



Seminole Voice

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Kick off the Christmas season with Winter Springs' 32nd annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting this weekend!

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Oviedo's growing tribute

After felling a grove, city will plant copy of an ancient tree

TIM FREED
The Voice

The Oviedo City Council gave architects the go-ahead Monday night to start the search for a construction firm to build the Oviedo Center Park – the centerpiece of the Oviedo on the Park development that will include a tribute to one of Seminole County's most storied tourist attractions.

Mayor Dominic Persampiere told residents Monday night that the park will include a clone of The Senator, the world's oldest and tallest cypress tree that served as a tourist destination in Longwood for decades until it burnt down in early 2012.

The idea of acquiring a Senator clone came up in a City Council work session in the first half of this year. It's been part of the overall plan ever since.

"I think it was a really cool plan that they came up with," Persampiere said. "We are all one in Seminole County. The Senator stood there for 3,000 years and just the fact that they thought of cloning it before it

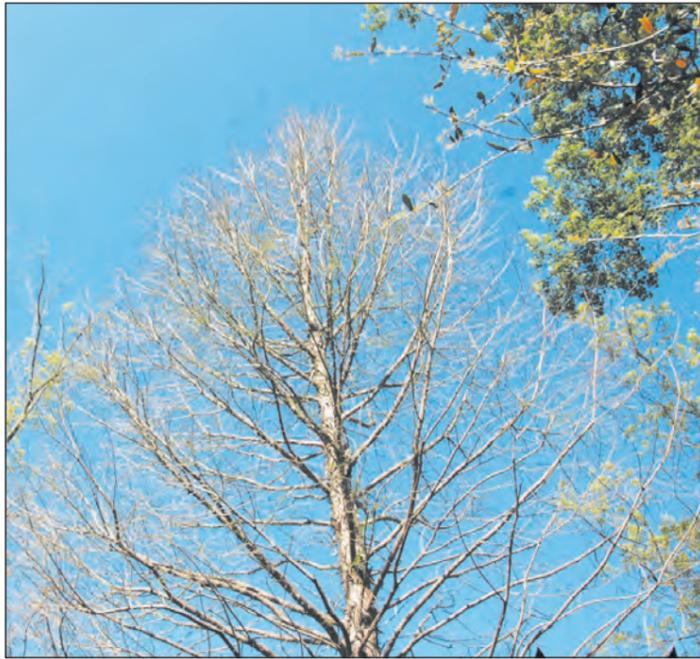


PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

A clone of The Senator tree rises at Big Tree Park in Longwood. Oviedo will soon have another, planted on ground where an orange grove was bulldozed.

was lost is fairly impressive."

"For us to be able to acquire one of the clones, plant it and have it here is really something special."

The arrangements have already been made to purchase the tree, which will be the centerpiece of the family park area in the southeastern corner of

Oviedo Center Park, Persampiere said.

The planting of the Senator clone is a reversal of a trend in Oviedo, which has seen broad development on forest and agricultural land in the past 15 years.

Oviedo on the Park is being built on 61 acres of former orange groves, nearly all of which

were leveled in order to create the new downtown project. The city has recently drawn the ire of residents in the bordering rural Black Hammock region for allowing zoning changes to land which has led to the clearing of forests to make way for housing developments along the city's northeastern borders.

"It's a nice tribute and a connection to the county. It keeps [the Senator's] legacy alive."

The Senator's clone came from well outside Seminole County, which had done little to preserve the Senator before its death, according to University of Florida forest genetics researcher Don Rockwood. In a grove in Lafayette County northwest of Gainesville, nursery owner Marvin Buchanan has been working on a project to preserve some of America's hardiest trees for more than 15 years. He started creating genetic copies of the famous Senator tree in the late '90s.

■ Please see TREE on page 2

Christmas wish granted: a new home

Kids across Central Florida officially joined their forever families on National Adoption Day

ALLISON OLCSVAY
The Voice

Tears brimmed in Cheryl and Richard Gonzales eyes as three solemnly spoken words helped officially turn their family of two to three on Nov. 22.

"He's yours now," said Orange County Judge Robert M. Evans.

"Just as if he had been born to you."

The words marked an end to the couple's wait and a beginning to their new life as parents as their new smiling son, 10-year-old Jayden, floated happily back to his seat behind them.

In the span of a few sentences, for the first time Jayden's world went from one of ongoing worry to one with a secure home and two stable parents.

"Because of all the moving around he did before he came to us, he never had a place to keep his things, never had enough clothing, every time they moved



PHOTO BY ALLISON OLCSVAY

Jayden Gonzales, 10, embraces adoptive parents Richard and Cheryl at a National Adoption Month event that made their family official on Nov. 22.

he would have to start all over. Until now, Jayden never had a secure place," Cheryl Gonzales said.

"Today because of all the hard work of the people at Children's Home Society and DCF, Jayden has us forever and we just want to say thank you so much to all of them for helping make this possible."

Courtrooms usually reserved as serious, somber places, in-

stead became places of celebration on Nov. 22 for families like the Gonzales'.

In honor of November's National Adoption Month, Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties hosted special adoption ceremonies, just in time to make the brand new families "official" before the holidays.

In Orange County, the jury room was transformed into a makeshift courtroom to accom-

modate all the adoptive families, friends and relatives who were there to celebrate with them.

Big grins mixed with teary-eyed looks of wonder as new families glanced at each other as if for the first time. Balloons, teddy bears and cake took the place of legal briefs, gavels and stenographers.

"We've been a 'family' since April," Cheryl said, "but something changed today. We're no longer aunt and uncle, now we're mommy and daddy."

Many of the new families faced a long journey to reach this milestone. They worked their way through endless court hearings, evaluations and paperwork, all the while learning or relearning how to parent.

Quite a few of the adoptions were by family members, such as grandparents formally adopting grandchildren or in the case of the Gonzales family, aunt and uncle adopting nephew.

Judy Crites arrived at the Orange County Courthouse as Grandma and left as Mom. Her granddaughter, 7-year-old Riley was grinned over the top of her new teddy bear, as the realiza-

■ Please see ADOPTION on page 3



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THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK IN WORLD HISTORY —DEC. 12, 1901 — Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeds in sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors.

TREE | Oviedo's new tree will be rare clone of The Senator, a 3,500 year old Cypress

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
At least two clones have been relocated from Buchanan's grove since then – one located at Big Tree Park near the remains of the original Senator, and another in Reiter Park just two and half miles away.

Now that Oviedo will have its own sapling, Councilman Stephen Schenck said the city can pay tribute to the natural landmark that continues to unite Seminole County cities to this day.

"It's a nice tribute and a connection to the county," Schenck said. "It keeps the legacy alive and helps spread the legacy throughout Central Florida."

"I think that's what they want to do with those saplings: make them accessible and spread the legacy of the Senator out."

Land developer Tom Cavanaugh of PAC Land Development said that a firm for the project will be chosen in January, with construction for the park set to start in March.



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK
Hundreds gathered to pay respects to The Senator in March during a dedication ceremony to one of its successors, a clone called The Phoenix, planted nearby.

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This fun adventure through Winter Park and Casselberry is the perfect occasion for you and your family to feel the wonder and excitement this time of year brings! As hundreds of bicycle riders cruise through brightly lit neighborhoods, it is impossible to miss the joy of the season. A truly unique experience, this NIGHT ride includes games, music, and refreshments! Plus this year, you can help us fill Santa's "Bag of Hope" by bringing a new unwrapped toy to the event. Come join us and see why this event has become a family favorite!

