



# Seminole Voice

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Looking to work off that Thanksgiving turkey? Light Up UCF is ready to party, and to provide ice skates for a weekend of fun and much-needed exercise.

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## Shopping small



BRITTNI LARSON AND ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

PHOTO COURTESY OF OVIEDO WINTER SPRINGS REGIONAL CHAMBER  
Hundreds of business owners have signed up for Small Business Saturday.

On Small Business Saturday, customers might find themselves humming along to a holiday tune when they walk down the street, as the smell of freshly baked cookies floats out of storefronts and store owners welcome customers with wine, cider or gourmet treats.

While the stores do offer great shopping deals and discounts, the event just feels quite a bit different from the crazed frenzy of shoppers battling it out for the last video game console on Black Friday. On Small Business Saturday, business and community find out what ties them together.

"I think everybody's really taking to the shop small concept," Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce President Corey Skeates said.

Skeates has been at the center of the push to get holiday shoppers into their local mom and

pop stores and boutiques the day after Black Friday. The stores are easy to spot: blue doormats and signs mark the ones that offer special deals and more on Saturday.

American Express is helping get customers in the door, with a \$10 off deal at participating SBS businesses if shoppers use an American Express card to buy \$10 or more worth of gifts.

But the Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber has sweetened the deal even more. For shoppers feeling generous during the holidays, those who drop off \$15 or more in non-perishable food at the Seminole County Schools' Food Pantry can receive an American Express gift card, courtesy of American Express and the Chamber.

Skeates said he's had no trouble getting people in the SBS spirit.

"When we were at Light Up

UCF a few nights ago we gave away 250 Small Business Saturday bags," he said. "Everybody we saw was walking around with one."

The Chamber already passed out 150 doormats for businesses getting into the SBS program throughout the Oviedo and Winter Springs community.

That's good news for the local economy, and for the community, Skeates said.

"[Shoppers] realize that if they spend money at small businesses, it stays in the community," he said.

"More than 50 percent of what comes into any small business in terms of revenue stays in the community in the form of the employees that we have, in terms of where we spend our money, in terms of us giving back to the community," said Brian Wettstein, owner of the Doggie Door

■ Please see **SHOPPING** on page 2

## Dallari retains chairman role

### Seminole County Commissioner elected chairman for second year

TIM FREED  
The Voice

Members of the Seminole County Board of Commissioners selected Bob Dallari during the Commission's Nov. 19 meeting to take up the mantle once again as board chairman – a role that involves presiding over meetings and selecting fellow commissioners to specific committees.

The county commissioner has held the role since November of last year, when he also earned another term as Seminole County Commissioner for District 1 after running unopposed.

Dallari was first elected to the Seminole County Board of Commissioners back in 2004, following a span of eight years where he served on the Oviedo City Council and was head of that Council. He has served as chairman multiple times.

Commissioners selected Brenda Carey as their new vice chairman as well.

## Fighting for peace and quiet

TIM FREED  
The Voice

Orlando attorney Jim Lussier fought for a community of distraught Black Hammock residents before the Seminole County Board of Commissioners last Tuesday, arguing that the County's Board of Adjustments illegitimately approved the incoming Lake Jesup Nature Center development.

The nature center, which will feature a pontoon boat tour, bird sanctuary, mini golf and overnight cottages, is set to sit right beside the existing Black Hammock Adventures, a local bar, restaurant, mini-zoo and airboat tour business owned by the same property owner.

But Black Hammock Adventures doesn't have the best history as far as nearby residents are concerned. The attraction has a long history of noise and traffic complaints as a result of late night concerts and events.

The Board of Adjustments approved the nature center de-

velopment back in September by making a special exception despite the incorrect zoning of the property – a decision appealed last month by Black Hammock resident Robert King, who lives a few hundred feet east of Black Hammock Adventures and speaks on behalf of many other residents.

"This appeal is not as much about myself as it is about the community that I've tried to tell you about," said King during last week's meeting. "The fabric of the community is reaching a tearing point. We're about to lose what we have."

King submitted a series of at least five emails from local residents speaking against the development and hoping to appeal the Board of Adjustments' decision. Nearby residents such



PHOTO BY TIM FREED

Residents are upset that a resort expansion may harm the area.

as Glenn and Susan Kaeser wrote how their "once quiet residential rural neighborhood has been transformed for the worse" at the hands of the existing business.

Residents received support against the development from Lussier, who argued that the development doesn't take into account or determine whether there's any environmental impact on their area – specifically the inlet that would be used by

the pontoon boat.

"This inlet rises and falls, clogs with weeds and requires maintenance for it to function as an inlet," Lussier said. "If you're going to throw a boat in it, there's been no finding that that's an appropriate concept within anybody's environmental analysis."

Lussier took issue with a staff report given to the Board of Adjustments in September that describes the fish camp (Black Hammock

Adventures) as a development trend. The attorney insisted that was inaccurate, pulling up Google map images of the Black Hammock dating back to 1995 that show hardly any commercial development besides Black Hammock Adventures.

