

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL GOLF:

Rain doesn't faze East Ridge golfers, See page B1



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL:

Preview this week's matchups for south Lake's football teams, See page B1

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CLERMONT



LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Del and Sheila Gray like their hammock overlooking Lake Glona — not over Lake Glona. The water began rising three weeks ago and they decided a new location was in order.

Rainfall lifts lake levels

Though still too low, water slowly rising with wet weather

LINDA CHARLTON
Special to the South Lake Press

"It's nice to have a lake again." Richard De Fran is talking about Lake Glona, south of Clermont, which is full for the first time in 10 years, he said.

While recent rainfall is threatening to send the St. Johns River over its banks, De Fran has been watching his lake rise for the past three months. Glona is an isolated lake which drains through a stream into the Clermont Chain of Lakes under high water conditions. There's been water flowing in that stream

for about a week now — also for the first time in 10 years.

To the east and north of Glona, levels are rising in the Clermont Chain as well, just not as rapidly. Lake County Water Authority Director Mike Perry last week recorded the official level of the Clermont Chain as 94.24 feet, measured at Lake Minnehaha.

That's about a quarter of a foot higher than the previous Friday and a foot and a quarter higher than the same time



PERRY

"Since 2005 we've been at or below average rainfall. The lakes pretty much mirror the rainfall. Historically it seems that in our summers we got some sort of tropical system."

Lake County Water Authority Director Mike Perry

last year, though still well below the desired levels of 96 to 97 feet.

And at the south end of the chain, water is flowing into Lake Louisa from Big Creek at a rate well above what is needed to maintain levels in the chain. The flow from Little Creek into the chain is also above minimum, water managers say.

Several days earlier, St. Johns River Water Management District spokesman Hank Largin reported that "recent rainfall events have resulted in slightly improved water levels in Lake County ... however rainfall has been below average since 2011, and has just now started to trend

SEE WATER | A8

GROVELAND

Residents worried about SR 50 realignment

ROXANNE BROWN | Staff Writer
roxanne.brown@southlakepress.com

"I'm not going down without a fight," vows Sharon Acosta, who will lose her house under current plans to realign State Road 50 north of Groveland.

She is one of a handful of residents who have hired attorneys after learning they will have a major highway in their backyards. They attended a recent open house, where officials from the city, the Florida Department of Transportation and Volkert Inc., a consulting firm helping to design the project, were on hand to field questions from the community.

"This house was purchased by my grandparents in 1961, so they owned it and now I own it," Acosta said. "My dad worked so hard for it and my son, who died on this property, planted trees all around it. It makes me feel close to him."

"All my life I've been on this property. They're taking my whole life."

Fred and Karen Money won't lose their home to the new highway, but said they would rather be bought out than to have

SEE RESIDENTS | A8

CLERMONT

Couple sentenced for tax evasion

A Clermont couple will have to spend up to two years in prison and come up with \$1.2 million in restitution for evading taxes, a district judge has ruled.

Steven Veres III, 49, and Scarlet Veres, 45, appeared on Friday before U.S. District Judge Robert N. Scola Jr., who also gave them three years of supervised release after they get out of prison, according to a press release from Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney

SEE FRAUD | A8

New Lake County trash service receives mixed reviews

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
livi.stanford@southlakepress.com

The new trash pickup service for the majority of residents in unincorporated Lake County got off to a bumpy start this week.

When the new service went into effect on Monday, trash pickups for the majority of residents in unincorporated Lake County changed from twice a week to once a week.

But the latest postcard sent to residents informing them of the new service failed to mention the trash pickup would result in a reduction in fewer pickups.

Commissioner Leslie Campione, the lone commissioner who voted against the three hauler contracts, in addition to disposal at the Heart of Florida Envi-

JUST THE FACTS

- Between Monday and April 1, 2015 residents may make a one-time change to the sizes of their carts at no charge by calling the county at 352-343-9400, according to the county press release. Available cart sizes include 95-, 65- and 35-gallon containers.

- For a one-time fee of \$60, plus a \$40 delivery fee, residents may also purchase an extra trash cart.

ronmental landfill in Lake Panasoffkee, said she had received emails from residents unaware of the trash pickup changes and others that did not receive new trash

pickup schedules, which were supposed to be attached to each trash cart.

"It seems to me that when a resident was making the decision about the size of the receptacle they wanted it would have been important for them to know they needed to pick a size that could hold an entire week's regular trash," she said. "Therefore, I find it troubling that the mail piece that went out to each household did not explain this fundamental change between 'old' collection system and the 'new' collection system. I did not support this new trash collection and disposal program, but I hope for the sake of Lake County residents that the transition goes smoothly."

SEE TRASH | A8



SOUTH LAKE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Don Brown picks up a garbage can to dump in the back of a Progressive Waste Solutions garbage truck driven by Eddie Carson during a trash collection run on May 30.



INDEX

CLASSIFIED.....B7

CROSSWORDS.....B4

SERVICE DIRECTORY.....A9

REMEMBER WHEN.....B2

SPORTS.....B1

OPINION.....A4

WORD ON THE STREET.....A2

AREA BRIEFS.....A2

CALENDAR.....A2

DEATH NOTICES.....A8

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR.....B2

Vol. 99
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3 sections

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Word on the Street

What south Lake residents are saying about ...

GROWING UP

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"



"I want to be a doctor and a princess. An animal doctor."

BHEANNE BROUGH CLERMONT



"Maybe a programmer, possibly. I like computers."

MIRIN MINNO GAINESVILLE



"Probably a ballerina, because I am taking ballet class right now."

ROSE FORBES GAINESVILLE



"A nurse because I think it would be interesting, and my cousin is a nurse."

JOY HARRIS MONTVERDE

SOUTH LAKE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

■ Colored Pencil Classes with Pat Lentine, a signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America, are from 1-3 p.m. at South Lake Art League, 776 W. Montrose St., downtown Clermont. Class fee is \$100, and participants must register in advance. Contact Pat Lentine at pat@patlentine.com for details.

■ The Canasta Club meets at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library in Howey-in-the-Hills every Wednesday, from 2 to 5 p.m. For information, call the library at 352-324-0254.

FRIDAY

■ The Kiwanis Club of Clermont will host the 18th annual Oakley Seaver Memorial Golf Tournament at the Legends Golf and Country Club, 1700 Legendary Blvd., in Clermont. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit scholarship funds for high school seniors. For information or to register, call Harold Cummings at 352-394-6098.

■ Friday is the last day for cancer survivors who want to take part in the Lady Hawks volleyball team at Lake Minneola High School, 101 N. Hancock Road, 4th annual "Pink Night" event honoring survivors at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16. Those who wish to participate will be admitted free, recognized in a special ceremony before the game and should email their name to Coach Cook at CookA1@lake.k12.fl.us, or call the school at 352-394-9600.

■ Louis Canter, music director, pianist and organist at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 720 12th St. in Clermont, will host a recital at the church at 7 p.m., performing the complete sonata of Jean-Marie Leclair for violin and piano. The event is free and open to the public. Call the church at 352-394-3562.

SATURDAY

■ The Moonlight Players will host "Through the Years," a gala fundraiser honoring the group's 20th anniversary, at 6:30 p.m. at 735 W. Minneola St. in downtown Clermont. Events include a tour, cocktail hour and a comedic remembrance of Moonlight's past, dinner, desert and silent auction. Tickets are \$50 and must be reserved by calling 352-319-1116. For information, go to www.moonlightplayers.com.

■ Low-cost pet vaccinations can be purchased at Irish Trails Farm & Pet Supply, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 102 S. U.S. Highway 27 in Clermont. Call 352-243-0924.

■ Pastfinders Genealogical Society annual Family History Open House from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Drive in Clermont. This is your opportunity to meet with others who are eager to help you with your ancestor search. Go to www.rootsweb.ancestry.com or call 352-242-9805 for information.

■ The Cagan Crossings Friends of the Library is sponsoring a chess tournament honoring National Chess Day at the Cagan Crossings Library, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Entry fee is \$30 cash or check in advance or \$40 cash only at the door. Grand Master fees will be waived. Call Herb Pilgrim at the library at 352-243-1840 or email librarychessclub@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY

■ Learn about housing chickens, processing eggs and breeds at this Chicken University event at 10 a.m. at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library, in Howey-in-the-Hills. Registration required by calling 352-324-0254.

