.

"If the walls on this Resource Room could talk they would tell funny stories about a family of mice, a black snake under my desk ... or a feral cat," Tate said. "I will remember a place where a teacher could be inspired in planning her day, chat with me, check her mailbox, gather supplies, ... find a favorite book for story time, set up water tables, ... find ideas in resource books, get a

Band-Aid from the first-aid box for a boo-boo, ... get a piece of chocolate candy, share a funny story about a child with another teacher or look to a teacher friend for support on a bad day. I am imagining these happenings and more are still taking place every day in this Resource Room."

Tate praised the teachers and staff for loving the children and



cated to the first director, Patty Tate. She used the space as her office from 1992, when the preschool opened, until 2015, when she retired.

A ceremony was held Thursday, Dec. 13, to officially dedicate the space to Tate, and a plaque sharing God with them.

"I can guarantee the Holy Spirit is in that resource room, so call on Him when you need inspiration or an idea or a calm hand on vour shoulder," she said during the ceremony. "He was always there for me."

Amy Quesinberry Patty Tate spent 23 years as the first director of The Learning Center preschool.



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## Nothing but flowers

#### AMY QUESINBERRY COMMUNITY EDITOR

o drive down Hull Island Drive in Oakland is to witness a flurry of new construction in the west part of town. But beyond the tractors and dump trucks and mounds of dirt is a long, white fence surrounded by colorful flowering plants – a small hint of the rural landscape beyond.

Behind the fence are 13 acres of farm life — from the turkeys, goats and milking cow to the greenhouse, potting shed and rows of plants. Here, Flor and Niesa Putigna and their seven children reside in their farmhouse-style home.

It also is where Niesa Putigna operates Farm 9 with her business partner, Gregg Landis. Farm 9 is a cut-flower farm, and Putigna and Landis don't shy away from trying to grow anything from seed or bulb.

Last March, the Putignas came up with a plan for their surrounding acreage, and they gutted their yard, created rows of beds and installed irrigation. It took just a few months to go from concept to product.

"By the beginning of June, we had enough flowers up and growing to have flowers available at the Winter Garden Farmers Market," Niesa Putigna said. "It starts with the seed of love; just togetherness. ... We always want a place where the kids are welcome."

When deciding on a name, Putigna said they chose Farm 9 because of their family of nine. Niesa and Flor adopted two of their seven children from Ethiopia.

"It was all about our family," Putigna said. "Our family went through ups and downs, and at the end of the day we're like, 'We're

#### **FARM 9**

830 Hull Island Drive, Oakland PHONE: (407) 735-6277 WEBSITE: farmnine.com FACEBOOK: farm9 INSTAGRAM: farm9 CONTACT: Glandis@farmnine.com going to stick together, through thick and thin. No matter what? ... The name incorporates all of us."

Gregg Landis has been operating businesses since college and said he always had wanted to start a flower business. He joined the Putignas because he believed in their philosophy of impacting people through relationships.

"The flowers are a great way to love people," Putigna said. "It's a way to walk through life with people."

This flower farm has taken the dedication of both couples and their families. The children are learning valuable work ethics, said Lize Landis, Gregg's wife.

Everyone has been learning the business together as a family.

The two oldest sons operate the tractor, and the other children set up tables and meticulously start thousands of seeds. They bundle the flowers and add stickers for market days, and they take turns helping at the market vendor booth.

"They are seeing the people buying the flowers that they put together," Lize Landis said. "They had a hand in giving someone else joy."

The fields are completely organic, Putigna said.

"You can go out there and pick and go home and know that you aren't taking pesticides home with you," she said.

With its unpredictable seasons and sweltering summer heat, Florida isn't a popular location for thriving cut-flower businesses, but the partners are finding a way to grow their operation. They have spent the last year learning what can and can't grow here, and they continue to experiment with new flowers.

"People have asked for peonies, so I had my dad researching that," Putigna said. "I'm going to buy them up and see how they do. I want to see (which) roses do well here. ... We're going to start a new dahlia garden; we're going to have killer dahlias. We'll put them in the ground in February after we dig up all our tubers."

A rainbow of fresh flower vari-



"With flowers, you enjoy it for the moment, and then it dies and you move on. It creates an experience."

den and Windermere and at Lake Eola. Tildenville Marketplace will start selling the flowers at the end of the month.

Farmers market shoppers currently can buy freshly cut snapdragons, sunflowers, anemones, zinnias, Queen Anne's lace, pincushion flowers, kale for bouquets and a variety of bulb flowers, including tulips, gladiolas, ranunculus, paperwhites and amaryllis.

Farm 9 flowers are available in small and large arrangements and in bundles and vases. Wreaths were available during the holidays.

Putigna and Landis will be exhibitors at this weekend's 11th annual Orlando Home & Garden Show at the Orange County Convention Center.

The business owners said they hope eventually to expand into the wedding market. There are plans also to put together a book based on their experiences for others wanting to try their hand at flower farming.

Farm 9 is a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, as well as a community Troy Herring

classes hosted by Floret Flower Farm, too, to learn as much as she can about the cut-flower business and how to market her blooms.

Market days begin at 6 a.m. when the flowers are packed and then delivered to the Farm 9 vendor booth. When the market closes, the Putignas and Landises pack up their remaining product and return to the farm.

Putigna said she respects the farming world and farmers' ability to live in the season.

The Putignas were disappointed to see the properties cleared in front of their home and farm, but they are thrilled their north and south neighbors also are committed to keeping their land rural.

"We want to preserve; we have a lot of wetlands, and that is all Florida wildlife, and we want to keep the land for that," Putigna said. "We want to preserve the Florida land here."

As a bonus, Putigna has been collecting bundles of asters growing on the land being cleared.

Lize Landis said she loves the idea of giving flowers as gifts.

"We have so much stuff, and it just sits around in our house," she said. "With flowers, you enjoy it for the moment, and then it dies and you move on. It creates an experience.

"Flowers are there when you are born, and flowers are there when you die," Lize Landis said.

## Observer

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

> Friedrich Hayek "Road to Serfdom," 1944

Publisher / Matt Walsh, mwalsh@yourobserver.com Executive Editor / Michael Eng, meng@OrangeObserver.com Design Editor / Jessica Eng, jeng@OrangeObserver.com Community Editor / Amy Quesinberry, amyq@OrangeObserver.com News Editor / Gabby Baquero, gbaquero@OrangeObserver.com Sports Editor / Troy Herring, therring@OrangeObserver.com Black Tie Editor / Danielle Hendrix, dhendrix@OrangeObserver.com Staff Writer / Eric Gutierrez, egutierrez@OrangeObserver.com Advertising Executive Cvndi Gustafson. advertising@OrangeObserver.com

**Creative Services** 

Tony Trotti, ttrotti@OrangeObserver.com
Customer Service Representatives

Allison Brunelle, abrunelle@OrangeObserver.com Katie Rehm, krehm@orangeobserver.com

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eties is for sale each week at the of farmers called Growing for Marfarmers markets in Winter Gar- ket. Putigna participates in online

## Vehicular homicide charges remain

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Star Road due to traumatic head injuries.

According to a police report, witnesses of the crash said Mansour, who was driving a 2004 Lincoln Aviator, fled the scene without stopping and nearly ran over one of the deceased pedestrian victims during an attempt to flee.