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013

Place: South Seminole Middle School
101 Winter Park Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707

Route: 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 proceeds benefit

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

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.

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FAMILY CALENDAR

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 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, the poor widow Piper. 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 playing at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Visit spotlightcfl.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 and great holiday-themed performances from local schools, performing arts groups and more. It's all from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Winter Springs Town Center.

Mrs. Claus will be at The Rural Heritage Center for an evening of decorating cookies, making Christmas tree ornaments, writing letters to Santa, and many other fun crafts. It's from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 and free and open to the public. It's at 101 E. Main St., Geneva. Call 407-792-0758 or visit RuralHeritageCenter.net for more information.

DEC. 9

Come join the Oviedo Winter Springs Chamber at the **Holiday Social** from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 9 at Spill Wine Bar at 1196 Tree Swallow Drive, suite 1313, in Winter Springs. The \$10 admission gets one drink ticket and an appetizer wristband. Contact Melissa Lee at 407-278-4872 for more information.

DEC. 13

Casselberry's official tree lighting ceremony and holiday movie in the park starts at 6 p.m. Dec. 13 at 95 Triplet Lake Drive at Lake Concord Park. Holiday entertainment will delight visitors from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a tree lighting at 7 p.m., then the movie in the park, "Rise of the Guardians" will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Bring the family for Santa, artisan booths, a Food Truck Bazaar and more! For more information call 407-262-7700, ext. 1507.

DEC. 14

It's the **Oviedo Winter Springs Holiday Parade and Snow Mountain!** The parade gets going along Oviedo Mall Boulevard at 4 p.m. heading toward the mall, and the Snow Mountain plus games, music and more wait at the end. It's from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Oviedo Mall parking lot, so there's plenty of parking.

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 runs through Jan. 5, the event features 50 nights of music, lights, and ice, with ice-skating, ice slide, and a winter carnival atmosphere. Visit lightupucf.com for more information and tickets.

ADOPTION | Dozens of kids get 'forever homes'

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

tion that she'd never have to leave the security of her grandmother's home again began to set in.

"It's great to be adopted," Riley said, lisping over her P's through her missing two front teeth. "I'm gonna tell all my friends about being adopted."

Riley and her two younger siblings live with their grandmothers, Judy Crites and Linda Byrd, who teamed up a year ago to share a home and the responsibilities of raising their grandchildren.

"When the need arises, you just gotta step up," said Crites, who adopted her granddaughter to give her the security she had been craving.

"She was always afraid she would have to leave me. This way she never has to again."

Peggi Smith of Altamonte Springs also adopted her granddaughter, 4-year-old Aaliyah during the ceremonies Nov. 22. Like Crites, Smith wanted to be able to reassure her granddaughter with the knowledge that she would always have a safe place to call home.

"Aaliyah has been with me since day one - and now it's a blessing to know that she's staying with us, as part of our family and our world," Smith said.

Thirty children in the tri-county area became part of their forever families during this year's special celebration, said Karla Radka, vice president of Community Impact for Community Based Care.

Fourteen-year-old Elizabeth Rowland was just one of those 30, but took three sentences to sum up the universal hopefulness felt going forward for all those in her shoes.

"It makes me feel happier to be part of this family because I love them," she said. "If I need something, they'll give it to me. It makes me feel happy and warm inside

to be adopted today."

Over the last 10 years, 700 kids in Central Florida have found forever families through adoption. But for every child who is adopted, Radka said, there are many more who still wait to find their forever family.

Many of the new parents, like Jennifer Downs, began as foster parents and adopted children who had been placed in their care initially as foster children.

"The process to become foster parents takes about six to eight months," Radka said. "It is a time of reflection and learning that is very valuable to the process of understanding how the system works and how best to help these children."

Once foster parents are approved, they are matched with children in need of stable environments.

Every case is different, depending on the age of the child, whether or not they are part of a sibling group and how long they are expected to need foster care.

In some cases, the children become eligible for adoption, which can take another eight to 10 months to finalize.

Seventeen-month-old Jaxon Downs won't remember this day, but his new mom will never forget it. Downs is a single mom who's been a foster parent for two years. In that time, she has fostered seven kids.

"Jaxon was my lucky number seven," she said.

Dressed smartly for the occasion in a brightly striped bow-tie and crisp white shirt, little Jaxon brought a lot of supporters with him, including his grandparents and his aunt and uncle - all of them excited to be a permanent part of his life as he grows up.

"He doesn't know what this all means yet, but he knows we are here for him and that's all that matters," Downs said.

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INTERESTS

THIS WEEK IN HUMAN HISTORY — DEC. 10, 1967 — A plane carrying soul-music legend Otis Redding crashes into a small Wisconsin lake 3 miles short of the runway, killing Redding and six others. One man survived. His song "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" would be released in its "unfinished" form several weeks later.

Putting the 'farm' in farmers market

Good Neighbors Farmers Market plans to offer local food plus a real farm with animals to visit

BRITNI LARSON
The Voice

Valentine the donkey stretches her neck, friendly eyes blinking, asking for a scratch on her nose as children giggle with excitement. Leaves will rustle and sticks will crack under families' feet as the kids run around and the parents watch them take in everything a real farm has to offer — cows, pigs, goats and chickens grumbling for a treat from their tiny hands.

At the Good Neighbors Farmers Market, visitors will find an impressive barn, built by the farm's owner out of trees taken right from the property. It will be filled with local farmers and vendors and their fresh produce, sweet honey, artisan breads and dozens of other unique products. There will be hand-built wooden tables to relax at for lunch under the shading tree canopy.

This is the experience David Lloyd, owner of the Good Neighbors Farmers Market in Oviedo, wants to give his future visitors. He knows there are other farmers markets, but there aren't any that

can offer the atmosphere his can.

"I want to put the 'farm' back in farmers market," he said.

For years people have been stopping by the Lloyd farm, asking if a market would come there soon, and its time has finally arrived.

The market could open as early as January, and Lloyd hopes to have at least 70 vendors to visit. The animals are already waiting for guests to feed them, and Valentine has been practicing her gentle nudges for pets.

The animals are what will bring new customers to the market, Lloyd said, and keep families there longer. He wants the market to be more than a quick stop, but a place for families to spend a couple hours.

"So there's a lot of new potential customers for vendors that might not have ever even considered it, but because of the animals, it's a draw," he said.

Lloyd had seen the trend of people flocking to farmers markets, going local, organic, being "green" and knew he could contribute something to the scene



PHOTOS BY SARAH WILSON — THE VOICE

Farmer David Lloyd and his donkey, Valentine, are excited to welcome local residents to their farm for fresh produce and petting zoo fun when their farmers market opens in January of next year.

that people would benefit from. He'd been looking for a way to share the farm life that he grew up living — he was raised here on the farm, and his family has been in rural Oviedo since the early 1900s.

"He's just been really wanting, over the last couple years of building this, to find a way to invite people to see what that lifestyle looks like," said Lloyd's nephew, Sean Bailey. "There's

just a freedom that's there, and a lot of people I think are kind of wanting a little piece of that again, a little more simplicity in their lives."

That's something that Lloyd has done himself over the past four years he's spent building the market. Everything, including the grand barn, the animal pens made out of natural edge cypress tree cuts, and the walkways, were all built by him.

