



BLACK TIE
YOUTH ARTS
The Skyra Foundation hosts gala. **PAGE 8B.**



Welcome, Chief

Dan Hagedorn was sworn in as Winter Park's new fire chief. **PAGE 3.**

Wildcat comes home



Former Winter Park High School teacher and athletic director Matt Arnold has returned as the school's new principal. **SEE PAGE 4.**

Tim Freed

Matt Arnold has been named the new principal of Winter Park High School, following a promotion for outgoing principal Tim Smith.

Sushi Pop rolls into Winter Park

The Oviedo-based fusion restaurant will be setting up shop on Lyman Avenue.

TROY HERRING
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In bustling downtown Winter Park, restaurants dominate the scene.

On every corner sits a variety of good places to eat, and the folks at the Oviedo-based Sushi Pop want in on the action.

"Winter Park is kind of like a 'bougie' area — especially Park Avenue," said Anu Nanda, the restaurant's general manager.

SEE SUSHI PAGE 6

YOUR TOWN

CITY KICKS OFF 2018 COFFEETALK

The first CoffeeTalk of the 2018 season, featuring City Manager Randy Knight, will be held at 8 a.m.



Thursday, June 14, at a new location, Winter Park Country Club, 761 Old England Ave. The purpose of CoffeeTalk is to give the

community an opportunity to talk to their city leaders in a more casual, informal environment and avoid the stage fright often experienced at large meetings.

The event takes place monthly through November.

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Trinity Preparatory School honors its Class of 2018.

SEE PAGE 8.

Developer nixes plans for memory-care facility

Instead, Villa Tuscany Holdings LLC is proposing to build four single-family homes at 1298 Howell Branch Road.

TIM FREED
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A property that was once the potential site of a controversial proposed memory care facility might be subdivided, making way for four single-family homes.

The Winter Park Planning and Zoning Board approved the

changes during its Tuesday, June 5, meeting, although the final vote still needs to go before the City Commission.

Property owner Villa Tuscany Holdings LLC previously proposed a memory care facility for the property at 1298 Howell Branch

SEE RESIDENTS PAGE 4

YOUR CALENDAR

WINTER PARK

**MONDAY, JUNE 11
GIRL POWER SUMMER
DANCE CAMP**

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Aug. 6 at the Center for Contemporary Dance, 3580 Aloma Ave. Suite 7, Winter Park. This girls-only camp is designed for novice dancers ages 6 through 13. In an uplifting environment led by an all-female teaching staff, the camp uses dance as an artistic medium for reinforcing positive images of women. Emphasizing the principles of ballet and modern dance, the camp includes a contemporary dance-making component that awakens your Super Girl's creative potential to confidently express her thoughts, ideas and emotions through self-developed and assigned choreography. All camp weeks culminate with an in-studio presentation for family and friends. Cost is \$95 to \$155. For more information, call (407) 695-8366.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

WPGC SUMMER GOLF CLINIC
10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 12, at the Winter Park Golf Course, 761 Old England Ave., Winter Park. The Winter Park Golf Course will host complimentary golf clinics for juniors age 8

though 15. The idea of the clinic is to teach beginners the game of golf and a basic understanding of the rules of golf. Each clinic is one hour in length and will be taught by a WPGC teaching professional. The focus will be on fundamentals such as grip, aim and set up, and the basics of the golf swing and short-game. For more information, call (407) 599-3419.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

**COFFEETALK
FEATURING CITY MANAGER
RANDY KNIGHT**

8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, June 14, at Winter Park Country Club, 761 Old England Ave., Winter Park. If you have a "latté" beans to grind or you simply want to "espresso" your thoughts, CoffeeTalk may be the cup for you. This free series gives the community an opportunity to sit down and talk with city leaders over a cup of coffee provided by Bernie's Coffee Kitchen. CoffeeTalk provides a more informal setting to share ideas, concerns and thoughts with city leaders. For more information, call (407) 599-3339.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

**KRAFT AZALEA GARDEN
COMMUNITY PARK WORKDAY**

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 16, at Kraft Azalea Garden, 1365 Alabama Drive, Winter

Park. Activities may include — but are not limited to — weeding, mulching, planting, stooping, kneeling, and bending. Meet at the park by 8:30 a.m. Gardening supplies and water will be provided. Remember to bring a reusable water bottle, wear closed-toe shoes, hats, and long pants, and carpool. For more information, call (407) 599-3364. To register, visit cityofwinterpark.eventbrite.com.

PICNIC WITH FATHER

Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at Kraft Azalea Garden, 1365 Alabama Drive, Winter Park. Take the whole family to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music, relaxation, crafts and more to celebrate Father's Day. Please bring your own picnic. Drinks of water, lemonade and tea will be provided. For more information, call (407) 599-3342.

MAITLAND

**FRIDAY, JUNE 8
YOGA AT THE MAITLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

4:30 p.m. Fridays at Maitland Public Library, 501 Maitland Ave. S., Maitland. Let Jenny Blackburn help you destress from the week and refresh for the weekend. Take your own mat, towel and water bottle. For more information, call (407) 647-7700.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

**MAITLAND
FARMERS MARKET**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at Lake Lily Park, 701 Lake Lily Drive, Maitland. Browse through a section of fresh produce and other items at this weekly farmers market in Maitland. For more information, visit Maitland Farmers Market on Facebook.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

COFFEE CONNECTIONS

8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 14, at the Maitland Area Chamber of Commerce office, 110 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland. This event takes place on the second Thursday of every month. For more information, visit business.maitlandchamber.com or call (407) 644-0741.

ORLANDO

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

STORYBOOK FUN

10:30 to 11 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando. Designed especially for preschoolers ages 3 to 5, Storybook Fun lasts 25 minutes. The use of picture books, songs and told stories will encourage your child to read, talk, sing, write and play. For more information, call (407) 835-7323.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

**YOGA AT BARLEY
AND VINE BIERGARTEN**

11 a.m. Saturdays at Barley and Vine Biergarten, 2406 E. Washington St., Orlando. Looking for a mix of beer and yoga? Join an hourlong yoga practice with a carton of water and craft beer for only \$10. For more information, call (407) 930-0960.

COLLEGE PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

**COLLEGE PARK
FARMERS MARKET**

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays at Infusion Tea, 1600 Edgewater Drive, Orlando. Browse local produce and goods at this dog-friendly farmers market in College Park every week. For more information, visit facebook.com/TheCollegeParkFarmersMarket.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

FENCING CLASSES

7 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the College Park Community Center, 2393 Elizabeth Ave., Orlando. Join this developmental and instructional class that teaches the fundamentals of fencing. A fencing class for youth is also available from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays. Cost is \$10 per class. For more information, call (407) 246-4447.

For more info, visit enzian.org

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WHY EVERYONE NEEDS A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

You may be a busy professional with a crazy schedule; a working parent who can barely keep up with your kids' medical appointments, much less your own; a young person who's never had a serious health issue; or perhaps you're just new to the area and haven't gotten around to choosing a doctor yet.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE "SUPPOSED TO" HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (PCP), BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE NOT SURE WHY.

After all, if you break your arm, you'll just go to the emergency room. If you get the flu, you can always seek treatment at one of the urgent care or walk-in clinics around town. Heck, your local pharmacy might even offer basic medical services. So what's the big deal about having a PCP?

A DOCTOR WHO KNOWS YOU CAN BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IN KEEPING YOU HEALTHY.

"A physician you see over time has baseline information on your overall health that no one else does," says Kirk Hutjens, MD, a board-certified internal medicine physician in Winter Park. "Because we collect regular records of our patients' immunizations, vital signs and other health measures, we can more easily pinpoint when something is not right."

Dr. Hutjens adds that patients are also more likely to mention an emerging health concern or ask a question about their health when they have an ongoing relationship with their doctor. "This means you're more likely to receive treatment for a problem that might otherwise have gone unnoticed, with possible long-term consequences."

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE.

A big part of what PCPs do is preventive care—including regular health screenings for things like high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes and so much more. Having regular checkups with your PCP can help you avoid preventable illnesses, and help ensure that a potentially serious health issue is caught early, when treatment can be most effective.

A PCP ENSURES CONSISTENT, COORDINATED CARE THAT BENEFITS YOU.

If you receive medical care from a number of providers, your PCP is the one who will keep track of your medications to ensure they are all working together, serving as the hub in a comprehensive network of care. "Primary care physicians work closely with your specialists to be sure everyone is on the same page in terms of your treatment plan," Dr. Hutjens says. "By being a central point of contact for other providers, we can make sure our patients avoid potentially unnecessary or duplicate health testing."

BIOGRAPHY:

Kirk Hutjens, M.D. is a board-certified internal medicine physician in Winter Park. He has a particular interest in treating patients with hypertension, diabetes and osteoporosis. To get more information or to schedule an appointment, visit FHMedicalGroup.com or call (407) 988-2226.



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Hagedorn sworn in as new chief

In a special ceremony on Friday, June 1, retired fire chief Jim White handed the reins to his longtime colleague, Dan Hagedorn.

TROY HERRING
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Setting front and center with his family, Dan Hagedorn took in the moment.

After opening remarks from City Manager Randy Knight brought rounds of applause, Hagedorn made his way up to the front alongside his daughter Morgan — who helped swear in Hagedorn.

A pinning later by his wife, Laura, and the passing of the colors from retired Chief Jim White, and it was official — Hagedorn became Winter Park's new fire chief.

"It's pretty overwhelming, because like I said, I've known that it was going to happen eventually," Hagedorn said. "There is this kind of long build up. To have it actually break over and today is the day and be done with it ... it's just incredible. The community that we have supports us 100%, and we support them. It's just an honor and a privilege."

The swearing-in ceremony, which took place June 1 at the Rachel D. Murrah Civic Center, has been in the making for quite a while now — seven years — for Hagedorn. It was in 2011 when White gave Hagedorn, a 22-year veteran of the department, notice he would be retiring in seven years.

The Orlando native served most recently as the lieutenant paramedic for the department, but after the retirement announcement by White — whose career in the field started back in 1982 — Hagedorn found himself in the running for the open position.

Shortly following the announcement, an interview panel was set up by Knight to search for the newest chief. That panel consisted of Mayor Steve Leary, Civil Service Board Chair Gary Brewer, Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuter and Human Resources Manager Kristin Wong.

The panel evaluated four candidates with an assortment of written and oral exercises. By April 3, the Civil Service Board had approved the selection of Hagedorn, which was quickly followed by approval from the City Commission during its April 9 meeting.

"I believe all of these roles, along all of his experiences, have prepared Chief Hagedorn to lead this great department into the next chapter in this 118th year of the department and beyond," Knight said during the presentation.

When it was finally time for Hagedorn to speak, he choked up a bit before delivering his words.

Hagedorn talked about first finding out about Winter Park via a friend's friend, when he was still finishing paramedic school. After plenty of conversation, Hagedorn decided to make the trip down to visit April 19, 1995 — the day of the bombing in Oklahoma City, an event that had a significant impact on Hagedorn and his career.

"We went on a station tour — we walked around and saw all the cool trucks and stations, and it was just really impressive to see it in flesh and blood," Hagedorn said. "Then we ended up in the day room — very small room compatibly to our day room today — but in the room were firefighters from the shift and



we all watched TV together. There wasn't a lot of conversation going on, but we all watched TV together of the carnage that was unfolding in Oklahoma City.

"I could feel the sense of community ... even though I was an unknown to the group, I felt welcomed," he said. "Left that morning from Winter Park feeling that Winter Park Fire Department was the only option from me."

Now as chief, Hagedorn's first

duty will be to fill empty slots and work new pieces into the department's puzzle.

"We have multiple people that have retired, and because of that we have multiple positions that we have to fill," Hagedorn said. "We are looking at different ideas and different approaches to things, all the while upholding the vision and values set forth by the commission, the mayor and the city manager."