"The Traffic Homicide Investigation team could not locate any visible skid, scuff, or yaw marks on the roadway to indicate (Mansour's) vehicle slowed or attempted to brake on the roadway prior to contact," court records state.

Mansour is facing two counts of vehicular homicide with a failure

to render aid. Court records show he was booked into Orange County Jail but released on a \$10,000 bail the following day.

Mansour has pleaded not guilty to the vehicular homicide charges, and the case is pending a court date.

In early December, Mansour was also charged with two counts of reckless driving for placing the lives of other pedestrians at mortal risk during his attempt to flee the scene that night.

He was arrested Dec. 7 by Winter Garden police but released again on bail. Prosecutors later dismissed the case Jan. 2 because of a lack of information, court records show. According to the affidavit for his arrest warrant, Mansour nearly struck several pedestrians in the parking lot of a shopping plaza located on the southwest corner of Bluford Avenue and West Silver Star Road.

The police report states Mansour's vehicle entered the plaza's parking lot at a high rate of speed without headlights on and "narrowly missed" pedestrians walking toward their parked vehicles. Two victims were forced to jump out of the direct path of Mansour's vehicle to avoid being struck, the report states.

After failing to find an escape route because of all the traffic blocking the immediate area, Mansour and his passenger exited the vehicle without saying a word to anyone and fled the scene on foot, the report states. When Mansour was later apprehended by Occee police, law enforcement conducted a field sobriety test, but no indication was given that Mansour was under the influence.

The results of a blood sample retrieved the night of the event and submitted into evidence identified no alcohol or drugs in Mansour's system, records show.

Court records also show that Mansour has a history of numerous traffic infractions and other criminal offenses, including domestic violence.

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## **Recycling struggle**

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The policy bans 24 types of imported scrap materials and imposes a 0.5% contamination standard for imported recycled plastics, according to NPR. org and wastedive.com.

That contamination standard on plastics has posed as a challenge to the recycling industry as a whole.

"(The) recycling industry standards have changed," said David Gregory, solid waste manager for Orange County Utilities. "We've seen an increase in the volume of recycling but also an increase in the amount of non-recyclable material. China's stricter contamination limits have challenged all curbside recycling programs, including Orange County's, to raise the quality of materials collected."

Although Winter Garden, Ocoee and Orange County still have recycling programs, some of those materials can end up in landfills because of contamination. And that has led to some confusion among residents — many of whom have expressed frustrations on social media.

"(Some residents) have heard that the recyclables are all going to the landfill," Ocoee Public Works Director Stephen Krug said. "That is not our intention. The goal is that we collect recyclables. ... The problem is (recyclables are) required (to have) a 0.5% contamination maximum. We're not getting that right now."

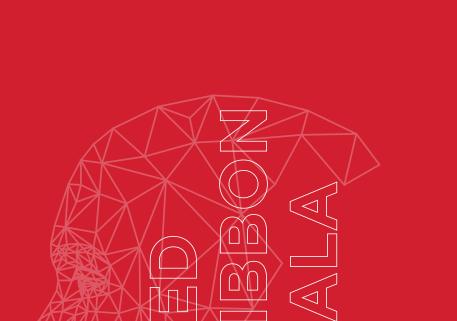
Krug added the contamination maximum is difficult to attain, and as a result, many loads of recyclable items have been ending up in landfills. Citing a county study conducted in summer 2018, Krug said Orange County has a high contamination rate for recycling. One of the biggest causes for contamination has been plastic bags. In some instances, residents sort their plastic, paper and metal recyclables and place them in garbage bags to keep them separated before placing these items into recycle containers. The problem is the garbage bag these recyclable materials are placed in is actually what causes those recyclables to end up in a landfill. Instead, residents should place recyclable materials in recycled containers by themselves without bagging them, Krug said.

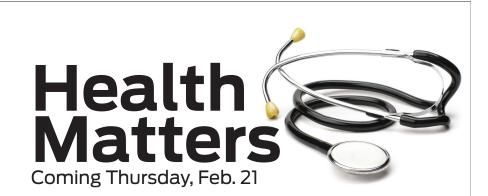
"When our guys are dumping loads ... they can watch the loads go into the hopper with a camera system," he said. "When they see garbage go in there – and some people are treating (recycling carts) like garbage cans – we know the load (of recyclables) will be rejected, so it goes right to the landfill. If we dump aload that has, say you've got 200 carts of recyclables, one cart of solid garbage ... once it's on the ground, if they see contamination, we won't take (it)."

Ocoee has a contract with the county for recycling services and pays \$47.50 per ton of recyclable materials, but the city didn't always have to pay for the service, Krug said.

"(Before), the only cost for recycling was the cost of the trucks and the drivers who collected it," Krug said. "Now we're actually charged a dump fee, because there is no market for recycling, and that's a global thing."

County officials recommend taking plastic bags — such as retail and food storage bags — to retailers as many retailers collect plastic bags for recycling. If a resident is unsure of whether an item is recyclable, county officials suggest the mantra, "When in doubt, throw it out," and dispose the item with non-recyclable waste.





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## Have a Christmas tree to recycle? **Drop it off at Matthew's Hope**

All the discarded trees will be transported to Eustis and recycled into canes for veterans.

**GABBY BAQUERO** NEWS EDITOR

It's always a sad sight to see all those used Christmas trees thrown out on curbs after the holiday season, but one man in Eustis is doing his part to give some trees a new purpose.

Since 2015, Eustis resident Oscar De Vere Morris has been using his carpentry skills to recycle the tree trunks of discarded Christmas trees into free artisanal canes for veterans. Last year, De Vere Morris, who's a U.S Navy veteran, made 500 personalized canes for veterans.

And this year, he is receiving a little more assistance from the West Orange community to continue his efforts to help veterans.

Matthew's Hope, a faith-based homeless outreach ministry, is using its Ninth Street Outreach Center at 740 Ninth St. as a dropoff location for anyone wishing to donate their Christmas trees. The organizations will be accepting

#### **TREE DROP-OFF**

Matthew's Hope Ninth Street Outreach Center at 740 Ninth St., Winter Garden WHEN: Donations accepted through Monday, Jan. 14

donated trees until Monday, Jan. 14, said Matthew's Hope Business Manager Sharlene Dewitz.

"The man in Eustis does this every year," Dewitz said. "He collects them, strips them of their branches and then he makes canes for veterans. And he does it for free. ... This is our first year doing this. ... It's a great cause, and it's important to work together with people in the community."

Matthew's Hope has received about 30 donated Christmas trees to date, Dewitz added.

Wayne Nichols, a firefighter who works for the city of Clermont, is the volunteer collecting and transporting the Christmas trees to Eustis. Before Matthew's Hope offered to serve as a dropoff site, Nichols was going doorto-door to collect the trees on his days off.

So far, Nichols has made three trips to Eustis since he started collecting nearly two weeks ago and estimates he has brought about 75 to 80 trees to De Vere Morris.

"My goal was to do as much as I could for someone who's doing far much more than I am," Nichols said. "I'm in the landscaping industry, so I have the means to haul a significant amount of trees compared to the average person. So I'm just doing whatever I can to get as many trees to him as possible."



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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.





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## Make a difference in 2019

It's 2019 and time to fill up your planner — or Google calendar — with upcoming events that are sure to make a difference in our communities.