OCT. 15

■ The Minneola Elementary School Charter Board will meet at 7 p.m. in the media center at the school, 320 E. Pearl St. Call the school at 352-394-2600 for information.

OCT. 16

■ Essential Oils class is the topic for this second meeting on how to have a healthy medicine cabinet, at 11 a.m. at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library, in Howey-in-the-Hills. Register by calling 352-324-0254.

■ "Write Your Life" for senior adults, a noncredit course, is offered from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for six weeks at the LSSC South Lake campus in Clermont. Cost is \$49. Registration required by calling 352-323-3610.

OCT. 17

■ The Moonlight Players in association with the Greater Clermont Cancer Foundation will present "Seasons," an original musical written by local playwrights Elaine Pachacek and Katie Hammond for one weekend only, Oct. 17-19 with performances on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. A portion of the weekend's show proceeds will go to the Greater Clermont Cancer Foundation. The theater is located at 735 W. Minneola St. in downtown Clermont. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children. Call 352-319-1116 for reservations or go to www.moonlightplayers.com.

OCT. 18

■ A three-day Scott Mattlin Impressionist Oils workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 18-20 at the Cagan Art Studio, 16640 Cagan Crossings Blvd., in Clermont. For information or to reserve a seat, go to www.ButterflyKissesStudio.com, call Kathie Camara 352-241-6407 or email alckathyc@juno.com.

■ Low-cost pet vaccinations can be purchased at the Tractor Supply store from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 6801 State Road 50 in Groveland. Call 352-429-2502 for details.

■ The Clermont Music Festival is from 2 to 10 p.m. in downtown Clermont with local musicians and artists, a kids zone, food trucks and vendors. For information, call 407-583-3461.

■ Friends of the Marianne Beck Memorial Library in Howey-in-the-Hills will host a membership drive from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library. Refreshments will be served. Call 352-324-0254.

OCT. 19

■ The Garden Theatre in Winter Garden will begin hosting auditions for its self-produced spring musical "Peter Pan" at the theater, 160 W. Plant St. The presentation will run May 1-31. To sign up for auditions, RSVP by emailing auditions@gardentheatre.org with your preferred audition date. For information, go to gardentheatre.org/auditions.

OCT. 21

■ Windermere Union Church will host its Annual Pumpkin Patch at the church, 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Road just north of Windermere, from 3 to 7 p.m. Oct. 21-31. For information, call 407-909-0464 or email wucpreschool@gmail.com.

■ Top Shelf Book Club will meet at noon at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library in Howey-in-the-Hills, discussing the book "Defending Jacob" by William Landay. Call 352-324-0254 for information.

OCT. 22

■ S.A.F.E. House from the Department of Elder Affairs will present a free seminar at 10 a.m. at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library in Howey-in-the-Hills on making your home safer for elderly members. Registration required by calling 352-324-0254.

OCT. 25

■ Garden Club Fall Rummage Sale, at the Garden Club Center, 849 West Ave. in downtown Clermont, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A huge assortment of items will be available and all will be priced to sell.

OCT. 26

■ Low-cost pet vaccinations can be purchased at Irish Trails Farm & Pet Supply from noon to 4 p.m., 102 S. U.S. Highway 27 in Clermont. Call 352-243-0924.

OCT. 28

■ Edible Landscapes will offer advice on incorporating edible crops into your landscape, at the Marianne Beck Memorial Library in Howey-in-the-Hills at 10 a.m. Registration required calling 352-324-0254.

OCT. 30

■ Windermere Union Church preschool will host a Family Fun Day from 4 to 7 p.m., 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Road, with inflatables, pony rides, face painting, fall crafts, food, vendors and pumpkins. Tickets are required for each activity and will be for sale on site. For information on the activities or vendor tables, call 407-909-0464 or email wucpreschool@gmail.com.

■ Signature Chefs Auction at the Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The area's top chefs will offer guests the opportunity to sip and sample their signature dish, bid on unique auction items including Fund the Mission, and raise funds to support the March of Dimes mission for stronger, healthier babies. For information, call 352-942-3780 or email acroy@marchofdimes.com.

OCT. 31

■ Minneola Alliance Church invites the community to participate in its free Safe Night Out, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Minneola Trailhead Park featuring games, food, beverages and a costume contest. Guests are asked to bring canned goods for the church food pantry. For information, call the church at 352-394-2028.

NOV. 6

■ The South Lake Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual Taste of South Lake and Business Expo from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Numerous local chefs will prepare their signature dishes as businesses highlight their products and live music will be provided by T. Scott TropRockers Duo. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event, and are available at the chamber office, 620 W. Montrose St., or at www.tasteofsouthlake.com.

To place an item on the calendar, send an email to pam.fennimore@dailyccommercial.com.

South Lake in Brief

TAVARES

Recess committee meets but makes no recommendations

A committee of parents, administrators, teachers and citizens convened last Tuesday to review how each elementary school handles recess.

The committee reviewed a survey that showed every elementary school had some form of recess. After meeting, however, the committee decided it needed more information before making recommendations.

In particular, the committee requested more information on the cost of playground equipment and space available for recess.

Members on the committee include Patrick Galatowitsch, principal at Leesburg Elementary School; Scott Larson, a parent; Dorethea Cole, principal at Grassy Lake Elementary; and Maen Hussein, a physician.

There is no districtwide recess policy, as the decision to hold recess rests with each particular school.

GROVELAND

Fleeing motorist ejected after wreck

An Orlando motorist allegedly fled from a Lake County traffic stop last week and then crashed.

Jason Colon, 32, was charged with fleeing and attempting to elude and driving with a suspended license. He was booked into the Lake County Jail, where bond was set at \$3,000.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, troopers spotted a green Lexus traveling 85 mph in a posted 70-mph zone on the Florida Turnpike Tuesday, Sept 30.

The trooper said he made a U-turn to go after the car and it appeared to try to drive on the shoulder of an exit ramp in an attempt to pass a tractor-trailer.

The trooper added the car eventually stopped for him and he approached Colon. He said he asked Colon three times to step out of the car after learning he didn't have a license.

The report adds Colon said something before he put the vehicle in gear and drove off — only to get in an accident that threw him from the vehicle.

Colon was taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center to be treated for his injuries and then to jail. It is not clear what injuries he sustained, but his mug shot appears to show lacerations on his face and head.

LAKE COUNTY

LakeXpress paralyzed by bomb threats

Law enforcement officials are seeking information about two men on bicycles who made a bomb threat that shut down all LakeXpress fixed-route bus services last week.

"The threat was vague, so all buses were immediately pulled from service," said Ken Harley, Lake County Public Transportation manager. "All drivers were notified, pulled over and got the passengers safely off the buses. The passengers reached out to family and friends to pick them up."

The men approached a bus driver at 7:15 a.m. and verbally made the threat, according to Sgt. James Vachon, a spokesman for the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

"The two males told the driver that a bomb was on a LakeXpress bus in the Leesburg area and would go off later in the day," Vachon said in an email.

As of 11:15 a.m., all buses were searched and no devices or suspicious packages were found, he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The staff of the *South Lake Press* continues to tweak, revise and improve this publication in hopes of better serving readers in Clermont, Groveland, Mascotte, Minneola and Montverde, and we're pretty proud of this newspaper's evolution.

We're following the mandate given us by area focus groups that shared virtually identical visions for the kind of paper they would like to receive. They said make it local, make it useful and make it a must-read.

So we've offered more entertainment listings to help you plan your week and a more robust calendar of events, and we've put a greater focus on the interesting people who make south Lake such a fun, vibrant place to work and play.

We're also publishing many more of your special moments because we believe a paper should reflect the fascinating people it covers.

But we need your help. Send us press releases and photos from your events and your club activities. Send us your business news. Send us pictures of your awards and achievements. And don't be shy. Great accomplishments should be shared and enjoyed by the community at large.

Please remember to clearly identify the people in your photos and include a name and phone number so we can get back to you if we have questions. Simply email your submissions to pam.fennimore@southlakepress.com.