He thrived during the housing boom as a cabinet installer, and his All Creatures Pet Lodge was successful then, too. But when the economy tanked, he had to reevaluate his life and spending habits. He knew his farm was a place he could fall back on, and take advantage of for his own daily needs. He grew a garden, started raising animals for the

■ Please see **FARM** on next page



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Five Thousand Years of Myths & Legends Come to Life on Stage

Shen Yun is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be experienced. It captures the spirit of ancient China, recalling the grandeur of a culture long lost. The show moves quickly from one story, region, and dynasty to the next. Dozens of dancers in dazzling costumes move in seamless, flowing patterns. China's ethnic and folk dance styles fill the stage with color and energy. Down in the valley, ladies of the Yi ethnic group dance in rainbow skirts by the river. In the heavens, celestial fairies trail silken sleeves through the clouds. In a collection of vignettes, audiences journey from ancient legends to contemporary tales of courage, from the highest heavens to the dusty plateaus of the Middle Kingdom.

Gorgeous backdrops extend the stage, transporting the audience to distant lands and eras. An orchestra, combining Western and Chinese instruments like no other, accompanies with stirring scores. Dancers fly across the stage in an array of flips, spins, jumps, and aials. The energy of classical Chinese dance is contagious; the entire performance, mesmerizing.

"This is not only entertainment, but a valuable cross-over cultural event: a strong, gracious gesture toward international understanding."

- Donn B. Murphy, Ph.D., President, The National Theatre

FARM | Market will double as a place for produce and a petting zoo with goats, cows, pigs and chickens

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
farmers market and to eventually eat. He stopped eating out – fast food was his kryptonite – and has cooked all but a few meals at home since beginning his farmers market dream. The idea has changed his mind set and his health.

“I had to step back myself, to be conscious of what I was spending,” he said. “I’m trying to get back to a sustainable life, to know where my food comes from.”

He wants to share that with others, and hopes by talking with the farmers there, seeing the animals and experiencing the farm, people will be inspired to make some changes themselves. To not just see meat as a package on a shelf, but see the farmer and animal behind it, and to make the choice to support small farmers.

“For me, as a father ... I need to know exactly where my food comes from,” Bailey said. “It is our responsibility as parents, and as people in society, to know where our food comes from, and what better way than to go to the person who’s actually growing it.”

In the future, Lloyd wants to offer many activities for guests to enjoy, such as tractor train rides, a stocked pond for fishing, a nature trail, and educational classes including teaching gardening, raising chickens and canning. It’ll be a destination to experience and learn about farming and food, and with 35 acres to work with, he said, the sky’s the limit.



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Oviedo ER

a department of

Oviedo ER is located at 8300 Red Bug Lake Road in Oviedo between S.R. 417 and S.R. 426 with easy access from W. Broadway Street. OviedoER.com



Josh Garrick

Culture worthy of your calendar

Now through Dec. 14 – ‘Crazy for Gershwin’ at the Winter Park Playhouse

The creatives at the Winter Park Playhouse have created several new musicals based on the work of a great composer or performer, and their newest effort is “Crazy for Gershwin – A Tribute to George & Ira Gershwin.” Running through Dec. 14, this tribute

to the Gershwin brothers reminds us of the unbelievable number of songs created by this All-American duo. Call 407-645-0145 or visit winterparkplayhouse.org

Dec. 6 to Jan. 5 – ‘The Light in the Piazza’ at Mad Cow Theater

Set in Rome in 1953, “The Light in the Piazza” is the story of a young American tourist,



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traveling with her mother, who meets and falls in love with a young Italian. The mother opposes the affair for reasons that become apparent as the musical unfolds. With music and lyrics by Adam Guettel, grandson of Richard Rodgers, “Light in the Piazza” won six Tony Awards in 2005. Presented by Mad Cow Theater from Dec. 6 to Jan. 5, visit madcowtheatre.com or call 407-297-8788.

Dec. 6 – Winter Park Tree Lighting Ceremony

There is more holiday cheer on Dec. 6 at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in Central Park in downtown Winter Park beginning at 5 p.m. The entire family is invited to this free event as Park Avenue becomes a winter wonderland with performances by St. Margaret Mary Catholic School Choir, Park Maitland Glee Club, New Warner Chapel, Winter Park High’s Belle Chanson

Choir, and Orlando Harmony. Afterwards we are invited for refreshments provided by local businesses along with visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus – all in Central Park in Winter Park.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Dec. 7 – Leadership Winter Park Pancake

Breakfast
 The Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast has become a holiday tradition that turns pancake batter into a stack of dough!

■ Please see CULTURE on next page

The Sign Man

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CULTURE | Get into the spirit with holiday-themed parades, a charity breakfast, concerts and more

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Proceeds from the breakfast benefit Winter Park elementary schools, assisting teachers with the purchase of necessary school supplies. Those who come early enjoy a delicious breakfast and get a great seat for the Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade (parade beginning at 9 a.m.). Breakfast begins Dec. 7 at 7 a.m. on the Central Park stage. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children, and include pancakes, sausage and refreshments.

Dec. 7 – Winter Park “Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade”

Held on the first Saturday in December for 61 years, (making this the longest-running holiday parade in Central Florida), the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce will host the Winter Park “Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade” on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal and Orange County Public Schools Board Member Joie Cadle. The parade will travel down Park Avenue, from Cole Avenue south to Comstock Avenue. Floats, marching bands, police and fire departments, scout groups, local dignitaries and Santa will be part of the fun.



Dec. 9 – ‘Venetian Vespers’ with the Orlando Philharmonic

Maestro Christopher Wilkins will conduct a sizable chamber

orchestra drawn from the Orlando Philharmonic, joined by the UCF Chamber Singers on Dec. 9 in a program called Venetian Vespers beginning at 7 p.m. St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice gave rise to a tradition of works for multiple choirs, including works by Monteverdi, Gabrieli, and Vivaldi, composers whose works will be highlighted in this highly recommended concert at the Shakespeare Center. For tickets to this wonderful event call 407-770-0071 or visit Orlandophil.org



wonders being created by Executive Chef Chris Windus at Hamilton’s Kitchen at The Alford Inn. So it is no surprise that Orlando Life Magazine recently named Chef Chris as Best New Chef in their Silver Spoon Awards. Technically, Chef Chris is not a ‘new’ chef (he spent 10 years as Exec Chef of blue-zoo at the Disney Swan Hotel), but he is new to The

Alford. Call 407-998-8089 or visit thealfordinn.com, and tell them “Josh sent you.”

Josh Garrick is a writer, photographer, educator, and fine art curator. He is a member of the Curatorial Council for the Museum of Florida Art. Garrick can be reached at joshgarrick9@gmail.com or 407-522-3906.

Current – All hail chef Chris Windus of the Alford Inn

Two months ago I put on my Restaurant Reviewer’s hat and wrote to you about the culinary



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ATHLETICS

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY — DEC. 7, 1980 — Joe Montana and the San Francisco 49ers engineered the greatest regular season comeback in NFL history. The New Orleans Saints were visiting Candlestick Park and built a 35-7 halftime lead. San Francisco then scored 31 unanswered points to win 38-35 in overtime.

UCF fights to clinch first BCS bowl berth

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The Knights are at their highest ranking of the season after yet another heart attack-inducing finish that saw them edging the USF Bulls 23-20 on the gridiron Nov. 29.

With a well-timed interception after a torrent of turnovers that went the wrong way, the Knights snagged a win out of thin air in a chilly thriller in the Bright House. Just as the Bulls seemed destined to tie or win the game, driving deep into UCF territory with less than two minutes to go, linebacker Jordan Ozerities' hands snagged a Mike White pass and sent the tense crowd into a jubilant frenzy. That was accompanied by a collective sigh of relief in a game in which the Knights lost three fumbles and committed two interceptions, which contributed to half of USF's scores.