**DANIELLE HENDRIX** BLACK TIE EDITOR

Is saying something along the lines of "new year, new social calendar" too cliché?

Over the next few months, there will be parties, fundraisers, galas, luncheons and awards ceremonies, and we invite you to come alongside us in supporting the many organizations behind them.

West Orange Chamber of **Commerce's Big Orange** Awards. One of the chamber's signature events, the Big Orange Awards dinner and ceremony honors public servants, business owners and those who make West Orange County a great place to live. The event takes place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at Disney's Contemporary Resort. The 2018 Small Business of the Year and Big Business of the Year awards will be presented then, and seven more award winners will be recognized for their achievements. The winners are Mike Bollhoefer, Chairman's Award; Dennis Foltz, Sam Hovsepian Award; Chris Garcia, Ambassador of the Year; GeeGee Burmeister, Mary VanDeventer "The Spirit of West Orange" Award; Heichel Plumbing, George Bailey Award; Teresa Jacobs, Bert Roper Award; and Lynn Walker Wright, Danniel J. Petro "The Bright Future of West Orange" Award. For tickets, visit wochamber.com.

**Garden Theatre's Encore Celebration.** Supporters of the Garden Theatre are in for a treat at this year's benefit gala, as legendary Broadway icon and Tony Award-dinner Chita Rivera is set to headline the annual Encore celebration. Mark your calendar for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, and reserve and share behind-the-scenes stories from her career. Tickets range from \$125 to \$325. A limited number of VIP tickets start at \$200 and include premium seating, as well as admission to a post-show party with Rivera. For tickets and more information, visit gardentheatre.org.

UCP's Annual Evening at the Palace. Spend the evening with Cheryl Hines, Rachael Harris, RJ Mitte and Dan Aykroyd as you support UCP of Central Florida's mission to make miracles for children with disabilities. This year's special evening takes place from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace at Disney Springs. Honorees include Jackie Bailes Legacy Award winner Don Asher and Jack Holloway Star of Gratitude winners Richard and Michelle Lillard. For tickets, visit ucpcfl.org/event/ucps-annualevening-at-the-palace-gala.

**Orlando Cattle Baron's Ball.** The wild, wild west comes to Orlando each year with the American Cancer Society's Cattle Baron's Ball. This year's event will be slightly more special, though, because it marks the 20th anniversary of the western-themed fundraising festivities. Put on your boots, jeans and flannel shirts and join the other cowboys and cowgirls from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Rosen Shingle Creek. For more, visit facebook.com/ orlandocattlebaronsball.

HAPCO Wine and Dine for the Arts. Lack of funding for arts and music programs in schools has been a battle students and educators have faced in recent years, but the HAPCO Music Foundation is a ray of hope for local programs. HAPCO hosts and funds programs that help youth use and hone their talents, encouraging them to follow their passion. Grab a ticket and join HAPCO supporters in wining and dining for the arts from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Oakland Town Center. Tickets cost \$75 after Jan. 12 and can be pur-

CenturyLink participa en un programa de beneficios gubernamentales (Lifeline) para hacer que el servicio telefónico residencial o el servicio de banda ancha sea más económico para los individuos y familias de bajos recursos que cumplan con los requisitos. Los clientes aptos para este programa son aquellos que cumplen con los estándares de elegibilidad conforme lo definido por la FCC y las comisiones estatales. Los residentes que viven en tierras tribales reconocidas federalmente pueden calificar para obtener beneficios adicionales si participan en ciertos programas federales adicionales de elegibilidad. El descuento Lifeline está disponible únicamente para un teléfono o servicio de banda ancha por hogar que califique, y dicho servicio puede ser alámbrico o inalámbrico. Las velocidades de banda ancha deben ser de 18 Mbps de descarga y de 2 Mbps de subida o más rápidas para calificar.

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Si usted vive en un área de servicio CenturyLink, por favor llame al 1-855-954-6546 o visite centurylink.com/lifeline si tiene alguna pregunta o para pedir una solicitud para el programa Lifeline.



chased at bit.ly/2VzddSz.



## Supporting a safe haven

Keene's Pointe resident Warren Kenner is chairman of the board at Great Oaks Village, Orange County's safe haven for children who have been removed from dangerous situations.

#### **DANIELLE HENDRIX BLACK TIE EDITOR**

Warren Kenner has heard the stories and seen pain in children's eyes

when they talk about the home life from which they came. But he's also seen their smiles during community-service proj-

ects and heard their laughter while playing carefree, knowing they are safe and in good hands.

The Keene's Pointe resident serves as chairman of Great Oaks Village, a safe haven for children ages 6 to 18 - and a bit older, in some cases - who have been removed from their homes by the state because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The residential foster group home provides care and also aims to give these children a sense of normalcy.

Kenner has been involved with Great Oaks Village since 2007. His passion for working with children and youth began when he started a program in the Orange County Correctional Facility, where he was working with juveniles being tried as adults.

"I ran a class weekly out of the facility for over eight years, and then Orange County went federal with the jail, but when they did that, the volunteer programs were eliminated," he said. "I more or less had an overwhelming desire to help and didn't have the outlet to do so. A friend had mentioned Great Oaks Village to me, and I knew nothing about it. I looked into it and realized they had a civilian board that oversees any and all funds that



Courtesy photo Each year, Keene's Pointe resident

and Great Oaks Village board chairman Warren Kenner helps kick off the village's Christmas fundraising campaign.

#### come there. I applied for the board and was nominated and became a member."

Now serving as chairman of the board, Kenner and his fellow board members are stewards of all funds given to the village. The staff will write a justification or funding request, which the board then will consider. It's a system that ensures funds are being spent wisely and in the children's best interests.

"These kids are completely innocent," Kenner said. "They've done nothing but have been put in a very precarious situation. It's not a JDC (juvenile detention center), and they're not there based on

#### **ABOUT THE VILLAGE**

Great Oaks Village is a residential foster group home for children ages 6 to 18 and older who have been removed from their homes by the state because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. For more information on the village, youth shelter, community intervention or family counseling, or to arrange donations or mentoring services, visit bit.ly/2VASygF or call (407) 836-8938.

their actions - they're there based on someone else's actions. ... They go there with more emotional baggage than I could ever handle, but when you get there, you see they're just kids, just like any other kids. It's not the money or things – they simply want and crave the attention. They want to be loved. ... The irony of these kids is that they love to volunteer and give back. They have nothing, yet they want to give back."

The village's biggest fundraiser kicks off with its Christmas campaign each year in November, and it partners with United Way to raise funds donated by county staff. It's one of Kenner's favorite things about serving on the board - and about living in Orange County.

"Orange County employees road crews, corrections, even the  $may or-they\,all\,give\,to\,Great\,Oaks$ Village," he said. "The money has never dipped, what they're able to fundraise. It rises every year, and that makes me beyond proud to be here, knowing these are the workers around Orange County raising the money and doing these things."

In December, Kenner put out a call for toys and donations for the children at the village and offered to pick them up himself. The request spread quickly and the response was so impressive, he said, that he was able to fill two cargo vans full of toys. Even though Christmas is over, Kenner is still more than willing to pick up donations of new and gently used toys and donations for the children at the village.

Other ways to help include oneon-one mentoring, offering trade services such as hairstyling or nail art for village residents, donations of toys and stuffed animals and monetary donations.