"I dare you to find anything that's changed except the crops," Lussier said. "The trend for de-

■ Please see **FIGHT** on page 2



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# THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK IN WORLD HISTORY — DEC. 5, 1933 — The 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, bringing an end to the prohibition of alcohol, during which criminal alcohol distribution empires had boomed.

## FIGHT | Martin defends development

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

velopment is no development.”  
“The fish camp is not an indication of the future, it’s a problem of the present.”

Lussier said the misleading staff report might have played a part in the Board of Adjustment’s decision, justifying an appeal.

King suggested that the County build more homes instead, sticking with the rural/agricultural character of the Black Hammock.

“It will make our community much stronger if we build what the comprehensive plan says to build,” King said. “If we turn around, change it, make an exception and do something other than what the comprehensive plan says, we’re going to push the community over the top.”

Attorney George Kramer spoke on behalf of Black Hammock Adventures owner and development applicant Joel Martin, defending that the new development will take into account the rural character and do what it can to preserve it.

“We’re preserving that rural character through education,” George Kramer said. “It’s access and it’s opportunities for environmental enhancement.”

“We can put rural protection in our comprehensive plan and put it in our charter, but unless it’s in the hearts of our community, it can’t truly be protected. This is an opportunity to do that.”

County Commissioners chose to extend the item to a future meeting date to sort through all the information received.

## SHOPPING | AmEx giving away cards

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Wettstein gives back through the Sebastian Haul Fund, helping greyhounds reach new families. Oviedo’s Lukas Nursery is donating a portion of its Christmas tree sales on SBS to local charities.

And research shows that 48 percent of independent business’ revenue is recirculated locally, versus only 13.6 percent of revenue generated by chain retailers, according to information compiled from nine studies by Civic Economics in 2012.

Small Business Saturday was started in 2010, and consumer support has been growing. Last year, \$5.5 billion was spent, according to organizer American Express and the National Federation of Independent Business.

It’s a day to show support for the local businesses that are a big part of growing the local economy, organizers and participants of the event said. Those business owners put their lives and lifetimes into their businesses, said Linda Semmler, who started SBS on Winter Park’s Park Avenue and is brand partner at the Ancient Olive where you can buy her Earth Inspired Living home collection.

“It’s providing that job security for some of these local businesses and their employees,” said Erika Spence, senior director of marketing and communications for the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce. “Most of the jobs that have been created since the recession have been with small businesses, they’re just really the backbone of our local economy.”

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**Our 11th Annual Holiday Bicycle Ride!**

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**Date:** Saturday, December 14, 2013  
**Place:** South Seminole Middle School  
101 Winter Park Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707  
**Route:** [www.mapmyride.com/events/537255/](http://www.mapmyride.com/events/537255/)  
**Time:** Registration and festivities start at 4PM  
Ride starts promptly at 6PM  
**Price:** \$10 donation in advance | \$12 the night of the event  
Children under 10 ride for free and must be in a trailer or on a tandem.

All children under 16 must wear a helmet. Flashers on your bike and helmet are recommended.

For more information & to register, call 407-331-3059 x10 or visit:  
[www.newhopeforkids.org/bike](http://www.newhopeforkids.org/bike)

New Hope for Kids is an approved 501(c)(3) organization which provides specialized support to children and families grieving the death of a loved one, and grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses in Central Florida.

**Family Fun Event sponsored by**

# INTERESTS

**THIS WEEK IN HUMAN HISTORY** — NOV. 29, 1975 — Silver Convention earns a No. 1 pop hit with “Fly, Robin, Fly.” Suddenly, the world wanted to see the “artists” behind it. The problem: Silver Convention didn’t exist. The two unknown singers who’d cut the record couldn’t be hired again; so two others were hired in their place.

## When Hanukkah and Thanksgiving combine

### Things you didn’t know about ‘Thanksgivukkah’

**TIM FREED**  
The Voice

The year 2013 won’t be a typical one for those celebrating Hanukkah – or shall we say “Thanksgivukkah.”

For the first time since the late 1800s, Thanksgiving falls within the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. People are affectionately referring to it as “Thanksgivukkah,” planning to celebrate by creating dishes that mix the two holidays like sweet potato latkes or pumpkin-flavored challah bread.

“I think it’s really exciting that Thanksgiving and Hanukkah are combined,” said Amy Schwartz, marketing director for the Roth Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando. “Interestingly they’re a real natural fit together because they both share the common theme of religious freedom. In many ways Hanukkah belongs with Thanksgiving more than it belongs with Christmas.”

Here are seven facts about Hanukkah and the story behind the holiday to commemorate the rare phenomena.

- Hanukkah isn’t considered to be a major Jewish holiday. History designates it

as a minor holiday compared to holidays like Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur or Shavuot. The holiday’s prevalence increased in recent decades due to it taking place near Christmas. Its growth became a commercial response to the man in the big red suit.