"When you don't play very well and have five turnovers, you don't usually win games like that," Head Coach George



O'Leary said in a press conference after the game. It had been 11 years since the Knights had won a game in which they gave up four or more turnovers. Sunday night they found out what their sixth win by a touchdown or less would do for

their ranking. The result, a No. 16 spot in the BCS standings, is the highest the team has ever been ranked. They debuted at No. 23 the same week the BCS standings debuted on Oct. 20, and have slowly moved their way into better numbers ever since.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE
The Knights barely edged USF in their last game, but clinched a share of the AAC title. With a win over SMU this weekend, they'll head to a BCS bowl.

Their slow and steady rise has come despite edging out victories by a touchdown or less in four games this season in which they were the favorite or the heavy favorite. Their first win in five attempts against rival USF was just the most recent in a string of

edge-of-your-seat finishes that led to the 2013 Knights being dubbed "the heart attack kids." It had been a much closer game than expected Nov. 29 as the UCF Knights (10-1, 7-0) and the USF Bulls (2-8, 2-5) traded field goals

■ Please see **KNIGHTS** on next page

Oviedo ~ Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Events

December 9th - Young Executives Holiday Social

5:30-7:30pm, Spill Wine & Beer in Winter Springs

Are you a young executive under 40? Are you currently looking for new networking opportunities? Come join this unique opportunity to network and mingle with young C-Level executives. This month we will be hosting a Holiday Social. Our speaker is Esther Vargas-Davis from the UCF Incubator program.

December 11th- OBN Holiday Party

5:30-8:00pm, Tusawilla Country Club

Join the ladies of Oviedo Businesswomen's Network for their Annual Holiday Party! The ladies will celebrate the evening with plenty of dancing and networking! They will also be collecting unwrapped toys for Hope Help's Christmas in the City.

December 14th- Snow Mountain and Holiday Parade

1700 Oviedo Mall Blvd Oviedo FL 32765

Join us in celebrating the season at the OWS Chamber Holiday Parade! Enjoy marching bands, floats, dance groups, choirs, vehicles and then visit the Snow Mountain! Parade will start at 4:00pm and Snow Mountain will be open until 9:00pm. We hope to see you there!

December 19th- Chamber Knight at Light Up UCF

Join the Chamber at this years Light Up UCF event. Light Up UCF is a great family event with an 8,000 sq ft out door skating rink, rides, and holiday attractions. This year it is snowing every night and they will be showing a different holiday film each night! We hope to see you there, and make sure to stop by our info tent!

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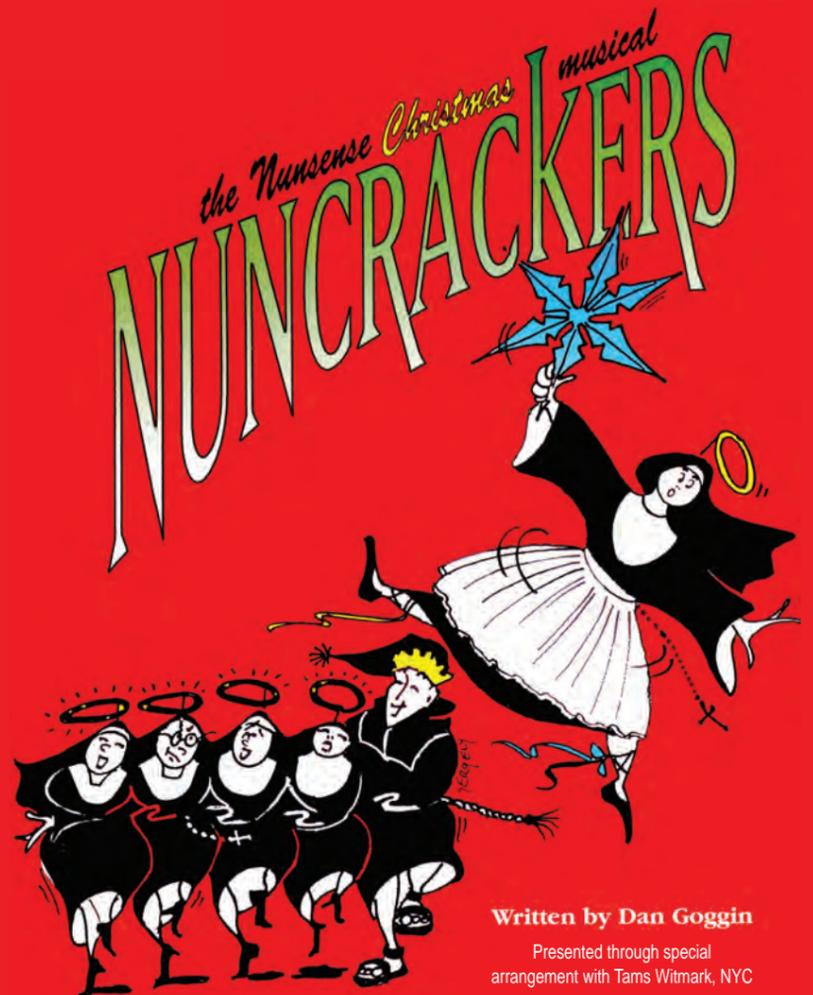
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KNIGHTS | Must have Cincinnati lose or must defeat SMU Mustangs to gain access to prestigious bowl

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
 and punts for much of the first half of the game. After multiple fumbles handed USF its only scores of the first half, the Knights distanced themselves by halftime, but it wouldn't be enough of a margin of safety. A seemingly off-balance Blake Bortles had trouble finding receivers, and rushers had trouble finding lanes as the Knights' offense failed to find a rhythm against an unexpectedly tough USF defense. Meanwhile the Bulls caught up to and overtook the Knights. The bright spot that slowly began to shine as the game wore on would be running back Will Stanback, who became the yardage workhorse for the Knights after two scary fumbles early on by regular go-to runner Storm Johnson. Stanback would rush for 40 yards on 10 carries and catch 69 yards worth of receptions. Johnson would eventually find his hands and race to 69 yards on the ground and snag 62 yards in the air. The game never had a wider scoring gap than a single touchdown separating the two teams for its duration, making for a hair-raising experience for the Knights, who came into the game heavy favorites. But the grudge match turned into just

that as the teams battled for the first time since USF terminated their rivalry five years ago in search of tougher competition. The teams met at the height of one of the Knights' all-time best seasons, while USF was struggling in one of its worst. An offensive juggernaut in many games this season, the Knights only converted one third down conversion out of nine attempts in addition to their eyebrow-raising five turnovers. The Knights would come away with a win thanks to a 52-yard Breshad Perriman touchdown reception and Ozerities' interception with less than two minutes to go to seal the deal as the Bulls were threatening. The win clinched a share of the American Athletic Conference title for the Knights, who will either own it outright or share it depending on the outcomes of games Dec. 5 and 7. Starting at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 the Louisville Cardinals (10-1, 6-1) will play at Cincinnati (10-1, 6-1). Both teams will be looking to bolster their bowl game chances with a win. The Cardinals won't be able to share the AAC's BCS bid no matter what happens, as the Knights defeated them this season. The game is especially crucial for the Cincinnati Bearcats, who could share in the AAC title and have a shot at the

AAC's automatic bowl bid if they upset the Cardinals. By the end of Thursday night, the Knights may already have the crown all to themselves. But if Cincinnati wins, which may be helped by a home field for the team's season finale, then the Knights have to win their final game to clinch the BCS bowl berth. If the Bearcats win and the Knights lose, the Knights will have to hope they stay above Cincinnati in the BCS standings. Cincinnati is currently ranked No. 23 in the USA Today College Coaches poll, where UCF is No. 17. The USA Today poll has consistently ranked the Knights worse than all three other major polls. It's

also the only poll that puts Cincinnati in its top 25. The BCS Standings, the only official arbiter of postseason bowl game placement, hasn't ranked Cincinnati all season, and put UCF at No. 16 this week. The Knights travel to face SMU at noon on Dec. 7. The Knights may have some advantages heading into Dallas. They're undefeated on the road this season, though they've needed to score in the final two minutes of every AAC road game in order to win. And SMU star quarterback Garrett Gilbert is still questionable to start against UCF because of a knee sprain. Without Gilbert against Houston last week, the Mustangs lost 34-0 and threw three interceptions.