"When you're able to impact a child's life and have a child who comes back and thanks you ... that's what keeps me going," Kenner said. "For the past few years, it's just been phenomenal. (We have) great leadership, kids are getting top-notch care, and we're doing interventions to help these kids."

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#### **BARBARA A. ANDERSON** DIED THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 2019.

Barbara Ann Anderson, 86, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019. She was born Barbara Ann Curington on Nov. 21, 1932, in Bushnell, Florida, to Dennis and Nora Curington.

She was the first born of three children; her siblings are Floyd Curington, of Merritt Island, Florida; and Virginia "Ginger" Sapp (deceased).

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Barbara was married to Robert D. "Bob" Anderson on Jan. 11, 1951, and celebrated almost 68 years of a strong and loving life together. This beautiful family grew to include four children: Carol Gray and husband, Morgan (deceased), of Orlando, Florida; Kay Roseman and husband, David, of Cottondale, Florida; Paula Ravetto and husband, David, of Ocoee, Florida; and Rick Anderson and wife, Belinda, of Middleburg, Florida. She was a beloved grandmother to her grandchildren, Lena Combs, Valerie Wilson, Joshua Gray, Matthew Roseman, Dominick Ravetto and Taylor Anderson; as well as

her great-grandchildren, Airen Combs, Kelsey Blanton, Morgan Combs and Charlotte Gray.

Barbara graduated from Ocala High School, then raised four children and worked for more than 20 years with Florida Telephone (which became Sprint) in Winter Garden and Apopka in the Public Relations department in a secretarial capacity.

Throughout their life together, Bob and Barbara explored 48 states and Canada in their motorhome and also traveled to Hawaii and Alaska. Their love of travel took them to various countries in Europe as well, and after retirement, they served in several volunteer campground host positions in North Carolina and

#### Montana.

In addition to travel, Barbara loved reading, music, square dancing, movies, volunteerism, time with family and friends, and adventure. Her adventurous and fun-loving spirit led her to doing things such as riding roller coasters with her grandchildren, hotair ballooning, glider-plane riding, snorkeling, tubing, cruising and skiing, among many others.

Barbara and Bob became a part of the Waterman Village family in 2014 and enjoyed making new friends and having new adventures. Barbara was a true Southern lady with only kind and loving words to everyone. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Chapel at Waterman Village, 445 Waterman Ave., Mount Dora, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorial offerings can be made to Hospice of the Comforter.

The Allen J. Harden Funeral Home, 1800 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora, Florida, has been entrusted with arrangements.

Red Sox, Patriots or Bruins game. George is survived by his daugh-

ters, Sara Fisher (Bo), of Winter Park, Florida, and Lauren Wilkinson, of College Park, Florida; former wife, Susan Millikan, of Orlando, Florida; grandchildren, Tripp and Henry Fisher; brother, Geoffrey Wilkinson Sr. (Nancy), of Duxbury, Massachusetts; and sister, Margaret Jacobs (Howard), of Quincy, Massachusetts.

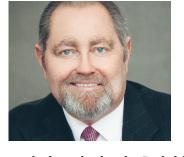
He was predeceased by his parents and sister, Ellen Holly Vulliet (Robert).

**GEORGE T. WILKINSON JR.** DIED WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2, 2019.

George T. Wilkinson Jr., 63, of Windermere, Florida, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, at Cornerstone Hospice.

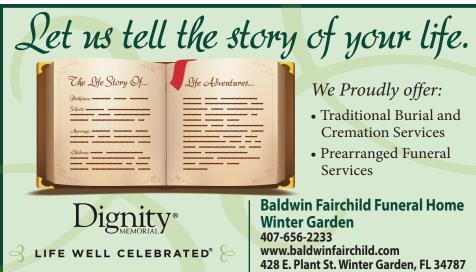
George was born to George and Margaret Wilkinson on July 2, 1955, in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

After more than 25 years in the food and beverage industry, George started his real-estate career where most recently he



worked as a broker for Berkshire Hathaway.

A longtime lover of sports, George could be found enjoying a



#### ROBERT LOUIS "BOB" WASSON DIED FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 2018.

Robert Louis "Bob" Wasson entered into eternal life on Friday, Oct. 19, 2018, at the age of 96. Bob was a loving husband, a caring father/grandfather and a man to be looked up to by his wealth of family and friends.

Friends and folks Bob would love to have met can visit with the Wasson family in the Community Center at Hyde Park, where Bob and Jean spent their retirement years.

The Celebration of Life will be held beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in the Hyde Park Community Center, 14253 W.



Colonial Drive, Winter Garden, Florida 34787.

Bob will be laid to rest in West Linn Cemetery (Linden, Iowa) with many of the Wasson decedents. Information regarding the burial service will be shared at the memorial service.

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## SPORTS

Bryce Street is helping lead the CFCA Eagles on the hardwood. **Page 12.** 





## Mental muscle



CFCA's Bryce Street had a big game in the Eagles' 69-51 win over Bishop Kenny in the Providence Holiday Tournament Friday, Dec. 21, as he racked up 19 points. Ant Washington added another 16 points, as well.

Despite a close 61-58 loss at the hands of Apopka in boys basketball action Friday, Jan. 4, CFCA's Jordan Preaster scored a gamehigh 26 points for the Eagles.

The West Orange boys soccer team picked up a big 1-0 win over Dr. Phillips just before the holiday break Wednesday, Dec. 19, thanks in part to a lone goal scored by Carlos Gomez — with an assist by Matthew McDoom.



Maia Slowinski is dominating on the fencing strip at the national level while showing off her strength on the weightlifting team at Ocoee.

#### Ocoee weightlifter Maia Slowinski uses her time in the weight room to hone her skills on the fencing strip.

#### **TROY HERRING** SPORTS EDITOR

s an Ocoee High Knight, sophomore Maia Slowinski displays her strength – both physically and mentally – as a member of the weightlifting team. The 15-yearold competes in the 154-pound weight class and participates in the two big events (bench, clean and jerk) for the Knights. And in sharpen her skills in her true passion: fencing.

Although she had never done much lifting before, Slowinski was surprised at how much she enjoyed hitting the weight room with her new friends to train.

"It's very mental — fencing is also a very mental sport, but it also kind of helps with weightlifting too for getting your head in the game and getting ready," Troy Herring

Over the holiday break, at the Florida Prospects Christmas Invitational, Ocoee's Kaliyah Reed led the Knights with a strong showing as she picked up 13 points and nine steals in a 46-30 loss to Lake Nona Saturday, Dec. 29.

**5** In a dominating 85-69 win for the West Orange boys basketball team over Downey Christian Saturday, Dec. 22, Jamarcus Clark and Michael McCallister both had high-scoring nights. The pair combined for 44 of the Warriors' points (22 each). her second year, she has notched personal bests of 125 pounds in the bench and 120 pounds in the clean and jerk.

But her work in the weight room also serves another purpose - to

Slowinski said.

#### NATIONAL STAGE

Slowinski's routine remains the same, no matter where she goes.

SEE EN-GARDE! PAGE 12





### West Orange Bobcats win national titles

The Bobcats' 10U and 12U team both brought home the top prize after hard-fought tournaments.

#### TROY HERRING SPORTS EDITOR

When the 10U West Orange Bobcats took the field Sunday, Dec. 9, the Waco Southern Panthers were standing in their way.