Photos by Troy Herring
Dan Hagedorn, right, stood at attention next to former Chief Jim White during the ceremony.

Top:
With his wife and son standing beside him, Hagedorn was sworn in by his daughter.

Day nursery seeks to build new facility

The Winter Park Day Nursery hopes a recent grant will be the first step toward a capital campaign and new building.

TIM FREED
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Winter Park Day Nursery has its eyes set on the future — and it just made a pivotal step toward serving even more families.

Winter Park's local nursery last month received a grant for \$54,000 from Dr. Phillips Charities. It will be used to fund support, training and coaching to help the facility kick off a capital campaign in the near future.

The Winter Park Day Nursery officials hope to build a larger facility so it can meet the needs of more families in the area — and this grant is the first step in doing that, Executive Director Ali DeMaria said.

"The grant we're receiving from the Dr. Phillips Charities is an amazing help toward getting us where we want to go over the next five years," DeMaria said. "They're going to be helping us put in place the elements of our strategic plan to be able to build our development and fundraising capabilities"

The nursery recognizes it serves an important function in the community for many families who are struggling financially, DeMaria said. The nursery offers early education to children ages 2 to 5 before kindergarten, which doesn't come cheap.

"You'll hear that the cost of child care for a year now rivals that of one year of college tuition



Courtesy photo

The Winter Park Day Nursery hopes to serve even more families and children with the help of a future capital campaign.

and how expensive it's getting and how much that costs," DeMaria said. "About 70% of our families are at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, so what we do is we offer significant scholarships from 10% to 60% of the weekly fee. We provide that funding so they only have to pay a portion of the funding each week for the child to attend school. So we're

significantly reducing the cost for the family but still providing them that quality early childhood education that will help their child be successful when they enter kindergarten.

"That's setting them up to be successful in school and to also be more successful past school."

Beyond providing scholarships, the nursery also has access to cri-

sis funds through other grants to support families facing poverty or homelessness.

Applying for the Dr. Phillips Charities grant and preparing for a future capital campaign are the first steps in a strategic plan the facility recently set for itself.

The ultimate dream? Getting a larger, up-to-date building and pool of reserve funds, DeMaria said. It's something the nursery needs, because there's not enough room for all the families in need of the services.

"Ultimately, we want to be able to serve more families," DeMaria said. "We find ourselves with a continual wait list that matches or exceeds our enrollment capabilities. We're looking to be able to support more families and more children who are in need of the services we can provide — to provide that high quality early childhood education at a cost the families can afford."

DeMaria said the nursery hopes to launch a capital campaign sometime in 2020.

Wildcats welcome new principal

TIM FREED
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Winter Park High School has a new principal at the helm — and it's a familiar face.

The home of the Winter Park Wildcats began a new chapter Thursday, May 31, as now-former Apopka High School principal Matt Arnold took up the mantle as principal at Winter Park High School.

The change in leadership is a result of longtime principal Tim Smith accepting a promotion from Orange County Public Schools to become an executive area director — a role in which he will be reporting to the chief of high schools, working with principals and supporting high schools within the district.

Arnold brings a wealth of experience in the education field, including a period from 1998 to 2004 at Winter Park High School where he served as a teacher, a coach for several sports, the athletic director and the dean of discipline.

It's exciting for Arnold to be back at Winter Park, he said.

"I know what an awesome school this is," Arnold said. "When the opportunity presented itself, it was just something I couldn't turn down."

Arnold first began his career in 1993 at Gateway High School in Osceola County. He went on to become a math teacher and coach at Poinciana High School for four years before moving to Brevard County and working at Merritt Island High School.

Arnold then spent time at Winter Park High School before taking on leadership roles at the Silver Star Center in Orlando, University High School, Evans High School,

"I know what an awesome school this is. When the opportunity presented itself, it was just something I couldn't turn down."

— Matt Arnold



Tim Freed

Matt Arnold, right, has been named the new principal of Winter Park High School, following a promotion for outgoing principal Tim Smith.

Southwest Middle School and finally Apopka High.

Winter Park High parents and teachers had a chance to meet Arnold and wish Smith well at a meet-and-greet event on Friday, June 1.

Arnold told a small audience of parents, faculty and students that he's already seen many familiar faces from his days at Winter Park.

"I'm excited to be here, and I'm excited about the transition, because I already know about a fourth of the staff," Arnold said. "I know Tim Smith really well, and he's going to be in the area and can be a resource for me to help me with background knowledge moving forward. I think that will help pave the way for a smooth transition."

The new principal said his first goal is to continue the school's successful legacy in academics, arts and athletics.

"(I want) first of all to continue the level of excellence here, because I know the tradition of Winter Park High School," Arnold said. "Having this opportunity just present itself yesterday afternoon, I've got a little planning to do."

Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat

Outgoing Principal Tim Smith said the promotion to become an executive area director brings mixed emotions: excitement for his new job but the tough feeling of having to say goodbye.

The transition brings Smith's eight years as the Winter Park High School Principal to an end. It was the longest ongoing tenure for a high-school principal in Orange County Public Schools.

"Winter Park has been such a special part of my life, and I've been really honored and grateful to be the principal," Smith said. "It's an incredible community, and it's just been such a special thing to work with our kids and the staff is incredible."

"It's really a close-knit school," he said. "That Winter Park family is a great one, so it's tough to say goodbye. It's a piece of my heart."

But Smith also looks forward to making a broader impact with his new role.

"I want to do the best that I can for students and staff members at our various high schools," Smith said. "Hopefully, we can have lots of good things happening for our kids. If I can support that, that's something that excites me."

Smith said his fondest memory at Winter Park is that special moment at the end of every school year — where the seniors begin a new chapter in their own lives.

"One of my favorite memories is an annual memory, and that's when I'm the lucky guy to be the one who shakes the hand of our graduating seniors on-stage," Smith said. "It's just an incredible experience to be that guy. I'm the lucky guy to be the last one to congratulate them as they walk off the stage into their future. It is a heartwarming experience to do that. It's just great — I will never forget that."

Residents pleased to see project scrapped

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Road, but residents expressed concerns with incoming traffic from medical care providers and visitors. Locals also believed the facility was incompatible with the nearby neighborhoods.

After several iterations of that project were presented and sent back for adjustments because of scale and variances, Villa Tuscany Holdings LLC opted to subdivide the property instead to make way for four single-family homes.

"Obviously in terms of traffic generation, even the memory care was significantly less in terms of the use," Winter Park Planning Manager Jeff Briggs said. "This is even further reduced in terms of the number of trips that will be generated. This, I believe, is a good outcome for the controversy that has involved this property in the past. We're not getting multi-family R-3 development; we're getting single-family homes."

The subdivision of the lot came

as a relief to local residents, who preferred to see the single-family homes to the originally proposed memory-care facility.

"This is the kind of development that Winter Park wants," Sally Flynn said. "There are no variances asked for and even better than that, they're upgrading what needs to be upgraded. I applaud you, and I hope we have many more of these come before the city."

"We're also very pleased that it's not going to be a memory-care facility, and we'd be very welcoming to having houses in the neighborhood," Barry Render said.

But did a memory-care facility provide a service the area needed? Some locals said that was the case back in 2016, when the project was first brought forward.

"It's an emergency," Maitland resident Amy O'Rourke, the founder of Cameron Group Aging Life Care Services, told the City Commission in 2016. "I've helped 17,000 older people over 17 years,

and every single week I'm telling people, 'No, there is no facility in Winter Park. We'll have to send you to Lake Nona or Winter Springs.' I and my staff listen to that week after week after week. It's a need."

FAIRBANKS PROJECT COMES TO FRUITION

A project for a new medical office building on a formerly city-owned piece of land has taken another step forward.

Winter Park's Planning and Zoning Board gave approval on the final building elevations for the proposed medical office building set for 1111 W. Fairbanks Ave.

That piece of land just south of Martin Luther King Jr. Park belonged to the city of Winter Park until City Commissioners voted to sell it at their Monday, March 26, meeting.

The majority of the City Commission believed selling the property made sense.

"We used money out of our

reserves to buy this property, so I look at it as an asset that was part of our reserves," City Commissioner Greg Seidel said in March. "If someone can give me the money to replace it and purchase the property ... the money has to come from somewhere. Do I see this being a major part of connectivity of green space in Winter Park? Not at the corner of Fairbanks. Where are you going to tie into?"

Many residents spoke out against the sale, believing the land could be eventually turned into park space.

Verax Investments LLC purchased the property for \$3.5 million — higher than the land's appraised value of \$2.96 million.

The property, the former site of the Bowl America, was purchased originally by the city from Rollins College. It was put up for a notice of disposal by the city last year, opening up a process where potential buyers can make offers.

WINTER PARK/MAITLAND
Observer

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

Friedrich Hayek
"Road to Serfdom," 1944

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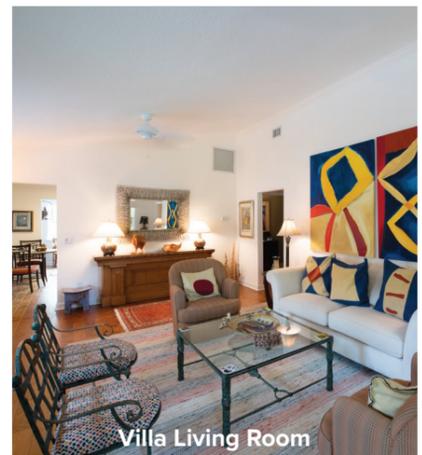


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Sushi that pops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Our food isn’t inexpensive — you get what it’s worth, we don’t overcharge — but at the end of the day, if someone is nickel and diming, they’re not really going to choose a place like us.

“Winter Park is the best location to build up on and then who knows what’s in the future with us,” she said. “We definitely want to keep growing, and if Winter Park goes off with a bang, that’s kind of our moneymaker or breaker.”

Although the new location, to be located at the site of the former Boi Brazil steakhouse at 115 E. Lyman Ave., is currently under construction and will not be open until sometime toward the end of August or in early fall, Nanda and executive chef/owner Chau Trinh are ready to get things going.

Sushi Pop will be bringing its Japanese fusion style to Winter Park with its first expansion.

“Having (built) a really awesome following, a lot of people start asking because people travel really, really far — I come from Lake Nona,” Nanda said. “Locals are attracted to it, because everything is imported, made from scratch and nothing comes in frozen. All those little things that you don’t find very often in Orlando, because there are so

“I want them to walk away being like, ‘Wow.’”

— Anu Nanda, general manager, Sushi Pop

many corporate chains.”

The restaurant’s leaders take pride in the ingredients used by Sushi Pop and said the freshness of imported fish and locally grown produce add to the full and delicious flavor of their dishes.

And based on the dishes that Sushi Pop serves in Oviedo, they will have a little something for every visitor — starting with their soups and green plates including Sunomono, Miso and Pop Salad.

From there, the restaurant offers up “cold” and “hot” tastings that includes several meats.

In the cold tastings, Sushi Pop includes dishes such as Tuna Kobatchi (which features seared tuna, ponzu, sesame oil and seeds, pickled shallots, radish, and garlic chips), while hot tastings include dishes such as the Drunk Flank (kirin marinated steak, smoked salt furikake fries and shishito chimichurri).

Sushi Pop also offers classic sushi rolls, Nigiri specials, and Nigiri and Sashimi.

If the dishes sound a bit unusual and out of your realm, Nanda suggested her personal favorite.

“If you are interested in some fresh sushi-style cuisine, I definitely suggest the cold tasting — the tuna kobatchi, the tuna tataki,” Nanda said. “The cold tastings are super unique, and you can have a lot of it and get filled up super fast.”

Although the core of the restaurant’s dishes are taken from Japanese cuisine, they also are inspired by foods from around the world — hence the usage of the term “Japanese fusion.”