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Keeping the tools of my trade sharp

Several decades ago, during my segment on one of the live local television daybreak programs, I demonstrated how to sharpen a steel shovel. Firmly grasping a mill-bastard file and hoping to evoke a little drama in the wee hours of the morning, I gave the spade a swift swipe in one deft move. The proximity of my lapel microphone to steel upon steel pegged out the audio system, sending everyone in the studio wearing earpieces into a near tantrum.



Tom Carey
From my garden to yours

Upon reviewing the video, the startled reaction of the hosts confirmed my plan's success. (Shortly afterward, around the

time Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, my segment was dropped.)

Selecting and maintaining the tools of your trade are almost as important as their productive uses. This concept is especially true with gardening equipment, as the moisture, soil, and sun easily wreak havoc on any material, whether metal, wood or plastic. Applying my concept of quantity having a quality all its own, buying several cheaper versions of a tool may offer an economy of scale to consider.

If I frequently use a hand pruner in various capacities at numerous locations around the gardens, purloining a few extra at yard sales or a big box discount accomplishes my goals far better than one high-dollar fiberglass example. Not worrying about security or preservation on these low cost versions saves hours of daily 'seek and rescue' missions before, or

protective sheltering after, their use.

A few basic maintenance tricks to avoid wasting resources easily extend the life of a gardening apparatus. Simply hiding tools from the sun wins years of effective life. Keep wood handles primed with linseed oil or paste wax (not toxic used motor oil). As previously mentioned, sharpening steel edges takes a few simple swipes of a file.

Recognizing that tools are an extension of our bodies, but to avoid the clutter and unfamiliarity of too many choices, I have winnowed down my tool inventory wish list to those few 20 percent that perform 80 percent of my duties.

Starting with a plastic tub wheelbarrow, I load in a spade shaped shovel, bow rake, 5-tine pitchfork, loping shears, and bypass hand pruners. Keeping this basic work-truck within shouting distance, my productivity on the farm hovers near a

constant high.

An accumulated inventory of leaf rakes, square shovels, palmetto hooks, grub hoes, axes, wood mauls, sledge hammers, garden weasels, stirrup weeders, machetes, sickles, and broadforks will eventually cost more to store than provide productive value.

Consider their decorative value to justify this unwieldy morass, or pass them on at your next yard sale.

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

Let's set aside differences – not just during this season

ERIN O'FLAHERTY
Guest Columnist

'Tis the season, the season of giving—whether giving thanks, praises, spare change, an extra tip or bonus. You name it, and it's officially "the season" for it.

For me, the beginning of "the season" is evidenced by the conversion of one of my pre-set radio stations to play Christmas and holiday tunes on a loop. The evidence on my Facebook newsfeed is also a giveaway, noticing that since Nov. 1 everyone is declaring what he or she is thankful for every day.

Ironic to me, though, are the comments of users who start being thankful on Nov.1 and then post an update on Nov. 5 with "I forgot to be thankful the past four days so here are five things I'm thankful for all at once."

At first I thought, "Aw, that is so sweet," but that quickly changed to "I'm sorry, but really?" Come on now, it's the season!

While I love to read what others are thankful for and personally keep up with their thanks on social media, I just wish it weren't a huge declaration or movement when they decide to pause to be thankful for what I hope they are also doing every other month of the year.

When people "forget" to be thankful, not just in November, it's kind of sad.

So, what does "'Tis the Season" mean, anyway? Does it mean a special red cup at Starbucks, or a Thanksgiving sub from Publix, declaring your thanks via social media, or a random act of kindness by paying for the person behind you in line? It seems that's what it has become, but I think it's more than that.

Now, I certainly appreciate and value the sentiment behind the holidays. People bustle with excitement, generosity, and the hope of a fresh start come the New Year. Sometimes, though, I just

wonder why everyone seems to become friendlier as the holidays approach. I say "the holidays" because it means something different to everyone.

Yet, in a country where we are afforded many freedoms but still struggle with social discord among an array of controversial issues, in these last two months of the year the holidays symbolizing something different to everyone seem to often be forgotten. We tend to be blind to those who are different than us, and instead of alienating them, we offer our generosity and warm personalities.

It creates a sense of peace – a certain social climate. A season, I might say.

Many celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and other holidays – some in a religious sense, while others do not. Ten months out of the year, these differences in what the holidays mean would drive us crazy and create an immense amount of fric-

tion among our subcultures. Ten months out of the year, we find it extremely hard to accept why someone might celebrate differently from us, and even wonder if their moral compass is pointed in the right direction, without ever questioning our own.

If we are able to look past differences during "the season," to come together and be our most accepting and giving selves, to spread a shared sense of peace and excitement among all, why does that have to change with the start of a new year?

My message today is concise. On Jan. 1, we will be focused on our resolutions, hoping to become improved versions of ourselves during the next 12 months. Sadly, as the hope of "the season" fades, many of these resolutions will fail. The year will get in the way. It will become busy and messy, just as it was before the pumpkin spice lattes and Black Friday deals. We will begin to make excuses.

But folks, I've seen what we can do when we come together and forget our differences. We are actually nice to each other. We listen.

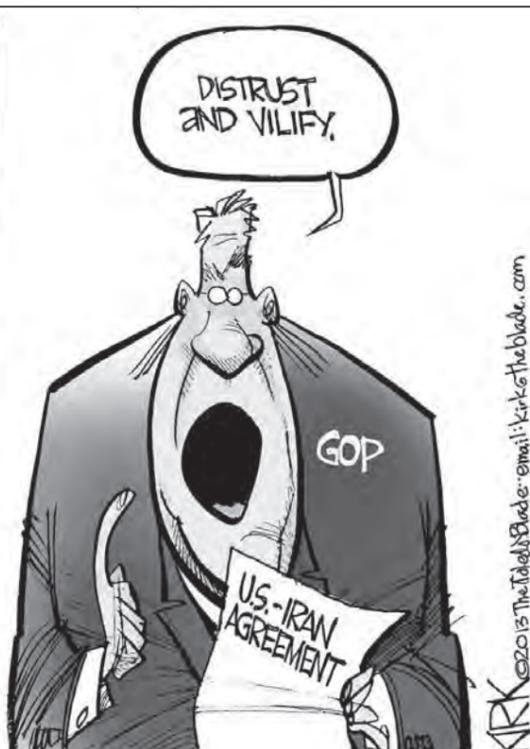
In the two months of the year that I feel the change in spirits, I actually like talking to strangers. They are different from the strangers that I meet January through October.

