

For the latest community events, classes and activities, see page B-3.



OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

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Andrews is interim superintendent

By Fallan Patterson
Staff Writer

Terry Andrews, a former deputy superintendent for the Osceola County School District and the principal at St. Cloud Middle School, was chosen 4-1 Tuesday to serve as interim superintendent for the district.

It was standing-room only at Tuesday's School Board meeting, where for 25 minutes the public offered support and criticism to board mem-

School Board

bers on replacing Superintendent Michael A. Grego, who tendered his resignation March 2 effective May 31. However, the board voted 3-2 March 29 to force Grego out seven weeks early. Board Member Jay Wheeler was the lone vote against giving Andrews the job.

"I think it's time we had (a superintendent) who knows all the levels,"

parent Tonya Culver said of Andrews' 36 years with the school system. "He's the best person for the job."

Board Chairman Cindy Hartig and Member Tom Long commented that hundreds of people had contacted them with suggestions for interim superintendent and an "overwhelming majority" supported

Andrews.

Hartig suggested Andrews in combination with other top administrators would be the "perfect mix" to enable the community to "start to heal."

School Board Attorney Suzanne D'Agresta said a contract would be drawn up by Wednesday morning and Andrews would be paid the amount he makes as principal, \$104,072 annually, a figure he agreed to when he spoke to individ-

ual board members. Grego earns \$192,202 as superintendent.

Andrews also will have the same benefits he has now and will serve until June 30 and then have a monthly contract until a permanent superintendent is chosen.

A clause in Andrews' contract also would allow him to return as a middle school principal or be given a comparable position at the district.

See School Board, page A-3



Hartig

Police news

Murder, suicide in Kissimmee

By Fallan Patterson
Staff Writer

Despite seeing an angry, mysterious man creeping in the bushes around Kissimmee's Kensington Apartments and hearing a woman's terrified screams, neighbors did not call police until shots were fired.

Mother of five, Jackinlin "Jackie" Estremera, was killed by her estranged husband Ramon Bartolomey in a murder-suicide early Sunday morning after she returned from a girls' night out with her roommate and a friend.



Estremera



Bartolomey

Stacie Miller, Kissimmee Police Department spokesperson, said residents should follow See it, Say it recommendations and report all suspicious activity to law enforcement.

"Can we say if someone called the police that it would have prevented this situation? No, we cannot," Miller said. "However, sometimes just the sight of an officer in an area can diffuse a situation."

The couple, separated and in middle of a divorce, both died from gunshot wounds to the head, police reports said.

Police in both Osceola and Orange counties were very familiar with Bartolomey. He had several traffic infractions and a few serious brushes with the law including a November 2010 domestic violence charge in Orange County. The victim in that incident could not be verified.

Additionally, Bartolomey was given five years of probation

See Police news, page A-2

Spring Fling shuffle



News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

Louise Owens, a member of the St. Cloud Shuffleboard Club, pushes a shot with her cue on the shuffleboard play area the club set up temporarily along Lakeshore Avenue for the St. Cloud Spring Fling last weekend.

Osceola County news

Sheriff supports pill mill ordinance

By Marvin G. Cortner
Editor

The Osceola County Commission Monday took under advisement a recommendation from Sheriff Bob Hansell that it impose a moratorium on licenses for new pain management clinics to help deal with the proliferation of illegal prescriptions.



Hansell

While Hansell said all 14 such clinics operating in the county now are doing so within the law, he recommended

that no more licenses be granted until the county, in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office, can develop and adopt an ordinance related to pill mills, the name given to pain clinics that arbitrarily write prescriptions, with some clinics running their own pharmacies. Hansell recommended that the ordinance set hours of operation, zoning restrictions and ban cash transactions.

"Last year, we had 10 deaths attributed directly to oxycodone overdose," Hansell said. "We had 300 arrests last year (illegal possession of prescriptions),"

See Pill mills, page A-3

Three attorneys cut in budget reduction

By Marvin G. Cortner
Editor

Osceola County on Monday eliminated three positions in its legal department: Deputy County Attorney Kate Stangle and Assistant County Attorneys Olga Sanchez and Sherry Hopkins.

The staff cuts, according to Interim County Attorney George Nickerson, follow recent direction by the County Commission to reduce the department's budget to \$1 million or less.

In a memo to the commission, Nickerson said the staff cuts would allow the department to create a "flex fund" that could be used to outsource legal services or accommodate a further budget cut.

Stangle, Sanchez and Hopkins, according to Nickerson, have waived their rights to be rehired if a new county attorney once hired were to decide to

add staff. The three attorneys will leave at the end of April and after their departure two attorneys would remain until a new county attorney is hired.

"This will necessitate a severe, albeit temporary, reduction in our ability to deliver timely legal services," Nickerson wrote in his memo. "As you know, it has been our practice to accept legal assignments from all levels of the County Commission's management structure. In order to manage the demand for legal services under the current circumstances, however, we will be able to accept requests only from the county manager and commission auditor."

Nickerson also stated that his department would continue with the litigation currently being handled in-house, but would be unable to properly

See Attorneys, page A-3

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Homefinder
Homebuilder offers new model home in Davenport.

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Sports
All-County girls soccer team selected.

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News for you
Around Kissimmee, Around St. Cloud and surrounding areas featured in zoned editions.

Section B



We've got **Winners!** Find our **GRANDPARENTS BRAG PAGE WINNERS** in the Osceola News-Gazette **2011 KIDS' STUFF SECTION** Saturday, April 16!

Police news

Continued from page A-1

stemming from a March 2003 incident, in which he was charged with criminal mischief, resisting an officer with violence and battery on a law enforcement officer.

Bartolomey owned a Kissimmee auto repair shop, according to state records.

Estremera was the mother of five children, ages 1 to 13, including Bartolomey's 4-year-old twins and a 3-year-old. The Department of Children and Families, Miller said, assisted placing the children with relatives. All five children lived with Estremera at the Kensington Apartments, located at 2610 Kent Place.

Brittany Lee Baxter, Estremera's roommate, told police that earlier Sunday she overheard Estremera speaking with Bartolomey, 31, on the phone and told him "I don't want problems, Ramon. I don't want to fight."

According to the police report, Estremera, 30, went to the Spanish bar Mojito's with Baxter and a neighbor, Wilzenith Aquino, that night.

Baxter told officers she returned to their apartment around 12:30 a.m. and left the other women at the bar. Baxter, according to the police report, saw Bartolomey sitting in a taxi and circled the parking lot to avoid him because she knew how violent he could be.

Nearly two hours later, at 2:30 a.m., Baxter told police she called Estremera to tell her Bartolomey was outside the apartment.

Aquino, who lived in the same complex, drove Estremera home that night and told police Bartolomey began walking toward the women as they exited her vehicle. Aquino then walked to her apartment.

At about the same time, according to the police report, several neighbors heard a woman's scream, then gunshots.

Baxter also heard the gunshots and texted her friend to see if she was OK. After Estremera failed to reply, Baxter went outside and saw her roommate and Bartolomey lying in the parking lot motionless.

Juveniles arrested for robbing classmate at school bus stop

Two students at Liberty High School Monday were arrested for robbing a classmate at a school bus stop.

On Monday at approximately 6:10 a.m., Osceola County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Cambridge Court in Kissimmee in reference to a robbery. The 16-year-old victim told deputies he was walking to his bus stop when two unknown juveniles approached him, held him down and took his personal property. During the struggle, the bandana that covered the face of one of the suspect's came off. The victim was able to identify the suspect as a classmate at Liberty High School.

Detectives located the two suspects at school and both cooperated with the investigation.

Nicholas Alexander Reyes, 15, of 309 Chelmsford Court, Kissimmee, and Tyrce Hill, 17, of 229 Churchill Court, Poinciana, were arrested and charged with robbery, wearing a mask while committing robbery, grand theft and aggravated battery. They were booked into the Osceola County Juvenile Detention Center. The victim received minor injuries and was treated at the scene.

Arrested for lewd and lascivious conduct with girl

A Palm Bay resident was arrested March 31 by Osceola County Sheriff's Office deputies for lewd and lascivious conduct with a 12-year-old girl.

Deputies were patrolling near the Poinciana Library, 101 N. Doverplum Ave., where they noticed two individuals sitting near a fence. They spoke with a female and a male, and the male was identified as Anderson Scantlebury, 22, of 496 Hatcher St. SE,

Palm Bay.

The female deputies she was 19 years old, but later admitted she was only 12. Both the man and the girl cooperated with deputies and said they had met through an online website, after which they agreed to meet. The girl's mother dropped her off at the library to meet Scantlebury, who took a bus to the area from Palm Bay. Her mother met Scantlebury, but she told deputies she did not know his age.

Scantlebury told deputies he did not know the girl was only 12 years old because she indicated online she was 18. He also told deputies that during his encounter with the girl, he touched her inappropriately several times.

Based on the information provided, Scantlebury was arrested. He was booked into the Osceola County Jail without bond.

Baby sitter's boyfriend arrested

On Friday, Osceola County Sheriff's Office detectives arrested Daryl Alan Rea, 59, of 5575 E. U.S. Highway 192, St. Cloud, and charged him with two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation.

The investigation began March 31 when deputies responded to Hickory Tree Elementary School to take a complaint about possible sexual abuse. Detectives spoke with a teacher who said one of her students told her she did not want to go to a babysitter's residence. The 10-year-old victim told deputies that Rea, the babysitter's boyfriend, touched her inappropriately several times.

Detectives contacted Rea, who cooperated with the investigation. Based on the information, Rea was charged and booked into the Osceola County Jail.

Multiple injuries in Sunday crash

Four passengers were ejected from a vehicle in a crash Sunday afternoon on Poinciana Boulevard at Reaves Road.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the one-vehicle crash occurred at about 2:30 p.m. when driver Omar Laborde, 29, of Kissimmee, drove his 1999 Ford Explorer off the roadway and it overturned. Laborde, who was wearing his seat belt, was not injured in the crash.



Scantlebury



Rea

Passenger Ana Roque, 32, of Kissimmee, received minor injuries and was taken to Osceola Regional Medical Center. She was wearing a seat belt.

Passengers Annalee Roque, 1, and Joshua Roque, 5, both of Kissimmee, were critically injured and taken to Arnold Palmer Hospital. Neither child was in a restraint.

Three passengers, Anna Pacheco, 15, Angelique Pacheco, 11, and Allison Pacheco, 10, all of Kissimmee, were injured. Anna Pacheco's injuries were serious while Angelique and Allison Pacheco's were minor, and all were taken to Osceola Regional Medical Center. None of the passengers were wearing seat belts either.

According to the Highway Patrol, Laborde was southbound on Poinciana Boulevard and for an unknown reason traveled off the right shoulder of the roadway. When he overcorrected, the vehicle overturned. The crash remains under investigation and charges are pending.

Cocoa residents killed in crash

Two Cocoa residents, James Hudson, 55, and Mary Hudson, 56, were killed when their motorcycle collided with a pickup truck Sunday at about 4:45 p.m. on Nova Avenue near St. Cloud.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a Ford pickup driven by Ashley Williams, 22, of Pahokee, pulled out to make a left turn onto U.S. Highway 192 from a stop sign on Nova Avenue into the path of the Kawasaki motorcycle being driven by James Hudson. Mary Hudson was a passenger on the motorcycle. Williams received minor injuries and was taken to Osceola Regional Medical Center.