- It isn’t a religious holiday, despite its association with religious freedom. Hanukkah tends to be more festive in nature than sacred, celebrated in the home instead of the synagogue.

- Giving gifts isn’t a major part of the holiday. In Hanukkah’s earliest traditions, not only did children not receive gifts, they were expected to give themselves. School children would give their teachers small amounts of money as a sign of gratitude called a Hanukkah gelt. That custom continued for hundreds of years until the 19th century when it evolved into parents giving their children Hanukkah gelt. It stayed that way up until the current generation, which now gives gifts to children instead.

- People of the Jewish culture are encouraged to eat fried foods during the holiday. The story of Hanukkah focuses on the Jews reclaiming their temple after Syrian-Greek soldiers seized it in the year 168 B.C. The temple had been used to worship Greek gods, so to purify the structure the Jews chose to light the temple’s

menorah for eight days. But to their dismay, they only had enough oil to last for a single day. The small amount of oil proved to be enough however, as it miraculously lasted for eight days. The symbolism of oil has led to the prevalence of fried foods like potato pancakes called latkes and donuts called sufganiyot during Hanukkah.

- The holiday’s signature toy, known as a dreidel, originated as a method of disguise for Jewish scholars. A similar toy existed during the Hanukkah era, when Syrian-Greeks forbade the open practice of Judaism. Jewish scholars brought the toys with them during discussions and secret gatherings. If a Syrian-Greek soldier burst in on them, the Jews would use the spinning tops to resemble a gambling game. Dreidels have been used as a playful game ever since.

- Calculations predict that Thanksgivukkah won’t happen again for another



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

70,000 to 80,000 years – so make this one count.

- The publicizing of Hanukkah remains an integral part of the holiday. Jewish families to this day place their menorahs on windowsills for all to see – a testament to the fight for religious freedom told in the story behind the holiday. Many free Hanukkah events in Central Florida occur each year to help spread Jewish culture, including Hanukkah in the Park, an event with live music and activities this Saturday at 7 p.m. in Winter Park’s Central Park.

“It’s really important to us that people are aware that we exist and that we have our own culture,” said Nancy Ludin, Executive Director of the Jewish Pavilion, an Altamonte Springs organization that brings Jewish holidays to elderly communities.

“Even though Hanukkah is considered by traditional Judaism to be a minor Jewish holiday, I think it’s been a blessing in that it’s become a window into Judaism and the Jewish culture for the broader world,” Schwartz said.



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# One Senior Place ...

## Calendar of Events December 2013

### SENIOR CLUB SPONSORED BY FAMILY PHYSICIANS GROUP EVERY MONDAY, 10AM - 12PM

December 2nd - Bingo  
December 9th - Computer Club  
December 16th - Movie Day  
December 23rd - Casino Day  
December 30th - Bingo

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Real Estate Specialists are IN!  
Also: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th (10am-1pm)  
Presented by EXIT Real Estate Results  
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Well Care Seminar  
3pm-4pm

Also: Friday, December 6th  
9:30am-10:30am

Presented by Medicare Plan Options  
RSVP 407.949.6723

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Dementia Seminar:  
Everything you want to know, but were afraid to ask.

9am-12pm

Hosted by Arden Court, Compass  
Research & ADRC  
RSVP 407.949.6733

AARP Medicare Complete  
2pm-3:30pm

Presented by LTC Advisors  
RSVP 407.949.6722

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Florida Blue Seminar  
3pm-4:30pm  
By Florida Blue-McBride Insurance  
Agency  
RSVP 407.230.7835

Is It Wax or Is It My Hearing?  
3pm-4:30pm

Presented by Harmony Hearing Centers  
of America  
RSVP 407.949.6737

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

WellCare Seminar  
10am-11am

Presented by Orlando Family Physicians  
RSVP 407.477.5555

Senior Survival Workshop  
2pm-4pm

Presented by the Law Office of Kathleen  
Flammia  
RSVP 407.478.7800

We will be closed on  
Wednesday, December 25th.



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of Events at  
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M-F 8:30am - 5pm

# FAMILY CALENDAR

### DEC. 5

Trinity Preparatory School invites the public to join us for a performance of the theatrical production of "Altar Boyz." This musical is full of parody, skillful dancing, and crazy humor. The musical follows a guy-group that causes audiences to laugh uncontrollably with their lighthearted fun. "Altar Boyz" is an award-winning and totally original new musical that is suitable for all ages and will have the whole family laughing and singing along. It's from Dec. 5 to 8. Show times vary. All tickets are \$5.

Visit [trinityprep.org](http://trinityprep.org) or call 407-671-4140 for more information.

### DEC. 6-15

The villainous Barnaby has fallen in love with sweet Mistress Mary Quite Contrary. If he can't buy her love, then he'll force her to marry him by threatening to foreclose on her mother. Mary already has her heart set on marrying Barnaby's nephew Alan - but not if Barnaby can help it! It's "Babes in Toyland" at the Princess Theater, 115 W. First St. in Sanford. It's play-

ing at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Visit [spotlightcf.org](http://spotlightcf.org) for more information.

