

THE SEMINOLE HERALD

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Sanford, Florida

50¢

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MIDWEEK

JANUARY 7, 2004



Still the champions

The Seminole Athletic conference proved it was still the best in Central Florida boys soccer as the Seminole defeated Orange County in the Kraze County Challenge for the second straight year.

See Sports, Page 8

Police report two armed robberies in Sanford area

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Sanford Police Department both reported Sunday separate armed robberies of convenience stores that occurred within 40 minutes of each other.

At about 7:15 p.m., an employee of Lee's Grocery, located at 3500 E. State Road 46 in the Midway community, reported to the sheriff's office that two black males robbed the store.

Both suspects were brandishing what the store employee thought to be either rifles or shotguns. One man was identified to be about 5-foot-10, wearing gray pants, a yellow sweatshirt with a hood and covering his face with a monkey mask. The other man was reported to be about 6-foot, wearing black clothing and covering his face with a black ski mask.

The two reportedly made away with a \$1,000 and were last seen running east along State Road 46.

At about 7:50 p.m., an employee of Kwik Stop, located at 2201 W. First Street in Sanford, reported to police that a 5-foot-6 black male — wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt — entered the store with a handgun and demanded money.

The suspect got away with \$500 and was last seen running south on Persimmon Avenue.

Police K-9 units responded in both armed robberies, but a search of the area came up empty.

Seminole Smile



Linda Williams — Guidance Counselor at Idylwild Elementary School

Riverwalk construction nearly complete

By Dan Ping
Editor

SANFORD — As construction crews finish up on one major downtown project, members of the Community Redevelopment Agency are finalizing plans for the start of a second venture.

Work on the \$11 million Sanford Riverwalk is expected to be completed in late February or early March. Chris Smith, the city of Sanford's project manager,

Sanford officials prepare to begin First Street construction in late spring

said most of the major work has been completed and estimates all paving on the 1.2 mile project should be finished in January.

"Landscaping should begin in February, at which point the project will be substantially completed," Smith said.

Crews installed 1,666 seawall panels as part of the Riverwalk construction from Mellonville to French avenues. Improved landscaping, a 10-foot wide bike trail, new sidewalks, additional lighting and a newly designed Seminole Boulevard are some of the other features

built into the project.

Smith said the project contractor, Wharton Smith Inc., did run into some unforeseen problems during construction, including removing pieces of the old band shell from Lake Monroe to install the new seawall around Memorial Park and rerouting

reclaimed water lines.

"They've got 46 additional days from the original deadline to complete the project," Smith said. "But I doubt very seriously that they will need them."

Meanwhile, members of the Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) will meet today to finalize a funding process and agree to release a request for qualifications (RFQ) so that

See Construction, Page 6

Police: Father doused kids with gasoline

By Nick Pflauf
Staff Writer

Additional details have been released on the Christmas Day crash of a vehicle into a house in Altamonte Springs, where the driver, Shahab Behzadpour, 46, and his two children perished in a vehicle fire.

It was suspected in the beginning that the fire was not the result of the crash, but may have been set as the vehicle approached.

The Altamonte Springs police have now received the results from the state fire marshal's lab confirming that all three of the victims were alive at the time of the fire, but that gasoline was found on the clothing of all three. A gasoline can was found in the vehicle and several containers were found in the back seat, and police believe both of the children had been doused with the liquid prior to Behzadpour crashing his car into the house at 1122 Brantley Estates Drive.

Hope Behzadpour, and her parents, Alexander and Camia Custodio, as well as others, were inside the home observing Christmas at the time. No one inside the home was injured.

The lab report also indicated that the placement of the two children in the vehicle was important in the case. They said the oldest child, 6-year-old Nikki, was in the front passenger seat, and the

See Crash, Page 6

Lake Mary Miracle Maker



Midwife Bobbie Hanson holds Sarah Bastian, born Feb. 16, 2001. She is one of three babies Hanson has delivered for the Bastian family.

After 20 years of service, midwife credited with delivering 1,500 babies

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

From crying to laughing, Lake Mary midwife Bobbie Hanson could not control her range of emotions as Dr. Clyde Climer and his staff honored her for 20 years of service last month.

In her two decades of birthing babies, Hanson has delivered more than 1,500 children in the area. Midwifery is a field of medical service that requires long hours and

dedication to the maternity patients as Hanson can attest to as she was up to 4 a.m. the night before delivering a baby. It was the third delivery that week for Hanson.

Hanson often develops a special bond with the parents. She keeps scrapbooks of her deliveries and every baby has one page. Hanson says she is on volume 10 of her scrapbooks.

Hanson also encourages the parents to send her an updated photograph

as the child grows up so she can insert into the scrapbook. The Bastian family of Seminole County has three pages in those scrapbooks and says they couldn't have done it without Hanson's guidance.

"I have come to respect her as a professional midwife, to love her as a friend and to consider her an extended blessing to our family," said Cheryl Bastian in a letter com-

See Hanson, Page 6

Longwood downs bid for state lobbyist

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

LONGWOOD — A state lobbyist is not in the future for the city of Longwood.

Three out of the five city commissioners voted Monday against approving a contract for Ces Lawton of Harbour Communications to represent Longwood's interests in Tallahassee this year.

Mayor Dan Anderson said he viewed the \$45,000 contract for the lobbyist as a gamble because the state budget could be tight again this year.

"You're taking taxpayer money to ask somebody else to give you money," he said. "In this fiscal climate I don't think that is a wise thing to do. I just don't think I should take taxpayer money to ask my state representative for money when I'm more than capable of picking up the phone and calling my state representative and saying can you help us."

According to city officials, Longwood has never received any state funds for city projects. Anderson said there are several reasons why Longwood had not received financial aid from state and federal governments in the past. Most notably when the EPA was willing to financially help Longwood construct a sewer system the city turned them down.

"Why can't we just ask?" Anderson opined. "I think if we picked the right project there would be an inclination, if possible,

See Lobby, Page 6

Iraqi Diary: Another year in Baghdad

Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Charlie C. Carlson III, son of Sanford historian Charlie C. Carlson II, is deployed in Baghdad as part of the 549th Military Police Company. He is providing the Herald with a journal of his experiences.

2 Jan. 2004 This is my first chance to tell everyone Happy New Year. I hope it stays happy. I thought there was going to be a large amount of celebratory gun fire from off base with the Iraqis celebrating the New Year, but there was only a small amount of weapons fire. It was hard to tell if they were shooting at someone or shooting to celebrate.

We have really been busy, patrols, raids, and all that. It has turned into a full-time job trying to stay safe. On yeah, "Saddam was directing the attacks," like we really believed that myth. Saddam is in custody, and

it's worse than ever. Nearly all the 549th was involved in an engagement at the Abu Hanifa Mosqu. It was a big six-hour fire fight. The CO said it was the largest sustained fight the unit has had in Iraq. Six were wounded, only two were medically evacuated to the states. They'll be okay, but they got their ticket home at last. None of the casualties were from our platoon.

Today I went on patrol and swung by Al Jazaer Police Station to ask Colonel Ali if he had his IPF (Iraqi Police) do a recon of the Al Taqir area above Sadir City. Then we went to RSS to get Lt. Sheffield. He has been staying over there, and we had to bring him over to



Carlson

Camp Marlboro so he could be promoted to captain. He was our platoon leader, but we are suppose to get a new 2nd lieutenant female straight out of West Point. She will probably want to change things but we've broken-in three lieutenants in the past, so we will just have to train her and get her up to speed.