And feel free to contact me, Editor Tom McNiff, with comments and suggestions. You may reach me by calling 352-365-8250, or by emailing tom.mcniff@southlakepress.com

Thank you, and we hope you enjoy the changes we are making this week and in the weeks to come.

TOASTMASTER HONORS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clermont Toastmasters congratulated, from left, Donald Toldson (Most Improved), Tom Stone (Best Evaluator), Frankie Hernandez (Best Table Topics), Adam Alton (Best Speaker), and President Wendy Holt-Stone at an Aug. 25 meeting. Clermont Toastmasters meets every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 100 Minnehaha Ave., in Clermont. Call 352-234-6495 for information.



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OURVIEW

Schools still struggle over student clubs

The Lake County School Board continues to struggle to come up with a policy governing student clubs and organizations, and its latest proposal could make matters worse.

By way of background: The school district has been sued three times in recent years, twice by the ACLU on behalf of students who claim they weren't permitted to form Gay Straight Alliance clubs and once by a Christian organization on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Mount Dora High School.

The FCA lawsuit claimed the club had been refused access to school facilities granted to other student clubs, wasn't permitted to post announcements in the hallways and on the school's marquee and couldn't make announcements over the school's public address system, club web page or on the district's website.

The two sides settled the suit when the school district gave the FCA — and all other student clubs — equal access to school facilities.

But the ACLU suits remain active, so the School Board continues trying to refine the policy in a way that treats all clubs fairly.

Its latest proposal is to classify all clubs as either curricular — those that are tied to an academic subject — or non-curricular — those not tied to an academic subject. Both types of clubs would be overseen by faculty advisors, but only faculty advisors for the curricular clubs would receive \$500-a-year stipends.

This revision, which the School Board was expected to take up on Monday, has caused some concern that longstanding, important non-curricular clubs such as the National Honor Society and the Student Government Association will fold because they can't pay a faculty advisor. School officials are hoping that teachers will instead volunteer their time to work with non-curricular clubs.

This revision, while well-intentioned, is fraught with potential for unintended consequences.

While some teachers will certainly answer the call to lead these clubs, many likely won't. Teacher pay in Florida is modest and most of them already dip into their own pockets to decorate their classrooms and purchase supplies for students. It may be too much to ask them to also sacrifice family time without receiving even the meager stipends they currently get. If teachers won't volunteer, some clubs will have to disband. Imagine a high school without a National Honor Society.

We encourage the School Board to move carefully in revising its policy on student clubs. If a club is worth having, academic or non-academic, it should be overseen by a faculty advisor, and that faculty advisor should be rewarded for their stewardship of the club with at least a token stipend.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

The **SOUTH LAKE PRESS** invites you to write letters to the editor expressing your original thoughts on topics of public interest. Letters should be no longer than 350 words. They must be original, signed with the full name of the writer, and include the writer's address and telephone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for length to make room for more letters. Letters also will be edited for grammar, clarity, taste and libel. We accept no more than two letters per month from the same writer. No open letters, form letters or copies of letters to third parties will be published. We do not publish unsigned letters. Submissions are not returned. We retain the right to archive and republish any material submitted for publication.

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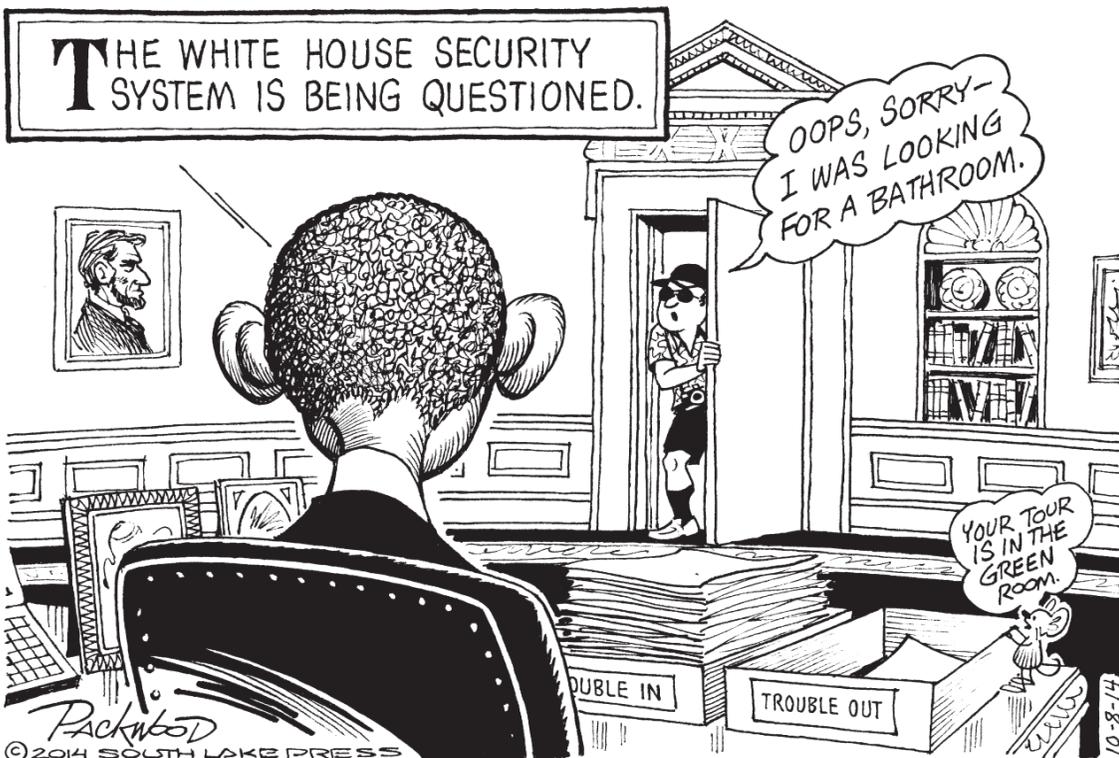
EDITORIALS

Editorials are the consensus opinion of the editorial board, not any individual. They are written by the editorial staff but are not signed.

GUEST COLUMNS

If you would like to submit a guest column on a local, state or national issue, email your submission to southlakepress@dailycommercial.com, or mail it to Letters to Editor, 732 W. Montrose St., Clermont, FL 34711. Guest columns should be limited to 550 words in length. The writer also must submit a recent photograph to be published with the column, as well as a brief biographical sketch.

OPINION



LETTER of the WEEK



HALIFAX MEDIA GROUP FILE PHOTO

A power grab by Scott

Amendment 3 was placed on the ballot by the Republican state legislature in a blatant attempt to give Rick Scott the power to gain more control over the supposed non-partisan judiciary. It is a win-win for Scott and the Republican Party. If Scott loses in November, he would be given the power to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court and other appellate courts before he leaves office. If he wins in November, he would have the same power in 2019 when he is term limited and leaves office.

The argument that it is designed to prevent a constitutional crisis over whether the incoming or outgoing governor has the power to make the appointments is bogus, since the Supreme Court has issued the advisory opinion that it is the incoming.

To be fair, if Charlie Crist wins, he would have the same opportunity in 2019 when leaving office to pack the courts with his people.

With the Republicans having a huge majority in the legislative branch and holding the governor's office, the courts have been the only

check on the Republicans having absolute power. The amendment is designed to help remove this last obstacle.

The courts have been the only protection we the people have had in preventing bad amendments from being placed on the ballot, bad bills from becoming law and the state constitution enforced.

The courts cannot be gerrymandered, but a gerrymandered legislature can try to change the laws to manipulate the court system to its advantage.

MARVIN JACOBSON | Clermont

YOUROPINIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote yes on Amendment 1

Concerning a letter to the editor in the *South Lake Press* on Oct. 1, letter writer Andy Dubois certainly has an interesting concept why residents of Florida should vote against Amendment 1. The only problem is the facts don't back up any of his statements.

Conservation land is generally undeveloped land. Property taxes are at a much lower rate than those paid for land developed for business or residence, so there isn't much loss of revenue. That is of course the purpose of conservation.

The land is not paved and contaminated with chemicals so water can be filtered into the aquifer to supply drinking water for Florida. The Green Swamp in Lake County and the Biscayne Aquifer of South Florida are two examples. Conservation property does also protect many species of wildlife, flora and fauna.