The motorcycle hit the left front of the pickup truck. Charges are pending in the investigation.

Multiple injuries in Kissimmee crash

A two-vehicle crash Sunday at about 6 p.m. on Donegan Avenue at Smith Street in

Kissimmee caused minor injuries to four people in one vehicle and critical injuries to the driver of the other vehicle.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, critically injured in the crash was Cady B. Bryce, 47, of Kissimmee, who was driving a 2002 Saturn. He was taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center.

The other vehicle was being driven by Christian Montes, 23, of Kissimmee. He received minor injuries and was taken to Florida Hospital. He was not wearing a seat belt, according to patrol reports.

Passengers riding in Montes' car who received minor injuries and who were taken to Florida Hospital, were: Lannin D. Montes, 1; Josh Omar Cappas, 5; and Gariel D. Montes, 1. The only child in any kind of restraint, according to the Highway Patrol, was Lannin D. Montes.

According to police, Montes was traveling north on Smith Street approaching a stop sign at Donegan Avenue and Bryce was traveling east on Donegan Avenue approaching Smith Street. Montes entered the intersection in the direct path of Bryce, as Bryce was crossing Smith Street. The front of Montes' vehicle collided with the right side of Bryce's.

This crash remains under investigation and charges are pending.

Kissimmee man arrested for multiple burglaries

A Kissimmee man has been arrested for multiple nighttime occupied burglaries to homes in Bella Vida, a vacation rental subdivision at 1172 Marcello Blvd., south of Oren Brown Road.

During March, the Kissimmee Police Department noticed an increase in occupied residential burglaries in a vacation rental subdivision. During these burglaries, the suspect would enter the rear patio door of each residence. The suspect would cut the screen doors and unlock the doors or enter

See police news, page A-5

Charges dropped in murder case

By Fallon Patterson Staff Writer

Just before her trial was to begin, first-degree murder charges were dismissed March 16 against Kathryn Raver, wife of Bradley Raver, the St. Cloud man who was murdered in his sleep in September 2007.

Orange-Osceola County Assistant State Attorney Kenneth Lewis, who dropped the charges, said he was unable to comment on why the charges were dropped because it is still an "ongoing case."

Charles W. King, an employee of Raver's roofing company, was convicted of

first-degree premeditated murder in May 2009 and is currently serving a life sentence at Gulf Correctional Institution in Wewahitchka. King was being held at the Osceola County Jail awaiting Kathryn Raver's trial when the charges were dismissed.

King was convicted of shooting Bradley Raver as he slept in the early morning hours of Sept. 27, 2007. King, 54, told investigators at the time of his arrest in 2007 that he believed he was "saving" Kathryn Raver from ongoing domestic violence at the hands of her husband.

Just after King's sentencing in 2009, Kathryn Raver was arrested and charged with first-degree murder with a firearm.



Raver

News briefs

KUA helped other communities in power restoration

Responding to requests from two storm-battered utilities last week, crews from Kissimmee Utility Authority traveled to Orlando and Bartow to assist in the restoration of power.

As part of KUA's mutual-aid agreement with utilities throughout the state and across the nation, the utility on Thursday sent nine linemen, a convoy of vehicles and supplies to Orlando to assist crews at Orlando Utilities Commission. OUC was working to restore service to 2,500 customers who were still without power following Wednesday's severe thunderstorms.

Six linemen also were dispatched to Bartow to help determine the extent

of damage to the electrical system there.

City of Life's Easter Experience

City of Life Church in Kissimmee has announced its Easter Experience program at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 24, at the Silver Spurs Arena, 1875 Silver Spurs Lane, Kissimmee.

During the program, attendees will witness the debut of "The Blood," a short film from the producers of "Blink: The Door." More than 17,000 people attended performances of "Blink: The Door" in September at the church.

The producers of City of Life's Easter Experience promise that it will be an even greater production than "Blink: The Door."

"The Easter Experience will be a celebration of Jesus' res-

See News briefs, page A-5

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OPINION

Our View

Outsourcing: Mystery costs

As we have said before, we are not convinced that Osceola County would be money ahead by outsourcing the job of county attorney to a private legal firm. We – as are some county commissioners – also aren't sure what the county charter really requires in terms of this office.

The issue is coming to a head, now, with the impending departure of three staff in the legal department – the deputy attorney and two assistant attorneys – at the end of April following their notice of dismissal Monday. The dismissals, coming in the form of a memo from Interim County Attorney George Nickerson, followed the County Commission directive of reducing the legal department budget. There will be a huge amount of institutional knowledge walking out the door with these three employees who were axed, we believe, unfairly because they were also required – along with all the other administrative county employees – to take 10 furlough days this fiscal year.

In addition, the county, through requests for letters of interest, is now or soon will be soliciting for both an in-house, salaried county attorney and for a firm to function in that capacity.

With the dismissals, the county will still have three attorney positions authorized as well as three support positions. That level of staffing, if kept, would allow some in-house legal work to be accomplished.

One of the biggest issues with outsourcing, though, is that the county cannot accurately predict costs. What happens if, for example, the county is embroiled in a legal case that drags on and on. In-house staff attorneys would work on the case as part of their salary pretty much for as long as needed; private attorneys would bill by the hour.

There also is the question of access. The county legal staff in the past has been available to offer advice to the various departments and to meet with constituents when needed. What kind of access would the private law firm provide? That's another unknown.

County officials hope to have a new county attorney hired sometime in June. However, for at least a month, there will be only two attorneys working. The short-staffing will mean that the legal department will accept requests for work only from the county manager and the county auditor. That could be a problem.

Your view

Approves of Scott's decision

To the editor:
In regards to Thursday's edition of March 10, the Osceola News-Gazette's front-page headline read, "Disappointment over high speed rail." A great lament by County Commission Chairman Brandon Arrington, Mayor Jim Swan, Democrat Sen. Arthenia Joyner and Republican Sen. Thad Altman. Two misguided state senators who wasted taxpayer money to sue Gov.

Rick Scott for not accepting Barack Obama's offer of \$2.4 billion printed dollars to fit Florida into his pocket.

We Americans have a problem with the printed news media. The Osceola News-Gazette and the Orlando "Slantinel" support this president who does not believe in freedom and liberty – the power of the American citizens over the power of a failed executive entity.

Thank you, Gov. Rick Scott. Stand fast. Please do not cave to this leftist, Democratic, anti-American

criticism. The Osceola News-Gazette proves my point by their "Our View" segment on Page A4, March 17 issue. The editorial staff cannot see the forest for the Obama trees.

I am an 81-year-old veteran of three wars, nearly 8,000 hours of flight time through 21 years, with scars.

I love my country of freedom and liberty, which many of us lived and died for. Where have all the Americans gone?

**Allen Schmitt
Kissimmee**

Their View

Assault targets abortion rights

Watch out, ladies, the government is coming after your reproductive rights.

Election victories by a raft of self-proclaimed "small-government" Republicans mean that Big Brother is on the warpath against women's autonomy. We've seen this before, but this time it's a true onslaught. In Florida alone there have been at least 20 abortion-related bills filed. The state's 1 million unemployed will just have to wait while the legislature attends to the serious business of forcing women seeking an abortion to have an unnecessary ultrasound.

This year, Republican politicians see their best opportunity since 1973 to insinuate themselves between women and their doctors. GOP control of more statehouses and governorships has coincided with a U.S. Supreme Court primed by Bush-era appointees to slice and dice Roe v. Wade.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito have yet to explicitly call for Roe's demise, like their colleagues Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas have, but, at the very least, they're willing to see Roe erode into insignificance. Meanwhile, Jus-

tice Anthony Kennedy's swing vote doesn't sway very far in the direction of abortion rights.

In 2007, Kennedy upheld a federal law that banned so-called "partial birth" abortions, even though it failed to include an exception to protect the woman's health. Kennedy's majority opinion included a paternalistic lament for women getting this kind of abortion who "come to regret their choice to abort."

In other words, the courts will allow Congress and state legislatures to swoop in to protect women from their own impulsive and uninformed decisions on abortion — as if women choose abortion like they choose new shoes.

What's clear is that Republicans are willing to abandon every other principle they claim in order to actively erode abortion rights. They will tell doctors what to do, force expensive and unnecessary regulations on small-business abortion clinics, require women to get medical tests they don't need or want, and restrict the ability of private insurance companies to offer abortion coverage.

It all points to one thing: Republicans view women as incubators first, autonomous beings second. And they're on the cusp of making this the law of the land wherever they hold sway.

You can respond to Blummer's column at blummer@sptimes.com.



Robyn Blummer
Tribune
Media

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WHEN IS A PUBLIC NOTICE NOT PUBLIC?

Don't let Florida officials remove your right to know from the newspaper.



Proposed legislation SPB 7204 and HB 89 would remove your right to read public notices in newspapers – restricting them to government web sites only. The public's right to know cannot be abandoned in favor of presumed cost savings, which are elusive.

Public Notices must be publicly accessible

- 53.6% of Floridian's over 65 do not have access to the internet*
- 28.1% of African-Americans in Florida do not have access to the internet*
- 34.6% of Hispanics in Florida do not have access to the internet*

In addition to printed newspapers, Florida's newspapers provide a supplemental public notice web site, www.floridapublicnotices.com, allowing free and unlimited searchable access to public notices aggregated from Florida newspapers.

Government posting of government notices on government websites takes away third-party neutrality

Making government officials responsible for notifying the public on their own websites carries with it a potential for abuse. For example, it may create the temptation to change or manipulate the timing of public notices. If a scheduled public notice is not published or contains false information, the newspaper is more likely to catch the mistake.

Public Notices must be archived in a secure and accessible format

The internet does not provide as reliable an archival history of public notices as newspapers due to its vulnerability in the form of hackers, viruses, and downed servers.

Governmental websites do not provide legal affidavits and written proof of publication and a secure and verifiable paper trail

State and local governments, attorneys and private citizens rely on this documentation to ensure that these notices were published timely and lawfully, as newspapers are required by law to do.

*Scarborough Research Multi-Market study 2010 Release 2




Police news

Continued from page A-2

through a door left unlocked by a guest staying at the property. Once inside, the suspect would use a flashlight and look throughout the residence to determine if anything of value was in plain sight. Items stolen were money, both American and foreign, jewelry and some small electronic devices, such as iPods.

Detectives conducted surveillance within the subdivision and observed David Dwayne Houston, 30, a transient, breaking into two rental properties. Detectives were unable to apprehend Houston on the night of the burglaries.

On March 31, an arrest warrant was issued for Houston, who was later located and arrested for the outstanding warrant. During the interview, detectives learned of Houston's involvement in five burglaries. Of the items taken, detectives are still looking for a missing wedding band valued at \$4,000.

Houston was transported to the Osceola County Jail, where he is being held on a \$30,250 bond.

If any residents have information on the ring, they are asked to contact the Kissimmee Police Department's Property Crimes Unit at 407-846-3333, by email at seeit-sayit@kissimmee.org or Crimeline at 1-800-423-TIPS (8477).