So, I have just one request. After celebrating "the season" in whatever capacity you choose, when your heart and spirit are most full, resolve not merely to work out more, to spend less money, or in my case, rescue fewer cats (because we all know that will fail).

Instead, pick something that could last: Resolve to simply be a better stranger.

Erin O'Flaherty is a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting and the current Miss University of Central Florida. She can be reached at eoflaherty@knights.ucf.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending as you contemplate your holiday gift-giving. Your social life kicks off into high gear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in holiday plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Demands on your energy level could be much higher than usual as you prepare for the upcoming holidays. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it — and what can be done to restore that once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague, but also might provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting holiday pressures and workplace demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpian stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the upcoming holiday season with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until the holiday distractions are over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of saying the right thing at the right time. Your friendships are deep and lasting.

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On **Dec. 19, 1732**, Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia first published "Poor Richard's Almanack." The book, filled with proverbs preaching industry and prudence, was published continuously for 25 years and became one of the most popular publications in colonial America.

• On **Dec. 17, 1843**, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published. Dickens never lost momentum as a writer, churning out major novels every year or two, often in serial form. Among his most important works are "David Copperfield" (1850), "Great Expectations" (1861) and "A Tale of Two Cities" (1859).

• On **Dec. 18, 1912**, after three years of digging in the Piltdown gravel pit in Sussex, England, amateur archaeologist Charles Dawson announces the discovery of two skulls that appear to belong to a primitive hominid and ancestor of man.

• On **Dec. 21, 1945**, Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the U.S. 3rd Army, dies from injuries suffered not in battle, but in a freak car accident. He was 60 years old. Descended from a long line of military men, Patton graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1909.

• On **Dec. 22, 1956**, a baby gorilla named Colo enters the world at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, becoming the first-ever gorilla born in captivity. She went on to become a mother, grandmother, and in 1996, a great-grandmother to Timu, the first surviving infant gorilla conceived by artificial insemination. Colo is still alive today.

• On **Dec. 16, 1960**, two airliners collide over New York City, killing 134 people aboard the planes and on the ground. A miscalculation by the pilot of the United flight put his plane directly into the path of a TWA Super Constellation. Christmas presents carried by the planes' passengers were strewn all over the streets.

• On **Dec. 20, 1989**, the United States invades Panama in an attempt to overthrow military dictator Manuel Noriega, who had been indicted in the United States on drug-trafficking charges. Noriega's Panamanian Defense Forces were promptly crushed.

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KATZENJAMMER KIDS



BY HY EISMAN

CENTRAL FLORIDA SENIOR

A SUPPLEMENT OF THE WINTER PARK-MAITLAND OBSERVER AND SEMINOLE VOICE

DECEMBER 2013

60 years ago, a boy who longed to fly went to war

ALLISON OLCSVAY
Central Florida Senior

Sandy Gonzalez was one of those boys who built model airplanes at night and by day searched the skies for the real things, watching for them as one might for shooting stars. He caught the aviation bug at an early age and spent nearly every waking moment dreaming of the day when he could get his wings.

After a difficult early childhood, some of which was spent in a Catholic group home, Gonzalez found his place at the Manhattan High School of Aviation. In the early 1940s it was a specialized school for boys in New York City who were eager to join the ranks of young men going into the growing field of aviation.

Then it was on to bomber training in Sebring, where he learned to pilot the B-17, a popular WWII bomber that carried a crew of 10.

Following bomber training, Gonzalez joined the Eighth Air Force in flight over England, and successfully completed 30 bombing missions. An incredible feat, as anyone who has ever seen "Memphis Belle" can attest.

"I was always in the right place at the right time," Gonzalez said. "It was just good timing for the most part that kept me safe."

Throughout the remainder of the war, Gonzalez flew missions with the fledgling Air Rescue unit, whose job it



PHOTO BY ALLISON OLCSVAY — CENTRAL FLORIDA SENIOR
Sandy Gonzalez stands with tokens of his past, mementos and awards from his time at war.

was to pick up downed pilots or troops who had strayed off course.

After the war, he was stationed in West Palm Beach, and remained with the Air Rescue service helping develop protocols and train pilots for missions.

There he began flying the Grumman Albatross Seaplane, which was capable of landing in the open ocean under all sorts of harrowing conditions — including rescuing a downed pilot off of a rocky beach on the shore of Canada.

"The pilot managed to land on the beach, but it was too short to take off, so we came in and rescued him. The only way we could take off though,

was to use JATO, or Jet Assisted Take Off canisters. We had four on board, two for each side that generated 4,000 pounds of thrust, more than enough to see us safely off the small beach," he said.

On another mission, Gonzalez recalled rescuing a fellow soldier from a river at night under enemy fire. The motto of the Air Rescue unit reads "So that others may live," a self-sacrificing attitude that pilots like Gonzalez never took lightly.

He and his fellow pilots and crewmen risked their own lives on every mission, but he said they always considered it their personal duty to bring back every missing member they could.

"I was always proud that I never lost a crewmember," Gonzalez said. Through various assignments both at home and abroad, Gonzalez continued to serve honorably throughout his 29-year career with the Air Force. He performed air rescue missions in WWII, Korea, Vietnam as well as hundreds

of peacetime missions. He retired with the rank of Colonel and moved to Gainesville to be near his children, who were attending the University of Florida at the time.

A few years later, Gonzalez and his wife moved to Fern Park, where they lived together for 30 years, until his wife's passing in 2000.

Today Gonzalez makes his home in the Village on the Green in Longwood. At 88, he still lives independently.

In fact, he would outdo many people half his age on the computer, managing the Air Rescue Association's website and serves as the group's executive director.

Over the years, Gonzalez has seen many a friend take their final flight, and been there to help others fly another day. And that, he said, is why he feels so strongly about maintaining the camaraderie of his fellow aviators.

He has dedicated much of his retirement as president, then as executive director, of the Air Rescue Association, heading annual reunions, updating newsletters and helping former, current and future members of Air Rescue units stay in touch and reconnect whenever possible.

"It's not always easy running all this, but it's important to me and to the members to keep it all going," he said. "It's how we connect and share the bonds that we all have."

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Senior Calendar

MAITLAND SENIOR CENTER
The Maitland Senior Center is located at 345 S. Maitland Ave., and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The schedule is subject to change without notice. The Maitland Senior Center will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 3 for the holidays!

We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Jan. 6. For more information about these and any other events at the Maitland Senior Center, please call 407-539-6251 or visit itsmymaitland.com

Join Audrey every Tuesday in December at 10:30 a.m. for **Line Dance Lessons**. Class is 1.5 hours and perfect for all levels of dancers. Beginners always welcome! Cost is \$4 to the teacher.

Join us every Monday and Friday

in December at 1 p.m. to **see your favorite movies!** Check our calendar online to see what movies are showing in December.

Join John every Monday, Thursday, and Friday in December at 9 a.m. for **Yoga**. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat. Cost is \$2 to the teacher.

Join us every Monday in December at 1 p.m. for our **Conversational French group**. Spend some time chatting with others and making new friends.

Join Esther every Tuesday in

December at 9 a.m. for **Tai Chi classes**. Cost of the class is \$10 per month to the teacher. Please wear a white shirt, black pants, and comfortable shoes.

Join us every Tuesday in December at 1 p.m. for our **Conversational Spanish group**. Spend some time chatting with others and making new friends. Must be fluent in Spanish to participate.