The chef inspired cuisine takes

SUSHI POP



115 E. Lyman Ave., Winter Park

OPENING: Late summer/early fall

WEBSITE: sushipoprestaurant.com

inspiration from all over — from Latin America to the United States to Vietnam. It makes sense when considering Trinh and his family are Vietnamese.

“We use a lot of different flavor profiles to create unique dishes that are really signature to Chef Chau,” Nanda said. “Everything is delicately plated, with fresh herbs, imported fresh wasabi and imported Japanese soy.”

These dishes and more will be a part of a menu that will be changed daily, Nanda said. That way, Sushi Pop can offer up something fresh and new every day.

Between the constantly changing daily menu and the fresh ingredients used to make their dishes, Nanda hopes visitors walk away with a fun, delicious experience.

“I hope when they sum up our restaurant in a nutshell to their friends and family, is that they had the greatest service experience,” Nanda said. “I don’t expect them to know all the intricate details of what exactly they had, but I want them to walk away being like, ‘Wow.’”

Rick Singh cleared

GABBY BAQUERO
NEWS EDITOR

An investigative review of allegations accusing Orange County Property Appraiser Rick Singh of corrupt practices found insufficient evidence to confirm Singh committed any wrongdoings.

The complaints were made by top-level OCPA employees Laverne McGee and Aisha Hassan. Hassan and McGee accused Singh of mistreating female employees, altering financial audit and travel documents, authorizing improper expenditures and awarding contracts in return for campaign contributions, according to the review.

McGee, who was hired in January 2015 and served as Singh’s communications director, and Hassan, who was hired in October 2014 as Singh’s finance director, together sent a confidential email to Singh June 22, 2017, detailing their complaints, the report stated.

According to an official statement by the OCPA office, both employees were placed on paid leave on June 26, 2017, and then put on unpaid leave May 11.

The review, performed by retired Judge Belvin Perry, took 10 months to complete because of the scope of allegations, coordination of witness interviews, document examinations and scheduling demands.

“A thorough, external investigation into the allegations was performed by an independent, third party,” OCPA officials said in an official statement relayed by public relations firm Hill+Knowlton Strategies, which is working for OCPA on a temporary basis. “Perry carefully reviewed the facts, examined the evidence and

interviewed OCPA’s Rick Singh, numerous OCPA employees and vendors under oath. He also interviewed the two complainants who requested their statements not be under oath.”

In addition to interviewing McGee and Hassan, Perry interviewed 11 others, nine of which were OCPA staff, according to the report. Perry emphasized that complainants McGee and Hassan did not make their statements under oath — a decision which played a role in determining his conclusions, he said in the report.

According to Perry’s report, five types of allegations were made against Singh, and the allegations regarding document falsification and the creation of a hostile work environment were found to be unsubstantiated by the testimonies provided by Singh’s other employees and by the findings of audits conducted by the Office of the County Comptroller.

As for other allegations made by McGee and Hassan, Perry asserts they could not be substantiated.

“It is this writer’s opinion that a number of the allegations were based upon the fact that Ms. McGee and Ms. Hassan had a very different view of what the best practices, policies and procedures of the OCPA should have been,” Perry wrote. “While the policies, practices and procedures of any governmental office, including the OCPA office, are governed by state and county laws and rules, a number of practices are left up to the discretion of the elected official.”

Multiple attempts to reach Jill Schwartz, a Winter Park lawyer representing McGee and Hassan, were unsuccessful.

ADVERTORIAL

Strength training at any age can help improve muscle mass and bone density

Allison Olcsyay

Three years ago, Georgia Ellison was facing the same prognosis that she has watched her mother suffer with for decades. The progressive osteopenia would someday develop into osteoporosis, bringing on devastating broken bones and pain.

“My mother is 93 now, and I’ve watched her suffer so much; I just don’t want that to happen to me,” Ellison said.

Medication to strengthen her bones never produced significant results, and after years of taking them, she decided to try a new course of action.

Following the recommendation of a friend she signed on with Elite Strength and Fitness of Winter Park and began following a twice-weekly strength-training regimen designed to increase her muscle mass and bone density.

At her next DEXA scan to measure density, Ellison’s doctor noticed a big change and she was able to stop taking her medication.

Success stories like Ellison’s don’t come easy though; it took months of intense workouts with the guidance of personal trainers to get there.

At 64, Les Rinehart, one of Elite’s trainers, knows the challenges his clients face.

After 33 years in the fitness industry, the former strength coach for the Charlotte Hornets retired in 2007, only to come out

of retirement a few years ago to join Elite because, he said, he saw the value in what they offered their clients.

“The equipment here is top of the line and the techniques produce results like no other,” Rinehart said.

At Elite, education is as important as the equipment. Before clients spend anytime working out, they share their medical history, goals and concerns with trainers who develop a plan that covers time inside and outside of the gym.

“Clients’ needs are evaluated and we give them a detailed analysis of what they need to do, especially at home, to accomplish their goals,” said owner Monte Mitchell.

Homework might include keeping food and exercise journals to learn more about their habits, especially if weight loss is a goal.



ELITE
STRENGTH & FITNESS

Rather than working out with sweaty, bulked-up gym rats, Elite’s clients find an almost Zen-like atmosphere, with trainers attentive to their every motion.

Speaking in tones of calm assurance, trainers offer equal parts encouragement and challenge, pushing clients to new levels.

The workouts are physically demanding, but not in the way one might expect. Motions are slow and intensely controlled, demanding maximum effort from muscles while barely breaking a sweat.

“Many clients don’t even change out of office clothes,” Rinehart said. “They simply don’t need to.”

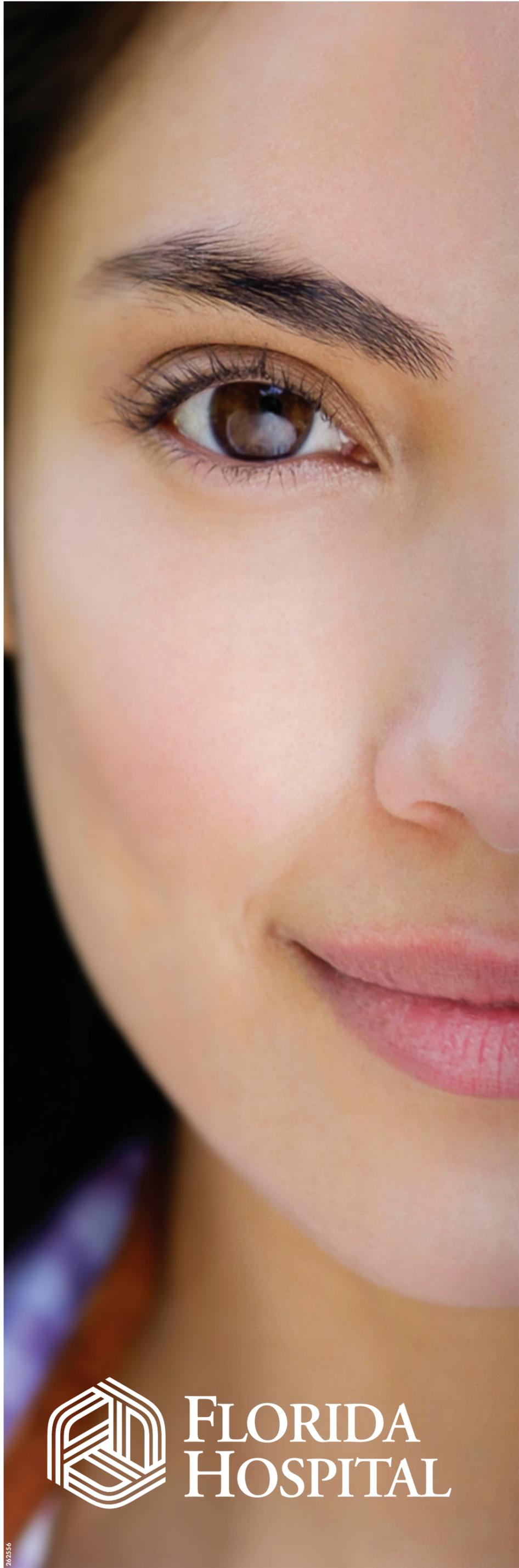
Before beginning with Elite, Bors suffered from daily back pain, but after just a few months in the gym, she experienced a noticeable change in pain levels and now rarely suffers at all.

“It’s been remarkable for me,” she said. “I can feel how strong I am, especially when I am traveling carrying luggage. I have a strength I never had before.”

“The strength training is very good for preventing bone loss,” said Bors, “which is something we all need as we age.”

407-740-7750 • 1312 Palmetto Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 • www.elitestrengthandfitness.com

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Trinity Prep celebrates commencement



Salutatorian Charlie Tang Jr. gave a speech at the ceremony.



Jessie White, Cameron Wiese, Shayan Wallace, and Trent Turbyfill passed down their diplomas in an annual tradition.

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Cori Gray was all smiles when she got her diploma.

A new chapter began for seniors at Trinity Preparatory School as they received their diplomas at a graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 2, at the school campus. The class of 2018 marked a special milestone for Trinity Prep, being the 50th graduating class from the school.



Valedictorian Parker Jochum took the podium to say a few words.

— PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRINITY PREP

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The Winter Park lifeguards were on the job.

City makes splash with pool parties

Winter Park had some fun in the sun with the city's Splash into Summer event Saturday, June 2.

Held across the Cady Way Pool and Community Center Pool as part of the new Family Fun program, the event had balloon twisters, pool games, and popsicles for children to enjoy.

— HARRY SAYER



The pool's lifeguards kept the area safe.

Left: Caston Crandall and Alberto Carrasco tried out the shallow end.



Balloon twister Carl Skenes made all sorts of balloon animals.



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GOLDEN

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262148

Dawg days

Summer baseball is just getting started for the Winter Park Diamond Dawgs.

ROSTER

NO.	PLAYER
20	William Ard
23	Brooks Brophy
4	Henry Cartrett
13	AJ Chacon
17	Jake Christa
22	Maxwell Clark
19	Hunter Connor
16	Jackson Damon
15	Brandon Johnson
8	Turner Scruggs
14	Tyler Self
6	JP Williams
21	Connor Andrews
18	Cale Jones
9	Jeff Korte
1	Bo Taylor
11	Ryan Watson
7	Graham Dvorak
79	Alex Jackson
3	Cristian Rivera
2	Robert Scott
26	Christian Snow
97	Jacob Teter
10	Timothy Dixon
12	Brian Ellis
29	Hunter Phillips
25	Langston Provitt

TIM FREED
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Grab your baseball cap and glove. Summertime is almost here — and that means another season of Winter Park Diamond Dawgs baseball.

The Dawgs are ready to start a new campaign in the Florida Collegiate Summer League, which also includes the DeLand Suns, the Leesburg Lightning, the Sanford River Rats, the Seminole County Scorpions and the Winter Garden Squeeze.

Each team will grind through a regular season from June through July leading up to the playoffs, culminating in a final championship game in St. Petersburg at Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Rays.

Winter Park head coach Chuck Schall said the team looks like it has good depth in its pitching staff and a good balance of speed and power in its offense.

“I’m excited; we spent a lot of time recruiting these kids,” Schall said. “It’s always exciting in the beginning to see how they come together. We’ve been looking forward to this and we figure we have a good crop of kids coming in. We’re really looking forward to the beginning of the year.”

Returning to the Diamond Dawgs from last season is shortstop Cristian Rivera, who brings some



The Winter Park Diamond Dawgs are ready for another run at the Florida Collegiate Summer League championship.

Tim Freed

strong defense play to the infield, Schall said.

“He basically comes to the ballpark the same every day — he’s ready to play, he’s excited to play and brings a lot of chemistry to the field,” Schall said. “I had him my first year when I was with Altamonte Springs, and we won the championship that year. He was a big part of it. He’s one of the best defensive players in the league.”