### DEC. 7

Celebrate the season with one of the longest traditions in Winter Springs, the 32nd Annual Holiday Parade. Following the parade is the 10th annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Free pictures with Santa will be available, along with holiday-themed performances. It's all from 5 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Winter Springs Town Center.

### ONGOING

The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium at Seminole State College offers Central Florida the chance to celebrate the holidays with multiple performances of its most popular show. The Planetarium

will present "The Star of Bethlehem" 10 times this season, with two showings each on Dec. 6, Dec. 7, Dec. 13, Dec. 20 and Dec. 21. Show times for each date are 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. "The Star of Bethlehem" looks at how the calendar system has changed over the millennia and examines clues from the Bible to pin down the birth year of Jesus under our current calendar. The origins of the Magi are then looked at to determine what celestial phenomena they would have most likely interpreted to be the star.

Light Up UCF returns to light up the holiday season starting Nov. 15 at the UCF Arena. The event runs through Jan. 5 and features nights of music, lights and ice, with ice-skating and an ice slide. Visit [lightupucf.com](http://lightupucf.com) for more information.

## Calendar

### DEC. 3

Want to learn how to save your flowers or backyard garden during the winter? Come to the Winter Preparedness and Your Yard event from 2 to 4 p.m. at the West Branch Library at 245 N. Hunt Club Blvd. in Longwood. It's free but registration is required. Visit [seminolecountyfl.gov/libraries](http://seminolecountyfl.gov/libraries) or call 407-665-1670 for more information.

### DEC. 4

For the third year in a row, the legendary Lettermen group will perform a benefit concert in Central Florida. The combination greatest hits and Christmas concert will benefit Catholic Charities of Central Florida. The Lettermen are Tony Butala, Donovan Tea and Bobby Poynton. They are famous for such hits as "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," "When I Fall in Love" and "The Way You Look Tonight." The Lettermen have enjoyed international success and have produced 32 albums that charted in the Top 100.

The Lettermen will be available after the concert to meet fans and sign autographs. An exclusive after party ticket is available to enjoy appetizers and dessert with the trio in a smaller setting. Visit [homelessheart.org](http://homelessheart.org) or contact Kevin Hagan at 407-998-5662 or [kevin@stmargaretmary.org](mailto:kevin@stmargaretmary.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is pleased to present the "How to Protect Yourself from Fraud" workshop on Dec. 4. The event will take place at the Lowndes Shakespeare Center, 812 E. Rollins St. in Orlando from 1 to 3 p.m. Space is limited, so please register no later than Dec. 3 by visiting [aarp.event.com/FLOrlandoscamevent](http://aarp.event.com/FLOrlandoscamevent), or call 877-926-8300. AARP's Fraud Watch Network is a new initia-

tive created to help spot and fight identity theft and fraud. It officially launched on Nov. 1 and continues to provide resources to help older Americans protect themselves from fraud. For more information, please visit: [aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/fraud-watch-network](http://aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/fraud-watch-network)

### DEC. 6-7

St. Luke's concert series returns with the 2013 Holiday Concert featuring the Brass Band of Central Florida, with three performances Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free for this concert, directed by Chad Shoopman with a delightful program of holiday favorites. Arrive early for the 2 p.m. Saturday showing and enjoy the Holiday Gift Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with dozens of delightful craft and gift booths. It's all at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 2021 W. State Road 426 in Oviedo. Visit [stlukes-oviedo.org](http://stlukes-oviedo.org) for more information.

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The Winter Springs Farmers Market is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday on State Road 434 and Tuskawilla Road in the Winter Springs Town Center. Visit [WinterSprings-FarmersMarket.com](http://WinterSprings-FarmersMarket.com) for more information.

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Sunday, December 8th

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Saturday show times 1:30 & 4:30 & 7:30  
Sunday Show times 1:00 & 3:30 & 6:00

Deep discount tickets on line in advance at [www.circusfunfair.com](http://www.circusfunfair.com)



# ATHLETICS

**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY — DEC. 1, 1963** — Wendell Scott became the first African-American to win a NASCAR race. Scott won a Grand National race in Jacksonville. Sadly, the racial politics of the sport spoiled Scott's win. Fearing a scene with Scott in the winner's circle, NASCAR declared another driver the winner.

## Runs in the family

Hagerty cross country runner does her family name proud

**TIM FREED**  
The Voice

Hagerty High School senior Kerstin Sosa enjoyed a dominating cross country season this year — carrying on a family tradition of runners.

The 17-year-old completed her high school career with a first place finish at the Seminole Athletic Conference XC Championships, a first place finish in the FHSAA district finals and a second place finish in the FHSAA regional finals.

She beat her personal best time in the 5K this season by 21 seconds, breaking the 19 minute barrier at 18:58.

"Mentally, she's grown to accept the fact that she's good at racing," Hagerty cross country coach Jay Getty said. "That's a big step, some of them are afraid



PHOTO BY TIM FREED

Kerstin Sosa won the 2013 regional cross country race, and runner up at state.

of race day."