Join Sher're every Wednesday in December at 9:30 a.m. for a **combo of mat and chair yoga** that is great for all levels. Cost of the class is \$5 to the teacher. Please bring a yoga mat.

Join Ty every Wednesday in December at 11 a.m. for **Yoga Nidra**, a sublime conscious sleep (meditation) class. Cost of the class is \$5 to the teacher. Please bring a yoga mat, something to cover yourself with (if you tend to get cold), and a small pillow.

Join Donna every Thursday in December at 11:30 a.m. for **Chair Yoga**. Cost of the class is a \$2 donation to the teacher.

Join Ann every Friday in December for **Recorder classes** at 12:30 p.m. Lessons are free! Please call the Senior Center at 407-539-6251 for specifics on this class.

On the second Friday of the month counselors from **Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders** will

provide free unbiased counseling about Medicare, Medigap, HMOs, Medicaid, Prescriptions Drug Plans, and Long Term Care. All counseling is first-come-first-served. Bring your list of medications or Rx bottles, insurance card and red, white and blue Medicare card. For more information, email information@elderaffairs.org, visit FLORIDASHINE.org, or contact the Maitland Senior Center.

CASSELBERRY ADULT FITNESS CLASSES
Chair Yoga is at 10 a.m. every Monday and will get you moving again! The cost is \$2 per class.

Gentle/Restorative Yoga is from 8:45 to 10 a.m. on Sundays. Cost is \$10 per class. Senior citizen's discount is \$5 per class. For more information, contact Alice Gomes at 609-290-8195 or email alice@imagineyoga.net.

Many more classes are available. For more information on classes and registration, contact Mario Algaran at 407-262-7700, ext. 1576, or malgaran@casselberry.org or visit casselberry.org/register

WINTER SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER
The Senior Center will be closed Dec. 25 for Christmas.

A **special holiday lunch** will be at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center on Dec. 22. RSVP at 407-327-6554.

■ Please see SENIOR CALENDAR next page

Central Florida Senior DECEMBER 2013

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America needs more whistleblowers

Let's give a big thumbs-up to Dr. H, a physician at a regional Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center –and a whistleblower.

Dr. H testified before a House Veterans Affairs oversight and investigations subcommittee about her whistleblower complaints to the Office of Special Counsel, which have resulted in numerous investigations and findings of serious wrongdoing at the regional center. For example:

- Nurse practitioners weren't supervised. They were labeled Licensed Independent Practitioners, which they weren't, and they were

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

“practicing outside the scope of their licensure.” There was never any oversight or review of the care they gave.

Thus empowered, nurse practitioners prescribed narcotics “in flagrant violation of Federal and individual state laws and VA Handbook regulations,” using one-size-fits-all institutional DEA tracking

numbers on the drugs, with no physician oversight whatsoever and no means of tracing who prescribed what.

- Doctors were pushed to sign prescriptions for patients they hadn't even seen. When the doctors objected, the chief of staff brought in residents from a local medical school to write prescriptions after hours.

- Veterans were scheduled into fictitious “ghost” clinics where there were actually no

doctors, only nursing staff. Many veterans were unaware that they were being seen only by a nurse, not a doctor.

- Doctors were pushed to sign collaborative agreements concerning the nursing practitioners' status (essentially monitoring agreements), and when they objected (they could be sued for the work of the nurse), they were told that 55 percent of their performance pay would be withheld.

- Nurses weren't taking complete histories for patients, just “pasting in” previous information.

I've read a lot of terrible medical center reports, but this beats them all. I haven't named the medical center because I fear these problems aren't unique in the VA health-care system.

Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com
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SENIOR CALENDAR | Bingo and more

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Learn ceramics from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays at the Winter Springs Senior Center at 400 N. Edgemon Ave. in Winter Springs. Call 407-327-6556 for more information.

Have fun and get moving at **yoga classes** at 10 a.m. every Friday morning. Chair yoga is also available, offering all the benefits of traditional yoga.

Bingo is Wednesday, Friday and the last Sunday of the month. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m. followed by Bingo at 1 p.m. There's no bingo prior to the last Sunday of the month.

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Meet the Resident Businesses at One Senior Place Greater Orlando

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- The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan
- AGED
- Price Financial Services
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center
- Medicare Plan Options
- Estate & Business Planning Group
- CarePlus Health Plans
- Harmony Hearing Centers of America
- Humana
- On Target Web Solutions
- Baldwin-Fairchild
- Family Physicians Group
- The Law Office of Kathleen Flammia
- 50plusFYI.org
- Physician Associates
- Orlando Family Physicians
- WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
- LTC Advisors
- Growing Bolder Magazine
- Certified Financial Group
- Compass Research
- Long Term Care Insurance Services
- Orlando Healthcare Guide
- Exit Real Estate Results
- Community Home Health
- Freedom Health
- Florida Blue-McBride Insurance Agency

Meet these Senior Living Communities and Resources

- Senior Partner In-Home Care
- One Senior Place Care Management
- Orlando Senior Health Network
- Creating Divine Order
- After 55 Housing & Resource Guide
- Senior Living Guide
- Elder Move Managers
- Leigh Manor
- Serenades by Sonata
- Longwood Healthcare Center
- Arden Courts Memory Care
- Life Care Centers of Orlando and Altamonte Springs
- Savannah Court & Cottage of Oviedo
- Savannah Court & Cove of Maitland
- Brookdale Senior Living
- Winter Park Towers
- Villa Grande on Saxon
- Eastbrooke Gardens
- Grand Villa Senior Living
- Orlando Senior Services Directory
- Emeritus Senior Living
- Village on the Green



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Helping Others

At One Senior Place, we support senior charities all year, but especially during the holidays. Call or stop in to learn how you can help, and have a holiday coffee and cookie on us!

Happy Holidays From One Senior Place!

Celebrate!

Crafts & Conversation Tuesday, December 10th 2pm-4pm

Hosted by VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
RSVP Required – 407.599.2522

Hope for the Holidays Memorial Services Tuesday, December 10th 3:30pm-5pm

Hosted By VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
RSVP 407.599.2522

Holiday Fun & Appreciation Wednesday, December 11th 1:30pm-2:30pm

Hosted by Creating Divine Order
RSVP 407.949.6733

Holiday Cookie Extravaganza! Friday, December 13th 10am-11:30am

Hosted by One Senior Place
RSVP 407.949.6733

Share!

Purse with a Purpose Friday, December 6th 5pm -7pm

Hosted by VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
At One Senior Place, RSVP 407.599.2522

Festival of Wreaths Thursday, December 5th 5pm-7pm

Hosted at Arden Courts Memory Care Community
1057 Willa Springs Drive, Winter Springs
RSVP 407.699.8400

Learn!

Health Care Reform

Monday, December 9th 3pm-4:30pm
Thursday, December 12th 9am-10:30am
Tuesday, December 17th 3pm-4:30pm
By Florida Blue-McBride Insurance Agency
RSVP 407.230.7825

Are your Hearing Aids in the Drawer? Wednesday, December 18th 3pm-4:30pm

Presented by Harmony Hearing Centers of America
RSVP 407.949.6737

Calendar of Events December 2013

**One Senior Place will be closed
on Wednesday, December 25th.**

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

**The Real Estate Specialists are IN!
Monday, December 2nd, 9th, 16th,
23rd & 30th 10am-1pm**

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Well Care Seminar

**Monday, December 2nd 3pm-4pm
Friday, December 6th 9:30am-10:30am**
Presented by Medicare Plan Options
RSVP 407.949.6723

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

Tuesday, December 3rd 9am-12pm
Hosted by Arden Court, Compass Research & ADRC
RSVP 407.949.6733

AARP Medicare Complete

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2pm-3:30pm
Presented by LTC Advisors
RSVP 407.949.6722

Florida Blue Seminar

Wednesday, December 4th 3pm-4:30pm
By Florida Blue-McBride Insurance Agency
RSVP 407.230.7835

Is It Wax or Is It My Hearing?