I have Ali Sedoon working as my interpreter today. All the interpreters wished me a Happy New Year. Salam told me about having to watch a whole litter of new-born pups. There are a bunch of dogs living over by the interpreter's shack. After the promotion ceremony for

See Diary, Page 6

McAuliffe promoted to lieutenant

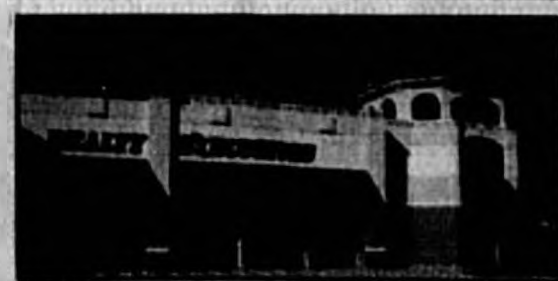


Photo submitted

On Jan. 2, Officer Jim McAuliffe was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He is assigned to the criminal investigations section. McAuliffe came to the Sanford Police Department in 1985 and worked as a patrol officer and investigator. He was promoted to Corporal in the special operations division. After nine years with the department, he accepted a criminal justice faculty position at Seminole Community College. At SCC, he held the positions of criminal justice academy coordinator and program manager over academic studies in criminal justice. He returned to the Sanford Police Department in 2001 and was assigned to the training section. McAuliffe has a master's degree in management, is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at SCC, and is the published author of a textbook on criminal investigations.



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SEMINOLE SUMMARY

A GLANCE AROUND OUR COUNTY

IN BRIEF

Seminole County Grand Jury issues 2 indictments

The Seminole County Grand Jury issued indictments in two separate cases Tuesday, one involving the July 1997 death of a 5-week-old infant and the other involving the Nov. 18, 2003, death of Troy Bouey.

Russell Richardson, 21, was indicted on a first-degree premeditated murder charge for the shooting death of 38-year-old Troy Bouey. The shooting occurred at the intersection of Jackson and Oak streets in unincorporated Altamonte Springs in November 2003 after an altercation between the two.

In the Richardson case, grand jurors heard from two witnesses, one from law enforcement and one from the medical examiner's office.

The grand jury issued a first-degree felony murder indictment of Jeffrey Rothschild for the July 30, 1997, murder of 5-week-old Jesse Laker, Rothschild's son. The case was developed by the Sanford Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Cold Case Unit.

In the Rothschild case, grand jurors also heard from two witnesses; one from law enforcement and one from the medical examiner's office.

Undercover operation reveals a 'swinger' bar in Casselberry

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office City/County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) arrested about a dozen people Dec. 19 that were allegedly involved in "swinger parties" at the Red Horse Saloon, 400 E. State Road 436 Suite 114, Casselberry.

According to Steve Olson, sheriff's office spokesman, Casselberry police and the sheriff's office received an anonymous complaint regarding an establishment that was suspected of illegally operating an adult entertainment business.

The complaint reportedly identified the Red Horse Saloon as a place where "swinger parties" were occurring every Saturday night beginning at 8 p.m. The caller further advised that during these parties, patrons inside the saloon were engaging in sexual acts that included indecent exposure, and lewd and lascivious behavior.

Beginning on Oct. 18, CCIB conducted an undercover operation within the saloon. During the two-month investigation, authorities were able to identify more than a dozen patrons, including the owner of the saloon, who were in violation of various state statutes as a result of the "swinger parties." Red Horse Saloon owner and operator Richard Michael Tourmour, 45, of Casselberry, was arrested for renting space to be used for lewdness, assignation or prostitution.

Others arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior included: David Howat Birchell, III, 41, of Winter Springs; Rita Gale Felner, 31, of Winter Springs; Bryant Lee Day, 37, of Orlando; Colleen Marie Day, 34, of Orlando; Bradley Richard Reese, 50, of Winter Park; Timothy Jason Clever, 38, of Winter Park; Karen Elizabeth Uhlmeier, 38, of Casselberry; and Syndy Conner Clark, 31, of Mount Dora.

Also arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior were Daniel Patrick Kees, 39, and Alice Lorraine Kees, 36. Addresses for both were omitted as Daniel is a law enforcement officer for a state environmental department and Alice is employed in the Seminole County Courthouse.

Public servant spotlight

Name: Michael Taylor
Professional title: Sergeant
Department: Sanford Police Department



Years on the job: Started as an auxiliary officer for Sanford police in 1980 and was brought on full time in 1987
Born: Sanford
Resident of: Sanford
Age: 49 and holding
Marital status: Married
Training: Numerous police courses
School attended: Earned an associates of science degree in criminal justice at Seminole Community College
Why did you choose your current profession: I enjoy working with people and helping the Sanford community

Wagon training



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Wicklow Elementary fifth grade students in Traci Dombroski's class recently completed studies about early settlers' westward journeys. As part of their class project, students made a replica of a covered wagon, the same type that was used for the wagon trains that moved across the continent in the early 1800s. Gathered around the wagon were Dombroski and some of her students.

DUI charges

Roni Faye Crimmins, 33, and Steven Dale Russell, 32, both of Orlando, were arrested by Sanford police Friday as the result of a traffic stop on Lake Mary Boulevard at U.S. Highway 17-92. Crimmins, driver of the vehicle was charged with driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs, driving while license is suspended, failing to register a motor vehicle, and no headlights after sunset. Russell, the passenger in the vehicle, was arrested on charges of possession of under 20 grams of marijuana, and having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Battery

• Eddie Autry Key, 26, of South Oleander Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence Saturday. Officers said he had been involved in a confrontation with his wife. He was charged with battery-touch or strike (domestic violence).

• Robert Elwin-Jonath Daughen-baugh, 18, of Country Club Circle, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence Sunday following a family dispute. He was charged with battery-touch or strike (domestic violence).

• Horace Moore Jr., 20, of



Georgia Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence Saturday, after a dispute with a visitor and her child, and a pregnant woman. He was arrested on charges of aggravated battery on a pregnant violence (domestic violence), resisting an officer without violence, and cruelty toward a child (domestic violence).

• Christopher James Legg, 25, of Elm Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at a residence in the 600 block of Palmetto Avenue where he reportedly became involved in a dispute with a female. He was charged with assault (domestic violence).

• Albert Marshall Shaffer, 63, of Pine Ridge Circle, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday following a fight with a female in the 2400 block of Park Avenue. He was charged with aggravated battery, using a deadly instrument (glass beer bottle).

Thefts

Amanda Denise Johnson, 26, of Maitland, was arrested by Sanford police on Dec. 29. Officers said she rang up a gift card in the amount of \$475 to herself from her place of employment without paying. She was charged with larceny, over \$300 but under \$20,000.

Property Damage

Margit Elizabeth Roberts, 50, of Arbor Circle, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police near her residence Sunday. Officers said she threw eggs at a man's vehicle which she said was in her parking space. She was arrested on a charge of property damage — criminal mischief of less than \$200.

Other arrests

Thomas Michael Ruby, 52, listed as homeless in Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at a business in the 3800 block of Orlando Drive, where he had been issued a no trespassing warning on Dec. 30. He was charged with trespassing after warning.

• Carlos Triman Walker, 31 of Harrison Street, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Saturday following a two vehicle crash at West Third Street and Maple Avenue. He was charged with driving with a suspended license — habitual.

Motorists find help during the holidays

By Nick Pfeiffaut
Staff Writer

For people with difficulties over the holiday period, help was available both for motorists who broke down on Interstate-4 and those who overly imbibed.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Road Rangers, patrolling I-4 through Central Florida, reported providing assistance to 1,256 motorists between Dec. 19, 2003 and Jan. 1, 2004. Monday, Dec. 22 saw the heaviest activities with 134 motorists given assistance. The second heaviest day was New Year's Eve with 124. The average number per day in

the 14 day period was over 87 motorists.

Last year, between Dec. 20 and Jan. 1, the Road Rangers in Central Florida assisted 1,002 drivers on Interstate-4.

The Tow-To-Go project undertaken by AAA Auto Club South and Budweiser managed to keep 1,314 potential drunk drivers off the roads during the holidays in Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

"We saw more use of the program this holiday season than ever before, but our success isn't tied to those numbers because they don't show the true impact of the Tow-To-Go message" said Ed Schatzman, senior vice president of automotive services for

AAA Auto Club South. "The statistics you can't track belong to the countless number of people who planned ahead by choosing a designated driver and decided not to put themselves or others in a dangerous position."

The program runs annually from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. Adults who need a ride home from bars or restaurants were only required to phone a help line. AAA dispatched a tow truck and took both the driver and the vehicle home, free of charge.

There were no specifics on how many were towed or transported home in the Florida area, or in this part of Central Florida.