Mr. Dubois may want to take another look at Monroe, Collier and Franklin counties. What they all have in common is they are in the top five counties in Florida with the **LOWEST** property tax rates as of January 2013. They are wonderful examples of low property taxes with coastal living, diverse populations and conservation to save our water and land. Only a quarter of Monroe County and half of Franklin County are comprised of

land while the remainder is protected water areas.

Collier and Monroe counties are part of the Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. Franklin County has fishing industry, state parks and several rivers located on the Florida Panhandle.

This conservation of land and water not only supplies us with drinking water, it is a large part of the economy of this state, the reason many people move to Florida, locate their businesses here and certainly a major tourist attraction for our state.

Not only does conservation of land and water not raise property taxes, Amendment 1 does not create a new tax. The funding is a percentage of the current stamp tax paid when a home is sold. Amendment 1 just makes sure the money is dedicated for land and water conservation and cannot be diverted by the Florida

Legislature. We have found conservation is not high on the list of priorities for our Legislature.

Vote YES on Amendment 1 to fund restoration of our springs and protect our supply of fresh water and wildlife.

KATHY WEAVER | Clermont

Watch out for the voting bloc

A disturbing trend has developed in Clermont city elections over the past few years, with Ray Goodgame, a sitting council member, playing the role of king maker. He has control of a hardcore base in his gated retirement community and other gated communities that have high voter turnout, making it easy for him to sway city elections.

His recent endorsement of Rick Van Wagner for mayor and Diane Travis for a council seat, and his previous endorsement of council member Tim Bates, would give him a power base of four votes on the council.

With the growth over the past several years, Clermont has acquired a diverse population. The council, with five white men, has not been representative of the community. The absence of a minority member on the council for 20 years speaks for itself.

A vote for Van Wagner and Travis is basically a vote for Goodgame.

MARY O'HANLON | Clermont

CALLING ALL VETERANS



If you know of a veteran living in Lake, Sumter or Marion counties whose name should be added to the Lake County Veterans Memorial, call 352-314-2100, or go to to www.lakeveterans.com.



PHOTOS BY LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE SOUTH LAKE PRESS

ABOVE: A dance of greeting from Tahiti started off the Polynesian show, which concluded the Aloha festivities.

MINNEOLA

Playing with fire

Performances highlight inaugural Aloha Festival benefit

The Usos Foundation hosted its inaugural Aloha Festival Saturday at Trailhead Park in Minneola. The event featured dancing, music, fire performances and even professional wrestling, since it will benefit at-risk and financially disadvantaged youth training at the Wild Samoan Pro Wrestling Training Center in Minneola.



RIGHT: Fire dancer Via Tiumkalu was the final performer of the day. BELOW: Junior Netane of Netane Polynesian Productions practices ukelele.



TAVARES Christiansen charts success for district

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
livi.stanford@southlakepress.com

Forty five percent of third graders are not proficient in reading in Lake County, a statistic that concerns Chief Academic Officer David Christiansen.

Christiansen said last week that the school district must focus on pre-kindergarten through third-grade students by allotting more resources to help students better grasp reading concepts.

"They learn to read pre-K to second grade," he said. "Once you come out of that third grade, you are reading to learn."

Specifically, the district is putting in place a software program known as Istation, which allows teachers to track students where they are in the reading continuum, Christiansen said.

"That improves our ability to diagnose where kids are," he said.

Secondly, Christiansen said he has put more teaching assistants in schools for small-group instruction.

Christiansen said approximately 60 teacher assistants were added to the district.

"What is more exciting is we are doing 54 hours of training for all teaching assistants at the elementary level," he said. "We are working with them on small-group instruction."

Recently, Christiansen released the academic district-wide review, showing areas for improvement in reading scores in specific grade levels, the need to close the achievement gap for some subgroups, improve attendance rates and reduce disciplinary infractions.

The review is one tool district officials hope to analyze in understanding how they can improve the district's "C" grade and the individual grades of many schools in the district.

This summer, the Florida Department of Education released its report card based on FCAT scores, showing five schools in the district received "F" grades.

In total, 14 schools showed letter-grade declines.



BRETT LE BLANC / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Dr. David Christiansen, chief academic officer for Lake County schools, speaks during a panel about recess in Tavares on Sept. 30.

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Area businesses shrug off large tax increase

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
livi.stanford@southlakepress.com

Carlos Solis, the owner of a small business in Minneola, is not losing sleep over Lake County commissioners' decision to approve a 13.8 percent property tax increase in finalizing the county's 2015 budget.

In a 3-2 vote, with commissioners Leslie Campione and Tim Sullivan dissenting, the county approved the tax increase — the first in 11 years — on Sept. 23.

"I don't mind paying more as long as I know the money is being used correctly," said Solis, who predicted the tax increase would not have a large im-

pact on his business. "I have to keep going forward and running my business."

Solis, who markets and promotes businesses, is one of several business owners this week who told the *Daily Commercial* the tax increase would not be detrimental. Local chamber of commerce officials also said they have not heard a large number of complaints about the tax increase from business owners.

Even so, several business owners expressed concerns the tax would be an added cost for them to absorb, making the struggle to rebound from an economic recession harder.

County Property Apprais-

er Carey Baker said the tax increase would have an effect on small businesses in a fragile local economy.

"We know that small businesses are struggling," he said. "My office sees a lot of vacant commercial property that used to be filled by small businesses in Lake County. They no longer exist. We see that everywhere throughout the county."

Baker added, "When you add to a weak economic environment additional tax-

es, whether they are needed or not, that always has a tremendous effect on small businesses, in particular. Some people say businesses can afford another \$300, but to a business that is already struggling and seeing their minimum wage go up, workers compensation rates go up, that could be the straw that breaks the camel's back."

Specifically, the fragile SEE TAX | A6

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TAX

FROM PAGE A5

economy in Lake County can be illustrated by the loss in taxable value on equipment, Baker said. That tax has also increased by 13.8 percent for businesses that have \$25,000 or more in equipment. Those below that number are exempt from the tax.

"We are seeing here in Lake County businesses are not investing in new equipment and not expanding," he said. "As a consequence their old equipment is depreciating."

In addition, because the economy is still sluggish, Baker said the county continues to see weak commercial values.

Yet the housing market has shown improvement, with an increase in homestead exemptions for the first time since 2009.

Further, Florida's statewide unemployment rate is 6.3 percent, down 0.8 percentage point from August 2013, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. In August, there were 23,000 private sector jobs created, according to the same department.

The Property Appraisers' office sampled five businesses, calculating how much they are paying in additional property taxes: Fruitland Park Café, Wolverine Advanced Materials, Ace Hardware in Sorrento, Lakeside Inn and Wolfy's in Leesburg.

Tax increases ranged



BRETT LE BLANC / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Bennett Walling, owner of Palm Plaza, poses for a portrait at his shopping center in Leesburg on Friday. Local business owners like Walling are concerned that the tax increase will make it harder for small businesses to survive a still-recovering economy.

from a low of \$91 to a high of \$2,231.80.

Ace Hardware, Fruitland Park Café and Wolverine Advanced Materials had a decline in commercial values from 2013; Wolfy's had an increase in commercial value of \$9,837; and Lakeside Inn had no increase in appraised value.

Campione, who was adamantly against the tax increase, reiterated it was

"irresponsible and insensitive to businesses that had fought hard to weather the economic storm since 2008."

"Many businesses lease their property and property tax increases are typically passed on to the tenant automatically, which makes the cost of doing business that much more expensive," she said.

Dominic Calabro, the

president of Florida Tax Watch, a non-partisan, fiscal watchdog group, said the property tax increase was significant.

"Unless there is a substantial reduction in evaluation (of property) it is going to be a pretty big increase," he said. "People will feel the increase."

Baker said the county saw an overall 4 percent increase in property values,

showing a healthy increase in overall real estate values.

While noting the tax increase would be significant, Calabro also added he did not think the tax increase would be so large to force businesses out of the county.