Wednesday, December 4th 3pm-4:30pm
Presented by Harmony Hearing Centers of America
RSVP 407.949.6737

WellCare Seminar

Thursday, December 5th 10am-11am
Presented by Orlando Family Physicians
RSVP 407.477.5555

Senior Survival Workshop

Thursday, December 5th 2pm-4pm
Presented by the Law Office of Kathleen Flammia
RSVP 407.478.7800

Free Ear Cleaning & Checks!

Wednesday, December 11th 3pm-4:30pm
Presented by Harmony Hearing Centers of America
RSVP 407.949.6737

Bingo Bash

Wednesday, December 11th 11am-12pm
Hosted by Orlando Family Physicians
Open to the Public.

The Real Estate Specialists are IN!

Thursday, December 12th & 19th 9am-12pm
By EXIT Real Estate Results



See our full Calendar of Events at
OneSeniorPlace.com

407.949.6733

Emergency room stays can cost a bundle

The length of time you might spend in the emergency room has gotten longer — and longer — as many Medicare patients are held under what’s called “observation status.”

AARP recently completed a study called “Rapid Growth in Medicare Hospital Observa-

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

tion Services: What’s Going On?” that shows the length of time patients are held that way

has grown, sometimes to more than 48 hours.

If you’re a Medicare patient, you can be toting up out-of-pocket costs with every passing hour you’re held in this medical limbo. There’s no cost-sharing cap with these observation status stays, not

to mention that you might not receive the level of care that you should. As an observation outpatient, you’re liable for the costs of tests and procedures.

Additionally, if you end up in skilled nursing, the observation status time you spend in the hospital doesn’t count for the Medicare requirement that you have three days as an inpatient. Your portion of the costs can skyrocket, and you might even be denied skilled nursing care because you weren’t in the hospital long enough as an official inpatient.

Here are some specifics from the AARP study:

- Observation status stays have increased 94 percent.
- Patient status (observation versus inpatient) is sometimes

changed by the hospital after the patient is sent home.

• The average cost for skilled nursing that Medicare didn’t cover (due to being originally held in observation limbo) was \$10,503.

A number of senators in Congress have proposed legislation that would require time spent in observation status to count as part of the three-day inpatient requirement.

To read the full 25-page report, go to aarp.org and put the study’s title in the search box.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into her column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com © 2013 King Features Synd. Inc.

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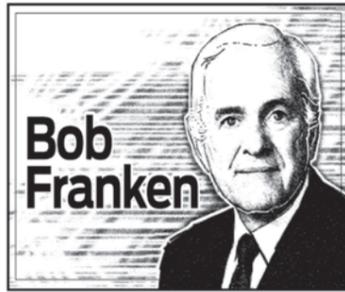
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Nuclear matters: War on the Capitol floor

Let's face it — too much of the coverage we provide from Washington is “inside baseball,” easily ignored by those who live in the real world. Sometimes, though, this stuff matters. A case in point is the decision by Harry Reid and his Democratic gaggle to invoke the “nuclear option.” It's called that because Reid and his partisan majority blew up the traditional filibuster. Utilizing a parliamentary maneuver, they were able to circumvent the usual two-thirds vote necessary to change the rules and used a simple majority to do away with the biggest delaying tactic that has helped define the “deliberative” United States Senate.

Republicans are having a cow. “You'll regret this,” sputtered Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. “The solution to this problem is at the ballot box.” He was trying to make the obvious point that if the R's take over, it's the D's who will have lost their power to stop a conservative agenda. Unwittingly, however, McConnell was offering a justification for doing away with a stalling tactic that he and his partisans were using to thwart the winner of the last election. The voters choose who will head the nation. Last



time around, that was Barack Obama, meaning he gets to select the ones to fill openings on the federal bench, and also who will head the departments and agencies of his administration.

Forgive the civics refresher, but while the Constitution's advise-and-consent power provides the Senate an ability to block nominees, it is supposed to be used sparingly. The key word is “consent,” but at an unprecedented level, the Republicans were filibustering judicial and executive appointments put forth by President Obama. It came to a head when they blocked three of his choices to fill appeals-court openings. The Republicans were daring Reid to make the nuclear move — in truth, they triple-dared him — so he did.

Actually, it wasn't a complete filibuster wipeout. There is an exception for the Supreme Court nominees, and it still can be deployed to shut

down legislation. That brought some criticism from those who believe that the GOP agenda is all about obstruction. If Barack Obama asked Congress to approve a Happy Thanksgiving resolution, it would be filibustered in the upper chamber.

Republicans vow revenge. They have plenty of tools for continuing the gridlock. The Senate rules are packed with delaying tactics. So they can retaliate against the nuclear

option with the death of a thousand cuts. The budget deals that need to be done, for instance, can be sunk if they simply refuse to negotiate. Depending on how vindictive they choose to be, we could be facing another government shutdown or debt-ceiling crisis. If you're wondering just what all this has to do with running the country, the answer is nothing.

Those on the right point out that when they've held the

power, the liberals have also embraced procedural blockades. But the Republicans have reached new highs. Or would it be lows? In the ugly world of politics, things rarely improve — they get worse.

Inside baseball? Yes, it is, but the game affects all of us. If the legislative branch can substitute political pettiness for law making, we will continue to deteriorate. That's not what a democracy is supposed to be.

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Remember pets in need this holiday season



DEAR PAW'S CORNER:

I have two dogs and a cat, and I love them all dearly. I also try to make things a little better for pets that don't have homes by helping out two days a month at the local shelter. Please let your readers know that they can make a huge difference in dogs' and cats' lives even with a small contribution. If they can't give their time, they can donate money, food or other pet-care items. — Caring in Kalamazoo

DEAR KALAMAZOO:

You told them, and thanks! The holiday season offers the most opportunities to donate, no matter what amount, to a number of causes benefiting pets. So while you're busy making gift lists and holiday preparations, don't forget to include pets in need somewhere in those thoughts. Most local shelters have Web pages online where you can find out about upcoming fundraising events, see what food or supplies are needed, or find a contact number or email address to learn more. Those that don't have a website often have listings or dedicated space in the town or community newspaper.

Major pet-care organizations and pet-supply stores have fundraising drives throughout the year, while local organizations sometimes hold supply drives and other events with the help of local businesses or municipalities.

You also can donate your free time to help out at local animal shelters. Contact your nearest shelter to see if opportunities are available, how much time is required and if additional training is needed for certain volunteer positions.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. Did you know mosquitos can transmit heartworm larvae to dogs, but fleas don't? Find out more in my new book, "Fighting Fleas," available now. © 2013 King Features Synd. Inc.

HEAR YE ... HEAR YE!




St. Dorothy's Catholic Community
will be celebrating mass starting
Sunday, December 1 at

St. Matthew's Tavern
1300 N. Mills Ave.
(Mills and Montana, just north of Colonial Dr.)

All are welcome!
Mass begins at 11 a.m.
Casual attire

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