Houston

Stolen motorcycle investigation leads to two arrests

Osceola County Sheriff's Office deputies Friday served a search warrant at 2426 Harbor Town Drive in Kissimmee for a stolen motorcycle and trailer and ended up arresting two people living at the address for grand theft and grand theft auto, among other charges.

The motorcycle was stolen Feb. 22 on East Lakeshore Boulevard in Kissimmee, and the investigation led to suspects living at 2426 Harbor Town Drive in Kissimmee. After searching the residence, which is south of Fortune Road, deputies also located two stolen televisions and illegal drugs.

Luigi Gesualdo-Irizarry, 34, was arrested and charged with grand theft auto, two counts of grand theft, three counts of dealing in stolen property, possession of cannabis under 20 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance and resisting without violence. Norimar Fernandez, 29, was charged with grand theft auto and two counts of grand theft. Additional charges are pending.



Gesualdo-Irizarry



Fernandez

News briefs

Continued from page A-2

rection for Central Florida that will include live music, powerful dramatic presentations, film, dance, aerialists and visual marvels," church officials stated in a press release. "This will be an Easter service like none other."

City of Life's Easter Experience will be the first time all of the church's attendees from both campuses and all service times will be in the same building at the same time, church officials stated.

Hydrilla treatment planned

The South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were scheduled to begin hydrilla treatments Tuesday on about 600 acres of Cypress Lake; the invasive plant can clog waterways, impede navigation and affect wildlife.

Working in cooperation with the FWC Invasive Plant Management Section, the SFWMD Vegetation Management Division was set to

apply the herbicide Aquathol, which is approved for lake use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Allowing for inclement weather, the aerial treatments are scheduled to be completed this week.

For more information on the district's vegetation management efforts, visit www.sfwmd.gov.

Posey supports legislation to help seniors

Congressman Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, recently announced he is re-introducing the Senior Citizens Income Security Act of 2011 (H.R. 1140) — legislation to help seniors improve their economic well being and to restore some of the original promises that were made years ago through Social Security.

"Most seniors have spent their entire lives working and paying into a system that guaranteed certain benefits at retirement age and this bill restores those promises,"

said Congressman Posey. "We also make sure that the federal government hit the debt ceiling in a few months, seniors continue to receive their Social Security checks."

The legislation would:

- Repeal the 1993 Clinton tax increase on Social Security benefits so that no senior is double taxed on the earned Social Security benefits;
- Eliminate the requirement that seniors begin mandatory withdrawals from IRAs at age 70 and a half. This change would remove seniors from the unfair burden that forces them to begin withdrawals from retirement accounts in the aftermath of significant market losses;
- Eliminate Social Security payroll taxes for Social Security recipients. Since they are already receiving Social Security benefits, it makes no sense to take Social Security taxes out of their paychecks;
- Allows seniors to continue receiving their earned Social Security benefits if

they choose not to enroll in Medicare Part A; and

- Creates a new \$250 exemption to eliminate burdensome tax paperwork for small amounts of income from savings accounts, dividends or capital gains.

• In the event that the federal statutory debt ceiling is reached, the federal government would service the debt and pay Social Security benefits.

Openings for self-defense program for women

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office has openings for a self-defense awareness program for women scheduled for April 14 at 6 p.m.

Self Defense Awareness Familiarization Exchange, or SAFE, is designed to educate women on how to protect themselves if they should become a victim. The class is two hours long.

To sign up for the free class, call 407-348-1105 or email avg@osceola.org.

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CORRECTION

Due to an error in the
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<small>8:30AM</small>	<small>9:15AM</small>	<small>9:45AM</small>

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<small>AM DEPARTURES</small>		

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<small>8:30AM</small>	<small>8:30AM</small>

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- Counselor-in-Training - Application deadline: April 29, 2011
Youth entering 9th - 12th grade

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April 23, 2011

9:00 a.m. - Registration
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SPORTS

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All-County girls soccer

Horns' duo leads the way

Blanchard, Johnson helped Harmony make state tourney

By Ken Jackson
Sports Writer

Go to a loud, lively party and there's always two people who aren't whoopin' it up with the rest of the revelers. They just go about their business almost unnoticed.

Out front, there's the bouncer, busy keeping out the uninvited. On the inside, there's the party host, running about making sure everyone

else is involved and having a good time.

No bouncer, no host – no party.

Girls soccer games at Harmony High School this past winter were a lot like well-orchestrated, expertly executed parties. Thanks to a season-long Lady Longhorn group effort that was highlighted by Anna Blanchard, Emily Johnson and six other

fellow seniors, the team coached by Stephanie Jones got to throw a bash on the state's hottest scene – the state tournament at the University of Tampa's Pepin Stadium, where the Longhorns lost a Class 4A state semifinal, 1-0, to eventual champion Steinbrenner.

Blanchard and Johnson didn't do the big flashy things that dot the stat sheet, like score tons of goals or make saves on defense. Blanchard, the sweeper and anchor of the defense, prevented the shots from being taken on the Harmony goal, and Johnson, the center midfielder, put the rest of her talented teammates in position to score goals.

For their dirty, yet essential work, the two share the honor of *Osceola News-Gazette Girls Soccer Players of the Year*. Blanchard earned a piece of that last year as well.

Simply put, without them there's no party at the U. of T.

The duo provided a team that went 19-2, won its first-ever district title and made the first team-sport state tourney appearance in school history with a calming leadership presence.

"You knew they were the leaders, you could see it from early on this year," Jones said. "They were both more confident and had a presence, and sweeper and center midfield are the two best spots to have players like that."

The team's only losses came to the 4A state champ and Vero Beach, the Class 6A state runner-up. Only four opponents scored on the Longhorns.

"Anna anchored the defense, you have to attribute our 15 shutouts to a lot of her work, and in most cases the number of shots were minimal," Jones said. "Even in the state game, their two forwards didn't have any angles to run in with the ball (Steinbrenner's

See Soccer, page A-7



News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

Longhorns midfielder Emily Johnson created scoring opportunities for her teammates.



News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

Harmony sweeper Anna Blanchard anchored a defense that posted 15 shutouts.

All-County girls soccer

Players of the Year: Anna Blanchard (Sr., HHS)
Emily Johnson (Sr., HHS)

All-county team: Harmony: Caitlin Beam (Jr.), Kaylee Horn (Sr.), Payton Leffew (Sr.), Sage Leffew (Fr.), Kaley Ward (Soph.), Kendall Pollock (Soph.), Osceola: Leah Mullins (Jr.), Kiersten Martinez (Jr.).

Celebration: Daniela Castano (Soph.), Lexi Stephan (Soph.), Laura Rodriguez (Sr.). **Liberty:** Alicia Font (Sr.). **Gateway:** Atar Hajali (Sr.). **Poinciana:** Estelle Esperance (Soph.).

Honorable mention: Celebration: Jillian Stogis (Sr.), Mariana Villaroel (Jr.). Harmony: Breana Plattner (Fr.), Lindsey Johnson (Fr.), Heidi Moblely (Jr.). Osceola: Claire Tudor (Jr.), Sarah Lambert (Jr.). Liberty: Diana Ariza (Jr.), Christina MacDonald (Sr.). Gateway: Kaley White (Sr.). St. Cloud: Rebecca Creagen (Sr.), Lynnsey Glunt (Jr.), Megan Lubick (Sr.). Poinciana: Andrea Betancur (Soph.).

Osceola wins a pair at Klassic softball tourney

By Rick Pedone
Sports Editor

With the Kissimmee Klassic behind them, the Osceola Lady Kowboys softball team turns its attention to winning the last 4A District 6 game on its schedule at Davenport Ridge Community High Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The Kowgirls can clinch the No. 2 seed at the upcoming district tournament with a win.

Osceola defeated Naples Barron Collier, 6-2, Saturday in the gold bracket consolation final of the Kissimmee Klassic softball tournament at the Osceola County Softball Complex, its fourth game in 36 hours at the tournament that was shortened from three to two days because of rain.

"I thought our girls played very, very well," Coach George Coffey said.

The Lady Kowboys, 15-4, scored five runs in the fifth inning to secure the win behind pitcher Sasha Mendez, who scattered eight hits over seven innings.

"Sasha really didn't have

many problems at all after the first inning. She threw a real solid game," Coffey said.

Alexa Ballard (6 for 12, 3 RBIs at the Klassic) and Carmen Nadal each had two RBIs. Nicole Osterman, Chantal Crockett and Jessica Callahan all knocked in a run for OHS.

Osceola lost its first-round game against Naples Gulf Coast, 5-2, after the Sharks scored four times in the sixth inning to erase a 2-1 OHS lead.

The Lady Kowboys scored both runs in the first inning when Osterman walked and scored on Ballard's double. Nadal's double drove in Ballard. The Sharks sixth-inning rally was aided by three OHS errors.

Coffey said what seemed to be an inconsistent strike zone may have frustrated pitcher Kenya Pereira against Gulf Coast.

"But, that isn't something you can do much about. It's something that you just have to work through. It may have



News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

Shortstop Nicole Osterman tags Gulf Coast runner Carleigh Haas Friday at the Kissimmee Klassic softball tournament at the Osceola County Softball Complex.

opened the gates a little for them," he said.

The Lady Kowboys lost a 6-5 decision to Riverview in nine innings in their early game Saturday. Riverview scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth to win.

"That was one of those games with a lot of excite-

ment, a lot of back and forth and back and forth," Coffey said. "It was exciting for the fans, and (assistant) Coach (Fred) Klammer did a great job unveiling our run and gun offense. It changed things up a little, and I think our kids enjoyed that. What I liked about our team was its

resiliency. They kept coming back, they didn't let anything stop them."

Osterman homered in the Lady Kowboys 4-3 win over Bradford Starke Friday. Crockett, Callahan and Nadal also had run-producing hits

See Softball, page A-7

Liberty boys are favored at meet

By Rick Pedone
Sports Editor

Liberty High's boys and Harmony's girls will defend their Orange Belt Conference track championships today at St. Cloud High, beginning at 11 a.m. with the field events.

The running preliminaries begin at 2 p.m. The finals will follow 30 minutes after the preliminaries, at about 5 p.m.

The host Bulldogs, with the county's strongest contingent of distance runners, both boys and girls, are contenders for both championships. The Bulldogs haven't won since 2003; the Lady Bulldogs last won in 2006.

Liberty's boys, loaded with depth and talent, are the favorites. Liberty Coach Robert Pauley is counting on a strong performance from his underclassmen.

"The men will have to stay consistent like we have done

See Track, page A-7

Soccer

Continued from page A-6

goal came off a free kick sent long onto the net. If they worked free she'd chase them down with her speed. At the other end she developed into a penalty kick and free kick go-to person."

Blanchard scored eight goals, mostly on set-piece free kicks. Probably the biggest came three minutes into the Longhorns' regular-season meeting with longtime district bully Eustis. The 1-0, early-season victory likely set the tone for the expectation-blasting season.

More importantly, it made the team believe it could win in big situations, Blanchard said.

"We played Eustis again for the district title, and we just kept pushing forward and believing we were going to win," she said. "After that, the playoff wins kept feeling better and better, and by the end we were living the dream. We lost, but I was still so happy that we got that far."

Johnson, who had been a defender all her life until reaching high school - she still plays there and forward for the MeGu club team out of Melbourne that she and Blanchard play on - but finally grasped the concepts of playing center midfield in a dominating way this season.