OUT & ABOUT

THUR 8

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn will be playing Jan. 8 to Jan. 25 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at Seminole Community College's Fine Arts Theatre, 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford. Tickets are \$22. Senior and student discounts and group rates are available. For tickets and more information, call 407-328-2040.

At 6:30 p.m., the Central Florida general meeting of the Florida Trail Association will take place in the Camilla Room at Leu Gardens. This month's program is a "70s Trek in Utah's Grand Gulch Country." Dr. M.J. Soileau, vice president of research at University of Central Florida, backpacked in this exotic land with family and friends. He'll show some nostalgic slides of beautiful sights, visited while encumbered with what will seem like ancient gear. Bring a snack to share with your fellow hikers and don't forget to bring your aluminum cans for recycling. Public is invited.

Hospice of the Comforter is pleased to offer many seminars and bereavement groups. Children's Grief Group, open to children ages 6-12, will be held on Thursdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m. beginning Jan. 8.

Grief Support Groups will be open to the public on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 6, and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:45 beginning Jan. 7.

Loss of a Parent for Adults Support Group will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. beginning Jan. 13 and Mondays from 2:30-3:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 26.

Left Behind after Suicide Support Group will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Registration is usually required one week before class, and all classes are free. For more information, call 407-682-0808.

SAT 10

Vessels/Visage: Harold Garde will be on exhibit at Maitland Art Center from Jan. 10 through Feb. 29. In this exhibition of new work, New Smyrna artist Harold Garde has created a world of vessels and visages infused with meaning — moments in time in the lives of bottles, jars, people, and vases. For more information, call the art center at 407-539-2181 or log on to www.maitartct.org.

The Helen Stairs Theater for the Performing Arts will host Boots Randolph on Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$25.

SUN 11

At 10 a.m. at the Interlachen Historical Trail from U.S. Highway 301 in Hawthorne, the Florida Trail Association will walk a loop of 3.7 miles and stop at 25 sites, many of which are homes and commercial structures from the 19th century. Then, after stopping for lunch, there will be another hike of 3.7 miles with 8 sites of historical interest. Public is invited.

Dan Ping
Editor and Publisher

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Obituaries

MARY A. BEATTY
Mary A. Beatty, 86, of Orange City, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004. She was born in Philippi W.Va., and moved to Florida in 1976. She was a volunteer for Volusia County Council on Aging and a member of Community Methodist Church of DeBary. She belonged to Orange City Shuffleboard Club and several bowling leagues.

Survivors include sons, Jim, Benton, Ark., and Robert J., Clermont; four grandchildren.
Graveside services will be Monday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m. at Oaklawn Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Arthritis Foundation, 125 S. Swoope Ave. No. 107, Maitland, FL 32751.

Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

NELL MORGAN BLAIR
Nell Morgan Blair, 89, of Sanford, died Monday, Jan. 5, 2004. A long time resident of Daytona Beach, she moved to Sanford two years ago. She was born in Georgia. She was a member of First Methodist Church of Ormond Beach and the Altar Guild.

Survivors include son, Larry D. Blair; daughter, Beth Page Bates; three granddaughters, all of Sanford.
Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, in Daytona Memorial park, with her close friend and former pastor, Rev. William L. Brackman, Jr. of Lakeland, officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Brisson Funeral Home.
Brisson Funeral Home, Sanford, in charge of arrangements.

DORA MAE COX
Dora Mae Cox, 87, of Apopka, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, at Tandem Health of West Altamonte. She was born July 17, 1916, in Penns Grove, N.J. She was a homemaker and a Lutheran. She was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army.
Survivors include husband, Robert F. Sr.; son, Robert F. Jr., Daytona Beach; daughters, Donna Macurda of California, Judy West, Apopka; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.
Graveside services were held at Oaklawn Park Cemetery on Jan. 6.
Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn

Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

LEO ANTHONY GABELE
Leo Anthony Gabele, 97 of Sanford, died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at Central Florida Regional Hospital. He was born Aug. 28, 1906, in Massillon, Ohio and moved to Sanford in 1966. He was a railroad conductor and charter member of the Over 50 Club. He belonged to the All Souls Catholic Church.

Survivors include wife, Frances of Sanford; son, Leo of Cape Coral; seven grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren.
Gramkow Funeral Home, Sanford, in charge of arrangements.

MARY H. JONES
Mary H. Jones, 64, of Winter Springs, died Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004. She was born Aug. 5, 1939, in Chicago. She was retired from account billing.

Survivors include daughter, Sharon S. Setright; sisters, Joyce M. Generali and Patricia E. Goodstein; mother, Bernadine E. Halloran.
Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 9, at Nativity Catholic Church.
Banfield Funeral Home, Winter Springs, in charge of arrangements.

EVERETTE McLENNON SR.
Everette McClellon, Sr., 49, of Highland Avenue, Sanford, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, at Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford. He was born July 17, 1954, in Sanford, and was educated in Seminole County Public Schools.

Survivors include daughters, Veronica and Elizabeth McClellon; son, Everette Jr.; step sons, Calvin Mathis and Joseph Lott; sister, Betty Campbell; brothers, Willie Jr., Carl Lindsey, Marvin Alvin, and Daniel Lee; and a host of nieces and nephews.
Morning Glory Funeral Home, Tampa, in charge of arrangements.

HERMAN ROBERSON, SR.
Herman Roberson, Sr., 76, of Robinwood Drive, Longwood, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, in Longwood. He was born in Birmingham, Ala. He was the owner and operator of a plumbing company. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He was also a member of Church Alive.
Survivors include wife, Betty Jean Roberson; son, J.R. Boverson; son, Wayne Roberson; son, Ben

Roberson; son, Daryl Roberson; daughter, Sandi Frye; sisters Nell, Elizabeth, Myrtice, and Minnie; 14 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.
Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

SCOTT 'SCOTTY' WALTER ROHDE
Scott "Scotty" Walter Rohde, 49, of Lake Mary, died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, in Altamonte Springs. He was born on May 20, 1954, in Chicago. He was a fitness trainer at Platinum Gym and a motivational speaker.

Survivors include wife, Judy C. Whitted-Rohde; son, Jeromy Rohde; four stepchildren.
Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 3:30 p.m. at Banfield Funeral Home with Pastor Stanley E. Coon officiating. Interment will be at Oaklawn Memorial Park, Sanford.
Banfield Funeral Home, Winter Springs, in charge of arrangements.

MILDRED F. STEVENS
Mildred F. Stevens, 84, of Lake Mary, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, at her residence. She was born in Cynthiana, Ky. She was a college administrator and a member of Central Baptist Church. She belonged to Eastern Star.

Survivors include husband, J.P. Stevens; sisters Anna Russell Faulkner of Kentucky and Georgie Schmit, Lake Placid, Fl.
Graveside funeral services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m. at Oaklawn Park Cemetery

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with Rev. Jimmy Dale Patterson officiating.
Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

IDA MAE WERMERS
Ida Mae Sumler Wermers, 75, of Haverhill & Methuen, Ma., died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at the Kenoza Manor Nursing Home, Haverhill, Ma. She was born in Dry Branch, Ga., and was educated in Florida. She was a clerical worker for Flavor Fresh and had worked as a clerk for the Internal Revenue Service. She was a member of Grace Church.

Survivors include sons, Ronald and Eric, both of Salem, N.H.; daughter, Caroline E. Wermers, Methuen, Ma.; brothers, Albert Sumler, Keystone Heights, Fl., and James C. Sumler, Lakeland; sister, Mary Elizabeth Waters, West Bradenton; two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Douglas & Johnson Funeral Home, 214 Main St., Salem, N.H. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery, Salem.

Douglas & Johnson Funeral Home, Salem, N.H., in charge of arrangements.

Architect of old Giants Stadium in Sanford dies

From Staff Reports

Harry Lee Lindsey, an architect and Central Florida native, died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003.

He was born July 20, 1914, in Hopkins, Fla. (now Melbourne) and grew up in Geneva. At age 14, he lost a leg in a hunting accident. He attended Seminole High School in Sanford and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture at the University of Florida. Serving in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, he traveled the state, laying out airfields including MacDill Field in Tampa, and McCoy, which grew to become Orlando International Airport.