"Race day to her is like opening a Christmas present."

It's been that way since her childhood. The youngest of five girls, Kerstin grew up in a family of athletes. All of her sisters swam, but the two younger

■ Please see **CHAMPION** on page 6

## Knights set for USF showdown

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

The Knights broke their streak of heart attack finishes with a trouncing of Rutgers in front of a nearly sold out crowd covered in black and gold Thursday night. And they made sure the fans knew early that it wouldn't be the same as the edge-of-your-seat thrillers against Memphis, Houston or Temple. It was time for a rout.

Of the Knights first eight wins of the season, five came by a touchdown or less. The last three had given rise to the "heart attack" mantra, with the Knights having to come back in the final minute in all three to win. After a 41-17 early Thanksgiving dinner, that talk was over at the Bright House. It wasn't even close. The

Knights (9-1, 6-0) took a 21-0 lead and never let go.

Quarterback Blake Bortles would throw, juke, dive and bulldoze his way to 335 yards in the air and 32 on the ground while leading an offense that scored on six of its first seven possessions. Just six minutes into the second quarter the Knights already had their winning margin. Rutgers (5-5, 2-4) would strike back, but never got closer than two touchdowns.

Bortles would go 21 for 30 on pass attempts, though all but three of those throws were perfect strikes to receivers who at times had trouble holding onto even wide-open passes.

Rutgers rarely capitalized on UCF's rare on-field miscues,

■ Please see **RIVALRY** on page 6

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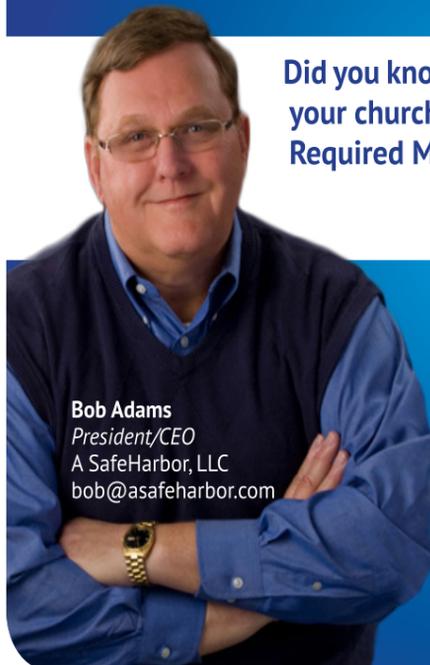
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## RIVALRY | Five years after USF left for better competition, UCF is the heavy favorite in their grudge match

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5  
though the Scarlet Knights did so in bizarre fashion when the UCF special teams left Rutgers defensive back Anthony Cioffi a wide-open lane to block a UCF punt that would tumble into the end zone and be recovered for a touchdown. Call that Cioffi's

revenge for being bulldozed by UCF running back William Stan-back en route to a 20-yard carry that set up a UCF touchdown.

The Rutgers punt block TD would be the closest Rutgers would come in closing the scoring gap just before halftime. UCF's defense would hold them

to only one offensive touchdown in the game, easily among their best performances of the season. While UCF's offense ran the field, the defense held Rutgers to only 221 total yards, only 69 of which came on the ground.

Rutgers' only offensive touchdown came after a power-

ful goal line stand by the Knights' defense that went to fourth and goal before Rutgers' Paul James broke the plane by a fraction of an inch. James, the All-American candidate running back who had averaged more than 143 yards per game this season, was completely shut down by the Knights, only rushing for 20 yards — by far his worst game of the season.

In the meantime the Knights' stars shined, with running back Storm Johnson rushing for 75 yards and two touchdowns. Bortles had one of his best rushing games of the year, breaking tackles at will to make first downs out of blown passing plays. Wide receiver J.J. Worton caught 117 yards worth of receptions, with Breshad Perriman, back from a concussion injury, catching for 99 yards and a TD.

The win put the Knights firmly in the driver's seat for the American Athletic Conference lead, with the Knights needing only a win over conference rival USF (2-8, 2-4) to solidify at least a shared AAC championship with Cincinnati (9-2, 6-1). The Bearcats held off Houston 24-17 on Nov. 23. The Bearcats don't play again



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE  
The Knights trounced Rutgers Nov. 21, and now prepare for their penultimate conference game.

until Dec. 5, when they play Louisville (10-1, 6-1). If Louisville wins, the Knights will have sole possession of the AAC championship.

At 8 p.m. Friday the Knights will have a shot at a second Thanksgiving celebration, hosting a languid University of South Florida team that had previously ended the teams' official "War on I-4" rivalry in search of stronger competition after going 4-0 in their series. UCF is having the best season start in team history. The Bulls are off to one of their worst, recently giving Memphis (3-7, 1-5) its first conference win of the season.

## CHAMPION | Sosa used to run two miles to elementary school

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5  
sisters also took up cross country. She followed in their footsteps, eager to get started as a child in elementary school.