"I had more confidence in my game this year, and it helped me distribute the ball better," Johnson, who had six goals and five assists this season, said.

Jones said Johnson got her teammates involved in the offense this season.

"Emily brought a presence to the midfield. She controlled how we played, all of our runs went through her," she said. "Defensively she shut down other midfield attacks."

Jones called the pair "constants" of the program for their four-year varsity runs.

"They showed what they truly provided this year, in spots that get little glory because they're not scoring consistently themselves," she said.

But, Blanchard and Johnson both diverted credit to

other talented Longhorns.

"Emily played awesome, and her sister (Lindsey, a freshman) did a great job. Kaylee (Horn, the goalkeeper) was great," Blanchard said. "The freshmen up front (like 19-goal scorer Sage Leftew) and Breana (Plattner) with me in defense made us forget they were freshmen. This year our team was better, and it made my job a whole lot easier to do. I'm going to miss this team a lot."

Said Johnson: "We had a senior in goal, Anna behind me, and everywhere else there was veteran leadership helping a freshman who was learning to start, like Caitlin (Beam, 11 goals, 14 assists) and Sage up front. I felt like if I could just possess the ball and get to them, we would score."

"We've set the bar so high for our freshmen, who are going to expect this every year because they went to state their first year. When we were freshmen and sophomores we were so happy to have a winning record, beat St. Cloud and win the OBC."

But sadly, this may be the end of the line for Blanchard and Johnson, who are attending the University of Georgia and the University of Florida, respectively, for academics, and are not intending to seek soccer scholarships.

"I may walk on and try out," Blanchard, considering a sports science major, said. "My club coach told me to go to a practice and mark up their fastest forward, and she won't get past me. I'm not done playing, but I'll miss the competition."

Johnson, who will study pediatric nursing, is getting pressure to do the same.

"My dad wants me to try to walk on," she said. "While it hurt for a while that we were one goal away from the state championships, we played so hard on that stage that it felt good if it was my last game in a tournament like that."

So, in an odd way, a pair of college-bound kids may be putting their partying days behind them.

By Rick Pedone
Sports Editor

Celebration's boys clinched their second consecutive Orange Belt Conference tennis championship Monday by defeating St. Cloud, 5-2, at the St. Cloud courts. The Storm finished 6-0 against conference competition, 7-7 overall.

The Lady Storm also won, 6-1. Celebration is 5-0 in conference play with a postponed match against Harmony pending.

Both teams are competing today at the 3A District 13

tournament in Melbourne, along with local teams Harmony and Liberty.

Celebration's boys won at No. 2 singles with Richard Cruz (6-0, 6-0), No. 3 with Jacob Gloddee (6-1, 6-0) and Luis Penagos (6-4, 6-3). Celebration won both doubles with Tyler Young and Cruz (8-4) at No. 1 and Gloddee-Penagos (8-1) at No. 2.

St. Cloud's Trevor Foshee (6-0, 6-0) won No. 1 singles and Zack Hull (6-2, 6-1) won No. 5 singles.

Celebration's girls won all matches except at No. 1 sin-

gles, where St. Cloud's Amanda Pence defeated Anu Gupta, 6-0, 6-1.

Lexi Stephan won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles to run her record to 13-0 prior to Wednesday's singles matches at the district tournament.

"She is a great athlete. She's won against Viera, Melbourne, Circle Christian - that's very good competition," Coach Robert Tripp said. "She's had a great season for us."

Yuja Niruge (6-0, 6-0) won No. 3 singles, Kelsey Scurlock (6-0, 6-0) won No. 4 singles

and Maria Caicedo (6-0, 6-0) won at No. 5.

Gupta and Caicedo (8-7, 8-6 tiebreaker) won No. 1 doubles, and Stephan-Scurlock (8-0) won at No. 2.

The No. 1 singles and doubles district champions advance to the state tournament in two weeks at Seminole County. The top two teams advance to regional play Tuesday.

Osceola and Gateway played at the 4A-8 district tournament at Vero Beach, which was rained out Tuesday and resumed Wednesday.

Track

Continued from page A-6

throughout this season. But, just because we are the favorite doesn't mean anything until you do it," he said.

St. Cloud Coach Kevin Harkema said Liberty and Celebration may be the class of the boys meet.

"We have a shot, but a lot would have to go right for us. Celebration has two superstars for our county, and Liberty looked really strong in the field events," he said.

Celebration brings several athletes capable of winning Class 3A state championships in hurdler and middle distance runner Tyler Osorio, distance runner Quincy O'Connor and female pole vaulter Jessica Harter.

Along with O'Connor and the St. Cloud runners, Liberty's Robbie Johnroe and Harmony's Matt Henning will contest for titles in the distance races.

Osceola High senior Defario Phillips is one of the state's best at 100 meters and 200 meters. He won both events at the OBC meet last season.

"I think it's pretty open this year," Osceola boys coach

Mike Clemens said. "As far as sprints go, we will do OK in that area. I think that whoever has the depth to clean up in the fourth through eighth places will win the (boys) meet."

The girls meet has several potential state champions, led by Osceola's standout senior sprinter Tynia Gaither, who owns four state titles. She is favored at 100 and 200 meters.

Gaither set a personal record of 11.54 in the 100 at the recent Steimbrenner Invitational and was second last weekend at the Florida Relays in 11.55 seconds. Her times rank second in the nation.

Osceola's 4 x 100 relay of Gaither, Atarah Clark, Jameshia Gant and Jodiann Crooks clocked a school record 46.59 at the Florida Relays last weekend, finishing third with the third-best time in the nation.

Despite Osceola's speed, Coach Eric Pinellas said his team will be fortunate to win today.

"I have no distance or throws, really. I would be surprised if we won," he said.

St. Cloud girls coach Ettie Singleton said depth could drive her team to the title.

Cierra Adams is one of the county's best shot putters, and the team has speed in Jennifer Fullwood, Ishanay Pacheco and Jaquita Manning.

Janice Velez pole vaults, and Kirsten Chambers, Diana Gatlin and Yazmelis Santos are strong in the hurdles and jumps, Singleton said.

The distance squad of Katelyn Stadlander, Ashlyn Stadlander, Kristen Detroyer and Anaya Reid is one of the strongest in the state.

"I think we have a good shot if the girls bring their 'A' game at the same time," Singleton said.

Harmony Coach Jerrad Butler said his team is a contender, as well. Like St. Cloud,

it is deep in the distance and field events.

"I think we can sneak in and do a lot better than most would give our team credit for," he said.

"Our girls have worked hard and we should be healthy going into OBCs. We will have our best on the track. If we come up short, so be it."

Poinciana has one of the county's best 4 x 400 relay teams with Madjah Barnett, Estelle Esperence, Gabriella Rodriguez and Kenina Bonner. Esperence and Rodriguez also compete at 800 meters.

Bonner will lead the sprinters, Coach Bryan McLoughlin said.

Liberty boasts one of the county's most talented jumpers in freshman Marion Brown.

Softball

Continued from page A-6

for the Lady Kowboys. Mendez pitched 4 1/3 innings to earn the win. Morgan Crapo earned a save.

Sarasota edged Plant City, 2-0, to win the blue bracket championship and Keystone Heights out-hit Pine Castle Christian, 10-6, for the gold bracket crown. Cape Coral Baker edged Lake Brantley, 2-1, for the white bracket title.

Coffey said Osceola is ready for the district tournament at Lake Wales in two weeks.

The team plays at St. Cloud next Thursday before going to Naples for a tournament.

"We're pretty well set. It's just a matter of getting ourselves prepared for what's ahead," Coffey said.

Harmony will visit St. Cloud today at 7 p.m. in a rescheduled game that was rained out last Thursday.

The Longhorns, the No. 1 seed at the 4A-6 district tournament, will host Pine Castle Christian Friday at 7 p.m.

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I Bet You Didn't Know
With baseball season underway, it's time to keep a lookout for oddball injuries. They happen every season. Take 2010. Do you know why Baltimore's Brian Roberts missed the last week of the season? It was because of recurring headaches caused when Roberts clucked himself in the head with his bat after a strikeout. Then there was Kendry Morales of the Angels, who missed the last four months. Any idea how? After blasting a walk-off grand slam home run, Morales celebrated by jumping into a crowd of teammates at home plate. When he landed, he broke his leg.
A streak of historic proportions came to an end during the 2010-11 college basketball season. Mauro Potestio attended his first Portland University game as a fan on December 8, 1949, and didn't miss another home game until - get this - January 29, 2011, for an incredible attendance streak of 898 games. He missed that game because of illness and passed away two days later. At the next home game, the Portland coach, his assistants, and many fans wore bowties - as Potestio often did - in his honor.
Less than one month later, another awesome streak ended, this one at the microphone. On February 26, 2011, play-by-play announcer Jack Cristil called his last game for Mississippi State. Cristil had been calling Bulldogs basketball games since 1957, as well as the university's football games since 1953. Cristil retired at age 85 for health reasons because he needed to receive kidney dialysis.
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Former OHS athlete promises to make the most of 2nd chance

By Rick Pedone
Sports Editor

It took former Osceola High football and wrestling standout Robert Strader longer than usual to earn a football scholarship.

Wearing his No. 47 OHS football shirt, he signed a letter of intent to Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D. recently at the OHS gym as his parents, Robert Sr. and Colleen Strader, watched.

It was a circuitous and painful recruiting process after Strader graduated from OHS in 2009. He had a solid career as a defensive lineman for Coach Jeff Rolson's football teams, making 49 tackles during his senior season. He also placed fifth at 215 pounds at the 2009 state wrestling tournament, helping the Kowboys win their first team championship.

Strader had scholarship offers during his senior year, and he also had the grades with a 3.2 GPA.

But, as Osceola Athletic Director and Wrestling Coach Jim Bird said, "He's always been a good kid, but sometimes he struggled a little bit.

Sometimes he got with the wrong crowd."

One night, several months after he graduated, Strader got involved in an argument at a party.

"The guy threw a punch at me, and I took him down with a double-leg takedown. It was a good wrestling move," he said with an ironic grin. "The bad thing was that when he went down, he hit his elbow and hurt it."

Worse, according to Strader, his opponent's friend came out of an adjoining room with gun, pointed at Strader.

"I got the heck out of there," he said.

Several days later, police officers arrived at Strader's parents' home and arrested him for aggravated assault.

"I was looking at 10 to 15 years in prison," he said.

He spent several months at the county jail while his case worked its way through the system.

"It came up for trial four times, and it was delayed each time," he said. "When it came up the fifth time, my witnesses didn't show up."

Strader eventually pleaded to battery with intent to do

bodily harm, a misdemeanor.

Strader realized that he was squandering an opportunity to have a good life, and he made it his purpose to do something about it.

"I took out all of the recruiting letters I had gotten and started calling every single one of those coaches," he said.

Colleen Strader encouraged her son.

"I told him, 'You can do it. Prove that you're better than they think you are. You can do it,'" she said. "He did it all on his own. His dad told him it had to be that way."

Robert Strader Sr. said, "If he did it on his own, he would appreciate it more. He'd feel like he earned it himself."