After the war, he established an architectural firm in Orlando, where he designed the downtown Rutland Building, and in Sanford, the Giants Stadium south of the present stadium but since demolished, listed as a historic site.

For many years, he was associated with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1963 he left the post of director of architectural engineering in Washington, D.C. to become special assistant to the regional administrator in Titusville.

He also was chairman of the Orlando Jaycees Beautifi-

cation Committee, and pushed to establish the city's first parks board, to which he was appointed.

He left his firm to become, associate professor of architecture at the University of Florida where he drafted the first housing code for the Southern Building Code Congress and established the nation's first training courses for building inspectors.

He is also credited with establishing the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to which he was appointed after his retirement, and in winning approval for Jetty Park at Cape Canaveral.

He retired from HUD and moved to Longwood in 1974, where he served on the city's planning and zoning board. After the death of his wife Alice, he moved to Lantana, where he spent the rest of his days.

Survivors include daughter, Martha Musgrove of West Palm Beach, Patricia Anne Close of Gouldsboro, Me., and the Rev. Susan Kathleen Parchem of Swainsboro, Ga.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Monday at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in West Palm Beach under the direction of Quattlebaum Funeral Home.

Oaklawn Memorial Park FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY
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BUSINESS

Gripping with Clarity



By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

LAKE MARY — Some prefer their favorite television show such as the Sopranos. Others would rather show their school spirit with a Seminole or Gator. No matter what a golfer's taste is C-Thru Grips is sure to have a "handle" on the situation.

Moving from Maitland to 103 Commerce St., Suite 120 in Lake Mary last year, C-Thru Grips is taking a hold on the PGA Tour and is now driving home the point to everyday golfers throughout Central Florida and the nation.

"It's been around a couple of years, but it's just starting to take off," said Mike Jamison, a public relations spokesman for C-Thru Grips.

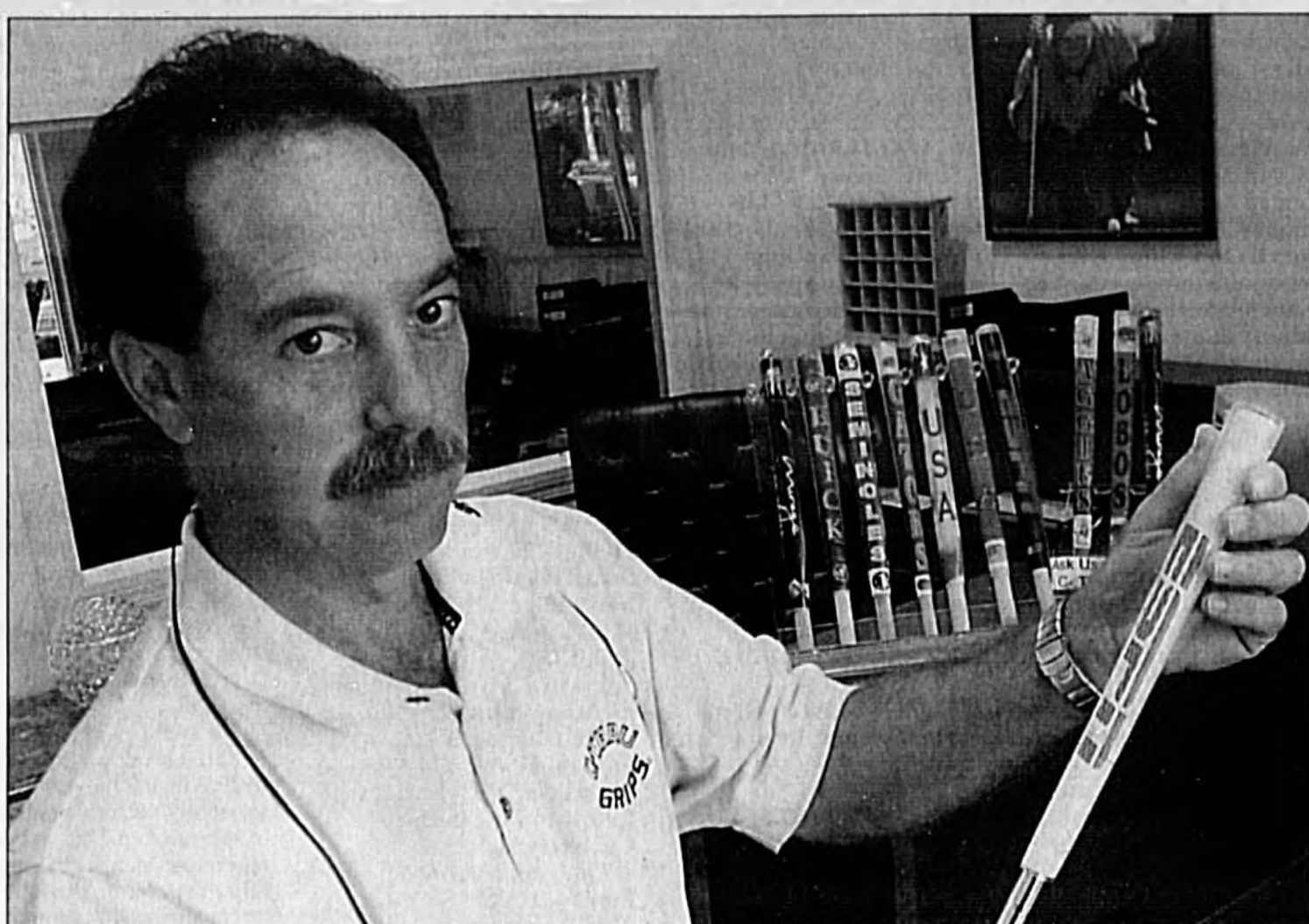
From Heathrow's Chris DiMarco to many other PGA Tour pros, they are all sporting C-Thru Grips designs on their golf clubs. The product is a simple addition that can be made to any club in about an hour.

The old grip is removed and the shaft is cleaned. A new custom vinyl label is applied to the shaft. Hair spray is squirted into the new clear C-Thru Grip and then slid over on top of the label. That's all it takes, but it wasn't first discovered until three years ago when Mickey Novak, director of tour relations at C-Thru Grips, was working on clubs at the David Leadbetter Golf Academy.

"No one had ever tried to put anything underneath it before," he said.

"Originally it started as a paper label printed off on the computer."

What helps C-Thru Grips separate itself from other grips is its huge catalog of designs and logos, and its unique solvent — hair spray. Novak said he discovered the wonder spray



Herald photos by Tommy Vincent

Mickey Novak of C-Thru Grips in Lake Mary says the company has started to really take off since it moved from Maitland last year. He's showing off one of his favorite C-Thru Grips designed for ESPN.

when he had a lot of experience changing out bike grips for his son, who used to race BMX bikes.

As simple as it may seem, the golfing industry is a big moneymaker and C-Thru Grips is positioning itself to reap some of the rewards.

"I would say having the acceptance on the tour last year and growing from there to 15 to 20 guys got us going," Novak said.

With a couple dozen professional golfers carrying the C-Thru Grips in their bags, the Lake Mary company starting getting the best advertisement available — the free variety. When DiMarco was tied for first after the last round of the 2001 Greater Milwaukee Open, the television cameras were frequently zooming in on him as he lined up putts. Sure enough the cameras were also showing his University of Florida Gator and Ping grip. As a result, C-Thru Grips received about 800 calls the next week from golfers and Gator fans looking for DiMarco's golf club grip.

C-Thru Grips carries hundreds of designs including more than 150 college logos. The company has customized grips for ESPN, Bay Hill and other corporate sponsors of golfing tournaments. They have also produced designs for companies that offer the grips with the company logos on them to employees and customers as gifts.

In addition, the Lake Mary company can customize grips for an individual golfer. One PGA Tour pro has pictures of his kids on the majority of his clubs, Novak said. However, there are some restraints because C-Thru Grips cannot reproduce any trademarked or copyrighted logo without permission.