"I always looked up to them," Kerstin said. "Even when I was little and I was too young to run, I wanted to start running."

It wasn't long before she ran to Carillon Elementary School and back — a two mile distance — every day of the week at age seven.

"At the age of 6, she said 'I want to do this,'" said Kerstin's mother, Evelyn, who runs recreationally herself. "The rest was history."

Kerstin continued to run recreationally during her time at Carillon Elementary. She took time away from the sport in middle school, but found herself called back to it as a high schooler.

She was wearing the black-and-blue track uniform for the Huskies by her sophomore year.

Coach Getty was well aware of the Sosa family before meeting Kerstin. He coached her sister Alexandra at Oviedo High and her

sister Kendra at Hagerty High, both competing in cross country.

In his 23rd season, Getty has coached his third and final Sosa.

"It's a chain of Sosas," Getty said. "She by far is the best one of the group."

But the final race of the season put Sosa's character to the test. The flu had been jumping from team to team and eventually caught up with Sosa just before

*"Race day to her is like opening a Christmas present."*

race day for the FHSAA Cross Country State Finals.

Sosa finished 34th in the race — a disappointment for her personally, but a testament to her sheer willpower.

"At 2 1/2 miles she was 12th, staring down a medal," Getty said. "She could have easily, after it was starting to go bad and she was completely out of energy, walked off the course, but that's not who she is and she muscled

through it."

Kerstin knows that she gave it everything she had.

"Obviously I was very disappointed that I couldn't perform at my best, but even though I was sick I tried my best," Kerstin said.

"My senior year was really important to me. I just tried to make the best out of that."

The Hagerty senior looks back at her career thus far and feels a sense of pride, not only in her own accomplishments, but in joining her older sisters in the same competitive sport.

Her mother realizes that running brought the family closer together as well. Evelyn and her five daughters have joined corporate 5Ks, Track Shack events and simply run along the local trails.

"We all do it as a family," Evelyn said. "We all run together. It's been a phenomenal experience."

Kerstin plans to go to college somewhere in-state, with UCF as a potential frontrunner. She plans to keep her options open and is still considering whether or not she will run in college.

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# VOICES

**THIS WEEK IN POLITICAL HISTORY** — DEC. 4, 1945 — The U.S. Senate approves U.S. participation in the United Nations. The U.N. allowed world leaders to observe each other as never before, as in the 1961 incident when Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev presented a spectacle by pounding his table with his shoe during a U.N. debate.

## Don't be afraid to harvest vegetables early

Harvesting is as much a functional part of gardening as planting, watering, weeding or mulching. Most crops have a bracketed window of ripeness limited by the size of the harvest contrasted with quality of tastes, texture, and eventually rot issues. Knowing when to pick dinner is frequently as much an issue of simple timing as instinct and intuition.



**Tom Carey**  
From my garden to yours

While tomatoes are on the vine, they are exposed to all kinds of environmental danger from weather, disease, to marauding pests. When any signs of ripening are visible, as indicated by

a color change from stark green to orange or purple, pluck the fruit. Accumulate harvested tomatoes in the safety of the confines of the kitchen counter in a brown paper lunch bag clipped shut with a clothespin. The natural out-gassing of the fruit will hasten the race to the finish line just as fine as if left out in the real world for 'vine ripened' qualities. Using this method, you can pick tomatoes in various stages of change, providing a constant parade of ready eating. And you do not have to share your 'love apples' with the stink bugs.

Red radishes produce a harvest in as little as three weeks from seeding. Hiding under the canopy of leaves and soil, the roots can be easily overlooked until past their prime. Once they reach a manage-

able size, pick the radish within a week, or they become sharp tasting and pithy with a chewy texture. A heavy hand at planting time will produce an unintended abundance, but not to worry. Use them in cole slaw, sliced and marinated in salads, boiled in soups, or lacto-pickled (kimchi). With such a fast production schedule, the tops should be clean and tender; edible in a mess-o-greens, just like its cousins of the brassica family, mustard or turnip greens.

One of the joys of gardening in Central Florida is our autumn warm season between the end of summer and the first cold snap around New Year's. The edible-podded beans that we planted back in early October are setting a crop just in time for our celebratory dinners. I grow bush beans, which do not require trellising, of

green snap, purple heirloom, or yellow wax flavors. Waves of flowers and then fruit set will repeat for four weeks. Pick batches of edible sized toot fruit whenever apparent, or the overgrown examples will need to be shelled, wasting the volume of the tender pods. And who has time to shell beans these days? Any excess production should be blanched in boiling water and packaged to the freezer or lacto-pickled.

### WHO IS CAREY

Tom Carey is the owner of Sundew Gardens, a you-pick gardening business in Oviedo. Visit the Sundew Gardens Facebook page and email him at [sundewgardens@gmail.com](mailto:sundewgardens@gmail.com)

## Solving the 'mystery' of cranberry sauce at the holidays

**MARITZA MARTINEZ**  
UCF Forum columnist

About this time of year the past several years, my husband can't help but comment on the total departure from the "traditional" Thanksgiving feast available at our family's gathering.