Not surprisingly, given Strader's legal problems, most of those coaches did not respond even though he got letters of recommendation from employers and former teachers.

Meanwhile, Strader visited his former OHS position coach, Bill Buldini, at St. Cloud High after Buldini was made the Bulldogs' head coach last summer.

Buldini gave Strader a job as a volunteer defensive line



Photo/Special to the News-Gazette

Former Osceola High football player and wrestler Robert Strader celebrated his football scholarship at the Osceola High gym recently with his parents, Robert and Colleen Strader, seated. Standing, from left, are Osceola Athletic Director Jim Bird, Damien Noret and Ty Ensor.

coach for the Bulldogs.

Mike Short, who became the St. Cloud head football coach earlier this year after Buldini resigned, said that Strader did a good job for the Bulldogs.

"He brought an incredible work ethic. He's a great kid," Short said. "I actually coached Robert in wrestling at Denn John Middle School, so I've known him forever. When Bill Buldini got the job here, Robert would drop by just to stay in touch, and Bill added him to the staff. He did a good job."

Strader finally hit the jackpot when Dakota Wesleyan

Coach Brad Pole contacted him in December.

"He asked me if I wanted to play football for him Jan. 3," Strader said, recalling a life-changing moment. "I told him that I'd do whatever he needed me to do."

Strader's paperwork wasn't processed in time for him to enroll for the spring semester, but all is on track for Strader to join the Tigers for summer practice.

"I want to be a coach one day, and this is the way I'm going to do it," he said. "I realize after what I went through that you have to be focused on a goal to be suc-

cessful. I've had an opportunity to meet a ton of great coaches around here, so hopefully I can use those contacts to maybe get a job one day right here in this county."

Strader will play outside linebacker at Dakota Wesleyan, a NAIA Division II program that was 4-6 last season in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

To prepare, he has set up a conditioning course in the front yard of the family home.

"I've got everything there I need to train," he said. "I'm fortunate to have this opportunity, and I'm going to take advantage of it."

Sports Briefs

Water polo today

Osceola will host Gateway today at 5 p.m. at the Osceola YMCA for a water polo match that was postponed due to thunderstorms last week.

Harmony physicals

Harmony High will hold its annual Physical Day April 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the gym. The fee is \$10. For more information call 407-933-9900 or email Harmony trainer Craig Carnell at carnellc@osceola.k12.fl.us.

St. Cloud physicals

St. Cloud High will hold its Physical Day April 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the gym.

The fee is \$15. Pop Warner athletes are welcome to attend.

For more information email Athletic Director Chad Ansbrough at ansbrough@osceola.k12.fl.us.

Stewart Golf Classic

Registration is now open for Kissimmee Parks and Recreation's annual Terry Stewart Memorial Golf Classic at Kissimmee Golf Club April 16 at 8 a.m.

The fee of \$65 per person (\$260 per team) includes golf fees plus a commemorative golf towel and cup. The event is followed by a sit-down luncheon and raffle.

Registration deadline is Wednesday. For more information, contact the Fortune Road Athletic Complex at 407-518-2504.

Storm golf tourney

The Celebration High School football program will host the inaugural Storm Golf Tournament April 30 at Celebration Golf Club at 8 a.m. Proceeds will be used to purchase needed equipment.

For more information, contact football coach Ben Aarestad by Friday at 321-939-6600.

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Kissimmee touts 2010 successes in report

By **Brian McBride**
 Associate Editor

From the Fire Department opening a new fire station to the Parks and Recreation staff establishing new playgrounds, the city of Kissimmee recently released the 2010 Annual Citizens Report touting its successes last year.

The comprehensive report features the city's 12 departments and outlines the programs and projects respective staffs were able to complete in 2010.

Produced by the city's Public Information Office, the report is available for free by going to the city's website at www.kissimmee.org and clicking on the link.

"I think we have done an excellent job in serving the needs of the community," City Commissioner Art Otero said, adding that the protection Kissimmee provides to its residents was paramount.

Some of the successes the departments had, according to the report, were:

Developmental Services

- Reduced transportation impact fees by 27 percent.
- Developing an inter-local agreement with Osceola County to establish a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) along the Vine Street corridor to help make area improvements.
- Purchased 19 homes and donated nine homes to the Osceola County Council on Aging.
- More than 3,600 code enforcement cases were processed with a 99.5 percent voluntary compliance rate.
- Collected \$425,522 in permitting fees.

Community Redevelopment Agency

- The Carson Home Restoration, 808 Bryan St., the new home of the Kissimmee Community Redevelopment Agency, is the last remaining example that will serve as a "best practice" model for the community to encourage preservation, according to the report.
- Master redevelopment plan: The CRA is currently updating the long-range plan for the community, which will highlight the district's assets and needs.
- Commercial and residential grant programs: The CRA provided a variety of grants for the rehabilitation of residential and commercial structures located within the overlay district.
- To date, the CRA has awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants with a direct reinvestment of more than \$8.1 million in the district, the



News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

The Kissimmee Fire Department opening the new station 11 in June was touted as one of the many successes the city of Kissimmee listed in its recently released 2010 Annual Citizens Report.

report stated.

Economic Development

- Coordinated the grand opening of the downtown UCF Kissimmee Business Incubator in City Centre. This facility will house start up businesses and assist in the beginning stages of their development. In the first two weeks, according to the report, the incubator was successful in becoming the home of two budding companies. This incubator is expected to generate a \$2 million in economic impact within the community.
- Initiated conversations with the business development offices of five colleges and universities to encourage them to open campuses along U.S. Highway 441/ Orange Blossom

Trail, which would develop into an educational corridor.

Kissimmee Fire Department

- Fire Station 11 was completed and dedicated on June 4, 2010, at 343 N. Clyde Ave. The station is the city's first green building, using environmentally sustainable methods and materials.
- In coordination with Osceola County and the city of St. Cloud, Kissimmee fire officials developed and implemented shared post-disaster damage assessment program.
- The agency was awarded several local, state and federal grants that totaled more than \$60,000 allowing for programs that otherwise would have been difficult to fund, the report stated. These grants provided for special oper-

ations and hazardous materials training, purchase of an interactive mannequin for real-life simulation training and the purchase of a child search and rescue mannequin.

- For the fifth consecutive year, there were no fire fatalities in the city of Kissimmee, the report stated.

Parks and Recreation

- Received a \$10,000 Tony Hawk grant for a new skate park to be built at Lakeside Park
- Hosted the Easter Eggstravaganza at the Shingle Creek Regional Park for the first time. The event drew more than 3,000 people, according to the report.
- Initiated several new programs at the

See Report, page B-2



CELEBRATING THE CITY LIFE

News-Gazette Photos/
 Andrew Sullivan

The annual Kowtown Festival was held at Toho Square in downtown Kissimmee on March 19. Above left, Community Service Officer Cinthia Pabon, of the Kissimmee Police Department, works on her throwing technique at a game in a midway. Above, Craig Holland, development services director for the city of Kissimmee, displays a look of triumph after winning this year's hot dog-eating contest at the festival. Below, morning crowds gathered to peruse vendor tents along Pleasant Street in downtown Kissimmee during the festival.



A Capitol trip



Submitted Photo

This year during spring break, 20 high school students from Heritage Christian School, 1500 E. Vine St., Kissimmee, took the Amtrak train to Washington, D.C. This is the first time that students from Heritage have had the opportunity to take this trip. Some of the highlights included a tour of the White House, Capitol Building and time at the Arlington National Cemetery. They also went on a night tour of the monuments, spent a day at the National Zoo and visited the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

Meyer named Kissimmee Elks volunteer of the year

Kissimmee Elks Lodge 1873 on March 26 named Carolyn Meyer its volunteer of the year.

According to an Elks press release, Meyer was a dedicated volunteer at Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee. She travels from her home in Davenport several times a week to greet guests at the front desk, supply stars at the Castle of Miracles, operate the carousel, greet arriving families at Orlando International Airport, offer Village tours to guests and she also serves as an Angel Amba-

sador at various events.

Twice a week, Meyer is the lead photographer for the Disney character program. She snaps photos of Wish families coming face-to-face with their favorite characters, including Mickey and Minnie Mouse. She also has captured thousands of pictures at various Village events, like Halloween and nightly entertainment programs. Meyer is a dedicated volunteer, having completed more than 4,558 service hours since January 2001, the press release stated.

According to the Give Kids The World website, the Village provides "memorable, magical, cost-free experiences to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families."



Meyer

Poinciana Ladies Club carnival to be April 22-24

The Poinciana Ladies Club is a cornerstone of the community. Through goodwill and a strong love of the community, the ladies club has formed scholarship opportunities, bestowing two scholarships to deserving high school seniors. This group has been consistent with its community service and activities. The club will celebrate this Easter season with a perfect spring gift.

Plan on attending the club-sponsored carnival, which will be Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24. This family-friendly fair features all the rides and games as in years past. The carnival will be held adjacent to Vance Harmon Park on Country Club Drive.

The club will hold its big fundraising effort during this weekend and you can be a part of it. On Saturday, April 23, adjacent to the carnival site (Vance Harmon Park) will be a rummage sale. At a cost of \$12, vendors may secure a space and sell items. This massive "garage sale" runs Saturday only. Contact Ve Saunders at 863-496-2285 or Connie Lopez at 407-345-4581 to

arrange for space at the rummage sale.

The Poinciana Ladies Club takes the summer months off. At the upcoming April meeting, members will discuss the installation of officers for the upcoming year. The group's next meeting will be Monday at 7 p.m. at the Poinciana Community Center, 395 Marigold Ave. For more information on the Poinciana Ladies Club, call Irene Gilbert at 863-427-9733.

So far this year, with the exception of last week's scary weather days, Florida is the envy of all those cold states. Make the most of this beautiful spring by learning how to landscape with plants you can grow and eat.

Edible Landscaping is the topic of the presentation given by the Osceola County Extension Service. This class



Lisa D'Cato
Poinciana
Writer

will be at the Poinciana Branch Library, North Doverplum Avenue, today from 10 a.m. to noon. The class is free and open to the public.

Maybe it's time to restock your home library or buy books to donate to schools or hospitals. Whatever time it is, it is always a good idea to support the Friends of the Poinciana Library. The group will hold a book sale at the Poinciana Branch Library Thursday, April 14, to Saturday, April 16. Thursday's sale will be from 1 to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friends of the Poinciana Library meets September through May on the third Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. at the Poinciana Library. When you stop in at the book sale, ask the "Friends" more about this group.

If you have any Poinciana news or information that you would like to share, call Lisa D'Cato at 407-846-7122 or email news@osceolaneuws gazette.com.

City of Kissimmee

Parks and Recreation to take part in a safety fair

The city of Kissimmee Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Osceola Safe Families Task Force to host the Easter Jam and Family Safety Fair.

The event is open to the public and will be at the Chambers Park Community Center from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16. Chambers Park is at 2380 N. Smith St. in Kissimmee.

According to a city press release, the fair will include fun activities for the entire family. Some of the highlights include a visit from the Easter Bunny, an Easter egg hunt and a bounce house. Several vendors will be on hand to promote

safety, healthy living and provide educational information about the community resources available.

Participants can learn about Internet safety, poison prevention, food allergy awareness, child-proofing your home, how to prepare for a natural disaster and other useful topics.