Officials at C-Thru Grips are in continuous negotiations with other major sporting leagues, including NASCAR, and other corporations for rights to their copyrighted logos.

"It will grow to the point where we will have just about everything in stock," Jamison said.

For more information, call C-Thru Grips at 407-333-1333 or log on to the Web site at www.c-thrugrips.com.

Longstaff joins new lending company

G. Geoffrey Longstaff, chief operating officer at NAI Realvest Partners LLC in Maitland, plans to relinquish those duties in January to devote full time to his position as chairman of Mercantile Commercial Capital, LLC in which he is a principal.

Longstaff is also a principal at NAI Realvest, a major commercial real estate services company and developer of industrial facilities. Longstaff joined NAI Realvest in 2000. He helped launch Mercantile Commercial Capital in February. The firm is the only commercial lender in the area and the U.S. that specializes exclusively in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loans that provides financing to small and mid-sized business owners to acquire or develop their own facilities.

Longstaff has more than 25 years of banking experience in central Florida. He founded First Mercantile National Bank in Winter Park and served as president before selling the community bank to Regions Financial Corporation in 1997.

George Livingston, president of NAI Realvest Partners, and a board member in Mercantile Commercial Capital, said he is delighted with Longstaff's decision.

"Mercantile Commercial Capital has literally bloomed over the past few months and the potential for the firm is enormous," he said. "Geof Longstaff is one of the most astute commercial banking executives in the area."

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Stirling names Baird-Boothe as new sales executive at Heathrow showcase center

Stirling International Realty, Inc. has named Beverly Baird Boothe sales agent at its Heathrow real estate showcase center.

Anthony Bassile, sales manager at Stirling, said Boothe, a former high school teacher and principal at high schools in Hollywood and Coral Springs, Fla., graduated from Fairmont State College in West Va. and Florida Atlantic University. She was also an administrator at Seminole Community College.

Bassile said Boothe has been heavily involved in community service for the last seven years from Florida beauty pageant judging, Helen Stairs Theatre preservation in Sanford; serving as a volunteer mediator for the Supreme Court in family law cases and chaired American Cancer Society annual fashion shows.

She is a member of Orlando Realtor Assn.; Fla. Assn. of Realtors and the National Assn. of Realtors.

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Colonial BancGroup acquires P.C.B. Bancorp in Florida

Colonial BancGroup Chairman and CEO Robert E. Lowder and P.C.B. Bancorp, Inc. CEO and President Paul V. Mellini jointly announced that the companies have entered into a definitive agreement to merge P.C.B. Bancorp, Inc. ("PCB") and its four banking subsidiaries: Premier Community Bank of South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale), Premier Community Bank of Florida (Largo), Premier Community Bank of Southwest Florida (Ft. Myers), and Premier Community Bank (Venice) into Colonial BancGroup.

As of September 30, 2003, PCB had total assets of \$664 million. PCB's four subsidiary banks operate sixteen full-service offices in Florida, four offices in St. Petersburg, two offices in the cities of Venice and Ft. Lauderdale, respectively, and one office in each of the following cities: Pembroke Pines, Miami, Belleair Bluffs, Largo, Clearwater, Englewood, Ft. Myers and Lehigh Acres as well as a loan production

office in Sarasota. Once completed, this transaction is expected to enhance Colonial's position as the sixth largest bank and tenth largest financial institution in Florida with approximately \$4.9 billion in deposits in Florida.

"We are very excited about this opportunity. It represents an exceptional fit with our existing branch locations, significantly enhancing our market presence in key Florida markets," said Mr. Lowder.

"We are very pleased with this merger agreement," added Mr. Mellini. "Colonial Bank believes in a community bank model that puts its customers first; the same philosophy we have here at PCB. Additionally, with Colonial we will be able to offer new delivery channels and enhanced products and services to our customer base."

The locations gained through this acquisition are expected to fold well into Colonial's existing footprint on the east and west coasts of

Florida. In Broward and Miami-Dade counties, the merger is expected to add four locations in Colonial's South Florida Region, increasing its locations to 28. On the west coast, the addition of five locations in Lee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties is expected to bring Colonial's Southwest Florida Region to 23 locations. Furthermore, the PCB office in Charlotte County will mark Colonial's first location in that market.

Colonial's Bay Area Region, headquartered in Tampa, is expected to see the biggest increase in size from the merger with PCB. Colonial's footprint in this area currently consists of 16 offices in Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Colonial BancGroup is a \$15.8 billion national bank holding company headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama with more than 270 offices in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Nevada, Tennessee and Texas. It is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CNB, listed in most newspapers as ColBgp, and located on the Internet at www.colonial-bank.com.

Robles named Employee of the Month



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent
Sanford City Manager Al Grieshaber presents Tim Robles with the Employee of the Month award. Robles, who serves as the city's fire inspector, was nominated for the award by Lt. Vincent Fiorelli. "Within the past year Tim has gone beyond his job responsibilities in many areas," Fiorelli wrote. "He has performed at a higher level of responsibility in many aspects of the Fire Prevention Division while the Fire Marshal was out on extended sick leave, all the while maintaining his other job responsibilities. ... I should not be nominating him for employee of the month, I should be nominating him for employee of the year! Tim is one of the unsung heroes of the Fire Department and the city of Sanford."

Shipwreck Cafe opens



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent
David Watson, third from left, his employees and members of the Sanford Chamber of Commerce gathered Monday morning for the grand opening of the Shipwreck Cafe, located at 307 E. 1st Street in downtown Sanford. The cafe serves a full breakfast and lunch menu and orders can be faxed for quick pick-up. For more information, call 407-323-9905.

Lake Mary firm expands presence in Windsong

Lake Mary-based Signature Homes Construction, Inc., already one of the busiest homebuilders in Windsong in old Winter Park, should be even busier over the coming months.

The award-winning homebuilding company recently acquired 13 home sites in the Windsong neighborhood of Elizabeth's Walk and will introduce a new line of home plans featuring swimming pools and three-car garages and design styles ranging from New England to Country French to Mediterranean.

Spokesman Larry Fleming says that, because of the size of the home sites acquired, Signature Homes will be able to provide a slightly larger product from what's currently available in Elizabeth's Walk and still stay well below the \$1 million price point.

Living areas are expected to range from 3,400 to 4,500 square feet, with

home prices starting in the low \$800s.

"Elizabeth's Walk gives us an opportunity to introduce an exciting new product from what we've done previously here in Windsong," says Fleming. "While these homes may be smaller, they will have many of the same features, finishes and design treatments that have marked our success elsewhere in the community."

Because the acquired lots in Elizabeth's Walk are oversized (100-foot x 150-foot), they can accommodate both normal sized swimming pools and three-car garages - two key elements that will be a part of the Signature Homes' package.

Signature Homes already has made a big splash in Elizabeth's Walk, pre-selling four homes, including a spec under construction that the company planned to enter in the 2004 Spring Parade of Homes.

Since becoming one of Windsong's

preferred builders, Signature Homes has built and sold 16 homes throughout Windsong, including two homes that were showcased in the 2002 Street of Dreams.

Elizabeth's Walk is one of six distinctive residential enclaves remaining in the 250-home luxury community that borders Lakes Mizell, Virginia and Berry on the Winter Park chain of lakes. The other neighborhoods include Lakeside, North Shore, Lookout Landing, The Estates and Preserve Point. Home prices range from a half-million dollars to more than \$5 million.

Windsong's Sales & Information Center is located at 281 Genius Drive in Lakeside, approximately one-half mile south of Aloma Avenue. For more information call (407) 644-4411 or visit Windsong's Internet Website at www.windsongfl.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Lake Mary, Florida, that said Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2004 and Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon as possible thereafter as possible.

The City of Lake Mary proposes to adopt the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE MARY, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 154.62 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED, "PO PROFESSIONAL OFFICE" TO ADD ART SCHOOLS; PROVIDING CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public input on the proposed ordinance. The Commission may vote to approve the ordinance on first reading and schedule the ordinance for a second reading and final public hearing or deny said ordinance. The proposed ordinance will effect posting of properties regulations throughout the entire jurisdiction of Lake Mary.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection in the Community Development Office, Lake Mary Police Department, 165 E. Crystal Lake Avenue, Lake Mary, Florida, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., or you may call 407-585-1426 for information concerning these amendments.