But the executive director of the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy — a nonprofit, non-partisan research organization focused on federal, state and local tax policy issues — stated he "would be highly skeptical of any specific claim about how economically harmful this plan would be simply because such a claim certainly is ignoring or failing to quantify the benefits of these additional public investments."

"When you see people making hard decisions there is a consensus among elected officials that such a

change is necessary," Matt Gardner said. "They realize you can't have adequate local infrastructure without paying for it."

Bennett Walling, president of Walling Enterprises, owns the Palm Plaza, which features 135,000 square feet of retail space. He does not believe the tax increase is going to have a major impact on his businesses.

But, at the same time, Walling said the tax is another expense he has had to deal with.

"We have had to reduce rent to accommodate some people," he said. "We have had to absorb a lot of fees. It is another fee we will have to absorb during these troubled times. My income is down from last year."

The problem with a tax increase, Walling said, is it "is another black eye when it comes to trying to promote businesses in our area."

James Burks, president of Senninger Irrigation, a medium-size company in Clermont, said while the tax rate came as a bit of a shock, it is not as large as other counties.

"When looking at the big picture, Lake County compared to surrounding counties, it is one of the lower of any one of them," he said.

However, Burks said he was more concerned about the tax on tangible personal property than the property tax rate hike.

"Quite a bit of capital invested in your business will be on the tangible property tax roll," he said. "It is by far the most material cost increase of any tax increase we have seen in a long time."

Ray San Fratello, president of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce, said he is seeing optimism about the economy in south Lake.

"When businesses are really hurting they would be loud and clear that this is not a good thing," he said of the tax increase. "We are not getting that here. The feeling down here is much more positive now."

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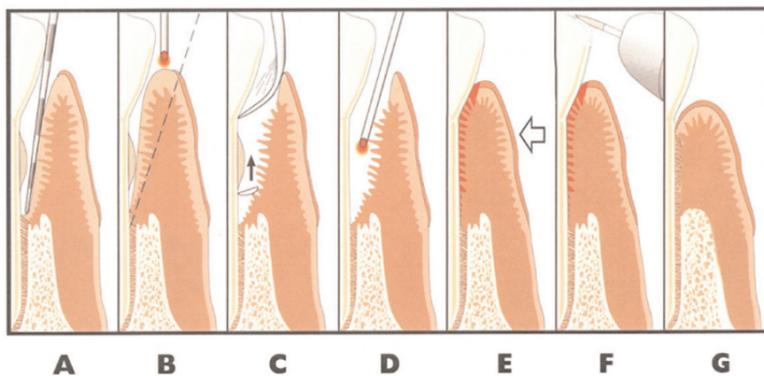
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Waterfront concession in Clermont celebrating one year

ROXANNE BROWN | Staff Writer
roxanne.brown@southlakepress.com

Lifelong Clermont resident Tim Engle remembers learning how to swim at Jaycee Beach as a child and playing with friends at what is now known as Waterfront Park.

Little did he know that as an adult — and co-owner of Clermont Waterfront Bikes and Boards — he'd be spending a lot of his time helping and teaching others learn how to swim and play at those same places, right next to the Lake Minneola shoreline and next to the South Lake bike trail at 15 2nd St., Clermont.

The rental facility operates as a concessions contractor for the City of Clermont, out of the old Bell Ceramics workshop.

"It's been 30 years since there's been any concessions at the beach, so it's kind of cool we're there now," Engle said of the business he owns with his wife,



LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Bikes & Boards owners Tim and Dawn Engle are shown with some of their boards.

Dawn, at Waterfront Park, where they rent bicycles, kayaks and paddleboards, and teach people how to use them safely. At Clermont Waterfront Bikes and Boards, visitors can also buy snacks and drinks to enjoy while enjoying the outdoors.

"I've had the opportunity to actually teach children how to ride bikes and that's been a really rewarding experience, plus I've taught many people how to paddleboard and kayak and it's definitely rewarding to see that, too," Engle said.

At Clermont Waterfront Bikes and Boards, the Engles offer water equipment rentals and free complimentary start-up lessons. Beyond that, they have added numerous classes and activities, including paddle yoga fitness classes, scavenger hunts on the water, kayaking tours on the water, happy hour and sunset paddles.

The pair also hosts birthday parties on the water and paddleboard competitions for Special Olympics athletes.

"Our first year has been a true growing experience, and we're really excited about the prospects of the business and looking forward to where it takes us in the future," Dawn said, adding that couple's goals include purchasing more inventory and incorporating more paddle board tours into their schedule. "What I've enjoyed the most is meeting the community and staying active, which is

what me and my husband are passionate about."

The Engle's shop opened on Oct. 13, 2013, but they — with the help of city officials and staff, who they say have been supportive and instrumental to their success — will be celebrating on Saturday with cake for everyone and half price rentals.

Clermont Waterfront

Bikes and Boards is open on select weekdays/weeknights for classes and/or activities and on the weekends. In the summer, the facility is open daily.

For information, hours or rental prices, call 352-410-1862, go to www.clermont-waterfrontbikesandboards.com or look them up on Facebook.

TAVARES

Student's research results in change in club's designation

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
livi.stanford@southlakepress.com

Mount Dora High School senior class president Robby Simpson was perplexed when he learned last week the National Honor Society would be designated a non-curricular club, meaning the teacher overseeing the club would no longer receive a stipend.

A member of the National Honor Society, the 17-year-old decided to do his own research, according to his mother, Wendy Simpson.

Robby found nothing to support the notion that the National Honor Society is a non-curricular club.

After researching the Florida Sunshine State Standards, which correlates the National Honor Society's pillars of service, leadership, scholarship and character with those same requirements for his social studies class, Robby concluded the club

should be considered curricular.

The Simpson family then reached out to Lake County School Board Member Bill Mathias.

Robby's research prompted school district officials to further research the issue and change the club's designation to curricular.

"The school district apologizes for previously reporting the proposed change in policy would change National Honor Society from a co-curricular club to a non-curricular," a school district press release stated. "According to legal counsel, the National Honor Society will be moved to the curricular category of high school student clubs."

Mathias said this is a great example of "students taking what they are learning and applying it."

"I believe when the public is engaged in a constructive way, and does the research and finds information we can use to better govern, then it is al-

ways positive," he added.

Wendy said she was pleased with her son's determination.

"I am incredibly proud of him," she said in a phone interview Monday morning. "He is very passionate and loyal to his teachers that have affected him in a positive way."

But Robby isn't finished. On Monday, he was scheduled to address the School Board in hopes of convincing them that the Student Government Association should also be designated a curricular club.

He planned to cite Supreme Court case in 1990 stating retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's opinion.

O'Connor stated: "A school's student government would generally relate directly to the curriculum to the extent that it addresses concerns, solicits opinions and formulates proposals pertaining to the body of courses offered by the school."

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IN MEMORY

DEATH NOTICES

407.645.4633.

Richard Archer

Richard "Dick" Frederick Archer, 87, of Umatilla, died Saturday, September 27, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home, Umatilla.

Carol E. Blackman

Carol E. Blackman, 65 of Grand Island, FL, died Monday, September 29, 2014. Harden/Pauli Funeral Home, Eustis.

Norma Riney Cannon

Norma Riney Cannon, 86, of Lady Lake, died Saturday, September 27, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL.

Frederick C. Hirsh

Frederick C. Hirsh, 62, of Wildwood, died Monday, September 29, 2014. Page-Theus Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Leesburg.

Jack Mancuso

Jack Mancuso, 84, of Tavares, died Thursday, October 2, 2014. Steverson, Hamlin & Hilbish Funerals and Cremations, Tavares.

Alma Marija Matrak

Alma Marija Matrak, 75, Winter Spring, died September 29th, Hayes Brothers Funeral Home, Altamonte Springs chapel,

Patricia Palladino

Patricia Palladino, 65, of Mt. Dora died Saturday, September 27, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home, Umatilla.

Leonard James Pruitt

Leonard James Pruitt, 70, Oviedo, Died September 26th, Hayes Brothers Funeral Home, Altamonte Springs chapel. 407.645.4633.

Betty Joyce Richey

Betty Joyce Richey, 82, of Leesburg, died Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Page-Theus Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Leesburg.

Kenneth Clyde Sell

Kenneth Clyde Sell, 77, of Leesburg, died Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg, FL.