There will be a special Fun Zone filled with games and fun activities for the children. Wristbands are \$2. Photos and a variety of food also will be available for sale.

For more information, call the Chambers Park Community Center at 407-518-2599.

Celebration High approved for the IB school program

The International Baccalaureate Organization has approved Celebration High School as an International Baccalaureate World School.

This distinction allows the school to begin the IB diploma program for the next school year, providing a two-year international baccalaureate curriculum leading to final examinations and a qualification that is welcomed by leading universities around the world, according to an Osceola County School District press release.

Celebration High began the authorization process in 2008-09, and it usually takes up to three years to complete. The process has a number of phases including the consideration phase, a request for candidacy, the candidacy phase and a request for authorization. Throughout the process, the school works with the International Baccalaureate Organization in:

- Making the decision to become an IB World School.
- Understanding the nature and requirements of the IB program.
- Defining the school's readiness to implement the program.
- Planning to sustain the program in the long term.

IB program students study six courses at high level or

standard level. In addition, the program has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding:

• The extended essay is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

• Theory of knowledge is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

• Creativity, action, service requires that students actively

See Celebration, page B-6

Buenaventura Lakes Library

The following programs are being offered at the Buenaventura Lakes Library, 405 Buenaventura Blvd., Kissimmee:

Story time on Wednesdays

10 a.m., Toddler Tales – Walkers from 18-36 months are invited to dance, sing, do finger-plays and listen to stories. Story times encourage emerging language skills.

11 a.m., Preschool Rock-

in' Readers – Preschoolers and their parents are invited to theme-based story times geared to the interests and developmental stages of 3- to 5-year-olds. Sing songs, watch flannel board stories, practice rhymes and learn about books. This 30-minute interactive program supports early literacy skills.

2:30 p.m., Kidz Kaboom – Imaginations go KABOOM

See Library, page B-6

Report

Continued from Page B-1

Chambers Park Community Center, such as Teen Alliance, Parent's Night Out, Jit Jams and a gardening program.

• Partnered with various volunteer groups, such as Olive Garden, Home Depot for Lake Tohopekaliga and Shingle Creek clean-ups.

• Constructed new playgrounds in Chambers Park, Ladue Park and a Tot Lot in North Kissimmee, with funding assistance from the community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Kissimmee Police Department

• KPD introduced two new educational programs to Osceola County Schools

including texting while driving and sexting.

• In an effort to deter and recover stolen bicycles, the Kissimmee Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit launched BikeTrack on the department's website. It is a program that allows bicycle owners to register their bikes with KPD.

When an officer finds an abandoned bike, it will be run through this database to find the owner. The database can be accessed through the Kissimmee Police Department's website at police.kissimmee.org

• KPD partnered with Crimeline and other local

law enforcement agencies in the annual Kicks for Guns program. Officers collected 64 firearms and three samurai-style swords during the event.

Public Works and Engineering

• Martin Luther King Jr. Phase III design plans are in progress. Approximately one mile of new roadway from Thacker Avenue to Dyer Boulevard is being designed and will be constructed.

• Hoagland Boulevard widening Phase II and III with Osceola County. The design phase is under way.

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See additional Community Events/News at www.aroundosceola.com

COMMUNITY

What's new?

Register for football league

Kissimmee Youth Football League will have a sign-up for football and cheerleading at Play Again Sports on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 2900 W. Vine St., Kissimmee. Call Jasper Thompson at 407-908-0086 for more information or visit the website @www.kissimmeekowboys.com

DAV events

The Disabled American Veterans No. 148, 21 E. Keen St., Kissimmee, 407-846-4141, are hosting the following events:

- The Tanzanite Stone raffle drawing is on Mother's Day, May 8. Tickets are \$5 or five for \$20.

Saturday: The band Les and Pup's will perform from 2 to 6 p.m.

April 16: Barnyard bingo at noon. The band Professor Les and Flock of Buzzards will perform from 2 to 6 p.m.

April 17: There will be elections for DAVA 148 at 2 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. for DAV 148.

April 23: The band Sling Shot will perform from 4 to 8 p.m.

April 30: The band Dragon Head and Friends will perform from 2 to 6 p.m.

Happy hour is every day from 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, a service officer will be available at noon. Corn hole games are every weekend and every Sunday there will be a \$2 Bloody Mary special.

Financial seminar set

Robert Rosen, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, Kissimmee, is holding a free seminar at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Tarantino's Italian Restaurant, 4150 W. Vine St., Kissimmee. The seminar is called "It's Always Something." There will be a discussion on how to see beyond today's issues and worries, take advantage of today's trends and put long-term investment strategies to work for you. The guest speaker is John Gavin, representing The Hartford investment products.

RSVP by calling 407-870-5464.

Wills and trusts seminar

Capital Estates Educational Services will host an informational lecture by Wealth Preservation Associates on wills and trusts Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Adult Learning Center Osceola, 2320 New Beginnings Road, Kissimmee. The lecture information is provided purely as an educational service. No legal matters will be discussed and all requests for more information will be referred to appropriate legal counsel for individual consultation. Have you recently relocated to Florida? Updated your will? This seminar is for you.

Reservations are required. RSVP to Joe McQuaid at 407-593-2243 or Tom Dalton at 407-908 3708.

Rummage sale set

The Poinciana Ladies Club is having a rummage sale April 23 in conjunction with the club's annual carnival, which will run from April 22, 23-24 at Vance Harmon Park, which is between Country Club Road and Cypress Parkway.

Tribute to Elvis, Darin

The St. Cloud Senior Center will present An Evening with the Kings Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Peter Alden will present a tribute to the King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley, while Ronnie Howe will present a tribute to "The King of Swing" Bobby Darin.

Both also will perform a selection of jukebox favorites from other stars of the 1950s and 1960s, including Ricky Nelson, Buddy Holly, Bobby Rydell, Carl Perkins and Dion and the Belmonts.

Cost is \$8 per person.

United Daughters of the Confederacy

United Daughters of the Confederacy, Osceola Confederate Dames Chapter 2684, meet the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The group is a historical, benevolent, educational, patriotic and memorial organization of ladies with Confederate ancestors.

Any interested ladies with such ancestors who would like to attend a meeting can call 407-361-0984.

Golf tournament set

The St. Cloud VFW Golf Tournament will be April 16 at the Kissimmee Bay Country Club, 2801 Kissimmee Bay Circle. Tee time is at 8 a.m., registration begins at 7 a.m. It's limited to 64 players and is \$65

per player.

There will be contest prizes, raffles, doughnuts and coffee, entertainment, goodie bags and more. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, call Thomas Jones at 407-414-4713, Kyle Hickman at 407-864-2042 or email at kyle@orlandorock.com.

Confederate camp

The Sons of Confederate Veterans Jacob Summerlin Camp 1516 meets every second Monday (except in December) at 6:30 p.m. at Fat Boy's restaurant in St. Cloud. Visit www.JacobSummerlin.org

Yard sale/car wash

The Ladies Association of the Church of God of Kissimmee will hold its first yard sale/car wash Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2550 Flamboyant St., Kissimmee. For more information, contact Carmen M. Ramos at 407-348-8788.

Golf classic to support camp

Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell will host the 28th E.P. Murphy Golf Classic, Saturday, May 14, at Kissimmee Bay Country Club.

The event has been hosted annually since 1983 to honor former Sheriff E.P. "Kayo" Murphy and his 30 years of service as sheriff of the county. Last year, the event raised approximately \$9,000 for the Sheriff's Adventure Camp. Cost per player is \$70 and a corporate sponsorship (team of four and tee sponsor) is \$400.

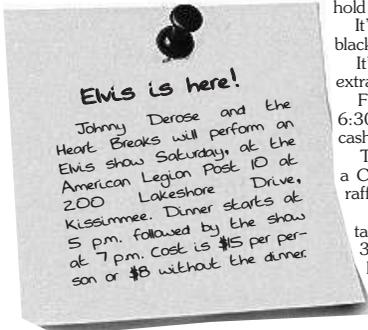
The camp encourages at-risk youth to stay in school and build positive relationships with law enforcement and the community. Activities include ropes, confidence courses, canoeing, tubing and swimming. Children also play games to teach them how to set goals and work together as a team.

For a registration form, go to osceolasherrif.org

For more information, call 407-348-1141.

Elvis show set

Johnny Derosé and the Heart Breaks will perform an Elvis show Saturday at the American Legion Post 10 at 200 Lakeshore Drive, Kissimmee. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. followed by the show at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person or \$8 without the dinner.



Cultural

Potpourri Celebration set

Education Foundation Osceola County Association, a not-for-profit organization, will be hosting its first annual Cultural Potpourri Celebration Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.

This celebration will be at Osceola High School's auditorium at 420 S. Thacker Ave., Kissimmee. The show will be full of exciting entertainment, according to an association press release. There also will be space available for product display and for sponsors to give out information. Vendor tables (limited spacing) are available for sponsor levels platinum (\$1,000), gold (\$750), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$250). Any individual also can make a \$50 donation. Sponsorships are needed to defray cost and support the OCEA Minority Scholarship Fund. The funds will assist minority students who have demonstrated academic improvement and volunteer community service an opportunity for higher education.

Make checks payable to OCEA (memo: MAC Scholarship Fund). Checks are due by Friday.

Friends Who Care Club

The Friends Who Care Club meets monthly at the St. Cloud Senior Center, 3101 17th St. The club raises funds annually for the American Cancer Society.

It is conducting an indoor flea market/mini-health fair today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hall A at the cen-

Liking law enforcement



Hundreds gathered March 12 to attend the annual Community Appreciation Day and open house at the Osceola County Sheriff's Office administration complex. Above, 7-year-old William Thomas, of St. Cloud, pokes his head out of a porthole atop the Sheriff's Office SWAT Tank.

News-Gazette Photo/Andrew Sullivan

ter. The public is invited to attend the event to buy merchandise for sale and obtain health-related information.

For more information, call Irene at 407-847-0049.

Vegas Night

VFW Post No. 3227 will host "Fabulous Vegas Night" Saturday, April 16, at 7 p.m. at the post, 915 New York Ave., St. Cloud.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Seats are sold in advance; walk-ins will be subject to availability.

It's \$60 in advance for Texas hold 'em, \$70 at the door.

It's \$30 in advance to play blackjack, \$35 at the door.

It's \$20 to re-buy back in and extra chips are \$20.

Food will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. along with a cash bar.

There also will be raffle prizes, a Chinese auction and a 50/50 raffle.

For more information, contact Christine Endicott at 407-361-3176, Nicole Lane at lane@scyfbulldogs.com or Franny McNutt at 321-624-6250.

Mended Hearts to meet

Mended Hearts of Osceola will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Osceola Regional Medical Center, 700 W. Oak St., Kissimmee, in classroom A.

Dr. Patrick Mathias will be discussing, "Life after stents." Refreshments will be served. The group is open to heart patients, caregivers and medical professionals.

Register on the website www.mendedhearts-Osceola.org or call 407-348-2489.

Healthy Kids Day expo

The Fifth Annual Poinciana Expo and Y's Healthy Kids Day will be April 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

It will be at the Poinciana Community Complex, 395 Marigold Ave., Poinciana. Learn about partnering with the Y in Poinciana, information on exercise plans, healthy diets, proper rest and much more.