The Public Hearing will be held in the Lake Mary Community Center at 260 N. Country Club Rd., Lake Mary. The public is invited to attend and be heard. Said hearing may continue from time to time until the Mayor and City Commission make a final decision.

NOTE: PERSONS ARE ADVISED THAT THE CITY MAKES A TAPED RECORD OF THIS MEETING FOR ITS CONVENIENCE. THIS RECORD MAY NOT CONSTITUTE AN ADEQUATE RECORD FOR THE PURPOSES OF APPEAL FROM A DECISION MADE BY THE CITY. ANY PERSON WISHING TO ENSURE THAT AN ADEQUATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MAINTAINED FOR APPELLATE PURPOSES IS ADVISED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS AT HIS OR HER OWN EXPENSE.

NOTE: IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY ADA COORDINATOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING AT 407-585-1424.

CITY OF LAKE MARY, FLORIDA

Lobby

Continued from Page 1

to help." Commissioner Butch Bundy, who voted in favor of the lobbyist along with Commissioner Mike Holt, originally suggested the idea during a December meeting. He said the vote Monday was a missed opportunity for Longwood.

"I just don't think it was a gamble as much as an investment," he said. "I think it's especially important to have (a lobbyist) when budget years are tight. When the money is tight at the state you can bank they are not going to send any money your way if you don't have somebody there actively campaigning and working trying to get it."

Bundy added that he thought why Longwood never has received state funding is because the city fails to register on the state's "radar screen."

"We're a small town. We are 14,000 people so we have never gone before them and actively sought funds and this was an opportunity to do so," he said.

Holt said he thought the idea of lobbyist for Longwood was a good idea, especially after attending the Seminole County Legislative Delegation public meeting last month.

"It just seemed like a good idea that we would have a representative of the city," he said. "If you can get a \$100,000 — well take it. The thing we failed to realize is it's an election year coming up and the pocketbooks open more freely during an election year."

Lawton represented the city of Oviedo last year, and according to city officials, he is expected to secure \$100,000 to \$200,000 in state aid for improving conditions of lower-income housing during this year's state legislature session.

Longwood and Casselberry remain the only cities in Seminole County that do not annually retain or occasionally contract a state lobbyist.

Diary

Continued from Page 1

Captain Sheffield, I walked with Ali Sedoon over to the interpreter shack to see the pups. On the way I saw the LTC (Lieutenant-Colonel) and the CSM (Command Sergeant-Major) leaving our compound with a regular MP patrol from another company. You can't leave post unless you have at least three vehicles with mounted weapons.

Winter concert planned for Jan. 11



Herald photo by Marva Hawkins

The Second Annual Winter Concert will be held Sunday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. at Second Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 2150 W. Airport Blvd. Featured will be the combined choir efforts, under the direction of Craig Cooper, 407-322-4971, Riley Crowley, Cynthia Cassanova Brown, Richard Grey and Terrance Jenkins. Come join and be blessed. Sing praises unto the Lord. Proceeds will benefit Women of Renewing Minds Transitional House Ministry, located on West Pecan Avenue, Stephine McClain Littles, director.

Boys Choir of Tallahassee to perform at Stetson

The DeLand Alumni Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Stetson University presents the Boys Choir of Tallahassee in concert, Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 7

p.m. in Elizabeth Hall, Stetson University. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students \$10 For tickets or more information, call Clestine Thomas, 386-736-8614.

Construction

Continued from Page 1

work can begin on renovating 1st Street.

The project will beef up electrical and stormwater capacity under the city's historic main street. In addition, the project will add increased landscaping and streetscaping features — more trees, intersection roundabouts, extra lighting and wider sidewalks — and realign the angled parking spaces along the street to parallel parking.

Kevin Smith, the city finance director, said one of the main agenda items for CRA members will be to determine how the board wants to finance the project. Some board members have expressed a desire to fund the project without city assis-

stance. Smith said when agencies like the CRA borrow money, lending institutions usually require a "covenant to budget and appropriate" from either the city or county the CRA is associated with.

"That covenant means the city will budget an amount of money equal to the loan and appropriate it in case the CRA failed to pay off the loan," Smith said. "In essence, you're pledging the city's good faith and credit."

Several lenders indicated they would loan the CRA money to do the 1st Street project without such a covenant, Smith said, but at a higher interest rate.

"We wouldn't be able to

Hanson

Continued from Page 1

mending Hanson for her service." She has changed my attitude toward the life changing event of birthing a baby and has been an example of a person who loves and cares for others, setting aside her own desires and needs."

Hanson is well known throughout Seminole County as her medical career began in Central Florida at a Sanford hospital. As the head nurse in the newborn nursery at Central Florida Regional Hospital, she received the Thomas Frist Humanitarian Award in 1983.

After being hired by Cljmer to staff a birthing center in Longwood at South Seminole Hospital, he encouraged her to go back to school to earn a master's degree.

She received her master's degree from the University of Florida's Midwifery program, and started a new chapter in her life. She said she chose the field of midwifery because "that's the good part of the job. That's the one that gives the most fulfillment as you see some positive things happening."

During the presentation of her dedicated service, Cljmer



Herald photo by Christopher Patton

Midwife Bobbie Hanson shows off a locket that her boss Dr. Clyde Cljmer presented to her for 20 years of service.

presented Hanson with a 20-year watch and a plaque that commemorates her 20 years of midwifery. He said he first noticed Hanson when she was awarded the humanitarian award at Central Florida Regional Hospital and said "with a recommendation like that I knew that was a person I needed in my office."

Cljmer and physicians

Crash

Continued from Page 1

youngest child, 4-year-old Sammi, was secured in a car seat behind the driver, in the back seat.

Autopsies were completed within a few days, and while full details were not immediately released, it was reported that there were no signs of outward injuries to the bodies of the children.

Further results from the state fire marshal's lab report show that six separate samples from six different containers found in the car were tested, and all six contained gasoline.

Behzadpour's wife, Hope, had filed for divorce in July, and a restraining order had been placed against him. The children had been assigned to a special guardian to look after their well being.

The investigation into the case is continuing with further results expected from the Medical Examiner's Office.

NOTICE

The St. Johns River Water Management District has received an application for Consumptive Water Use from:

Rolling Hills Golf Club, 1749 Art Hagen Pl, Longwood, FL 32750, application #3812. The District authorizes the use of groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer and stormwater/surfacewater from a stormwater management system to irrigate 80 acres of golf course turf grass using a pop-up sprinkler system. The withdrawals used by this proposed project will consist of groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer via 3 active wells and Surface Water from 4 ponds via 1 active pump and 1 proposed pump in Seminole County, located in Sections 1, 2, Township 21 South, Range 29 East, known as Rolling Hills Golf Club.

The file(s) containing each of the above-listed application(s) are available for inspection Monday through Friday except for legal holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the St. Johns River Water Management District Headquarters or the appropriate service center. Written objections to the application may be made, but should be filed with (received by) the District Clerk, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida 32177-1429, no later than 14 days from the date of publication. Written objections should identify the objector by name and address, and fully describe the objection to the application. Filing a written objection does not entitle you to a Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Administrative Hearing. Only those persons whose substantial interests are affected by the application and who file a petition meeting the requirements of Sections 120.596 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, may obtain an Administrative hearing. All timely filed written objections will be presented to the Board for consideration in its deliberations on application prior to the Board taking action on the application.

Gloria Lewis, Director, Division of Permit Data Services
St. Johns River Water Management District

borrow as much money," said CRA Vice Chairman Bob Parsell, one of those who asked Smith to research the board's funding options. "The thing you've got to remember, too, is the city of Sanford is liable for whatever we do regardless of whether we have a covenant or not. If the city's going to be on the hook for the money, we might as well go in with them and get the best deal we can."

Smith and Parsell said they expect the CRA to borrow just under \$2 million for the project. The loan will be repaid from CRA tax revenues over the next 12 years.

