

# Sanford Herald

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87th Year, No. 98 - Sanford, Florida

## NEWS DIGEST

### INSIDE

#### Sports

##### Florida Manor cops crown

LAKE MARY — Florida Manor rallied for five runs in the sixth inning to defeat Seminole Stromberg Carlson 9-8 and win the Lake Mary Friday Night Softball League.

**See Page 1B**

#### People

##### Volunteers of the Week

Several RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) members recently banded together to clean up litter in an area along U.S. Highway 17-92 near Five Points. These members are staunch environmentalists.

**See Page 3B**

### BRIEFS

##### Licensing department absorbed

SANFORD — The City of Sanford's Licensing Department operation is to be reassigned to other departments, rather than continue as a separate entity. The move came about following the official termination of former licensing official Gretchen Mason on Dec. 2.

City Manager Bill Simmons told the city commission last night that the department's operations will be reassigned. The cashiering will be handled by the utility department, and enforcement and administration will be under the jurisdiction of the building official.

The data processing for the licensing department had previously been reassigned.

Regarding Mason's termination, Simmons said it was for a variety of reasons mostly for accounting irregularities. "One other reason," he said, "was for insubordination, when she refused to cooperate when we launched an internal investigation."

#### PTA meeting

SANFORD — The Midway Elementary School will hold a general Parent Teacher meeting tonight, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Following the PTA meeting, a special holiday show will be held by the children. Everyone is invited.

Midway Elementary School is located at 2251 Midway.

**Compiled from staff reports**



Dec. 13

12 shopping days to Christmas

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#### More clouds, cool weather



Today: Variable cloudiness. High in the lower 70s. Wind north 10 mph.

**For more weather, see Page 2A**

## Business center boom?

### New office facility eyed

By J. MARK BARFIELD  
Herald Senior Staff Writer

LAKE MARY — Within days of buying Heathrow International Business Center, Pizzuti Development Inc. was in the Seminole County Current Planning Department with a site plan for a new office center for a 700-person software and data processing facility.

Officials with Cincinnati Bell Information Systems Inc. confirmed Monday they are in negotiations with Pizzuti for a 10-acre site near

the southern end of the HIDC between International Parkway and Interstate 4.

Pizzuti Development Co. Inc. engineers Conklin, Porter and Holmes submitted a proposal to the county for a three-story, 130,000-square-foot office building and adjacent 66,000-square-foot data processing center and parking.

County staff will critique the proposal Dec. 21.

The development application was received by the county Dec. 7, two weeks after HIDC was bought by Pizzuti Equities Inc., a partnership which includes Pizzuti Development Inc.

"We didn't really intend it to happen so quickly," said Clifford Aiken, executive vice president of

**See Business, Page 5A**

### Recoton plans expansion

By NICK PFEIFAU  
Herald Staff Writer

LAKE MARY — Officials for Recoton Corporation in Lake Mary may have their fingers crossed for luck Wednesday and Thursday when plans for a major expansion go before the city planning board Wednesday, and the city commission Thursday.

Approval will mean a large scale expansion of the facility. The lack of

approval at this time could produce problems in grant money for road paving.

Wednesday's PAZ officials will hear a request for site plan approval for a warehouse/distribution center.

Thursday, a Recoton request is scheduled for the regular commission meeting. An ordinance will be heard on second reading, rezoning five acres west of Lake Emma Road from agriculture, A-1, to heavy commercial, office, light industry, M-1A, submitted by Recoton.

When the request was presented on first reading during the Dec. 1 commission meeting, it was approved with little discussion and no objections by a unanimous vote of the commission.

**See Expand, Page 5A**

## Grant would pay for more police officers

By NICK PFEIFAU  
Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — The federal government is offering to help finance new police officers. Called COPS FAST, it is aimed at putting more law enforcement in local communities.

Sanford has already discussed the offer and plans to apply for the

grant. Lake Mary is scheduled to discuss it this Thursday evening.

In order to be considered, the program requires applications be filed by December 31 of this year.

Under the proposal, cities, with a population of under 50,000 people, are eligible to apply for a financial grant. If it is approved, the federal government pays 75 percent of the

**See Grant, Page 5A**

## Seminole loses a top official to Orange

By J. MARK BARFIELD  
Herald Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — Seminole County is losing one of its top three managers to Orange County.

Deputy County Manager Sharon Goode-Laisure is scheduled to begin Jan. 23 as director of the Division of Fiscal and Human Resources in Orange County after her recruitment by Orange County senior staff. Orange County commissioners will consider the \$90,000 appointment today.

Laisure currently earns \$81,036.

In her resignation letter to Seminole County Manager Ron Rabun, Laisure wrote her last day with his staff will be Jan. 6.

"Orange County government

**See Loss, Page 5A**



File Photo

### Longwood and 'adult' fun laws

By SANDRA ELLIOTT  
Herald Staff Writer

LONGWOOD — An attorney experienced in regulating adult entertainment advised city commissioners Monday night to focus on the core components of their proposed ordinance and expect to amend it later as the businesses and case law evolve.

Joe Cocchiarella, an attorney for the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, advised Longwood commissioners that enforcement will be the key to the ordinance's success and the city should be

**See Longwood, Page 5A**

### New apartments for Sanford?

By NICK PFEIFAU  
Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — A new residential community is being planned in Sanford.

North Ridge Apartments at the western extension of Lake Minnie Drive would house 288 units.

The matter is scheduled to be brought before the Sanford Planning and Zoning Commission during Thursday night's meeting.

Among items to be discussed are a dimensional variance and site plan consideration.