Joining the Dawgs this year are some promising players such as first basemen Jacob Teter and Christian Snow. Winthrop University catchers Bo Taylor and Ryan Watson also will be joining the group, along with Connor Andrews

and Cale Jones behind the catcher’s mask.

“Behind the plate we should be pretty strong,” Schall said.

Winter Park will look to make another run at the title after falling short in the championship game last season against Sanford.

Schall said the league is all about developing players, but the excitement of competition helps push players to new limits.

“Of course, we want to win ball games and have a competitive atmosphere,” Schall said. “Our whole priority is helping these guys continue to get better in a really competitive environment. Winning isn’t the most important

thing, but it’s still important if you want them to be competing at a high level. That’s one of my favorite things about the league is being able to help kids in anything they want to work on and seeing them get better.”

The Dawgs are looking forward to chasing the trophy once again, Schall said.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s summer ball, spring ball or winter ball — if you’re a competitor you want to compete and win,” he said.

The Dawgs season is off to a strong start with a 3-1 record so far. The team faced off against the Sanford River Rats on Wednesday, June 6, after press time.

ADVERTORIAL

Women often put their health concerns aside to focus on caring for their families. Florida Hospital for Women Nurse Navigator is a health champion for women, in all stages of life. Doreen connects you with healthcare and community resources that you may not be aware of, assists with scheduling appointments, and much more.

Here is Doreen’s advice for women who are seeking to kickstart a new health journey:

- **Talk to your physician and or nurse about all your health concerns.** You should never feel embarrassed or hesitant to speak openly. Tell them if you’re trying and struggling to make changes. They’ve heard it all, and they want what is best for you.
- **Love your heart.** Heart disease is the number one killer for women. Know your numbers: Blood pressure, cholesterol (good and bad), and blood sugar.
- **Be proactive.** Ask your doctor and/or nurse about what annual screenings you need based on your age and history, and get them scheduled. Especially: mammogram, DEXA scan. Pap smear, colorectal cancer screening, and skin cancer checks.



To schedule an appointment, call (407) 720-5191 or visit HerHealthNavigator.com.



Doreen Forsythe, BSN, RN
Women’s Health Navigator
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SUNDAY 2-4
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SUNDAY 2-4
562 S. Osceola Avenue, Orlando
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SUNDAY 2-4
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5 BR | 5.5 BA | 4,846 SF | \$2,990,000
Stunning New Construction on Lake Maitland

SUNDAY 2-4
2945 Bower Road, Winter Park
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SUNDAY 2-4
2049 Venetian Way, Winter Park
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Gorgeous Home on Winter Park Chain of Lakes

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Gorgeous Pool Home in Emerald Estates

276868

269907

This week's Celebrity Cipher answers
 Puzzle One Solution:
 "I joined the Air Force. I took to it immediately... I did three years, eight months and ten days in all."
 - Morgan Freeman

Puzzle Two Solution:
 "The free men of the world are marching together to victory."
 - General Dwight D. Eisenhower, D-Day, June 6, 1944.

This week's Sudoku answers

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

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This week's Crossword answers

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

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WEATHER

I LOVE WINTER PARK



Mike Burch, of Winter Park, snapped this gorgeous photo of a peaceful sunset over Lake Maitland off Alabama Drive by the Rollins boat dock.

The Winter Park/Maitland Observer is hosting this weekly contest, and winners will have their photograph featured in the newspaper. To enter, email your photo, along with your name, city and a caption, to tfreed@orangeobserver.com; put "I Love Winter Park" in the subject line.

FORECAST

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

High: 90
Low: 72
Chance of rain: 60%



SATURDAY, JUNE 9

High: 89
Low: 73
Chance of rain: 60%



SUNDAY, JUNE 10

High: 89
Low: 73
Chance of rain: 50%



MONDAY, JUNE 11

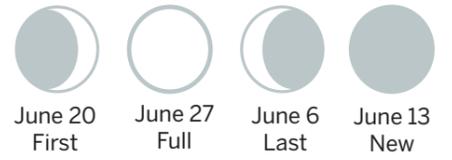
High: 88
Low: 74
Chance of rain: 60%



SUNRISE / SUNSET

	Sunrise	Sunset
Friday, June 8	6:27a	8:22p
Saturday, June 9	6:27a	8:22p
Sunday, June 10	6:27a	8:22p
Monday, June 11	6:27a	8:23p
Tuesday, June 12	6:27a	8:23p
Wednesday, June 13	6:27a	8:24p
Thursday, June 14	6:27a	8:24p

MOON PHASES



RAINFALL

Wednesday, May 30	0.86
Thursday, May 31	0.37
Friday, June 1	0.00
Saturday, June 2	0.42
Sunday, June 3	0.00
Monday, June 4	0.00
Tuesday, June 5	0.00

YEAR TO DATE:	JUNE TO DATE:
2018 14.75 in.	2018 .42 in.
2017 10.79 in.	2017 4.23 in.

ONLINE See other photos at OrangeObserver.com



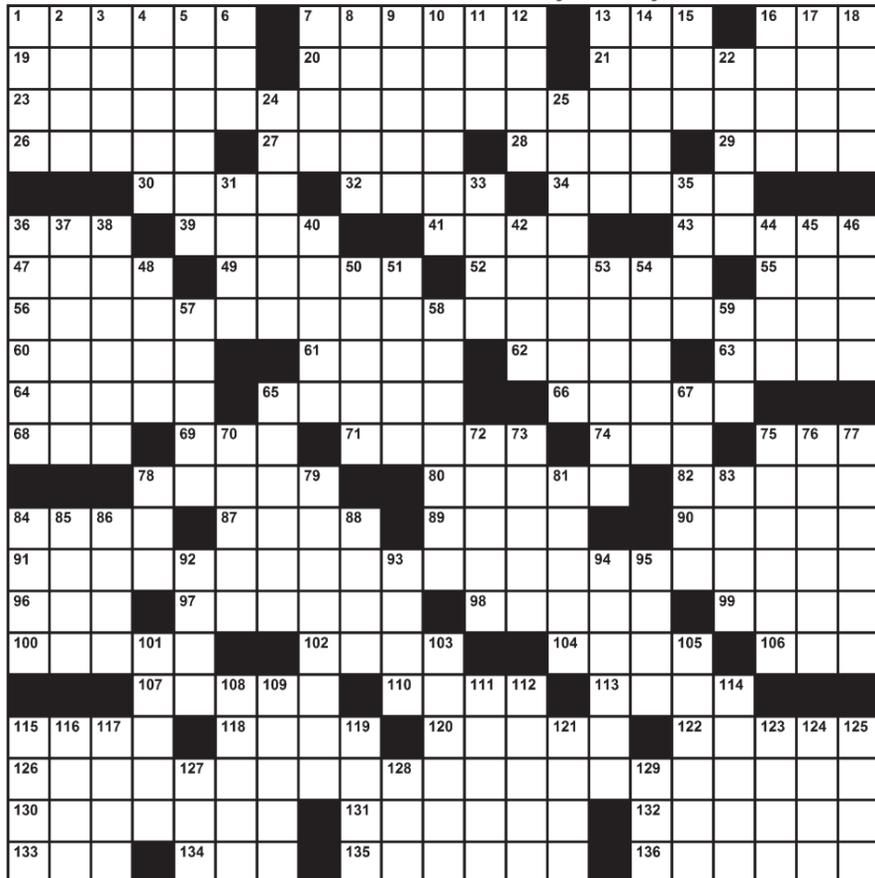
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7 State of utter confusion
13 Address for a gentleman
16 "Ginger" soda
19 Do to do
20 Chameleon relative
21 Stereotypical grandma
23 "Reader beware" quip (Pt. 1)
26 Stitched together
27 Parts of banjos
28 Old Russian ruler
29 Recess with a dome
30 Type of control

32 Some deer ones
34 Scottish families
36 Absolutely amaze
39 Muddy waters
41 Date or course words
43 Elemental particles
47 Swamplands
49 NHL venue
52 Plan in detail
55 .001 of an inch
56 "Reader beware" quip (Pt. 2)
60 Deep hatred
61 Chocolate morsel
62 Hand over, as land
63 With a fresh beginning

64 Go back, as to a shrink
65 Be a happy bird
66 "Here come the cops" sound
68 Banned bug killer
69 Feds' document producer
71 Stage-dives
74 Altoids holder
75 Major U.S. network
78 Abraham's wife
80 Best way to clear a debt
82 Princess indicator
84 Big part of an atlas
87 "Thins" cookie brand

89 Some historical periods
90 Brilliance of performance
91 "Reader beware" quip (Pt. 3)
96 Lo-___ (diet type)
97 Looked searchingly
98 Oozes
99 Courtroom hopeful
100 Nerd Urkel
102 Caustics in pantries
104 Hammered on a slant
106 Eminent leader?
107 Show opening
110 Disrespectful talk

113 Bad thing to worship
115 Lie form
118 Be destructive in the streets
120 Assayer's container
122 Overly vicious dog
126 "Reader beware" quip (Pt. 4)
130 Be in cahoots
131 Blue-pencil again
132 Acid variety
133 Attachment to sit or shoo
134 Ancient "always"
135 Groups of eight
136 Beginning stages

DOWN

1 "___ that possible?"
2 Bit of soreness
3 Meaty, juicy dish
4 Window rectangles
5 Dodger, but not the pro
6 Benicio ___ Toro
7 Ethiopian monetary unit
8 Ham-and-___ (average Joe)
9 On account of
10 Backslides
11 Hangman selection?
12 Distiller's grain
13 "Bottoms up!"
14 Prefix with red
15 Spare bone?
16 Resting upon
17 Money in Tirana
18 Language in "converse"
22 See 13-Down
24 Declare true
25 Cons on the lam
31 Homebuyer's need, often
33 Big rig
35 '49 alliance
36 Have the financial means
37 Plucked dandelions
38 Join the Marines
40 Bloodsucking worm
42 Soapstone, e.g.
44 Arab League country
45 Lapel-based broadcaster
46 Offed, as a dragon
48 Twist around an axis
50 It meant nothing in Old Rome

51 Eager and excited
53 Bit of weirdness
54 Embryos' places
57 Alpha's other end
58 Subject of a dress code
59 Darken under heat?
65 Like the surface of some files
67 Get off the street?
70 With face in the dirt
72 Beautiful and graceful girls
73 Sudden gush
75 Summon to the majors
76 Noisy donkey
77 Lampooning genre
78 Syrup, before becoming syrup
79 Great-grandma's necklace, e.g.
81 Heretofore
83 Sweet cold treats
84 Fragments of circles
85 Bucket in a car?
86 Destination reached by boat
88 Completely follow a command
92 Accepting customers
93 Menacing time of March
94 Like way-old milk, in Britain
95 Previously owned
101 78's material
103 Aromatic pouch
105 Quiet work horse
108 Give this for that
109 Bus token utilizer
111 Shoe material of a hit 45
112 Bowler's toughie
114 Simple, lively songs
115 Scenes of action
116 Unknown one of many quotations, briefly
117 Problems, as of society
119 Rookie or newbie
121 Some amphibians
123 Weight not counted
124 Send forth, as fumes
125 45s and 78s, briefly
127 Color or shade
128 "Hold on a ___!"
129 Lennon's wife

CELEBRITY CIPHER

By Luis Campos

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

"L SILDXXK FPX ZLO MIOTX. L FIIG FI

LF LCCXKLZFXYN... L KLK FPOXX

NXZOU, XLJPF CIDFPU ZDK FXD

KZNU LD ZYY."

– CIOJZD MOXXCZD

Puzzle One Clue: T equals C

"OEG KIGG YGP DK OEG ADIXR VIG

YVIHEFPN ODNGOEGI OD JFHODIB."