Requests for Qualifications for the 1st Street project are expected to be advertised

beginning Jan. 25, with a public opening of all responses on Feb. 23. A selection committee will then evaluate the responses to narrow down the list to the companies involved in the final bidding. The committee is comprised of CRA member Bob Kuhn, director of planning and community development Russ Gibson, city engineer Bilal Iftikar, deputy city manager Andrew Van Gaale, businessman Theo Hollerbach, and utilities director Paul Moore.

Formal bidding will be held March 1 to March 12 and a contract will be awarded on March 22. The project will begin April 1, though actual work will most likely not begin until late April.

Marlboro has no facility for mailing a package. If our patrol mission takes us some place else then we are delayed in sending out packages. I will send it out as soon as I can. Also there will be something written in the unit's January newsletter that goes to Fort Stewart about the 38 boxes that we received and a letter is being drafted and signed by the platoon, as time and missions permit, to thank everyone and the Herald.

We have been informed that we will be coming back to Iraq sometime after August 2004 for another year. We haven't even got our orders to go home yet and they are already talking about coming back to this hell hole. Not me, I'll go to Canada first. I'm sick of this constant recycling of the same battle worn troops in-and-out of one war after the other, while most Americans never serve a single day in boots. Look at those million-

dollar sports stars that everybody praises. They never serve in anything. Or how about Lee Greenwood, who made millions off his "fighting for America" song? He's never served in uniform. For that matter, how about the coward politicians that send us into battle? You never see them or their kids in combat.

But don't expect the draft to be cranked-up, that would be bad news for election campaigns. Instead they'll just keep recycling the same old reserves and regular troops until they finally kill us off. Even the recruiting command has lowered its qualifications trying to attract more cannon fodder, while the rest of us are trapped forever by this idiotic indentured servitude thing called an "indefinite enlistment." Heck, if any other country did this, Americans would be raising cane about it. I say if you want to create a war, or in our case, multiple wars, then it only makes

sense to have the assets to fight them and a plan on how to get out. We're doing the job worldwide of 15 divisions with only ten active divisions. Forget about defending the country. The only thing left are recruiters, clerk typists, and the army bands. I suppose we could launch saxophones and tubas at the enemy if somebody decides to invade the U.S. Maybe I'm just cynical, or perhaps suffering from shell shock, but none of it makes any sense to me.

I just heard that a convoy of army fuel tanker trucks was hit today south of Baghdad. They blew up a big fuel tanker. Yesterday they shot down another U.S. chopper in Fullujah and here in Baghdad they've been shelling the Doura section as part of Operation Iron Grip. Things don't look so good. We've been busier than ever over the past few weeks.

Next issue: The gossip about Saddam's capture.

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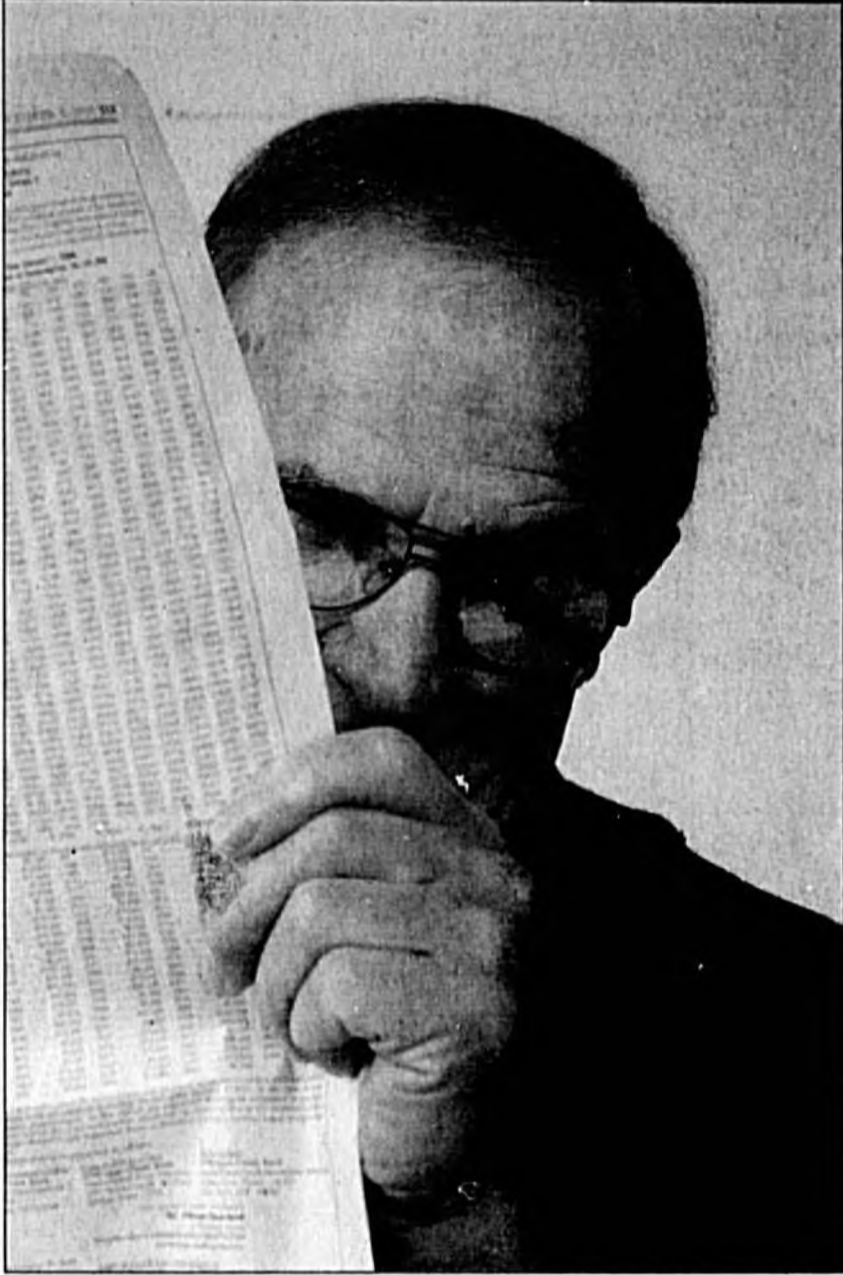
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Sports

Briefs

SANFORD LITTLE LEAGUE

Sanford Little League will be holding spring registration for baseball and softball teams (boys and girls ages 5-15) on the following weekends: January 10th & 11th; 17th & 18th and 24th & 25th at the Walmart Supercenter on 17-92 in Sanford from 10 a.m.-to-4 p.m. each day.

Fee to register is \$40. The Sanford Little League is also currently having a membership drive for the Spring 2004 Season.

The membership fee is only \$10.

For more information call 407-755-2006.

LONGWOOD BABE RUTH

Longwood Babe Ruth (LWBR) is having its Spring 2004 registration at Candyland Park on Grant Street in Longwood.

The dates are Saturdays January 10th, 17th and 24th from 9 a.m.-to-1 p.m. On January 24 we will also be doing skills evaluation.

Ages from 5-to-19 will be registered with 5-and-6 year olds free for first time players.

ALTAMONTE GIRLS SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

Altamonte Springs Fast-Pitch Softball will be holding spring softball season registration for girls ages 5-18 at Merrill Park in Altamonte Springs. Registration will be held on Saturday, January 10th, 2004 and Saturday, January 17th, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Evaluation/Team Placement will be held on Saturday, January 24th, 2004 - times will be announced at registration.

For additional information, please email David or Wanda Phillips at coachias@aol.com, or call 407-332-7754 Ext. 211.

ALTAMONTE BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Final registration sign ups for the 2004 Altamonte Springs Babe Ruth Baseball League will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastmonte Park in Altamonte Springs.

All players must attend registration to participate in the league. The cost for residents is \$80, and \$90 for non-residents.

For more information, please contact US Sports Management at 407-263-7910, or Bob Loveland at 407-263-7910 or by email at Robertloveland78@aol.com.

WINTER SPRINGS SOFTBALL

The Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department will be taking registrations through January 9 for returning teams and Jan. 12-30 for new teams for the Spring 2004 season.