Frederick Thompson

Frederick Theodore Thompson, 73, of Bushnell, died Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Purcell Funeral Home, Bushnell.

Douglas Jerry Yount

Douglas Jerry Yount, 55, of Eustis, died Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Harden/Pauli Funeral Home, Eustis.

RESIDENTS

FROM PAGE A1

cars and trucks passing 8 feet from their bedroom window.

"I'm not upset because growth is happening, and that they have to have places where cars and semis need to go, but they don't have to shove it up next to someone's house," Fred said. "Would they want to put their families right next to a major roadway like that?"

According to Lake County's Public Works Director Jim Stivender, who has been involved with this project for years, the realignment will eliminate "drive through" traffic in downtown Groveland, including many semi-trucks. A downtown bypass or truck route will make the downtown area a much quieter and safer place, ripe for revitalization, he said.

While some people don't want the new route coming, others don't want the current one leaving, especially downtown business owners.

"They're spending all these millions of dollars on a so-called problem that doesn't need fixing," said Dr. Ronald Stone, who owns Veterinary Trauma Center, an emergency pet clinic.

"They're going to put all the businesses in downtown Groveland out of business, which doesn't make sense because Groveland says it wants to attract people into Groveland.

"To do that, they have to keep and bring businesses into Groveland, not drive them out. Groveland is not doing anything to attract people to Groveland and now, with the new highway, people will be bypassing it altogether."

Currently, the project is in the design stage, and officials are conducting a Project Development and Environment Study to realign State Road 50 to the north side of downtown Groveland, from County Road 565, or Villa City Road, to County Road 565A, or Monte Vista Road. The total distance of the bypass is approximately 2.1 miles.

Kevin Moss, FDOT's project manager, said the cost of this phase of the project is approximately \$11 million, not including the costs for right of ways, which have not yet been funded.

The realignment is supported by the city of Groveland's Comprehensive Plan, Lake County's Comprehensive Plan and the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization's Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Stivender said having a major highway cutting through Groveland has

become a problem.

"It's good to have traffic through downtown, but when there's a major road built into it, that's the problem," he said. "There's no place for turn lanes and the semi-trucks just gridlock the area. Groveland has grown so much but, as it stands now, they can't really have a downtown because of the traffic.

"SR 50 is designed to get a lot of traffic through an area, not to it."

Stone, however, said most of the downtown businesses rely on this "drive through" traffic on SR 50 to keep their doors open. Although he expects to lose about 20 percent of business because of reduced exposure when the road is realigned, he said he can't imagine what the effect will be on other downtown businesses such as restaurants.

"What's the point of ... revitalization of downtown Groveland, if there is no longer a downtown because all of the businesses were forced to close down?" he said.

According to Moss, feedback to date shows about 80 percent of area residents support the realignment and about 20 percent are opposed. People with questions or concerns can contact him at 386-943-5255 or kevin.moss@dot.state.fl.us.

FRAUD

FROM PAGE A1

for the Southern District of Florida.

Both were accused of taking part in a scheme to evade paying taxes on income received through their Broward County construction company following the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. Scarlet was sentenced to 18 months in prison, while Steven was given 24 months. Additionally, each defendant was ordered to pay \$600,000 in restitution, the press release states.

Both previously pled guilty to one count of con-

spiracy to defraud the United States.

According to court documents, Scarlet and Steven were the sole shareholders of Superior Contracting Inc., a Coral Gables-based construction company. In 2005, the company received millions of dollars from contracts to make hurricane-related repairs, including a contract to make repairs at a condominium development in Fort Pierce, the press release states.

During 2005, the defendants diverted corporate receipts from the company for their own use. In order to conceal their diversion of corporate funds, the defendants falsified the profit and loss statement of Super-

ior Contracting by characterizing personal expenses as business expenses.

It was reported earlier the couple claimed to have an "adjusted gross income of a negative amount, yet the defendants had expenditures for real property, personal home construction and improvements, vehicles, investments, and jewelry in that same year totaling at least \$1.5 million."

The defendants further falsified the profit and loss statement by claiming that a \$400,000 personal real estate investment was a repayment of a fictitious loan previously made to Superior Construction.

According to state incorporation records, Steven is

listed as registered agent and president of Superior Contracting Inc., 2630 Shady Oak Place in Groveland. Although there are no property records in his name, Scarlet is listed as the owner of a vacant lot valued at \$32,470 at that address, according to the Lake County Property Appraiser's Office.

She also is listed as the owner of a four-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a swimming pool at 2706 Valiant Drive in Clermont. State incorporation records list Scarlet as president of Inspiring U Inc. and Veres & Associates at the Valiant Drive address, which is valued at \$218,910 by the Property Appraiser's Office.

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

above the average."

In a similar vein, hydrologist Granville Kinsman of Southwest Florida Water Management District reports his co-workers are seeing gradual improvement in the levels of the lakes in the north part of their district (including Lake and Sumter), and that the aquifer levels are quite healthy.

Taking a broad look at Lake County lake conditions, Perry said: "Since 2005 we've been at or below average rainfall. The lakes pret-

ty much mirror the rainfall. Historically it seems that in our summers we got some sort of tropical system.

"Year 2004 was the last time. It's those short-duration high-intensity rain events that really make the difference. We can't recover lake levels with below-average rainfall. The good news is that there is water flowing and the lakes will rise."

And more rain will be coming, too.

According to National Weather Service forecaster Dan Collins, speaking from Maryland, "For the next three months, the forecast is there is an increased chance of above-average temperatures in Florida and the southeast in general, and an increased chance of above average precipitation. One of the factors that leads to this is the expectation of the development of an El Niño."

In fact, a Weather Service document released Sept. 4 gave the chances of an El Niño developing in the fall and winter as 60 to 65 percent.



LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE SOUTH LAKE PRESS

An older dock in the distance on Lake Glona is just a few inches above the water line.

TRASH

FROM PAGE A1

But Commissioner Sean Parks, who represents a large swath of south Lake County, said the county has had an extensive outreach program.

"I think we know you can't reach everyone," he said. "There is going to be some issues with the rollout of a new system. This is a good system and we need to be responsive now."

The new 1-1-1 service consists of once per week trash,

recycling and yard waste pickup, according to county officials. Trash and recycling are collected on the same day by different trucks, while yard waste will be picked up on a separate day.

Previously, trash and yard waste was collected at the same time twice a week and disposed of at the Covanta incinerator, while recycling was taken once a week.

WCA is one of three new county contractors — including Progressive Waste Management and Waste Pro — participating in the new trash service system.

Residents have received

one free 95-gallon container for trash and one free 65-gallon container for recycling.

Jim Stivender, director of public works, said the rollout has been normal.

"You are going to have carts delivered to the wrong place," he said. "These are 95-gallon and 65-gallon containers that you have to get to 67,000 locations throughout Lake County in two months. You have 70,000 carts to roll out."

Further, Stivender acknowledged there were carts delivered that did not have the proper information attached.

Since the beginning of August, the county's solid waste division has received 17,000 calls from residents with questions, complaints or corrections to be made to their service, Stivender said.

"We have been fielding all the calls and sending it to all the haulers to correct it," he said. "The bottom line is we do need to know these things."

Parks said he has monitored the types of calls coming in and that most of them are not complaints.

Stivender said the county increased its phone bank to 10 people to field all questions and concerns regarding the service.



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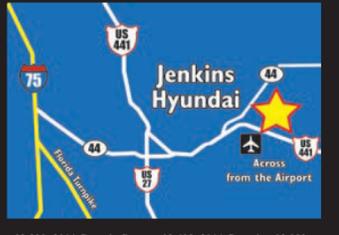
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Cross country duo excels for South Lake

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
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Jacob Cavazos and Gillian Streatly became runners for the South Lake High School cross country teams for different reasons.

But once they settled in with the Eagles' boys and girls teams, both became stalwarts and team leaders.

As a result of their combination of athletic and academic achievements, Cavazos and Streatly have

been named Athletes of the Week last week by the South Lake All-Sports Booster Club.

Cavazos, a junior, said he has been running for two years. He played other sports when he arrived at South Lake, but eventually settled on cross country.