– NGPGIVX RAFNEO R. GFCGPEDAGI,

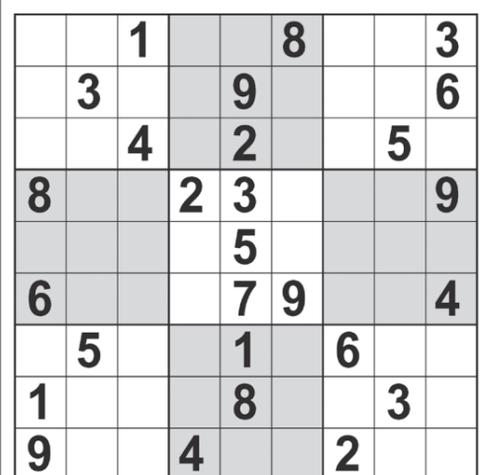
R-RVB, UWPG 6, 1944

Puzzle Two Clue: W equals U

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



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6-7-18

HOUSE + HOME

A MODERN



TWIST

The Mondrian Winter Park offers a lakeside community with a modern, high-end feel.

TIM FREED | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A new townhouse community in Winter Park is giving residents their fix of modern architecture and design – just steps away from the water. The 30 townhouses at The Mondrian Winter Park at 1800 Lee Road are up for sale, carrying a price tag starting in the high \$500,000s.

SEE MONDRIAN PAGE 15

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What's in a walkthrough?



CHRISTINA RORDAM
FLORIDA REALTY INVESTMENTS

If you are purchasing your first home or your last, closing on a property is a milestone moment worthy of celebration. But before you pop the champagne, you've got a bit more work to do. A final walkthrough is a step taken to ensure the home you are purchasing is in the same condition as when you ratified an agreement to buy it a few weeks back.

Lately however, I've heard some express confusion about what a pre-closing or final walkthrough is really for. Is it

meant to be another inspection? Can you request new repairs during your walk through if you saw them before and forgot to mention them? What if things are different than what you were told to expect by the seller? When it comes to new construction, should you move forward with the closing if there are outstanding problems?

In real estate, there are no dumb questions regardless of what you may hear, and it is best to ask these questions early on to avoid any confusion.

Here's a deeper dive into what a final walkthrough is for and how best to conduct it.

THE PURPOSE

Your main goal for a walkthrough is to ensure the home is in the same condition as before. If there were any items that were scheduled to be installed, removed, updated or repaired,

you'll want to check on those, too.

What a final walk isn't meant to be is an inspection. If you have a Realtor, surely they will advise you to inspect any property upfront and during your designated inspection period. If for some reason you didn't inspect the home by way of a professional home inspector and you discover a defect during the walkthrough, you're not likely to get anything now. If there is a new defect, say, a broken window or a missing door, these are items you can discuss with the seller. The best course of action is to wait to close until major items like that are completed.

Should you decide to press forward with your closing, you can always put your repair request in writing and get it signed by the seller. In some cases, if repairs weren't completed or a new issue has been

uncovered, you may want to request a concession be provided to you at closing so you can simply take charge and complete the repair yourself. Remember: Any requests should be made in writing and don't be afraid to speak up.

BE THOROUGH

Checklists are a great tool for both new or existing homes. You can find walkthrough checklists online or just partner with your agent to figure out what to examine.

Some basics to look at are things such as checking your major systems: Does the plumbing function? Is the AC cooling? Are the lights functional? It may feel silly but flush all the toilets and check that there is hot water at the sinks tubs and showers. Are all the appliances present and functioning? You won't have time to bake a cake to test the oven, but take a quick look and make sure it's operational, along with any other appliance.

Are all the fixtures accounted for? Give the doors, windows and garage door a try. Make sure they are in the same functioning condition as when you signed to buy the home.

Last but not least, walk the exterior of your home, run the sprinklers and verify any outdoor fixtures remain per your agreement.

NEW, TOO

New homes need walkthrough love, too. If you're purchasing through a new homebuilder, there likely will be a checklist provided to you by the builder and a process wherein they go over items in detail. Some builders really strive to deliver a totally completed home to the buyer, and if that's the case, fantastic. But don't feel bad about pointing out problem areas while you are there. Often, your new home will have a comprehensive one-year warranty meant to cover any issues you discover while walking the home prior to close or after. Even still if you are uncomfortable with your walkthrough findings it's OK to request to postpone the closing.

Recently, I sold a new home to some really great first-time homeowners. We had to complete three walkthroughs before we were ready to close, because every time we came back out, all the remaining issues went

untouched. As you can imagine, after two walks with none of the punch-list items addressed, they refused to close until those items were fixed. In the end, the builder repaired everything for them, and they closed happy.

They taught me a lesson in tenacity for sure and are an example of how even in a hot market with low inventory, you don't have to move forward on a home purchase if there are still major items needing repair. Of course, this is a more extreme and rare case; most new home pre-closing walks I've been on have gone well with no subsequent delays.

Sometimes, things such as paint touch-up or other smaller items not done in time for your closing aren't enough to dissuade you from moving forward with closing. In cases like these, my suggestion is to make sure the outstanding items are noted on the documentation the builder is utilizing at the pre-close walkthrough and to send an email to the person in charge of these repairs (also their customer care representative, if any) to create a paper trail and denote that these were outstanding at time of close. It's also great to request a completion date, so you don't get strung along for weeks waiting on a few smaller things to be done.

IN REVIEW

A pre-close walkthrough is not meant to be a formal inspection; it's more of a review to ensure nothing has changed and all promises related to repairs and renovations have been done.

However, it is crucial to have both a formal inspection once under contract and then a final walk prior to close. Take a checklist with you on your final walk, and get in there to make sure all the basic things work. If you see a problem, speak up and don't feel pressured to close that day if there are major items outstanding until you can come to an agreement on how to resolve them. Ask your Realtor and a friend or family member to be a fresh pair of eyes for you so that you aren't surprised later by an issue.

Christina Rordam is a local Realtor with 12 years experience and a member of ORRAs Top Producer Club. For more, visit christina.sellsorlando.com.



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Mondrian Winter Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

The homes sit along the shore of Lake Killarney, accessible through two docks and 10 private boat slips.

Along with a great view of the lake, The Mondrian also shows off a striking modern design that's catching on in Central Florida

Developer Icon Residential from Tampa created vertical and rectangular block-style exteriors, which echo the early 1900s style architecture in the Netherlands that was advanced by Dutch painter Piet Mondrian.

That style is reflected inside the townhouses, as well. The interior design for a model home was completed back in March by Intermark Design Group. Vice President of Sales and Marketing Aundrea Brown said the design for the home was intended to complement the modern, block exterior of the homes.

Visitors will walk in and immediately notice the home has a

high-end vibe, Brown said.

Metal accents and glossy surfaces along with wood flooring and oversized light fixtures play a dramatic role in keeping that feeling alive throughout the entire townhouse, Brown said.

"When we designed this home, really the overall style of it is more of a chic sophistication," she said. "You'll notice that we put in a lot of design trend elements that incorporate some more trend-forward looks. ... For example, some gold hues brought in with some chrome finishes. You'll see us kind of mix up some of the metals and accents. You'll see a very clean and contemporary furniture style, while still adding a type of texture that kind of mimics the architectural style of The Mondrian."

The 1,980-square-foot model home has three bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms, with one of the bedrooms converted into a formal office. There's an outdoor terrace on the second floor as well near the bedrooms.

Brown added the overall style of the interior design is minimalistic, which allows some key pieces of furniture to shine and catch the eye.

The finishes within the home — such as the floor and the windows — also stand out with this style of design, Brown said.

"You'll notice that the developer really incorporated some really distinctive and high-end finishes into the development for the community," Brown said. "The windows themselves just have an amazing design line to them that are really a great focal feature and really complement the overall decor in general."

"It's a very European-style kitchen, with very crisp white colors," she said. "You'll notice they have a really nice Zodiag that was a waterfall edge to it, so the countertop basically just spills to the floor and it's got a really neat distinctive veining on the countertops that draws your eye to the kitchen."

Brown said she and her team



Tim Freed

Chic sophistication was the goal for the interior design of the model home.

of four other designers enjoyed working within the interior of a modern home, which is something that isn't as common in Central Florida.

"We were really excited to be able to be a part of the project, because it's not very often that you see this very modern contemporary styling brought into the Orlando

area," Brown said. "You see a lot of Tuscan- or Mediterranean-style architecture brought into the area, but you don't always see this more contemporary feeling brought in. I think we're ready for it here in Orlando. I think there's definitely a demographic of people that are looking for that in their home. We're just excited to be a part of it."

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ALSO INSIDE:

Bach Festival Society: Summer Sing. **3.**

Skyra Foundation: Arts for Our Youth gala. **8.**



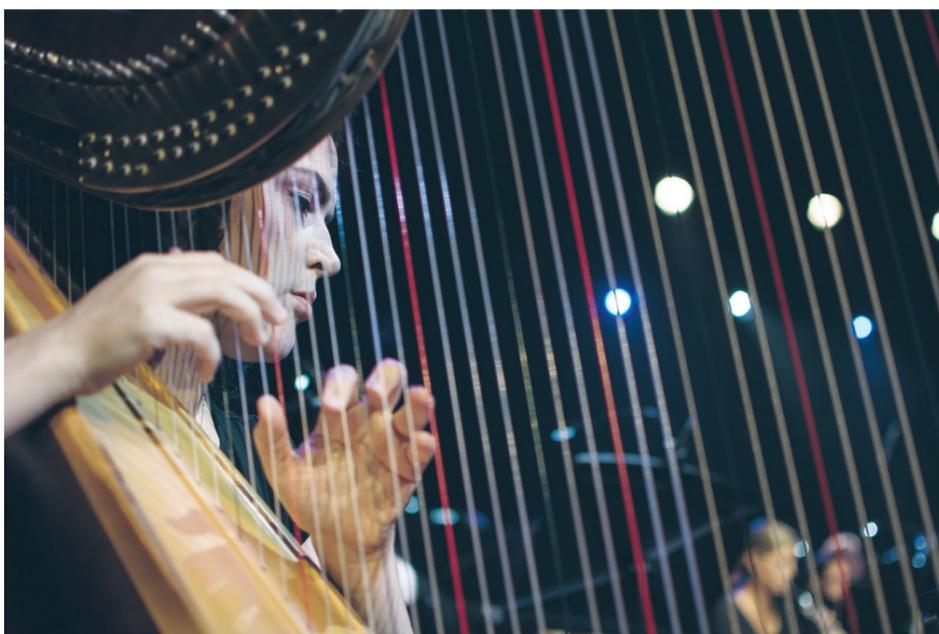
ARTS + CULTURE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

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REVENGE OF THE SYMPH

The CFCArts Symphony Orchestra is bringing some of Hollywood's best film scores to Winter Park as a part of its "Symphonic Cinema: The Sequel" concert.



Photos by Lori Webre

"This is going to be fun. This is going to be exciting, and this is going to get the goosebumps going on their arms, and they're going to walk out with a smile on their faces."

— Justin Muchoney, Central Florida Community Arts musical director and conductor

TROY HERRING
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There are many aspects to making a good film — but none may be as big or far-reaching as its score.

The music in movies, when done well, can reach through space and time — becoming a player within our popular culture.

Take, for example, composer John Williams' famous "Imperial March" that first appeared in "Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back." When you hear the ominous militaristic tune filled with a marching beat, one can't help but see Darth Vader in all his glory.

SEE STORY PAGE 2

CFCA to perform sequel to 'Symphonic Cinema'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's these kind of moments that Central Florida Community Arts Musical Director and Conductor Justin Muchoney hopes to bring to visitors this month as a part of the organization's "Symphonic Cinema: The Sequel."

"We are going to do everything from 'Star Wars,' 'Star Trek,' 'E.T.' and then a lot of films that may be not as baked into the mind-set of people yet, but that are incredible new scores — like 'La La Land' from just a couple of years ago, and 'Wonder Woman,'" Muchoney said. "It's a really great cross-section of awesome movie music performed by an enormous orchestra and choir — it's going to be a lot of fun."