While the Bobcats had simply

driven across Orlando to get to the site of the championship at Bishop Moore, the Panthers had come all the way from Texas in hopes of taking home a title.

But that moment never

#### **SEE PAGE 13**

## **Bryce Street**

Bryce Street is a first-year captain for the Central Florida Christian Academy's boys basketball team. With a father who coached the sport, Street grew up on the court. Street also excels in the classroom and has been awarded the Distinguished Christian Award.

#### How did you get your start in basketball?

**ORTS** 

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My dad coached (basketball), and I've been around it – his coaching practices - and I just picked up from there watching his players and everything. I grew up on the court.

#### What has the season been like for you so far?

It's been good. A lot of lessons, a lot of opportunities with the new leadership role (of captain).

What's something about your game that you need to improve? Probably my athleticism a

#### little bit – quickness, jumping vertical, stuff like that.

#### What's your favorite thing about playing basketball? Just the feeling of it.... I feel

like this is something I can really take control of, because I feel like I just know a lot about (the sport). I like the connections with the teammates and everything too.

#### Do you have a favorite team or player?

My favorite players will probably be Stephen Curry and Kyrie Irving. I just like players, (not teams).

> Is there a player you aspire to be like?

> > I used to, but now I'm just trying to be myself – really - and just work on my game and take stuff from current NBA players and former NBA players and mix it with

my (game) to

**AGE:** 18 YEAR: Senior

THE BASICS

HEIGHT: 6-foot-1 **POSITION:** Guard HOMETOWN: Plainfield, New Jersey

see if it works. I'm not trying to be too much like other people, because I (have) to work on my skills.

#### Tell us about the best basketball advice you've received. Just work hard and use it as a tool. I could just use (basket ball) to go to college or I could use it to play professionally hopefully – and use it to open doors and use it as a way to get

#### What's your favorite basketball memory?

out.

Winning the regional finals last year. That was a good one.

#### Do you have any post-game traditions?

I really just go home and me and my family just sit around the dinner table and talk about (the game). That's what we do after every game.

#### What are your favorite subjects in school?

Probably history and government. (I also like) anatomy that's pretty interesting – and Bible class.

#### What do you want to study in college?

Either sports management - or something in the sports field - or business/entrepreneurship.

#### What's your New Year's

resolution? Keep up good habits and try to cut out what little bad habits I have.

- ERIC GUTIERREZ

## **En-garde!**

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

She gets there an hour early to warm up and go over the motions - playing out scenarios in her head.

But unlike the previous stages she had taken, this one was a bit bigger and the lights were a bit brighter. This was the U.S. Fencing North American Cup in St. Louis.

"It's very intimidating seeing all these other girls – there's a lot of people - especially at this last tournament," Slowinski said. "Some are on the national team. One of the events I did, there were Olympians in it, and I was fan-girling so hard - she was on the next strip over from me. It's a really cool experience."

The nerves were there, but they never showed as Slowinski cruised in pool play before going 4-1 in the bracket to finish up third and bring home a bronze medal.

And just like they do in the Olympics, Slowinski got the chance to take her spot on the winner's podium on the national stage for the second time - she previously had taken home third in a tournament a few years ago.

"Only recently have I ever started doing that (well)," Slowinski said. "(That's) the best I have ever done in a tournament that big. It was really surreal, because I thought the first time I got lucky and then this time it started to feel more real."

#### STRATEGIC MIND

Although she said she is just now getting to that place in her sport where she is picking up big wins, Slowinski's years of practice are what have really been the big difference.

Originally, she started her time in sports playing soccer like most kids at the private school she attended, but when she moved to public school, she had to make a change, because

the school didn't have a soccer team.

The then-8-year-old Slowinski and her parents stumbled across a promotional booth for the Winter Garden Fencing Academy. One lesson later, she was hooked.

"At first, when I was little, it was because I got to stab people without getting into trouble," Slowinski said. "That was the first reason, but then I started to get more into it, and I started competing and learning more about it. I loved the strategy and loved going up against people who are considered unbeatable, because maybe I'll do better it's all based on strategy."

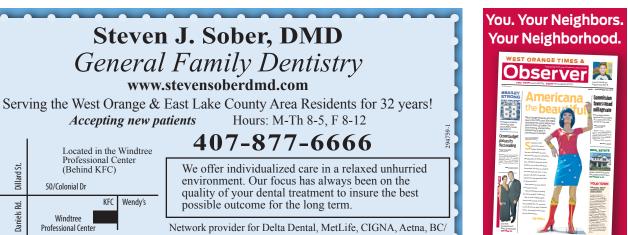
As the years passed, the evercompetitive Slowinski competed in local tournaments and other events as she honed her craft.

#### **HUNGRY FOR MORE**

When she first got to Ocoee High, Slowinski decided she wanted to do something to help her get into better shape, which in turn would help her out in fencing. That's when she picked up weightlifting. And although she is making progress as a weightlifter, she largely sees it as a sport to do on the side, as fencing remains her focus.

And Slowinski will need to keep up the good pace for herself, as she was recently named to the USA Juniors Fencing Team that will compete in the 15th European Maccabi Games - a tournament held specifically for Jewish athletes - in Budapest, Hungary, this summer.

"I've never been out of the country, but I've been wanting to fence out of the country for a while," Slowinski said. "This is really exciting that I get to go out of the country and compete against all of these people. It's going to be really awesome."





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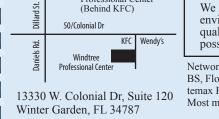
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Courtesy photo

The 12U Bobcats brought home the championship last December.

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

came for the Panthers. Instead, the Bobcats landed on the right side of a 20-12 scoreline to win the 10U AAU National Football Tournament.

"We have a lot of guys who can play, and that's where we separate ourselves – everybody has guys who can play, we just have more," said Mike Chism, assistant coach on the 10U team. "I don't think the team from Texas has played a team as physical as we were or as fast as we are. We've got guys who can go."

Chism and the coaching staff needed everything their boys could give in that title game, as a 14-0 lead at the half dwindled to a 14-12 lead in the second.

But just as things got dicey, defender Saphir Miller swooped in to save the day and the game when he jumped in front of a pass and returned it all the way to the house on a pick-six — sealing the 20-12 win.

The victory was the culmination of a fast-paced postseason during which the Bobcats played several games in four days — including two half-games Thursday, two half-games Friday, two half-games on Saturday and then the championship bout Sunday.

Despite the heavy workload, Chism said the Bobcats were more than ready to take on the 16-team field — which was filled with the best teams from around the country — thanks in large part to the toughness of the teams they play in Central Florida.

"They see good competition throughout our league — that's the advantage of being in a pretty good area," Chism said. "We don't really try to say a whole lot about other teams when we get ready to play them. We really focus on us and our execution."

Although winning a national title is big news for the area's youth football scene, it's building a culture centered on building the work ethic and confidence of its kids that really has Chism excited about the program's future.

"In terms of little league football in this area, the West Orange program is really starting to establish itself as a really solid program," Chism said. with ... all the teams are starting to get pretty dang strong."

#### **12U BOBCATS WIN BIG**

The 10U team wasn't the only squad out of West Orange that found glory at the end of the road. Ike Taylor led the 12U Bobcats to pick up a dominating 27-0 win over Apopka in the finals.