He says something along the lines of: "I'm pretty sure the Pilgrims at Plymouth did not have pernil on their table during their Thanksgiving celebration." (For the uninitiated, pernil is a traditional pork roast dish in many Caribbean countries.)

What? Pernil, rice and beans, rice and peas, yellow plantain casserole, Bustelo in abundant quantities, Dominican cake, tres leches and flan are not staples of everyone's Thanksgiving dinner? Who knew? I certainly didn't.

But I do know that just as the settlers who started this tradition, we Americans of Hispanic descent are as invested as everyone else in the celebration of Thanksgiving.

There are so many things to be grateful

for: freedom of expression, friendships, free enterprise, educational opportunities and societal mobility, among countless more. In short, all the characteristics that make our country great.

Thanksgiving is a time when we, as a nation, put our problems on hold and reflect on our many blessings and good fortune.

How exactly do we do this? Well, apparently not in a one-size-fits-all fashion.

I was born in New York and have always lived in the United States except for the four years I lived in the Dominican Republic as a child. And for as long as I can remember, my extended family's Thanksgiving celebrations have been hosted by whoever happened to have the biggest house capable of accommodating our huge family: my maternal grandparents, my 12 aunts and uncles and their spouses, my 30-plus cousins, (and their significant others), and children, in addition to extended family in the area and out-of-town guests. It's a dressy occasion, and while attendance

is not "mandatory," it's understood by all that it is mandatory.

Over the past decade, however, given that our family is now split between New York City and Florida, attendance has declined a bit. We now average between 60 and 70 people because not everyone can make it here. (But we keep in constant touch in other ways. Gracias, Facebook!)

Dinner is usually held around 8 p.m. The gathering is filled with laughter, storytelling, the constant inventory of who and what dish has arrived and which ones are missing – and, of course, good music.

As you can imagine, the food is divided among different families. After all, home cooking for this small army is no small task. Luckily, my mom and aunts take charge of dividing the cooking responsibilities and they each have their specialty. My mom is the pastelon-queen (yellow plantain casserole); Tia Irene is the chicken-and-turkey-stew goddess; Tia Luisa and Tia Tago are Martha Stewart's Dominican counterparts; Tia Caridad is a rice connoisseur; Tia Mary is a dessert expert, etc.

As for me and my generational counterparts, we are usually assigned the plasticware, beverages, green salad, etc. (You know, the really hard stuff). From time to time, however, we are also assigned some kind of "traditional" dish (such as the pernil), which, using the language of today's global economy, we often enthusiastically outsource to a bodega.

In light of my husband's dismay at the inaccuracy (inauthenticity?) of our Thanksgiving dinner selections, and in

the interest of exposing our daughters to mainstream culture, last year during Thanksgiving week I decided to enlist our daughters' help in researching what the Pilgrims enjoyed at their Thanksgiving feast. I challenged our girls to research ingredients and preparation instructions and told them our immediate family of four would observe a mini-Thanksgiving dinner on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. So yes, I was going to debut in the turkey department!

And finally, at least for me, I was going to be able solve the "mystery" of the cranberry sauce I had heard about but didn't know what it was for, what it tasted like, was it a dipping sauce for the vegetables, or was it meant to be eaten on its own?

My girls and I gathered plenty of information, drafted our grocery list, and enlisted the help of a Publix employee to help us find some of the ingredients. I'm happy to report that we made stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy from scratch, plus some other stuff, and it was all edible!

And while I now know what the cranberry sauce is for, it will not become a staple of our meals anytime soon.

The exercise was enlightening, fun, and created great memories for our family.

It also provided an opportunity for our family – like everyone in the nation – to take part in this early American tradition that we have made our own.

Maritza Martinez is director of the University of Central Florida's Community Relations department. She can be reached at [Maritza.Martinez@ucf.edu](mailto:Maritza.Martinez@ucf.edu)

## Oviedo holiday events are just around the corner

Oviedo – The holiday season is sneaking up on us, although if you visit some of the stores, it's already arrived! Thanksgiving with all the trimmings and family celebrations is just around the corner and soon the kids will be letting Santa know what they want for the big day! But first, we have some information for you that'll keep you on top of the holiday happenings around the city that the family will enjoy.

On Dec. 7 the Oviedo Historical Society will present the Hometown Holiday Tree Lighting at the Historic Lawton House, 200 W. Broadway St. Santa will be there at 6 p.m., but before that at 5:30 p.m. you and the kids can enjoy a free hotdog and a drink while you listen to the holiday music.