For more information, call the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce at 407-847-3174.

Republican's Woman's Network to meet

The Greater Osceola Republican Women's Network meets the second Thursday of every month at Kissimmee Bay Country Club.

The next meeting will be April 14. The group will be having sliced ham with all the trimmings. Cost is \$15. The guest speaker will be Derrick Hicks, a historian. Social time starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

RSVP to vickywells@aol.com or

407-892-8695 or bsnyder0021@aol.com or 407-460-2660.

Grief and Loss Support

Cornerstone Hospice is inviting anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one to join its grief and loss support group every Monday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Village clubhouse boardroom, 4250 Village Drive, Kissimmee. Call Claudia Swonger, bereavement counselor, at 407-206-2273 for more information.

What's happening?

Book sale set

The Poinciana Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 14, 15 and 16, at the Poinciana Branch Library. It's 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; Saturday it's from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Veterans dinner

The Osceola County Veterans Council will host the 10th Annual Veterans Dinner called "Thank a Korean Veteran" Saturday, April 16, from 5 to 11 p.m. at the Kissimmee Elks Lodge, 1655 Kings Highway. The keynote speaker has yet to be announced. Dinner will be buffet style with roast beef and chicken. Tickets are \$15 per person. For reservations and tickets, contact Don Smith at 407-846-8599 or 407-973-8113. The deadline for tickets is Monday.

Toastmasters of St. Cloud

Toastmasters of St. Cloud meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the St. Cloud Civic Center. For more information, call 407-729-4144.

Church to host author

Cornerstone Church, 2925 Canoe Creek Road, in St. Cloud Sunday, April 17, will welcome Don Piper, the New York Times best-selling author of "90 Minutes in Heaven" at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Piper will be sharing his story about driving home from a church conference in 1989, when his Ford Escort was struck head-on by an 18-wheeler. He was pronounced dead by paramedics, but came back to life. To date, 34 surgical procedures have taken place. Since the release of his book, Piper has traveled across the country and around the world sharing his story.

For more information, call the church at 407-892-3300.

Library Board to meet

The Osceola County Library Advisory Board will meet Wednesday, April 20, at 6 p.m. in the Monument Room of the Hart Memorial Central Library, 211 E. Dakin Ave., Kissimmee.

Book donations sought

The Delta Kappa Gamma, an international teaching society, is collecting new and used books for the OutReach Center in Kissimmee, a safehouse for abused women and their children. Bring the books to the lobby of the CFE Credit Union, in St. Cloud or Kissimmee.

For more information about Delta Kappa Gamma, contact Susan Schmidt at suzierhere@comcast.net.

Kast Club

The Kast Club has shuffleboard at Good Samaritan Village, 1441 Hoeger Circle, Kissimmee, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Bingo is at the Kissimmee Civic Center Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Five-card pinochle Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. and euchre on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Kissimmee parks and recreation building, 717 N. Palm St.

KAST club bingo

The Kissimmee All States Tourist Club (KAST) has grocery bingo every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Kissimmee Civic Center.

Cost is \$2 at the door or a seasonal membership of \$10.

FWA Osceola Writers Group

Are you writing a book, screenplay or short story and need help with the craft or publication? If so, then join the FWA Osceola Writers Group, which offers education, critique, networking and support to adult writers.

Monthly meetings are every second Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Susan's Courtyard Café, 18 S. Orlando, Kissimmee.

For more information, e-mail Vicki Riley-Fischer at vfischer@cfl.rr.com. Also visit the Florida Writers Association website for a link to the group's blog www.floridawriters.net.

Click on Groups/Central Florida/Osceola Group.

Ladies needed for games

Ladies are needed to fill in some empty spots for bridge and canasta games at the Kissimmee Women's Club on Oak Street in Kissimmee.

For more information, call Marilyn Smith at 407-348-5682.

See Community, page B-5

Reagan Republican Assembly

The Ronald Reagan Republican Assembly and the Spirit of '76 Club have joined together to form Ronald Reagan Conservatives, a Republican assembly.

The meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, 1425 E. Vine St. The group's mission is to promote and educate on the Second Amendment and promote conservatism in the tradition of the Founding Fathers. For more information, call Dave Scherer at 407-873-1048.

Osceola Singles Club

The Osceola Singles Club meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge Post 2056, 1019 N. Main St., Kissimmee. For more information, call Anne at 407-933-1100 or Joan at 407-390-8199.

Kissimmee Lions

The Kissimmee Lions Club meets the first and third Mon-

day of each month at the clubhouse, 3050 Lions Court, just off Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. Men and women 18 and older are invited to visit the club. Used glasses and hearing aids will be collected. Call Phyllis Brannaman at 407-847-2744.

Kissimmee Elks Lodge 1873

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a fraternal organization that supports many charities among which are the Children's Therapy Services of Florida, The Veteran's Clinic in Orlando, drug awareness programs for school children and the third-grade dictionary project. They give scholarships on the local, state and national levels as well as recognize "Student of the Year" at the high schools in our area. The Elks support and send children to the Youth Camp in Umatilla, sponsor citizenship and Americanism essay competitions and donate trophies and support to the youth soccer and hoop shoot competitions each year. There are facilities at the lodge used by Cub Scouts and

Boy Scouts.

The members of Elks Lodge 1873, 1655 Kings Highway, Kissimmee, meet at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Elkettes (Lady Elks) meet the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Food service starts at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Sunday, the lodge is open for happy hour from 1 to 7 p.m. with hot bar food available. Doors open for evening events at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about dinners or reservations, call 407-847-2444 after 3 p.m. and ask for Bill or Brian. For lodge information, call Earl or Paul in the office from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 407-847-2913.

Osceola Toastmasters Club

Osceola Toastmasters Club 1841 meets every Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Kissimmee Utility Authority, 1701 W. Carroll St., Kissimmee. Toastmasters purpose is to help men and women improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills. For more information on the club, contact Michael Aun, vice president of public relations, at 407-870-0030 or toll free 1-800-356-0567. Visit the

Civic groups

website at <http://www.toastmasters1841.org/>

Alzheimer's support group

The Alzheimer Resource Center (ARC), the East Central Florida Memory Disorder Clinic and the Osceola County Council on Aging offer an Alzheimer's Family Support Group the second Friday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Barney E. Veal Center, 700 Generation Point, Kissimmee.

All are welcome. Call 407-483-1494 to register.

Republican Executive Committee

The Osceola County Republican Executive Committee meets every fourth Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the city of Kissimmee Commission Chambers, 101 N. Church St. Kissimmee. The committee stands for lower taxes, personal responsibility, family values and strong national defense. For more information, call 407-846-8889 or visit www.osceolarepublicans.org.

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Obituaries For daily obituaries and services please visit our website: www.aroundosceola.com

BENNETT - Mr. John J. Bennett, 69, of Kissimmee passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2011.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Osceola Memory Gardens, Kissimmee.



DUNFORD - Jonathan Edward Dunford, 40, passed away on March 29, 2011.



He is survived by his mother, Maureen Trevino, sister, Heather Dunford, uncle, Michael Duggan, and his two daughters, Candyn and McKenna.

Jonathan attended Dillard High School in Ft. Lauderdale and Florida State University.

He was a proud member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He worked summers while in school at Broward General Medical Center in Ft. Lauderdale and later made a career in the restaurant business.

In 2005, he moved from Ft. Lauderdale to Kissimmee to be near his mother and sister.

There he would eventually take on his favorite role, that of being a father.

A college fund has been set up for his daughters and donations may be made by contacting the family. May Jonathan's spirit live on through his daughters, family and friends.

Memories may be shared at <http://jonathandunford.forevermissed.com/>

MASSEY - James Edward Massey, 81, of St. Cloud, FL, passed away on April 2, 2011.



He was born in Toccoa, Georgia, to Mary Zelma Bell and John Lee Massey.

He attended North Georgia Military College and was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia. He was a USAF Veteran of the Korean conflict and retired from Hartford Life and Casualty Co.

He is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Amandalee Weiss and survived by his daughters, Bonnie Jo (Alden) Weiss, St. Cloud, FL, and Dinah Lee Scharfenberg (John), Abingdon, VA, grandson, 2nd Lt. Bryan Edward Weiss (Brittany), Chester, VA, and granddaughter, Jennifer Schweizer, (Mark), Chesterfield, VA.

Graveside service was at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, at Mt. Peace Cemetery in St.

Cloud, by Pastor Andy Aikens from Grace Community Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Amandalee Fund, Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL, 33612.

The Massey family is being cared for by Conrad & Thompson Funeral Home, 511 Emmett St., Kissimmee, FL, 34741; 407-847-3188 www.conradandthompson.com

Our Family Caring for Your Family
Conrad & Thompson
Funeral Home
511 Emmett St., Kissimmee
(407) 847-3188

OJEDA - Andres R. Jacome Ojeda, 19, of Davenport, passed away Monday, April 4, 2011.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Funeraria Y Crematorio Porta Coeli, 2801 E. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee. www.PORTACOELIFH.com Phone 407-846-2804

Porta Coeli
Funeraria y Crematorio

SOLER - Aurelio (Junior) Soler, 62, of Kissimmee, passed away Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Funeraria Y Crematorio Porta Coeli, 2801 E. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee. www.PORTACOELIFH.com Phone 407-846-2804

Porta Coeli
Funeraria y Crematorio

SPARKS - Mr. David A. Sparks, 75, of St. Cloud, FL, passed away on Saturday April 2, 2011.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Osceola Memory Gardens, St. Cloud



TREASURE - Raymond D. Treasure, 48, of Kissimmee, passed away Sunday, April 3, 2011.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Funeraria Y Crematorio Porta Coeli, 2801 E. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee. www.PORTACOELIFH.com Phone 407-846-2804

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Request forms should be updated every year.
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Community

Continued from Page B-3

Cornerstone Hospice

Cornerstone Hospice invites people to find peace while grieving.

This group is open to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays at Good Samaritan Village Clubhouse Board Room, 4250 Village Dr., Kissimmee.

Call Claudia Swonger, bereavement counselor, at 407-206-2273.

Zumba classes

The Robert Guevara Community Center is offering Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays for \$5 per class.

For more information, call Gizela Maldonado at 407-301-3190.

Celiac and Crohn's support group

Celiac and Crohn's support group meets every other month at Florida Hospital, 2450 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee.

Questions and answer time is taken by Dr. Atiquazzaman, board-certified gastroenterologist and hepatologist.

Contact Barbara at bthomas@embarqmail.com or call 407-908-5607 for date and time.

Senior entertainment

For seniors every Tuesday night beginning from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Osceola County Council on Aging, 700 Generation Point, Kissimmee, there is live old-style country music, 1950s rock and roll and some do-wop with plenty of dancing, including line dancing.

There also is snacks and coffee and drinks. For more information, call Dick Jones at 407-892-3335.

Orange Blossom Lodge

Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 F&M meets on the first and third Monday of each month.

The meal is at 6 p.m., with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All Master Masons are invited to attend. The lodge is at 321 E. Dakin Ave., Kissimmee, just off the lakefront.

For more information or directions, contact Rob Junecko at 407-873-6263.

Osceola Singles Club

The Osceola Singles Club meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge Post 2056, 1019 N. Main St., Kissimmee.