And just like the 10U team, Taylor's 12U side fought their way through a slew of games from Thursday through Saturday to make it to championship Sunday.

"I told my coaching staff and my kids the first practice, 'We don't want trophies; we want the rings,'" Taylor said. "I said, 'Man, I lost to the Packers in our Super Bowl in Dallas, and I would like to get that third ring, and I would like for y'all to get a ring."

Thanks in part to strong coaching and hard work from his kids, the 12U Bobcats were able to bring home that third ring for the former Pittsburgh Steeler, as well as rings for themselves.

The win was also a bit of redemption for the Bobcats following a tough loss in the state championship back on Saturday, Dec. 1, against East Orlando.

The bad taste that was leftover from that 14-7 loss proved to be a big talking point for Taylor, who used it as motivation.

"They handed us a second-place trophy, and I wanted to throw it in the garbage can," Taylor said. "But I said, 'For the hard work these kids did, I will accept this trophy, but I'm looking for the trophy that stands on the ground at 4-foot-11,' and the kids bought into it and the coaching staff was already with it."

Now Taylor, his coaching staff which includes Joe Bridgewater, Brian Furrey and Eduardo Madrid — and his players have that trophy, as well. But like Chism, Taylor hopes his kids have taken away more from the game than just winning.

"Brotherhood — all I care about is the brotherhood," Taylor said. "I don't care about anything else, because the brotherhood is going to take care of everything else. Brotherhood makes you unselfish, and being unselfish makes you a better person."



#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

Pursuant to the Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the City of Winter Garden City Commission will, on January 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon after as possible, hold a public hearing in the City Commission Chambers located at 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida in order to consider the adoption of the following ordinance(s):

#### ORDINANCE 18-36 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, AMENDING POLICY 1-1.2.7, POLICY 1-1.2.8, POLICY 1-1.2.10, POLICY 1-1.2.14 OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE WINTER GARDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Copies of the proposed ordinance(s) may be inspected by the public between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week, except for legal holidays, at the Planning & Zoning Division in City Hall, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida. For more information, please call Kelly Carson at 656-4111 ext. 2312.

Interested parties may appear at the meetings and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance(s). Written comments will be accepted before or at the public hearings. Persons wishing to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board at such hearing will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. The City does not provide this verbatim record. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this public hearing should contact the City Clerk's Office at (407) 656-4111 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



Code of Ordinances, Section 5-13, notice is hereby given by the City of Ocoee, Florida that an election will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in the City of Ocoee for the purpose of electing the Mayor and two (2) City Commissioners for four-year terms, one (1) Commissioner from District One and one (1) Commissioner from District Three. Candidates for these offices must Qualify by filing qualifying papers and fees with the City Clerk during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) beginning at noon on Thursday, January 17, 2019, and ending at noon, Friday, January 25, 2019, at City Hall, 150 North Lakeshore Drive, Ocoee, Florida. The fee for qualifying for the office of Mayor is \$145.00 and for the office of Commissioner is \$90.00. There will be two polling locations in the City of Ocoee at Jim Beech Recreation Center, 1820 A. D. Mims Road, and the GFWC Woman's Club of Ocoee, 4 North Lakewood Avenue. Polling places will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Those electors who opt to cast a vote-by-mail ballot for this election must contact the Orange County Supervisor of Elections either online at http://www.ocfelections.com or by calling (407) 836-2070 and requesting a vote-by-mail ballot. City of Ocoee residents who currently are registered to vote in general elections are registered for this city election. However, those citizens who have recently moved into the City of Ocoee (or who have moved within the City) should check with the Orange County Supervisor of Elections to be sure their registration shows a current address.



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All eligible citizens are urged to take part in this election process. If you are 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of the City of Ocoee and of the specific District of any office being sought, have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state, have not been convicted of a felony without your civil rights having been restored pursuant to law, and do not claim the right to vote in another municipality, please be aware that you have a right to be registered to vote in this election and the books will close for such registration on February 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact the City Clerk's Office for more information at 407-905-3105.

## I LOVE WEST ORANGE

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Winter Garden resident Barbie Boudokhane snapped this beautiful shot of a pink flower.

The West Orange Times & Observer is hosting this weekly contest, and winners will have their photograph featured and receive a \$20 prize. To enter, email your photo, along with your name, city and a caption, to amyg@orangeobserver.com; put "I Love West Orange" in the subject line. Please include your mailing address to receive your prize.

**ONLINE** See other winning photos at OrangeObserver.com

	CT

#### **THURSDAY, JAN. 10**

High: 59 Low: 45 Chance of rain: 0%

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 11

High: 69 Low: 53 Chance of rain: 10%

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 12

High: 75 Low: 58 Chance of rain: 10%

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 13

High: 74 Low: 52 Chance of rain: 20%

#### SUNRISE / SUNSET

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday, Jan. 10	7:20a	5:47p
Friday, Jan. 11	7:20a	5:48p
Saturday, Jan. 12	7:20a	5:48p
Sunday, Jan. 13	7:20a	5:49p
Monday, Jan. 14	7:20a	5:50p
Tuesday, Jan. 15	7:20a	5:51p
Wednesday, Jan. 16	7:20a	5:52p

#### MOON PHASES

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Jan. 5	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 2
New	First	Full	Last

#### RAINFALL

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Friday, Jan. 4 0.00											
Saturday, Jan. 5 0.20											
Sunday, Jan. 6 0.00											
Monday, Jan. 7 0.00											
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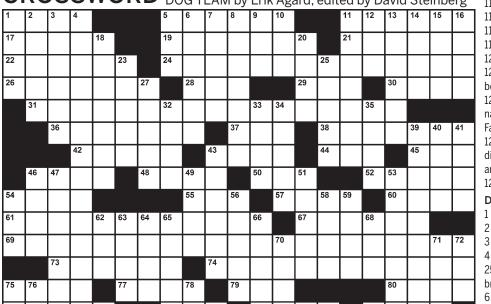
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**CROSSWORD** DOG TEAM by Erik Agard, edited by David Steinberg



110 "No Scrubs" girl group 111 Less rife 113 \*What's going on? 118 Melodic opera piece 119 In the vicinity 120 "Queen Sugar" actor Kofi 51 City near Scottsdale 121 "Make room on the bench!" 122 L.A. neighborhood name-checked in "Free Fallin'' 123 Dog, say ... or, read differently, what the starred answers amount to? 124 Slovenian peaks DOWN 1 Mascara applier 2 Acting Oscar 3 Brazilian ballroom dances 4 \*No.1's No. 25 Hyphenated boxed juice brand 6 No longer on the board 7 Alfalfa's love in "The Little Rascals" 8 Professional Dapper Dan 9 Palindromic farm female 10 Mineo or Maglie 11 Hybrid beach outfit 12 Month that ends with a holiday (Abbr.) 13 Big one? 14 Course with supply curves, briefly 15 El \_\_\_ (weather phenomenon) 16 "\_\_\_\_ who?" 18 Feeling down 20 College military org. 23 Garbo or Gerwig 25 Buzzing with excitement 27 Sustained attack 32 Crane construction? 33 "Mrs." analogue with a tilde 34 Like some phone game purchases 35 "I see, I see" 39 State with a large Cajun population 40 "Monday Night Football" channel 41 Figure (out) 43 Certain laptop on