Santa will once again climb aboard one of the city's big red fire engines for his annual Santa Around Town Tour. He'll make his tour of the city during the evenings of Dec. 9 through Dec. 13 to find out who's been naughty or nice. You can find out when Santa will visit your neighborhood by checking the city's website ([cityofoviedo.net](http://cityofoviedo.net)), Facebook ([Facebook.com/Oviedo](https://www.facebook.com/Oviedo)),



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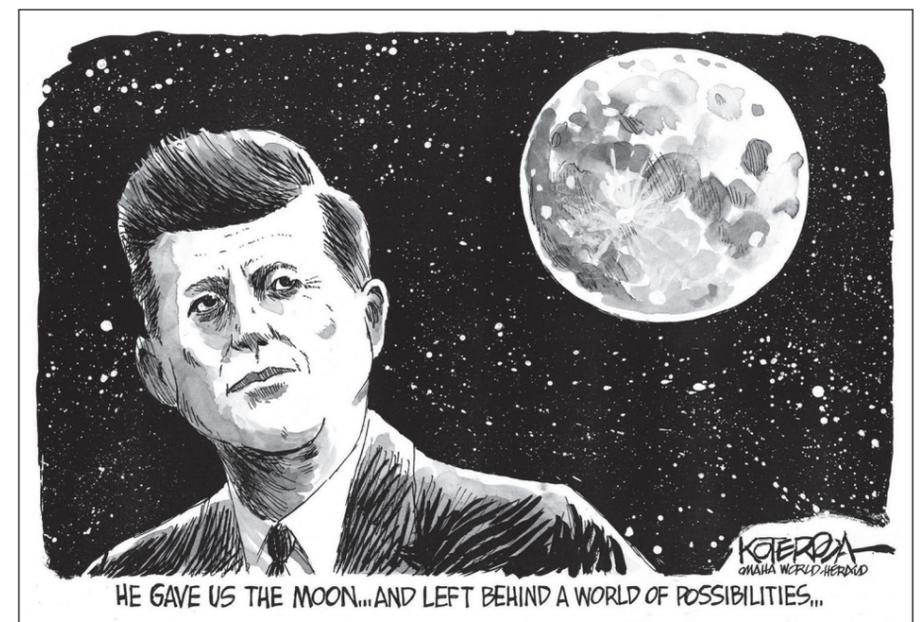


oCityGov), or Twitter (@OviedoCityGov).

Would your child like to receive a call from Santa or join Santa for breakfast? Stop by Riverside Park or the Gymnasium & Aquatic facility to pick up a registration form for Santa's call or for the breakfast. Forms must be returned by Dec. 13 for calls on Tuesday Dec.17. Breakfast with Santa is on Dec. 21. For more information, call 407-971-5575.

Finally, join us at the Oviedo Mall on Saturday, Dec. 14, for Snow Mountain and the Holiday Parade! All that snow straight from the North Pole and more! There will be inflatable games and entertainment in addition to the snow, and for those of you who have a bit of holiday shopping to finish, vendors will be available to assist you. The parade begins at 4 p.m. and Snow Mountain opens at 5 p.m. Tickets are available for Snow Mountain by calling 407-971-5568.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



# THE MARKETPLACE

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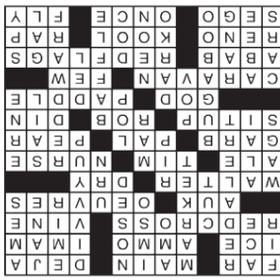
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# King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Distant
- 4 Primary
- 8 - vu
- 12 "Rocks"
- 13 Bullets and the like
- 14 Mosque bigwig
- 15 Blood group?
- 17 Tarzan's transport
- 18 Diving bird
- 19 Substantial bodies of work
- 21 Cronkite or Brennan
- 24 Parched
- 25 Beer's cousin
- 26 Cratchit lad
- 28 Medical worker
- 32 Apparel
- 34 Chum
- 36 Bartlett or Bosc
- 37 Don't slouch
- 39 Steal from
- 41 Cacophony
- 42 Pantheon member
- 44 Ping-Pong need
- 46 Parade of a sort
- 50 Not many
- 51 Common rhyme scheme
- 52 Warnings

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
			18			19		20				
21	22				23		24					
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51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 56 Nevada city (around)
- 57 - & the Gang
- 58 Knock
- 59 Lily type
- 60 Formerly
- 61 Aviate
- 8 Split evenly
- 9 Mideast ruler
- 10 "- Eyre"
- 11 Iowa city
- 16 Snip
- 20 Coffee shop vessel
- 21 Moves back and forth
- 22 Jai follower
- 23 Tear
- 27 Ruin the veneer
- 29 Low-temp star
- 30 Take to the seas
- 31 Sea eagle
- 33 Imaginary cause of fear
- 35 Prune
- 38 Camera-person's angle (Abbr.)
- 40 Confound
- 43 2001 movie, "Donnie -"
- 45 First st.
- 46 Jam ingredients?
- 47 Have - in one's bonnet
- 48 Pealed
- 49 Night light
- 53 Elmer, to Bugs
- 54 Guy's companion
- 55 Agent

### DOWN

- 1 Christmas tree, often
- 2 Expert
- 3 Period of imminent danger
- 4 Sell
- 5 I love (Lat.)
- 6 Pointer Sisters' "- Excited"
- 7 Snooped

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