The orchestra of 140, completely made up of volunteer musicians, will be joined on stage by 60 chorus members as they take visitors on a journey from old Hollywood to the Shire and to all the way to the planet Vulcan via 12 musical selections from 24 different films.

As the title of the show suggests, this performance is a "sequel" to the first Symphonic Cinema the orchestra performed in the summer of 2016. That concert featured music from films such as "Titanic" and "Back to the Future."

"We had such a huge response — it was the highest attendance that we had ever done — and it became obvious that people really resonated with movie music, they just do," Muchoney said. "So we



Lori Webre

knew we wanted to plan another one."

Like with the first show two years ago, choosing the songs was a two-pronged process for Muchoney as he looked to include music that was easily recognizable — such as "Star Wars" — and other newer scores.

And although the songs will be representing 24 different films, the order of the selections will form a single narrative — just like how a film score goes through different movements throughout its runtime.

"We want to hit you right off the top with something that piques your interest — something that is really going to bring you in," Muchoney said. "Then, you get into that character development phase where we dig in a little bit deeper and we let the music take its time for a selection or two to remind you how rich this genre is. Then, we build up toward the end with both an emotional kind of conclusion along with a thrilling one."

The selection itself also was about keeping two different

groups in mind: the audience and the musicians, Muchoney said. By doing that, everyone stays entertained.

"What's going to make for the most compelling, immersive and surprising experiences that we can for the audience?," Muchoney said. "And then we have 140 volunteer musicians in this orchestra, and they deserve to have a great time as well, so I also want to play music that they're going to enjoy tackling each season."

For Muchoney — who has been with CFCArts since its creation eight years ago — the chance to have his orchestra perform old and new movie music is a dream. One can hear the excitement in his voice as he discusses why film scores have played an important role in bringing modern classical musical to the modern-day person.

But of all things, Muchoney's hope is that visitors enjoy themselves as well as the imagery brought forth by the orchestra's music selection.

"I want to craft the story and the flow of this concert in a way where I know — beyond a shadow of a doubt — what emotional experience I want people to walk out with," Muchoney said. "And at the end of this concert, people are going to walk out with a sense of joy."

"This is going to be fun," he said. "This is going to be exciting, and this is going to get the goosebumps going on their arms, and they're going to walk out with a smile on their faces."

IF YOU GO

'SYMPHONIC CINEMA: THE SEQUEL'

WHERE: Calvary Orlando, 1199 Clay St., Winter Park
WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, June 15; and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, June 16

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Image: Margaret Bourke-White, *Borscht* (detail), 1931, Photogravure print, Purchased with the Michel Roux Acquisition Fund, 2014.8. Photo © Estate of Margaret Bourke-White / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

Singers wanted

The Bach Festival Society welcomes community members to join in its annual “Summer Sing” event.

TROY HERRING
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For some singing is a hobby. For others, it’s a passion.

But regardless of your abilities or experiences, the Bach Festival Society is opening its doors for one afternoon to sing your heart out and celebrate the artform with its upcoming “Summer Sing” event Sunday, June 10.

The event is in its third or fourth year, said Art Director and conductor John Sinclair, and it has become a favorite.

“We do it as kind of an awareness-creator and also as a service to the community for those who would like to know what it is like to sing in a group like the Bach Festival and also who want to sing this great repertoire,” Sinclair said.

For 60 to 90 minutes Sunday afternoon, those who sign up for the event will get the opportunity to sing through a 10-song selection alongside members of the Bach Festival Orchestra.

Visitors will start with Franz Joseph Haydn’s “The Heavens Are Telling” and make their way through song selections from classical pieces by Mozart, Bach and Johannes Brahms.

The song selection is one filled with uplifting power and beauty, Sinclair said, and it is also different

than the previous Summer Sings. Sinclair decided to do pieces from different masterworks.

“Sometimes we do a major work if a major work is appropriate,” Sinclair said. “This year, none of them seemed appropriate for this particular one, so what we decided — it would take an even more interesting turn for me — (was) to do some of the greatest choruses from some of the most important major masterworks.”

You could say the masterworks chosen by Sinclair represent a sort of classical mixtape, one which he has developed throughout his 41 years of teaching music. Twenty-nine of those have been at the Bach Festival Society, and 32 at Rollins College, where he serves as director of music.

Sinclair is also the conductor for Disney World’s Candlelight Processional at Epcot, where he said he has conducted exactly 871 shows.

Although his list of accomplishments spread far and wide, the benefit Sinclair enjoys the most is the simplest — the love for teaching.

“The term ‘maestro’ actually means teacher, and I believe at the heart of everything I do, I am a teacher,” Sinclair said. “Anytime I can influence someone musically — or make their lives a little better or a little more interesting — and I get a chance to teach, I always raise



Courtesy photo

my hand. I’ve never gotten tired of communicating great music and making music with people.”

Teaching music to a professional chorus and orchestra is one thing, but taking in a large group — the Bach Festival Society estimates around 150 will show up for Sunday’s event — of folks with different ranges of talent who have never performed together is another.

“It’s kind of what I do,” Sinclair said of the challenge with a chuckle. “On Sunday, so many people won’t know me from Adam or vice-versa, and the challenge is to let music be, indeed, that universal language that we will communicate by.”

“We will sing through it, and if we find that there is a tricky spot we need to look at before, then I’ll give them a little information on the piece and the spots to look for,” he said. “I have to be extra careful

to communicate well as to what to look for.”

Participants themselves will not go into the event cold. Once their registration is received, the Society will send an email with the songs they can print out and read.

Although the “rehearsal” will be treated in a similar fashion to how Sinclair guides along the Bach Festival Choir, there will be more of an emphasis on making the event fun and educational — all while helping to introduce people to the music that has always moved him.

“It is gratifying and it is great fun,” he said. “Anytime you get to sing good music like this, it’s a good day,” Sinclair said. “I hope it’s as much fun for them as it is going to be for me.”

IF YOU GO

‘SUMMER SING’

WHEN: 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 10

WHERE: John M. Tiedtke Concert Hall, 1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park

COST: Free

INFORMATION: bachfestivalflorida.org/event/summersing-2018



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Filmmakers welcome

The FilmSlam Indie Film showcase is playing LGBTQ-themed shorts at the Enzian.

HARRY SAYER
BLACK TIE REPORTER

The Enzian will be home once again to FilmSlam, an indie film showcase that highlights several short films Florida and Central Florida creators, on June 10.

“People have bumped up our game when it comes to FilmSlam; we have a cult following,” Program Host Jen Vargas said. “It’s not a set audience. Every month when I go up on stage and ask, ‘How many people have never been to FilmSlam before?’ I’d say a good 30 to sometimes 50% raises their hands. I say, ‘First of all, shame on you. But welcome and I really hope you come back.’”

FilmSlam spends a maximum of one hour each month showing films — typically about six — that Vargas said can be as short as 30 seconds to as long as 20 minutes.

The showcase’s audience, which has reached close to 200 people in recent years, votes on the best three films. The top film under 10 minutes then goes on to play at the Enzian’s Brouhaha showcase in November. Sometimes those pieces are showcased at the Florida Film Festival.

The movies presented each month often fit a theme, which

IF YOU GO

FILMSLAM
WHEN: 1 p.m. Sunday, June 10
WHERE: Enzian Theater, 1300 S. Orlando Ave, Maitland
TICKETS: \$8
INFORMATION: facebook.com/FilmSlam

has included horror, love and even projects exclusively made by female directors.

June’s theme, though, hits a little closer to home for the program’s director.

“(June) was never meant to be a theme month ... but June 16 was the day Pulse happened and was the same day as our FilmSlam,” Vargas said. “All of those things happened in the early hours of the morning, and I had to go on stage (at FilmSlam) at one o’clock. I’m usually goofy and generally pleasant ... but that whole day was a blur.”

Since, then Vargas has chosen the month of June to focus on short films involving Central Florida’s LGBTQ community. This month will be no different — FilmSlam will play six “Orlando United” films featuring the LGBTQ community in Central Florida.

“I wanted to make sure that I was inclusive — not only celebrating Orlando but also our LGBTQ plus filmmakers,” she said.

The program, which runs 10 months each year, takes a break in April and November for the Florida Film Festival and Brouhaha program, respectively.

The showcase began in 2005 as a University of Central Florida project held in the school’s Digital Media Arts Center. Vargas said the Enzian became the official home for the showcase about a year later. She volunteered with the showcase as a support and the program’s social media director before finally taking the role of program director herself after Enzian Program Coordinator Tim Anderson stepped down three years ago.

“Jen’s been involved with FilmSlam since the absolute beginning,” Anderson said. “She’s always had a good rapport with local filmmakers; she knew everybody. I feel like ... you have to have that context in the local industry to facilitate getting that many entries 10 times a year.”

Vargas is proud of the turnout the showcase has built. At one time, the production only had a handful of attendees; it now often sees more than 100 visitors.

“There’s no place for us, really, to play unless we rent out a theater ourselves,” she said. “There’s no outlet in this area for people to play their films or something that says ‘Filmmakers Welcome.’ I really wanted to keep FilmSlam alive for that fact alone.”

THE SELECTIONS

‘MRMS’
WRITER: Olugbenga Sotubo, Bryce Culp; **Director:** Luis S. Alvarez
PRODUCER: Paola Gisler
RUNNING TIME: Eight minutes
WEBSITE: facebook.com/MrMsAdrien.TheDocumentary/
SYNOPSIS: MrMs takes us on an adventure exploring the world of Drag, telling us his experiences and challenges that come with living a “double life.”

‘THE PULSE OF A CITY’
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Hannah Powell
RUNNING TIME: 14:26
SYNOPSIS: A queer woman living in Orlando explores the impact of the Pulse shooting on the LGBTQ+ community and the city she calls home.

‘THE MONARCH INITIATIVE: SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE BLOOMS IN THE AUDUBON PARK GARDEN DISTRICT’
WRITER: Stephany Nazari; **DIRECTOR:** Colin Morris; **PRODUCER:** Jacob Kaplan
RUNNING TIME: 6:45
WEBSITE: themonarchinitiative.org
SYNOPSIS: Full Sail University crews captured the businesses and inhabitants of eco-minded neighborhood, Audubon Park, who have built a culture focused on conservation and sustainability in partnership with The Monarch Initiative.

‘FIGHTING TWO WARS: THE STORY OF THALIA JANE AINSLEY’
WRITER/DIRECTOR: Aaron Curtis
PRODUCER: Anthony Decimus
RUNNING TIME: 8:29
WEBSITE: twitter.com/FightingTwoWars
SYNOPSIS: The story of Thalia Jane Ainsley, a Vietnam war veteran who transitioned into a woman later in life.

‘ONE BIG PITCH’
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Jenny Taylor
Running Time: 15:31
WEBSITE: facebook.com/onebigpitch
SYNOPSIS: Taylor is on a journey to explore a city’s culture through the game of soccer and its people. The world is one big pitch.

‘THE R.O.Y.G.B.I.V PROJECT’
DIRECTORS: Jane, Kacie, and Lilly
RUNNING TIME: 10 minutes
SYNOPSIS: College Park middle-schoolers Jane, Kacie, and Lilly see Orlando in color.

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Event Tank Top

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BALDWIN PARK LIVING

As the official magazine of Central Florida’s upscale Baldwin Park community for more than 12 years, Baldwin Park Living is directly mailed monthly to more than 5,000 residents and businesses, with additional copies being distributed via the association office and businesses.