Craigslist 46 "The Handmaid's Tale" streamer

47 Without changes 49 Vicinity 53 \*Honduras' home 54 Turn of the 13th century 56 The Mamas & amp; the

58 Threadbare 59 8-Down's garb 62 Result of addition 63 Tehran's terrain 64 Bus money 65 Troy story 66 Big name in sexology 68 Pop's Carly \_\_\_\_ Jepsen 70 Phone letters next to 0 71 Like a GI busing dishes 72 To the \_\_\_\_ degree 75 Dec. observance 76 Chess victory, informally 78 Entice 82 Comedian Meyers 84 Gujarat garment 86 "Gotcha, man" 87 Boyfriends, quaintly 88 Vector counterparts 91 Feature of many a New Orleans house 92 Authoritative order 94 Bring under control, as a wildfire 96 Guatemalan girl 98 Acquire over time 100 World leader Emmanuel 101 One rad dude 103 Pirates' domains 104 Proof you can't be the culprit 105 Famed fable writer 106 Surgery remnant 107 Like 24-karat gold 108 Lover boy? 112 Decays 114 \_\_\_\_ of an era 115 Book fan's online story, slangily 116 100-Down's nation, in Olympics shorthand 117 "The thing about that is ..."

#### CELEBRITY CIPHER

By Luis Campos Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"H GFDZKA LKPM WCRI ZX TK HDLXELKA HD ZIK WXZHXD OHRZCPKU, UX H RXCEA RIFDYK HZ FDA AX UXWKZIHDY DKFPKP ZIK - WFPEXD TPFDAX ZPCZI."

Y slaups M :sulD anO alzzug

"V JYHIYTW - V BHWT H LVEB. YOTF COTF V LVFVJOTW V JHVW, MO, BD AMW. VY'J JM UTHPYVLPE - V JOMPEW UT H LVEBBHRTI!."

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#### ACROSS

1 Cheeseheads' state (Abbr.) 5 Garden maze walls 11 Coins at an arcade 17 Japanese beer brand 19 Conflict under Bush 21 Tree that giraffes munch on 22 Dubbing 24 \*10-time NBA All-Star who played for the Rockets in 2018 26 Chicago football team, in dialect 28 \_\_\_\_\_-pitch softball

30 Some, in Spanish 31 \*Joe woe 36 Pan-fried 37 Very long time 38 Wolfs down 42 Lead-ins to rips 43 Radius neighbor 44 2016 Olympics city 45 Buckeyes' sch. 46 Corn casing 48 Figs. given midair 50 On point 52 Keurig inserts 54 Local bond, informally 55 Workout unit

29 Sound akin to "tut" 57 Seating for the pious 60 \_\_\_, zwei, drei ... 61 \*Spot in the paper 67 Laments the loss of 69 \*Art theft, say? 73 Japanese sauce 74 \*Six-legged builder 77 Cool 79 Take to court 80 Cruciform Egyptian symbol 81 Shops 83 <u>Moines</u> 85 Windy City paper, with "the'

88 High-five sound 89 Wolfed down 90 December 31, e.g. 93 \_\_\_\_ 1 = speed of sound 95 Patsy Cline's record label 97 Under 75 Storm's superhero group 99 It cancels out a con 100 Her silhouette was used for the Women's Professional Soccer logo 102 \*"Genie in a Bottle" singer 106 On \_\_\_\_ (without a contract) 109 Star softball pitcher

#### – HAFTJ XHIWH

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### This week's Crossword answers W I S C H E D G E S T O K E N S A S A H I I R A Q W A R A C A C I A N A M I N G C A R M E L O A N T H O N Y D A B E A R S S L O T S K U N O S C A F F E L N E A D D L C T L O N

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## Oxford Chase home tops Winter Garden sales

**REAL ESTATE** 

A home in the Oxford Chase community in Winter Garden topped the city's residential realestate transactions from Dec. 27 to Jan. 3.

The home at 728 Oxford Chase Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 30, for \$673,436. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three-and-one-half baths and 3,590 square feet of living area. The price per square foot is \$187.59.

These are the highestselling homes in each community in West Orange.

#### HORIZON WEST THE COVE AT HAMLIN

The home at 15190 Newtonia St., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$340,000. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, three-and-one-half baths and 2,228 square feet. The price per square foot is \$152.60.

#### INDEPENDENCE/ SIGNATURE LAKES

The townhouse at 14815 Driftwater Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 27, for \$264,900. Built in 2015, it has four bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1,997 square feet. The price per square foot is \$264,900.

#### LAKEVIEW POINTE

The home at 7251 Spring Park Drive, Winter Garden, sold Jan. 2, for \$426,900. Built in 2018, it has five bedrooms, four baths and 3,320 square feet. The price per square foot is \$128.58.

#### LATHAM PARK

The home at 14210 Alford Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 29, for \$445,000. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three baths and 2,791 square feet. The price per square foot is \$159.44.



This Oxford Chase home, at 728 Oxford Chase Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 30, for \$673,436. This Mattamy model features a Tuscan-style elevation and views of Black Lake.

#### OVERLOOK 2 AT HAMLIN

The home at 5613 Tiger Way, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$454,000. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 2,753 square feet. The price per square foot is \$164.91.

#### SANCTUARY AT HAMLIN

The home at 7425 Pomelo Grove Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$560,739. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 2,862 square feet. The price per square foot is \$195.93.

#### SUMMERLAKE

The home at 8221 Pond Apple Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$465,000. Built in 2015, it has four bedrooms, three-and-one-half baths and 3,858 square feet. The price per square foot is \$120.53.

The home at 14552 Spotted Sandpiper Blvd., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$385,000. Built in 2013, it has six bedrooms, four baths and 3,762 square feet. The price per square foot is \$102.34.

#### WATERLEIGH

The home at 10363 Atwater Bay Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$599,000. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, four-andone-half baths and 3,416 square feet. The price per square foot is \$175.35.

The home at 10139 Beach Port Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$431,961. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three-andone-half baths and 3,225 square feet. The price per square foot is \$133.94.

#### SNAPSHOT

Total Sales: 87 High Sale Price: \$3.8 million Low Sale Price: \$136,000

The home at 16223 Pebble Bluff Loop, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$303,705. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 2,031 square feet. The price per square foot is \$149.53.

#### WATERMARK

The home at 9336 Meadow Hunt Way, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$314,000. Built in 2016, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 2,065 square feet. The price per square foot is \$152.06.

The townhouse at 9636 Emerald Berry Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$285,000. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1,944 square feet. The price per square foot is \$146.60.

The townhouse at 14905 Apollo Bond Drive, Winter Garden, sold Jan. 2, for \$283,290. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1,944 square feet. The price per square foot is \$145.73.

The townhouse at 9513 Amber Chestnut Way, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$269,385. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1,810 square feet. The price per square foot is \$148.83. \$295,000. Built in 1994, it has three bedrooms, two-and-onehalf baths and 1,813 square feet. The price per square foot is \$162.71.

#### FOREST OAKS

The home at 1410 Prairie Lake Blvd., Ocoee, sold Dec. 31, for \$205,000. Built in 1986, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,372 square feet. The price per square foot is \$149.42.

#### KENSINGTON MANOR

The home at 1842 Palmerston Circle, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$320,000. Built in 2006, it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 2,302 square feet. The price per square foot is \$139.01.