For more information, call Anne at 407-933-1100 or Joan at 407-390-8199.

Confederate Dames chapter

The newly chartered Osceola Confederate Dames Chapter 2684 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

It is a historical, benevolent, educational, patriotic

and memorial organization with membership open to women with ancestors who fought for or aided the Confederate cause during the war between the states.

For more information, contact jaxiesmom93@yahoo.com.

Depression, bi-polar support group

A free depression, bi-polar support group will meet every Monday from 6:45 to 8 p.m. at the Northeast Christian Church, 2885 Partin Settlement Road, Kissimmee.

For more information, call Kathie at 407-847-7420.

Friends of the Library

The Poinciana Friends meets the third Tuesday each month at 2 p.m. at the Poinciana branch library. New members are welcome.

The Osceola Friends board of directors meets bi-monthly at a time and place to be announced. New members are welcome.

The West Osceola Friends board of directors meets quarterly. The time and place will be announced.

The St. Cloud Friends meets the third Thursday each month at 11 a.m. following the Book Club. New members are welcome.

St. Cloud Horseshoe Club

The St. Cloud Horseshoe Club will host a tournament April 9.

Horseshoe pitching practice is Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the club.

The horseshoe pits are located between the St. Cloud Civic Center and the St. Cloud Senior Center on 17th Street.

The St. Cloud Horseshoe Club will host the 51st annual state of Florida horseshoe tournament on April 27, 28, 29 and 30. Horseshoe pitchers will be coming from around Florida to participate in the annual event.

For more information call Carol Johns at 407-847-7212; or Peg Carrier at 407-957-3805 or 603-312-6333 (cell phone).

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery meets at 7 p.m. every Friday night at Cornerstone Church, 2925 Canoe Creek Road., St. Cloud. Celebrate Recovery is a faith-based 12-step program that provides a safe place to share your struggles with others going through similar experiences. There is no charge. Call Joe at 407-709-0376 for more information.

Lodge 221 F&A.M. meeting

St. Cloud Lodge 221 F&A.M. holds stated communications on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 901 Oregon Ave., St. Cloud.

Contact Jim Rouse, secretary, at 407-892-4412 or at yeggp@aol.com for more information.

VITAS needs volunteers

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care of Central Florida needs volunteers in the area who can befriend terminally ill patients.

They provide relief for weary caregivers, accompany their pet on Paw Pals visits, visit with veterans, provide art and music therapy, make bereavement calls, sew, make crafts, help repair medical

equipment or help with administrative work.

Call 407-691-4541 or e-mail central.floridavolunteers@vitas.com for more information.

Republican Women's Network

The East Osceola Republican Women's Network meets the first Thursday of each

month at 6:30 p.m. at Green-sides restaurant in Harmony.

For more information and to RSVP, call Donna at 407-873-2048 or e-mail mkenl@embarqmail.com.

St. Cloud Senior Center events

The Fun 2 B Fit Club meets at the St. Cloud Senior Center Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Classes are for all ages, men and women.

Bring your mat, towels, weights and water and be ready to get in shape with instructor Sherry and friends.

Classes are a combo of weight training, pilates, yoga and more. Work out at your own pace and keep your body trim and toned.

Every Wednesday, the Let's Dance Club meets from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Cloud Senior

See Community, page B-6



BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

Members of the Authority's Board of Directors are non-paid officials who have complete responsibility for the electric utility system in Kissimmee. This is a five-year term beginning October, 2011.

Applicants for this seat must be qualified electors within KUA service territory. The Charter of the Authority requires that members "have demonstrated successful business or professional management career." The current outgoing Board member is eligible for renomination.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FOR A HEALTHY LOCAL ECONOMY THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL UTILITY SYSTEM.

If you are willing and able to serve in this capacity, please contact the office of the President & General Manager, KUA Administration Bldg., 1701 W. Carroll St., to obtain the required form for submittal of brief biographical information. This form must be completed and returned by 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2011.

All applicants are urged to discuss the details of responsibilities associated with this position with the President & General Manager.

James C. Welsh
President & General Manager
P.O. Box 423219
Kissimmee, FL 34742-3219
407-933-7777—Ext. 6100

KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ACEPTAMOS SOLICITUDES PARA MIEMBRO DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA

Los miembros de la Junta Directiva de la Autoridad son funcionarios no asalariados que tienen responsabilidad completa del sistema de electricidad de Kissimmee. Es un término de cinco años comenzando en el mes de octubre del 2011.

Solicitantes para este puesto deben ser electores cualificados residentes en el territorio de servicio cubierto por KUA. La constitución de la Autoridad requiere que los miembros hayan demostrado una carrera de negocios o gerencia profesional exitosa. El miembro actual saliente de la Junta es elegible para la re-nominación.

ESTA ES UNA OPORTUNIDAD PARA QUE LAS PERSONAS CONTRIBUYAN CON SU TIEMPO Y ESFUERZO PARA ASEGURAR UNA ECONOMÍA LOCAL SANA A TRAVÉS DE UN SISTEMA DE UTILIDAD LOCAL EXITOSO.

Si usted quiere y es capaz de servir en esta capacidad, favor contactar la Oficina del Presidente y Gerente General, Oficinas Administrativas, 1701 W. Carroll St., para obtener la forma requerida para someter una breve información biográfica. Esta forma debe ser completada y devuelta en o antes del 29 de abril de 2011, 5:00 p.m.

Le instamos a los solicitantes discutir los detalles y responsabilidades asociadas con este puesto con el Presidente & Gerente General.

James C. Welsh
President & General Manager
P.O. Box 423219
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KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Community

Continued from Page B-5

Center. For a \$1 donation, you can learn basic ballroom dances with a qualified instructor. Practice sessions are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays. A 50-cent donation helps with costs.

Join the St. Cloud Senior Center weekly for live bands every Monday at 7 p.m. for social/ballroom dances and every Saturday at 7 p.m. for country/western dances. A donation for the dances is \$3 per person.

For more details, contact Sheila Lauer at 407-738-7546.

Osceola County Camera Club

The Osceola County Camera Club invites anyone interested in taking photographs and having a good time to attend the club's twice-monthly meetings.

The club will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Folsom Services, 25 E. 13th St., St. Cloud at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit the website at occameraclub.blogspot.com or the club's Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/ackyi7>.

In Step with the Spirit

The In Step With the Spirit organization, a Christ-centered recovery group for alcohol and drug meets 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Osceola Christian Ministry Center, 700 Union St., Kissimmee.

For more information, call Richard Burton at 407-944-9968.

OSCAR Toastmasters Club

The OSCAR Toastmasters Club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays at the Osceola County Association of Realtors (OSCAR) headquarters, 1105 Shady Lane, Kissimmee.

For more information, call 407-791-3772.

Kissimmee Lions

The Kissimmee Lions Club meets the first and third Monday of each month at the clubhouse, 3050 Lions Court, just off Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. Men and women 18 and older are invited to visit the club. Used glasses and hearing aids will be collected.

Call Phyllis Brannaman at 407-847-2744.

Toastmasters to meet

Toastmasters meets every Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the Lake Nona YMCA.

For more information, visit www.toastmasters.org or call Will Hamilton at 321-662-9517.

Celebration

Continued from Page B-2

learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.

"I am so proud of the

tremendous accomplishments of the administration and staff at Celebration High School," Superintendent Michael A. Grego said. "This IB diploma program will change the lives of students for many generations."

Library

Continued from Page B-2

in this after-school program for first- to fifth-graders. Investigations, exploration and creativity skills are the only things needed to join in this program series. A different theme is featured each month for cool activities, stories, games, crafts and more.

Adult Events

Tuesday, April 12, at 10 a.m. Book Club: "A History of the World in 6 Glasses" by Tom Standage

An offbeat history of the world traces the story of humankind from the Stone Age to the 21st century from the perspective of six different drinks - beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea and cola - describ-

ing their pervasive influence during pivotal eras of world history, from humankind's adoption of agriculture to the advent of globalization.

Family Events

Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m., Jammy Jamboree. Come in your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal to the library for a fun story time and craft activity.

Thursday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m., An Old Lady, Guitar, and a Senior Moment - musical concert with Jane Rosenbohm

Enjoy the effervescent music of Jane Rosenbohm, an accomplished classical guitarist with more than 46 years of experience.

LifeRing meetings set

The LifeRing of St. Cloud will meet in the St. Cloud Regional Hospital Director's Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. There is no charge and it is open to anybody desiring help in recovering from substance abuse. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement is the desire to stay sober.

For more information about the recovery group, visit www.LifeRing.org.

For more information about the LifeRing approach and philosophy and to connect with LifeRing participants, visit www.unhooked.com.

Mid-Florida Corvette Club

The Mid-Florida Corvette Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at Starling Chevrolet, 2500 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee.

The group is a nonprofit organization that donates to local charities. Join the meeting at any of the group's events. Membership is not required.

For more information, contact 407-892-1841 or visit www.midfloridacorvettes.com

Shuffleboard Club

The St. Cloud Shuffleboard Club meets almost daily starting at 9 a.m. at 701 Ohio Ave.

Interested persons 18 years or older may participate in the year-round club and activities by calling the club at 407-498-0603.

If no one answers, leave a message and you will be contacted.

Let's Dance!

Every Wednesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. is the Let's Dance! program at the St. Cloud Senior Center. It's basic ballroom lessons with a donation of \$1 per session with a qualified instructor.

There also is a practice session from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays with no instructor. A 50-cent donation is asked from each person (bring a lunch if you want to take a break from your dancing.)

For more information, call Sheila Lauer at 407-738-7546.

F&AM PHA lodge meetings

Kissimmee Lodge F&AM PHA No. 68 meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. with fellowship prior to the meeting at 7 p.m.

For more information or directions, call Clifton Mathews at 321-442-5588 or Clarence Dunkley at 407-908-3505.

All master masons interested in attending should contact the group prior to the regular meeting.

The lodge is at 1514 Brack St., Kissimmee, just off Orange Blossom Trail.

Access outreach center

There is a free community help center to provide the community with access to the government services food stamp application website, and help with faxing documents, printing documents, making phone calls to government agencies, making copies of documents, information and handouts about government services in the area.

It's at 1372 E. Vine St., Kissimmee. It's open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 407-931-4825 and ask for Ana Villar. There is bilingual help and transportation for the seniors.

Center for the Arts Big Band

The Osceola Center for the Arts Big Band, providing big band music to Central Florida since 1991, rehearses select Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the center's music room. Contact Bob Clayton at 407-957-9139 for a current rehearsal schedule.

Community Chorus

The Center Singers at the Osceola Center for the Arts welcome adult singers of all ages to join their group. The Center Singers meet on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the center's music room. No professional experience is needed. The group performs concerts at the center throughout the year. A concert participation fee is required. For a current rehearsal schedule, call 407-846-6257, Ext. 0.

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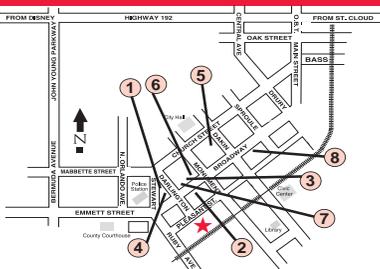
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