2018 PUBLISHES 1ST WEEK EACH MONTH

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- September August 9
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- November October 11
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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

BETTY FOX BAND

8 p.m. Friday, June 8, at Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts, 1905 Kentucky Ave., Winter Park. Fox returns to the Bamboo with her soulful, sultry, bluesy mix. With an extensive background in gospel and a lifelong passion for soul music, Fox has come a long way from her southern roots to headlining festivals and captivating thousands with her raw swagger and unwavering talent. Fox was the 2015 representative of the Suncoast Blues Society, an International Blues Challenge Finalist and two-time winner of Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay. The band has opened for artists such as Mavis Staples, Lucky Peterson, Jimmy Thackery, Marcia Ball, Southern Hospitality, and The Meter Men. Featuring Josh Nelms on guitar, Barry Williams on bass, and Tony Cintron on drums. Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit bluebambooartcenter.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

GOSPEL GOES CLASSICAL GALA CONCERT

7:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at Calvary Assembly Church Orlando, 1199 Clay St., Winter Park. This black-tie affair features the silky smooth legendary voice of multi-Grammy Award winner BeBe Winans and the amazing two-

octave internationally acclaimed mezzo soprano Denyce Graves. Both performers are accompanied by the 50-piece Bella Musica Orchestra of Florida conducted by Dr. Glenn Caldwell, who will perform some of gospel music's greatest songs with symphonic and classical interpretations. Guest performers, breakout artist Monique Steele and the forever melodic Antioch Baptist Church of Oviedo 50-member choir also will perform. The red-carpet walk begins at 5:30 p.m., and the benefit concert starts at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Pastor Riva Tims, of Majestic Life Church and radio host of Glory of Gospel on Star 94.5 FM. Proceeds benefit Central Florida Urban League Operation Cease-Fire Initiative. Tickets are \$50. For more information and sponsorship details, call 1-877-793-6993 or (321) 217-4493 (ask for Gwen).

ROBBIN' THE BANK

8 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts, 1905 Kentucky Ave., Winter Park. Robbin' the Bank features high-voltage hammered dulcimer player Robyn Rogers accompanied by upright bass, guitar/banjo and fiddle. Together, the quartet brings traditional instruments pushing the envelope in musical styles and entertainment. The band specializes in progressive Celtic, classical, swing, showtunes and classic rock. Hear stand-up bass by Todd Maynard, plus uniquely



Courtesy photo

arranged banjo and guitar work by Wayne Rogers, utilizing alternate tunings and percussive claw hammer techniques. Violin/fiddle is delightfully inserted by Brevard's acclaimed fiddle instructor, Cricket Moros. Robbin' the Bank has won first place in Buskerfest 2017 and performs at national festival performances and parties, both public and private. Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit bluebambooartcenter.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

POPCORN FLICKS IN THE PARK

8 p.m. Thursday, June 14, at the Central Park main stage at Park and Garfield avenues, Winter Park. This film series features classic films for the whole family. Bring a blanket, a picnic and some family and friends and come see a viewing of "Enchanted." Free popcorn for everyone. Call (407) 629-0054.

ONGOING

'THE HONKY TONK ANGELS'

Through Sunday, June 10, at The Winter Park Playhouse, 711 Orange Ave., Suite C, Winter Park. A whimsical musical comedy by the creator of "Always," Patsy Cline. This production tells the story of three gutsy gals determined to better their lives and follow their dreams to Nashville. The score features more than 30 classic country tunes including "I'll Fly Away," "Stand by Your Man," "9 to 5," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Ode to Billy Joe," "Rocky Top" and "I Will Always Love You." Cost is \$32 to \$42. For more information and showtimes, call (407) 645-0145 or visit winterparkplayhouse.org.

HIS — HENDERSON, ISRAEL & SIMPSON PROJECT

On display through Dec. 31 on the second floor of the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, 642 W.

New England Ave., Winter Park. Visit the Hannibal Square Heritage Center to learn of Winter Park's African-American leaders — Gus C. Henderson, Frank R. Israel and Walter B. Simpson. For more information, call (407) 539-2680.

'THE DOMES OF THE YOSEMITE'

Through Sunday, July 8, at the Morse Museum, 445 N. Park Ave., Winter Park. "The Domes of the Yosemite," the largest existing painting by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), will be exhibited at the Morse through a special loan from the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in Vermont. The monumental painting, having just received conservation treatment in Miami, will be on view before returning to Vermont. The 1867 oil-on-canvas, almost 10 feet by 15 feet, has not been shown outside the Athenaeum since its first installation there in 1873.

The Winter Park

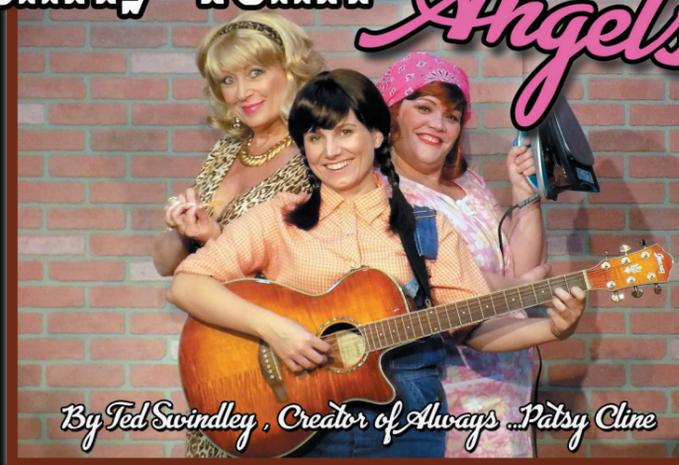
Playhouse

The Honky Tonk

Angels

May 11 - June 10, 2018

Three gutsy gals follow their dreams to Nashville. The score features over 30 classic country tunes including "I'll Fly Away," "Stand by Your Man," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Rocky Top," and "I Will Always Love You."



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'They built this city'



Courtesy photo

The "Lost but Not Forgotten" performance will honor the lives of Gus Henderson, Walter B. Simpson and Frank Israel at the Juneteenth celebration.

Hannibal Square Heritage Center's event will honor the lives of Gus Henderson, Frank Israel and Walter B. Simpson.

HARRY SAYER
BLACK TIE REPORTER

The Hannibal Square Heritage Center has some stories to tell.

The coming Juneteenth celebration, held June 16 at the Winter Park Community Center Amphitheater, is an annual recognition of the ending of slavery in the United States June 19, 1865.

Although the event has always had a focus on education — complete with guest speakers from Florida colleges speaking on African-American culture as well as instructional workshops — this year's event also will have a focus on storytelling. Live performances, to be exact.

"It's such a historic celebration — a jubilee celebration as a way to tell the African-American story," Hannibal Square Heritage Center Manager Barbara Chandler said. "And storytelling, as we know, it brings everything to life. It keeps everyone engaged, it's always appropriate for children of all ages, and I think reenactments are a great way that history can be shared."

IF YOU GO

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 16

WHERE: Hannibal Square Heritage Center, 642 W. New England Ave., Winter Park

WEBSITE: hannibal-squareheritagecenter.org

FEATURED PERFORMANCES

ERSULA ODOM

Esteemed author Ursula Knox-Odom will be re-enacting the achievements of Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune, who founded Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona, and her life as an educator, school founder and advocate for Florida's African-American Community

MINNIE THE MULE

Children attending the Juneteenth celebration can listen to a live reading of the classic "Minnie the Mule" children's story.

HENDERSON, SIMPSON & ISRAEL

This year, the event will honor three 19th-century men who hold an important place in Winter Park's history.

"Gus Henderson is primarily responsible for Frank Israel and Walter B. Simpson becoming the first African-Americans to sit on the city council of Winter Park (in 1887)," Chandler said. "Gus paved the way. He led a march across Park Avenue to have these two men voted in, he was an advocate in the Hannibal Square/West Winter Park community as to why it was important to have these two on the council."

Henderson, a traveling salesman-turned-editor for a Winter Park paper, encouraged Israel and Simpson to run for the council. Chandler said Henderson acted as the pair's campaign manager.

The trio's story has been chronicled as an upper-floor exhibit in the heritage center since February. Part of the H.I.S. center project, the exhibit details the three men's bloodlines, contributions and legacies on the community. Although the group's achievements have been recognized by the center before — both the Simpson and Israel families were deemed Family of the Year in 2011 and 2012 respectively — this is the first time the full story has featured as an exhibit.



"It's such a historic celebration — a jubilee celebration as a way to tell the African-American story."

— Hannibal Square Heritage Center Manager Barbara Chandler



"I decided, 'What better way to teach history but through the arts?' It was an appropriate story — lost but not forgotten."

— Maria Bryant

For Juneteenth, the story will become more personal. Winter Park resident Maria Bryant will be presenting a live interpretation of Henderson, Simpson and Israel's journey called "Lost but Not Forgotten." Bryant, an entrepreneur, educator and vocalist, wrote the 18-minute dramatization, while Dr. Barry Brandon, Thomas Floyd and Ben Floyd will be playing Henderson, Simpson and Israel, respectively. All four figures know the subject matter well, and it took Bryant three months to research and write the piece.

"I just went, 'Wow, this a lot of great history that is just not being told,'" Bryant said. "I decided, 'What better way to teach history but through the arts?' It was an appropriate story — lost but not forgotten."

It's a story Bryant hopes will resonate with people today.

"It's an untold story — it's an untold truth," she said. "Living here for a long time, growing up for a long time, it wasn't the narrative I was told. ...Gus Henderson, Walter B. Simpson and Frank Israel, those two only black officials ever, over a hundred years ago, had been vital citizens that were not just homeowners and landowners but also businessmen. They built the Ward AME Chapel, they built the lodge. They built this city."



Troy Herring

Jerrell Watson is hoping to get his Triple A sauce on the tables of folks throughout the Winter Park area.

Awesome sauce

Winter Park-based Edith's Best is bringing its Triple A Sauce to stores throughout town.

TROY HERRING
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fewer things can add another dimension to food quite like a good sauce.

Depending on what you're eating, it can be used to add an extra kick of tanginess to a steak, or it can be used as a sweet dip for french fries.

But whatever your sauce needs may be, there's always one significant issue: Most sauces are meant with only a single dish in mind. This is where Edith's Best owner Jerrell Watson is looking to help with his homemade Triple A Sauce — which stands for “Always Amazing with Anything.”

INFORMATION

EDITH'S BEST
WEBSITE: edithsbest.com
PHONE: (407) 850-8706
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/edithsbest](https://www.facebook.com/edithsbest)

“The difference between my sauce and any other sauces out there is that I don't market it as a hot sauce or barbecue sauce — I market it as an all purpose sauce, one that is a really good flavor-enhancer,” Watson said. “I want you to use it every time you sit at your dinner table.”

“It's not meant to overpower your food like hot sauce can, or be the kind of sauce with the mentality that, ‘Oh it's barbecue, I'll only pull it out when it's time to pull the grill out,’” he said.

The bottle of Watson's multi-use sauce states it can be used on just about everything — from vegetables to meats to fries — and the taste is one that features a quick burst of heat before transitioning into a sweet tangy flavor.

The taste alone is something that takes Watson back to his childhood home of Paxville, South Carolina, where he first found a passion for southern foods, particularly when it was made by his grandmother, Edith — the company's namesake.

“Everybody feels that they are the favorite grandchild, and so I really used Edith's Best as a play on words,” Watson said. “I always say to folks, ‘I know the rest of the grandkids are going to be mad at me ... but I'm the favorite! I also remember what she instilled in me from our Southerner roots — to be the best you can be and put everything into what you do. Good things will happen, and that's just like our food.’”

If you take a minute and talk with Watson about food, he will tell you what any Southern worth his weight would — food is a foundation that can help bring people in a community together. There are fewer things in the world that bring folks to the table quite like

food, Watson said, and it's one of the biggest driving forces behind his work.

“For me, during the holidays, they would move from house to house to prepare a hog, and all the guys would travel around so there would be at least three or four, but they would be out there — we called it ‘telling lies’ — just telling those same stories they told a week ago, but putting a little extra into it,” Watson said. “It was a traditional thing and it was a coming together of sorts, and food was that one thing (that brought us together).”