With the Eagles, Cavazos has recorded a personal-best time of 19 minutes, 45 seconds in a meet at the National Training Center in Clermont.

"I tried a lot of other sports, but

I really like the environment in cross country," Cavazos said. "It's a sport that has a lot of individual and team aspects that appealed to me. It's a lot of fun."

Streatly turned to cross country because her parents and brother are avid runners. She took up the sport as a sixth grader at Gray Middle School in Groveland and



STREATLY



CAVAZOS

has competed for her school team since then.

Her best time this season — and her career personal best — is 25:26, which she ran in a meet on the hilly course at the NTC. Before the season is out, Streatly hopes to break 24:00.

"I get a lot of encouragement at meets and that pushes me to do

my best," Streatly said. "My mom and dad are at every meet, and my teammates are great motivators. It's a fun sport and it always gives me a challenge."

Both student-athletes say that are "A-B" students and both hope to attend college while continuing their cross country careers.

Cavazos said he wants to study law enforcement and eventually become a police officer. Streatly wants to become a veterinarian after college.



BRETT LE BLANC / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Lake Minneola senior Katie Holt drives the ball during Thursday's match against South Lake High at Green Valley Golf Club in Clermont.

CLERMONT

Holt carries Hawks

Senior shoots par, propels Lake Minneola to win over South Lake

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
frank.jolley@southlakepress.com

CLERMONT — The Lake Minneola and South Lake girls golf teams did what any fan of the sport would've done on the first pleasant afternoon in nearly two weeks on Thursday.

They played golf.

Lake Minneola senior Katie Holt carded an even-par 36 to lead the Hawks to a 195-224 win against the Eagles at Green Valley Country Club. Holt had two birdies and two bogeys in her round, which was played under sunny skies that helped to dry out the course.

She hit five fairways and four greens-in-regulation to go along with 15 putts to earn medalist honors.

"I played OK," Holt said. "I thought I hit the ball really well at times and the course seemed to be in pretty good shape, except for the second hole, which had some pretty soggy ground in the middle of the fairway. The greens were in really good shape. "The ball was rolling really well."

Holt, teammate Catherine Yaun and South Lake's Lauren Karnolt began play on the second hole of the 2,537-yard front nine — a layout that featured rolling fairways, testy pin placements and at least two sig-

nificant water hazards. Yaun started slowly with a triple bogey on the par 5 second hole and a double bogey on the par 4 third.

She responded to the disappointing start by knocking her tee shot on the fourth hole, a 104-yard par 3, to within two feet of the cup. Her ball appeared to touch the lip of the cup before rolling past.

On the par 4 sixth hole, Yaun hit the flagstick with her approach shot.

Yaun finished with a double-bogey and a bogey for a 43. She hit fairways and three greens and, like Holt, was not forced to three putt.

"It wasn't my best round, but I'll take it," Yaun said. "I really struggled with my chipping, but I was able to make some putts to help me out."

Karnolt struggled at the start of play, but began to find her groove later and made a few clutch putts to salvage a 52.

Said Karnolt, "I had problems in the fairways, but my putting helped me out. I'm working to get ready for districts in a couple of weeks and if the weather cooperates, we can get back out on the golf course and get some consistency back."

Also scoring for Lake Minneola, which improved to 10-0 on the sea-

son, were Sarah Davis with a 54 and Kelsey McClellan with a 62.

South Lake's low score was carded by Maddison Drawdy with a 51, followed by Karnolt, Jackie Carter with a 55 and Elizabeth Kiernan with a 66. The Eagles fell to 1-9 with a team made up mostly of underclassmen.

Both teams will use the next week to get ready for the Class 2A-District 9 tournament, an 18-hole loop scheduled for Oct. 13 at Eagle Dunes Country Club in Sorrento.

The Class 2A-Region 3 tournament will be held on Oct. 21 at Black Bear Golf Club in Eustis.

Individuals and teams surviving that two-week postseason gauntlet will advance to the Class 2A state finals, a 48-hole tournament, on Oct. 28-29 on the Las Colinas course at Mission Inn Resort and Club in Howey-in-the-Hills.

Lake Minneola advanced as a team last season and Holt earned a fifth-place finish. Holt, who has verbally committed to Mississippi State and will sign in November during the NCAA's early-signing period, had a 36-hole total of 4-over 148.

Holt's fifth-place tie was the highest-finish for any area individual or team.

WEEK 7 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

SOUTH LAKE (5-0) AT ST. CLOUD (5-1)

7:30 p.m. Friday

South Lake may face its stiffest test of the season to date against the Bulldogs. St. Cloud fell last week 14-2 against Harmony and will be looking to rebound.

The Eagles are averaging 234 yards rushing per game, led by Kevin Evans and Chuckie Hutchinson. Evans comes into the game with 577 yards and seven touchdowns, while Hutchinson has 348 yards and six touchdowns.

Nick Guidetti has passed for 597 yards and four touchdowns. The senior quarterback also has one rushing touchdown.

Branden Walker and Trace McEwen led the receiving corps with 15 catches apiece. Walker has four touchdown grabs, while McEwen has two.

Defensively, Hunter Howard leads the Eagles with 43 tackles, followed by Nick Morey and Fred Key with 39 stops apiece.

BRADENTON IMG ACADEMY (5-1) AT LAKE MINNEOLA (2-3)

7 p.m. Friday

This will mark Lake Minneola's first actual home game of the season. The Hawks have been playing its home games at East Ridge while repairs were made to its field.

Lake Minneola comes into the game on an emotional high after beating Mount Dora 35-19 on Sept. 26. The win snapped a three-game losing streak for the Hawks.

Lake Minneola has scored at least 21 points in every regular-season game this season and at least 33 points in four of its five games.

Bradenton IMG Academy has won five straight games and has surpassed 61 points in three of those wins. The Ascenders played Montverde Academy on Sept. 19 and beat the Eagles 43-7.

Bradenton IMG Academy is coached by former Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke, who led Florida State to a national championship in 1999.

MONTVERDE ACADEMY (0-3) AT DAYTONA BEACH FATHER LOPEZ (3-2)

7 p.m. Friday

The Eagles have struggled with consistency this season, due in part to their schedule. Montverde Academy has played games in consecutive weeks only once this year.

Montverde Academy last played on Sept. 26 when it lost 41-33 to Orlando First Academy, a longtime private school powerhouse in Orlando. The Eagles' special teams struggled in that game.

Against Orlando First Academy, the Eagles surrendered 391 yards of total offense.

Montverde Academy is scheduled to play the next four weeks, including a home game on Oct. 17 against Fort Pierce John Carroll Catholic and a road game on Oct. 24 against Tampa Berkley Prep. The Eagles will then wrap up their season with back-to-back home games — Oct. 31 against South Daytona Warner Christian and Nov. 7 against Boca Raton Christian.



BRETT LE BLANC / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Lake Minneola High School junior Jesse Fiske (10) runs with the football during the Sept. 5 game between Lake Minneola and South Lake.

Despite soggy conditions, East Ridge edges Mount Dora in boys golf

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
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Rain, rain go away!

That's the feeling of many area residents, in response to the abundance of "liquid sunshine" that's fallen in the past couple of weeks, with local high school golfers among those suffering the most.

Because of the wet conditions, which have left many golf courses under water in spots, players haven't been able to get on the course ... or the driving range ... or the practice green to maintain their stroke and their rhythm. Some teams haven't played or practiced in more than a week.

That's why, when Mount Dora and East Ridge had the chance to play Sept. 30 at the Mount Dora Golf Club, neither team was going to let a few intermittent showers stop them.

Sophomore Victor Merino carded a 3-over par 39 to lead East Ridge to a 166-184 win over the 5,719-yard layout, often called the



BRETT LE BLANC / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

East Ridge Senior Adam Poe hits a tee shot during a Sept. 30 match between East Ridge High School and Mount Dora High School at Mount Dora Golf Club in Mount Dora.

"toughest 5,700 yards in Florida." Merino, playing behind the lead group, navigated his way around the waterlogged tract with its signature rolling fairways and postage-stamp sized greens.

But no one complained. They were getting a chance to play.