The property is owned by U.S. Home Corporation, Picene Development, and is presently zoned MR-3 for multiple-family residential. It consists of 6.63 acres. It is located southwest of

**See Apartments, Page 5A**

### Food for thought



Tons of food have been donated by members of the Sanford Masonic Lodge so area needy families will have food this holiday season. Left to right, Past Master Leroy Thrift, Chaplain Vern Brewster, and Senior Steward

Fred Wilson. Far right, interviewer Ethel Carlson, who accepted the food on behalf of the Christian Sharing Center, East 25th Street in Sanford. For more information about the center's food program, call 323-2513.









## NATIONAL BRIEFS



### Clinton previews new agenda

WASHINGTON — Trying to get a jump on Republicans, President Clinton is previewing his new agenda in a speech Thursday night, and is expected to announce his proposal for a middle-class tax cut.

"I think what he'd like to do before Christmas and perhaps this week is outline in just a little bit more detail where he's going to take the country," White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said Monday.

Clinton and senior advisers are considering a tax credit for families earning less than \$100,000 a year. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was quoted as saying in today's editions of The Washington Post. Brown said there had been no decision on the upper income limit, but it was likely to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Republicans are proposing cuts for earnings up to \$200,000.

### Campaign may repay U.S. Treasury

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's 1992 campaign should repay the U.S. Treasury a record \$4 million for a variety of spending irregularities, the Federal Election Commission staff is recommending.

The six-member commission will meet Wednesday to vote on the repayment figure, most of which stems from what the auditors concluded was federal funds to which the campaign was not entitled.

Overall, \$3.8 million of the repayment total was assessed to the primary campaign, while just \$254,546 in repayments was assigned to the general campaign, according to documents made available Monday.

And the vast bulk of the primary total — \$3.44 million — came in federal matching funds to which the FEC audit team concluded the campaign was not entitled.

The total recommended repayment is \$4,073,690.

### Financial chaos far from over

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The financial chaos in Orange County is far from over, a major Wall Street credit rating agency warns.

Moody's Investors Service, in a much-awaited review of the county's finances, said Monday that \$1.29 billion in bonds issued solely for a risky investment strategy "are extremely vulnerable" to future losses.

The county said when it became the nation's largest municipality to seek bankruptcy protection last week that it had lost \$1.5 billion due to a risky wager using a potent brew of bonds and excessive borrowing.

Analysts said losses climbed to more than \$2 billion over the weekend, and Moody's report indicates the actual damage may be far greater.

Also, the Orange County Water District, which provides drinking water to the nation's fifth most populous county, said it could be forced to default on its bonds if a bankruptcy judge doesn't let it pull \$34 million from the county's shriveled investment fund over the next 90 days.

### Kids may use some adult drugs

WASHINGTON — Pharmaceutical companies may soon sell drugs for pediatric use without doing special research to prove the medicine will be as safe and effective in children as in adults.

The Food and Drug Administration is trying to end a stalemate that has drug companies refusing to do pediatric research and pediatricians using their drugs anyway without any guidance on dosage or side effects.

"We have a duty to our children," said FDA Commissioner David Kessler, who was unveiling new pediatric drug labeling regulations today. "We can get the information we need to treat our children safely and effectively if we think creatively and are willing to commit resources to the challenge."

The FDA has required intensive pediatric trials before drugs are labeled for child use, research that is so expensive and difficult that few companies do it.

About 80 percent of prescription drugs sold in this country never get formal approval for children's use, yet pediatricians prescribe some of those drugs for children every day with no guidance on proper use.

## WORLD BRIEFS



### Acquittal outrages many

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Former President Fernando Collor de Mello's acquittal on corruption charges has outraged many Brazilians who see the verdict as a step backward in the crusade to clean up government.

A divided Supreme Court ruled 5-3 Monday that there wasn't enough evidence to convict Collor on the charges that forced him to resign in disgrace in 1992 following months of nationwide street protests.

The court excluded the prosecution's strongest evidence against Collor — computer disks detailing the workings of the purported corruption network and tapes of phone conversations — saying they were obtained illegally.

Congress had impeached Collor, 45, for taking part in a scheme that netted up to \$100 million in kickbacks from builders that were awarded public works contracts.

After a three-month trial, he resigned as the Senate met in December, 1992, to decide whether to expel him from office. He was barred from public office until 2001.

### Two small achievements

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — U.N. forces in Sarajevo received their first fuel shipment in three weeks, and five Bangladeshi peacekeepers wounded in a Serb rocket attack reached a mobile U.S. Navy hospital for treatment.

Those two small achievements were overshadowed, though, by the Serbs' near-total grip on U.N. operations in Bosnia.

The peacekeepers' injuries came when Croatian Serbs fired a wire-guided missile at an U.N. armored personnel carrier Monday in the Bihac region in northwestern Bosnia. The region has seen some of the fiercest fighting between rebel Serbs and the Muslim-led government in Bosnia's 2½-year war.

"This seems to be a direct attack on UNPROFOR," said Thant Myint-U, a U.N. spokesman, referring to the U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia.

Five wounded Bangladeshi arrived late Monday night at a mobile U.S. Navy hospital in Zagreb, Croatia.

### Russian jets buzz Chechen capital

GROZNY, Russia — Russian jets buzzed the Chechen capital and gunfire crackled on the city's outskirts today as negotiators began a second day of talks on ending the military confrontation in the breakaway republic.

Russian officials today issued their first casualty report, saying nine servicemen were killed and 14 were wounded since 40,000 Russian troops poured into Chechnya over the weekend to end its secession from Russia.

In Vladikavkaz, capital of the neighboring republic of North Ossetia, Russian and Chechen negotiators said both sides wanted an agreement. But they remained at odds over Russia's demand that Chechen forces put down their weapons. Chechnya insists that Moscow withdraw its forces first.

From Associated Press reports

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