Since launching Edith's Best on Amazon in 2016, the man with a background in real estate has been selling his sauce in many local businesses throughout the Winter Park area — including popular spots like Park Avenue's The Ancient Olive, which was the first store to feature his sauce.

Watson also has become a staple at the Winter Garden Farmer's Market. He also plans to grow his market by selling to restaurants, as well.

Although the Triple A sauce is currently his only product, Watson doesn't plan to just rest on his laurels and stop there. He has bigger plans for Edith's Best brand, which includes the want to eventually open his own restaurant with dishes based on his southern upbringing, as well as dive into other different markets.

“My mission and overall goals for the company is that I want to be a producer of quality products, whatever those products may be,” Watson said. “I want Edith's Best to become a beacon of inspiration ... I want it to be something that people can count on, and I want them to feel like they are a part of my story.”

“I also remember what (Edith) instilled in me from our Southern roots — to be the best you can be and put everything into what you do. Good things will happen, and that's just like our food.”

— Jerrell Watson

HEALTH MATTERS

- Published 6 times per year

UPCOMING ISSUES



Publish Date	Ad Deadline Date
July 13	June 29
Sept. 28	Sept. 14
Dec. 7	Nov. 21
Jan. 2019	TBA

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Keeping art alive



Skyra Foundation founder Mary Poiley, instructor Natasha Glos and Mariana Tzanova were thrilled with the performances.

Aubrey Lehmann performed a monologue in her "Light in the Piazza" piece.

The Skyra Foundation put on a show at the Trinity Preparatory School on Sunday, June 3.

Titled "Arts For Our Youth," the gala featured many of the nonprofit's students performing musical pieces, ballet dances, monologues and more.

— HARRY SAYER



Antonia Milosevich, Geri Milosevich and Josh Workowski dressed up for the night.



Performers danced in "Forgotten Dream."



Diana and Angelica Rivera had a great time.



Alana and Farah Cavanaugh celebrated Farah's performance in the "Tutus and Tiaras" production.

HARRY'S STYLES

ANN HICKS MURRAH

Do you know your favorite gift from a vacation? Can you remember the best curio or bauble you've taken back from a trip? Ann Hicks Murrah has trouble choosing. Which, if I'm being honest, is completely fair — she's collected dozens on dozens of pieces of jewelry from around the globe.

"They're all memories ... they speak to me," Hicks Murrah said. So she can't quite pick a favorite, but she can do something even better — remember a vivid and colorful story about each and every one.

MANY LIVES

Hicks Murrah said she's lived many lives over the years, and she's not kidding. She's moved back and forth from Winter Park starting in 1964, when she took a job with Rollins College. In 1996, after a separation with her husband and with her kids busy with college, she found herself in Washington, D.C., as the executive vice president of the National Association of Independent Schools. Four years later, she made another move to New York City, where she served as assistant head of a girls school.

It's around here that she was courted by a "Southern gentleman" by the name of Kenneth Murrah.

"He was dedicated to (Winter Park), and he wanted a live wire," Hicks Murrah said. "He was so persuasive that after two years, I

moved back. That was my third life."

After years of philanthropy in Winter Park, Kenneth died in 2014 from cancer. Hicks Murrah moved to a top-floor condo overlooking Lake Maitland and the Kraft Azalea garden last October. With the decades of books and photo albums lining the shelves, it has more history and personality than homes three (maybe four) times its size ever will.

But honestly, those are just the broad strokes. During all of those life changes and power moves, Hicks Murrah was traveling. A lot.

"I can't tell you how many countries I've been to," she said. "But I can tell you it's not enough."

Thailand. Czech Republic. Russia. Large swaths of South America and Africa. I'd tell you all the others, but it's probably easier to just throw a dart at a map (try to avoid Australia — that one she's yet to see).

What's just as impressive is what's she's brought back with her.



THE TREASURES

Hicks Murrah's bedroom has something she calls her "finishing gallery," but you could easily call it a trophy room. The walls are lined with every sort of jewelry, necklace, scarf and body wear you can think of, each from a different part of the globe.

"When I get dressed, I can figure out, 'OK, do I wear this that I bought from the woman who made it on the porch of the Indian craft museum in New Delhi, or should I wear this from Thailand, or this from Japan?'" Hicks Murrah said. As she touches each piece, she has a quick aside about its background.

"This was from a Moroccan riverman."

"This is a sterling-silver dung beetle necklace from South Africa."

"Kenneth and I found these during a St. Petersburg honeymoon."

She tries to wear a different one every day.

One could imagine she's acquired these valuables just for fun, and that wouldn't be wrong. It's certainly fun, but it's also a lot more.

"I was really grateful for the years Kenneth and I did trips together," she said. "I feel like I taught him how to have fun and be more adventurous. This is sort of the legacy that he left me."

By Hicks Murrah's count, she's now living her fourth life. But she's just getting started.

"You know, every trip could be your last one," Hicks Murrah said. "But every time I wear one of these, I'm reliving them."

Harry's Styles is an ongoing feature that showcases the elegant and extravagant fashions in the Black Tie community.

— HARRY SAYER

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
(Expanded Presentation)

Join Us For This Very Topical Presentation

“ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS”



DISCLAIMER

The Presentation will include a video containing graphic content of a violent nature. Viewer discretion advised.

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Jeff Harris, Records/Accreditation Manager
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11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Thursday, June 14, 2018
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM



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407-644-0741





Courtesy photo

Last year the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County raised \$145,021 — \$2.2 million with the federal match — through The First Five Years gala.

Funds for the first five years

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is preparing to host its 'The First Five Years Gala,' which helps fund services for accessible early-childhood education.

DANIELLE HENDRIX
BLACK TIE EDITOR

In just a few days, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County will host its biggest fundraiser of the year at the most magical place on Earth — Walt Disney World Resort's EPCOT World Showplace Pavilion.

But the real magic at The First Five Years Gala will happen as attendees and community members gather to support local children's opportunities to play, learn and grow.

THE COALITION

ELCOC's vision is that all Orange County children will be fully prepared to enter school ready to learn. It seeks to accomplish that by providing leadership, support and guidance to ensure children have the opportunity to reap the benefits of developmentally appropriate, research-based early-childhood programs while respecting the role of the parent as a child's first teacher.

"Early childhood is one of the most critical periods of time for everybody," said Karen Willis,

CEO of ELCOC. "During the first five years of a child's life, 90% of the brain's architecture is created, and that's the foundation of the rest of our learning as young people and as adults. Starting young and starting early is absolutely critical if we are going to make sure that that brain architecture is as strong as it can possibly be. When you change the first five years, you change everything."

ELCOC offers family, child and provider services, which fit together like puzzle pieces to

ensure each party involved in a child's early education is receiving the necessary resources. Those include School Readiness funding, parent coaching and early-childhood education programs. The coalition works in partnership with parents, child-care providers and community stakeholders to build a strong foundation for children.

According to coalition officials, when a child's parents are involved in the learning and place them in a strong, responsive early-childhood program, the children have a better chance at: being developmentally on track; reading on grade level by the third grade; graduating high

school; attending higher education; and becoming an engaged and productive citizen.

FOR PARENTS

Orange County families all have access to Child Care Resource & Referral services through the coalition. This gives families referrals that allow them to connect with childcare providers for their infants, preschoolers and school-age children.

Through Florida's Early Learning Family Portal, parents can find information about early-learning programs.

Florida's School Readiness Program offers financial assistance to eligible low-income families for early education, and these services are based on individual needs ranging from extended day care to after-school and school-age care.

Additionally, families can take advantage in Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, which prepares 4-year-olds for kindergarten.

FOR PROVIDERS

The coalition offers the Early Learning Coalition's Birth to Five Quality Enhancement Campaign. Support services offered through this campaign are available to all funded providers to assist with quality enhancements, such as free curriculum training, extensive professional-development training and Gold Seal accreditation.

The end goal is to ensure all funded providers deliver quality early care and programs to children and families, and to create seamless access to training and onsite support services in order to meet the minimum quality standards set by ELCOC.

WINTER PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEADERSHIP WINTER PARK

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APPLY ONLINE BY MAY 9TH

MORE INFORMATION AT WINTERPARK.ORG/YOUTH-LEADERS

IF YOU GO

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS GALA

WHEN: 6 p.m. Saturday, June 9

WHERE: EPCOT's World Showplace Pavilion, 1910 Avenue of the Stars, Orlando

TICKETS: \$300

INFORMATION: Sponsorships, sweepstakes entries and fund-a-child opportunities also available. To buy tickets or learn more about the event, visit bit.ly/2kMZgit.

FOR THE KIDS

Eighty-two percent of ELCOC's budget benefits services for children and families. Six percent is earmarked for quality services, 4% is for administrative activities and 3% goes toward non-direct services and outreach.

During the gala, ELCOC will honor Linda Landman Gonzalez, the organization's vice president of social responsibility and the president of the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation. The night also comes with a variety of opportunities to give, including a Love of Learning Sweepstakes with a \$10,000 grand prize and the Fund-A-Child program. And for every dollar raised, the federal government matches \$15.67.

There are 2,000 days from birth to kindergarten, and coalition officials believe there isn't a day to be wasted. Whether the organization helps facilitate access to funding, childcare, school readiness or VPK programs, the end goal is the same: change the future of Orange County.

CAUSING AN EFFECT

JFS Orlando

This month's featured nonprofit is the Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando. JFS Orlando is a human-services organization that reaches thousands of people in the Central Florida each year and offers various programs, services and resources to help stabilize families, attack hunger and homelessness and more. JFS currently is celebrating its 40th anniversary of making an impact on the Central Florida community.

What is JFS Orlando?

Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando provides services to stabilize individuals and families in crisis. It also works to enhance the quality of life across generations to all members of the Central Florida community.

How long has JFS Orlando been in operation?

"We were incorporated in 1978, and we have a whole list of programs we offer to clients, individuals and families in need in Central Florida," said JFS Orlando Executive Director Eric Geboff. "This organization was started by the Jewish community 40 years ago. ... However today, (more than) 94% or 95% of our clients are not Jewish."

How has JFS Orlando impacted the community?

"We focus on four areas: hunger, aging/end of life, mental

and emotional stability and homelessness prevention," Geboff said. "We have several programs that fall underneath each category. ... We (have provided) more than 1.6 million meals and have offered more than \$2 million in financial assistance to help those in need with mortgage and utilities to get them through to the next month. ... It really does impact the community in a positive way, so there's lots of successful programs we offer."

What is significant this year for the JFS Orlando community?

"We're celebrating our 40th anniversary," Geboff said. "When we look just year to year and see that we impact the lives of 10,000 people every year, it tells us that we're doing the right thing. ... That gives our board and volunteers a really good feeling about what we're



Courtesy photo
JFS Orlando recently celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gala.

doing and how we've been doing it, because the need continues to grow and we know that."

What sets JFS Orlando aside from other similar organizations?

"What's cool about us is we provide a holistic approach to serving people," Geboff said. "People tend to have multiple issues they're dealing with at the same time and with the four areas (we focus on), they tend to impact everyone who walks into our office. We feel pretty good about what we've been doing, and we're creating new

partnerships every day to help our clients and their clients lead better lives."

What upcoming events should JFS supporters keep on their calendar?

To keep up to date with upcoming events, including JFS' gala, visit jfsorlando.org/jfs-events.

How can someone get involved?

"Certainly call our office or go online," said Development Director Rosie Miller. "We (also) certainly have lots of items that need to get repaired on our building. If someone would like to get involved on one of our committees, that's great, too." Visit JFS' website at jfsorlando.org or call (407) 644-7593.

Causing an Effect is a monthly feature that introduces a charity or philanthropic organization and highlights its impact on the local community. If you would like to be featured in a future Causing an Effect, contact Black Tie Editor Danielle Hendrix at dhendrix@orangeobserver.com.



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