"We've had two matches postponed already this season because of the weather," East Ridge coach

Craig Shaffer said. "It's been really tough to get any practice in and that makes it tough for these guys to stay in a groove. I think this is the worst month for weather that we've ever had to deal with during the high school golf season."

Shaffer and Mount Dora coach Ted Dwyer were on hand throughout the match, going to different holes to check on the conditions of the golf course and weather. They monitored the intensity of the rain and kept track of any lightning strikes that may have occurred.

According to Florida High School Athletic Association regulations, play must be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes whenever lightning strikes within 8 miles of a playing site.

Players from both teams took advantage of the opportunity to play.

Not only did they get in a nine-hole match, but many grabbed a few extra balls afterwards and headed to the practice green for

some putting and chipping work.

One of the Knights' team leaders, senior Adam Poe, carded a 44 and described his play as "awful."

"I couldn't even hit range balls because of the weather over the weekend," Poe said. "I need to get on the golf course and swing my clubs. I didn't know what to do when I couldn't get out and I didn't know how well I was going to play the next time out after not playing for nearly a week."

Poe said his lack of time on the golf course affected his ability to read greens, which was a big factor at Mount Dora Golf Club. The greens there often are slow, but the rains have slowed them down even more.

"These are the slowest greens right now that I've ever played on," Poe said.

Poe said that, in spite of the recent spate of rainy weather, there is time for area players to get back in the "groove" and prepare themselves for the upcoming postseason.

Knights drop a close game to Lake Howell

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
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The East Ridge High School football team remained winless last week after coming up short against Lake Howell in Winter Park.

The Knights (0-6) continued struggling to find its rhythm on offense, dropping a 10-7 decision to the Silver Hawks.

East Ridge entered the game having been shut out for the past three games. The Knights' last score came in the fourth quarter against Tavares on Sept. 5 in a 27-13 loss.

Since then, East Ridge had been outscored 132-0. The defense has played well at times, but has worn down over the course of the game because of the offense's inability to sustain drives and give the Knights' defenders a rest.

The Knights defense managed to hold Lake Howell to just 10 points, and the offense broke its scoreless streak with a touchdown, however, against the 1-5 Silver Hawks.

Friday's game was the last for East Ridge before a bye week.

Before Lake Howell and East Ridge headed into the locker room at half-time, they lined up for one more play. An autistic student at Lake Howell, a long-time supporter of the Silver Hawks, suited up and was given an opportunity to score a touchdown, albeit on an untimed down.

East Ridge coach Ashour Peera along with Winter Park Lake Howell coach Dave Wensyel, a former assistant at East Ridge, choreographed the play in the days leading up to the game. Players for both

teams helped to make the moment happen and game officials took part.

The player, CJ Williams, took the snap and ran around left tackle for the "touchdown." When it was over, East Ridge applauded the moment and the entire Lake Howell roster raced into the end zone to celebrate with Williams.

On the game's final play, a timed down, Williams came back onto the field, took the snap and knelt down to seal the win.

PIG ON THE POND CHAIR SPEAKS TO KIWANIAN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alan Garcia, president of the Kiwanis Club of Clermont, shakes hands with Tom English, chairman of the board of Pig on the Pond, which took place March 7-9. English spoke at a recent Kiwanis meeting speaking about the annual Pig on the Pond fundraising event held in Clermont that provides scholarship funds for local students.

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Eagles seeking fifth straight national title

PAUL BARNEY | Staff Writer
paul.barney@southlakepress.com

winning two titles in the four years the four-time MVP was in South Beach.

Montverde Academy boys soccer coach Mike Potempa's team is chasing its fifth title — in a row.

Since 2010, the same year James made his infamous speech, Potempa has guided the Eagles to four consecutive national championships.

"At first I think it caught people by surprise when

I first arrived, but the whole time everybody's embraced us," Potempa said. "That's the great thing about Montverde Academy, everyone supports student-athletes and understands the mission."

Winning helps, too. And that's all Potempa's done since he's arrived.

In his first year in 2010, the Eagles finished the season undefeated (26-0-1) for the first time in school his-

tory. Montverde Academy was ranked as the No. 1 team in the state and was crowned national champions by *ESPN Rise Magazine* and *POWERADE FAB 50*.

The following year, the Eagles went undefeated again, this time finishing with a record of 23-0-4. They were recognized as the No. 1 team in the country by MaxPreps.com. The entire senior class, much like the previous year, signed athletic scholarships at NCAA and NAIA institutions.

The following year, undefeated again.

Last season, same story. That's four years, four undefeated seasons and four national championships.

Not bad, coach.

"I think it's exciting to be a part of the school community with the amount of activities we have going on here at Montverde Academy," Potempa said. "We strive for excellence in everything we do, most importantly academically, but also athletically, and the balance of both is a fun thing to be a part of."

So what's in store for this season?

"Our expectations are the same every year, and that's just to compete to the best of our ability, whatever that may be," Potempa said. "We don't put an emphasis on winning, we don't put an emphasis on trying to win

championships, we basically strive every day to be the best we can be in everything that we do, and if we do that the rest will take care of itself."

And with the players he has coming back, Montverde Academy has a good chance to go for a five-peat.

Potempa said he expects seniors Matheus Silva, Andre Shinyashiki, Zack Waitman and Jabari Newton to lead the team this season.

"All of these players are getting major Division I opportunities and I expect them to have an impact on our season in many different positions," he said. "We're looking forward to another great year. I think we do have a lot of young talent coming back and talent coming from our junior varsity program that have developed over the years and are now getting their chance at the varsity level."

Getting his players looked at by major Division I players is nothing new for Montverde Academy boys basketball coach Kevin Boyle. The Eagles last April completed a 28-0 season and the No. 1 ranking in the country on their way to a second straight national title. Throughout the season, six players committed to continue their academic and athletic careers at the Division I level.

Just how good has the soccer program been at Montverde Academy?

It's doing something right if Brazil's 17-and-under and U-15 national teams paid a visit to the campus over the summer for a week of practice and exhibition games.

"To be able to host a program of that caliber, which is one of the best in the world, it was definitely an unforgettable experience for all of us here," Potempa said.



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Classified Index

Legal Notices.....0001
Notices1000
At Your Service9000
Employment2000
Pets/Animals6865

Merchandise6000
Real Estate/For RENT3000
Real Estate/For SALE.....4000
Recreation7000
Transportation8000

0001 LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2014 DR 000826

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: IRIS GORIS, Wife, and MICHAEL GORIS, Husband.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: MICHAEL GORIS

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Michele L. Hobby, Esq. of Hobby Law, P.A., Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 836 W. Montrose Street, Suite 1, Clermont, Florida 34711, on or before October 30, 2014, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Lake County Courthouse, 550 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 16 day of September, 2014.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

0001 LEGALS

By: DONNA P. RUDOLPH

Ad No: 10020456
September 24, 2014 & October 01, 2014 & October 08, 2014 & October 15, 2014

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OR DISPOSITION

According to the Florida Self Storage Act, Groveland Mini Storage, LLC located at 178 Groveland Farms Road, Groveland, FL 34736 gives notice that the following Tenants are in default of the rental agreement.
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Edith Magdaleno, #41
Cassandra Shaw, #91
Unit contents are furniture & household items. Units will be sold or disposed of on October 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. We have the right to sell or refuse any bids, and may dispose of all contents according to Florida State Statutes. All Sales Final, CASH ONLY. Everything sold as is where is. No guarantees. Please call to confirm sale at 352-429-0090.

Ad No: 10020836
October 01, 2014 & October 08, 2014

NOTICES 1000-1999

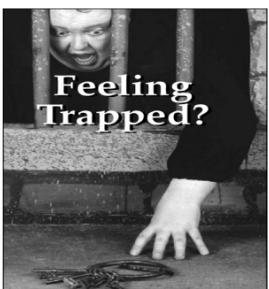
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OUTDOORS WRITER: Love fishing, biking, hiking and camping? Spend all your free time outdoors? We're looking for someone who lives for outdoor recreation, knows what Lake and Sumter counties have to offer and can write about it with style and substance. Ability to shoot photos is a plus

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COPY EDITOR: Candidates must be able to demonstrate skill in editing, headline writing and page layout. The job will include evening and weekend work. Strong knowledge of InDesign is essential.
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