#### MCCORMICK WOODS

The home at 3305 McCormick Woods Drive, Ocoee, sold Dec. 31, for \$295,000. Built in 2009, it has four bedrooms, three baths and 2,419 square feet. The price per square foot is \$121.95.

#### OAK TRAIL RESERVE

The home at 3065 Timber Hawk Circle, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$261,345. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,649 square feet. The price per square foot is \$158.49.

#### OCOEE WOODS

The home at 905 Marlene Drive, Ocoee, sold Dec. 27, for \$153,000. Built in 1982, it has two bedrooms, one bath and 1,008 square feet. The price per square foot is \$151.79. 1,348 square feet. The price per square foot is \$137.24.

#### **RESERVE AT MEADOW LAKE**

The home at 1328 Glenleigh Drive, Ocoee, sold Dec. 31, for \$205,000. Built in 2010, it has three bedrooms, two-and-onehalf baths and 1,774 square feet. The price per square foot is \$115.56.

#### VILLAGES OF WESMERE

The home at 1948 Leather Fern Drive, Ocoee, sold Dec. 31, for \$303,000. Built in 2012, it has four bedrooms, two-and-onehalf baths and 2,646 square feet. The price per square foot is \$114.51.

#### WENTWORTH

The townhouse at 2260 Brancaster Circle, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$189,900. Built in 2004, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1,345 square feet. The price per square foot is \$141.19.

#### WESMERE HAMPTON WOODS

The home at 593 Buckhaven Loop, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$310,000. Built in 1998, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,876 square feet. The price per square foot is \$165.25.

#### WESTCHESTER

The home at 1832 Oxton Court, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$248,000. Built in 2003, it has four bedrooms, two baths and 1,829 square feet. The price per square foot is \$135.59.

#### WESTYN BAY

The townhouse at 472 Scarlatti Court, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for \$191,000. Built in 2007, it has two bedrooms, two-and-onehalf baths and 1,372 square feet. The price per square foot is \$139.21.

#### WINTER GARDEN

**CAMBRIDGE CROSSING** The home at 12543 Scarlett Sage Court, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$463,000. Built in 2001, it has five bedrooms, four baths and 3,403 square feet. The price per square foot is \$136.06.

#### **CROWN POINT SPRINGS**

The home at 1530 Spring Ridge Circle, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$305,000. Built in 1989, it has three bedrooms, two baths, a pool and 1,721 square feet. The price per square foot is \$177.22.

#### OCOEE FAIRFAX VILLAGE The home at 2294 Holly Ridge

Drive, Ocoee, sold Dec. 28, for

PRAIRIE LAKE RESERVE

The townhouse at 2083 Switch Grass Circle, Ocoee, sold Dec. 31, for \$185,000. Built in 2009, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and

The home at 1026 Autumn Leaf Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$320,000. Built in 1998,



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it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 2,247 square feet. The price per square foot is \$142.41.

#### **CYPRESS RESERVE**

The home at 14085 Jomatt Loop, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$596,400. Built in 2018, it has six bedrooms, four baths and 4,830 square feet. The price per square foot is \$123.48.

#### FULLERS LANDING

The home at 544 Westcliffe Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$303,000. Built in 2005, it has four bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 2,814 square feet. The price per square foot is \$107.68.

#### GLYNWOOD

The home at 13748 Glynshel Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$313,950. Built in 2003, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 2,481 square feet. The price per square foot is \$126.54.

#### HERITAGE AT PLANT STREET

The home at 780 Orange Belt Loop, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$428,990. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three baths and 2,281 square feet. The price per square foot is \$188.07.

The home at 623 E. Plant St., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$304.860. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 1,691 square feet. The price per square foot is \$180.28.

#### LAKE ROBERTS LANDING

The home at 1802 Blackwater Court, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$635,000. Built in 2008, it has five bedrooms, four-and-onehalf baths, a pool and 4,833 square feet. The price per square foot is \$131.39.

#### LAKEVIEW RESERVE

The home at 111 Lakeview Reserve Blvd., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$298,975. Built in 2002, it has four bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 2,882 square feet. The price per square foot is \$103.74.

#### **OAKLAND TRAILS**

The home at 2180 Standing Rock Circle, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$411,766. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths, a pool and 2,000 square feet. The price per square foot is \$205.88.

The home at 2080 Standing Rock Circle, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$379,618. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 2,000 square feet. The price per square foot is \$189.81.

#### **OXFORD CHASE**

The home at 728 Oxford Chase Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 30, for \$673,436. Built in 2018, it has four bedrooms, three-andone-half baths and 3,590 square feet. The price per square foot is \$187.59.

#### PARK AVENUE ESTATES

The home at 1245 S. Park Ave., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$190,000. Built in 1997, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,182 square feet. The price per square foot is \$160.74.

#### **STONE CREEK**

The home at 15175 Harrowgate Way, Winter Garden, sold Jan. 3, for \$253,000. Built in 2003, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 1,648 square feet. The price per square foot is \$153.52.

#### STONEYBROOK WEST

The home at 1444 Marble Crest Way, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 30, for \$442,000. Built in 2001, it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 3,182 square feet. The price per square foot is \$138.91.

The home at 15132 Spinnaker Cove Lane, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$333,000. Built in 2005, it has four bedrooms, two baths and 2,153 square feet. The price per square foot is \$154.67.



The townhouse at 10005 Love Story St., Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$254,070. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths and 1.755 square feet. The price per square foot is \$144.77.

The townhouse at 11156 Suspense Drive, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$248,895. Built in 2018, it has three bedrooms, two-andone-half baths and 2,178 square feet. The price per square foot is \$110.60.

#### **TRAILSIDE STATION**

The home at 1030 Trailside Court, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$275,000. Built in 2001, it has four bedrooms, two baths and 1,962 square feet. The price per square foot is \$140.16.

#### **TWINWATERS**

The home at 16741 Gullfloss Terrace, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$445,000. Built in 2017, it has four bedrooms, three-andone-half baths and 2,788 square feet. The price per square foot is \$159.61.

#### **VILLAS AT TUCKER OAKS**

The townhouse at 1238 Scarlet Oak Loop, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 28, for \$226,500. Built in 2013, it has three bedrooms, twoand-one-half baths and 1,594 square feet. The price per square foot is \$142.10.

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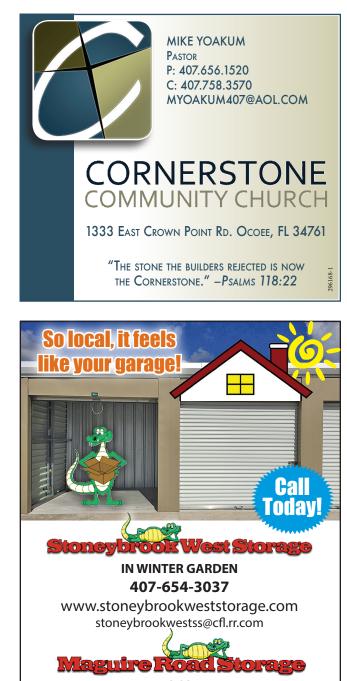
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The townhouse at 1323 Azalea Way, Winter Garden, sold Dec. 31, for \$136,000. Built in 1990, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,216 square feet. The price per square foot is \$111.84.



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