WSPRD offers both recreational and competitive leagues for Men and Women Class 'C' and 'D' teams, plus Co-Ed and Corporate leagues.

The cost is \$350 per team, includes team ASA Registration. There is also a \$5 city non-resident fee per player.

All games are played at Central Winds Park, 1000 E. SR 434 (Next to Winter Springs High), and the leagues play under ASA and City of Winter Springs guidelines.

For more info call Joel at 407-327-8964, the WSPRD at 407-327-6589 or check the internet at www.winterspringsfl.org

Seminole soccer still the best

By Dean Smith
Sports Editor

While it means absolutely nothing as far as the playoffs go, the boys' soccer teams from the Seminole Athletic Conference can still walk with their heads held high today.

For the second straight year the SAC whipped its counterparts from Orange County to repeat as champions of the Kraze County Challenge

SAC boys repeat as Kraze County Challenge champs

held at Winter Springs and Oviedo high schools this past weekend.

Seminole went 4-2-1 on Friday to take a 13-7 lead into Saturday's final day and then got shutout wins from Oviedo, 2-0 over Boone, and Lyman,

1-0 over Edgewater, to go 3-3-1 and secure a 10-10 tie for the day and an overall victory of 23-17.

On Friday, Lake Mary got goals from Eric Gorden, Pat Donoho, Ian Hauk, Josh Alves, Kenny Myers and

Joris Claessens scored goals and the Rams' defense was stifling as they whitewashed West Orange, 6-0.

Oviedo also got a 6-0 shutout as Jack Luker scored two goals and Kris Raad and Drew Shulman had two assists each in the victory over Dr. Phillips.

In fact, all of the SAC wins on Friday were by wide shutouts as Lake See Soccer, Page 9

MFW to present Slammin' into 2004

Special to the Herald

Mid-Florida Wrestling will be holding its first show of the new year, "Slammin' into 2004", at the Sanford Civic Center this Saturday night, January 10.

The card will have five matches with two being championship tilts.

The Main Event will feature a World Tag Team Title defense with Damian Goth and Nightmare challenging the champions, the Unchained Outlaws.

The Semi-Main Event will be for the Cruiserweight Title with champion Rouge putting his belt up against Cpl. Wright.

The night's action opens with a singles matchup between Bill Crude and Outlaw Tom Bass.

In another mano-y-mano matchup, El Macho takes on Phil Crude.

Heavyweight champion El Diablo will also be on the card in a non-title three-way match against Denis and Lonewolf.

The Sanford Civic Center is located at 401 E. Seminole Boulevard (407-321-2838), but with Seminole Boulevard being closed, you must get to the building by taking 1st Street to Sanford Avenue and turn north toward Lake Monroe and the Civic Center is on the right.

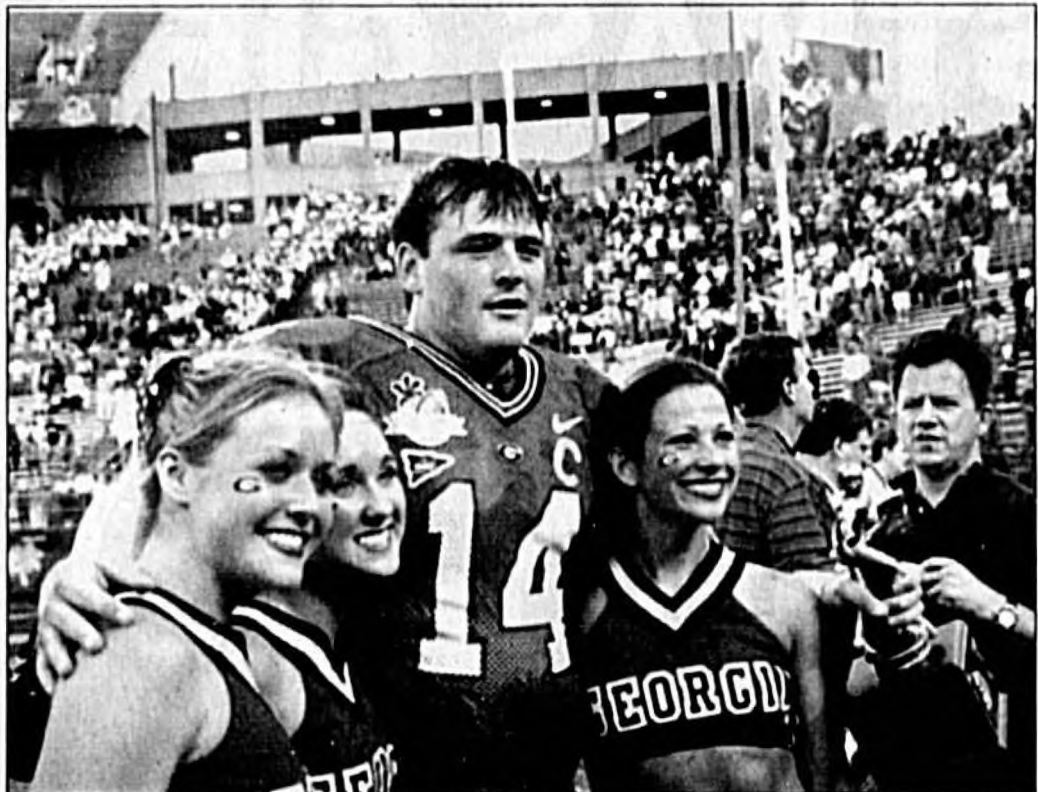
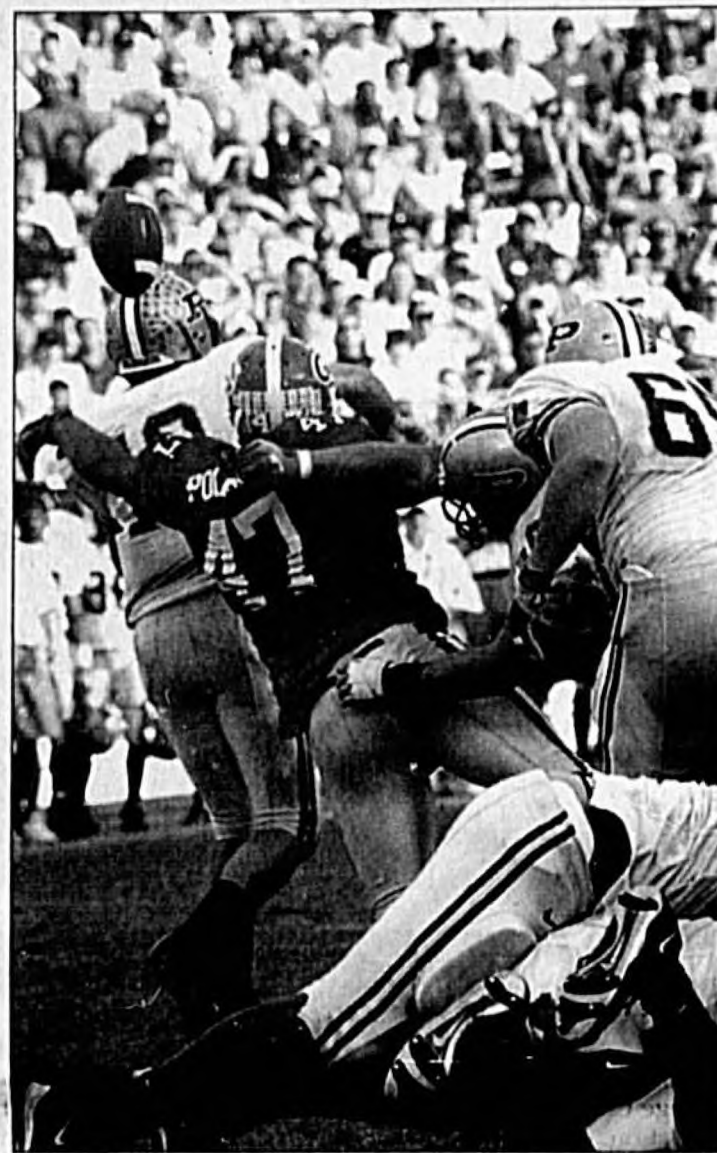
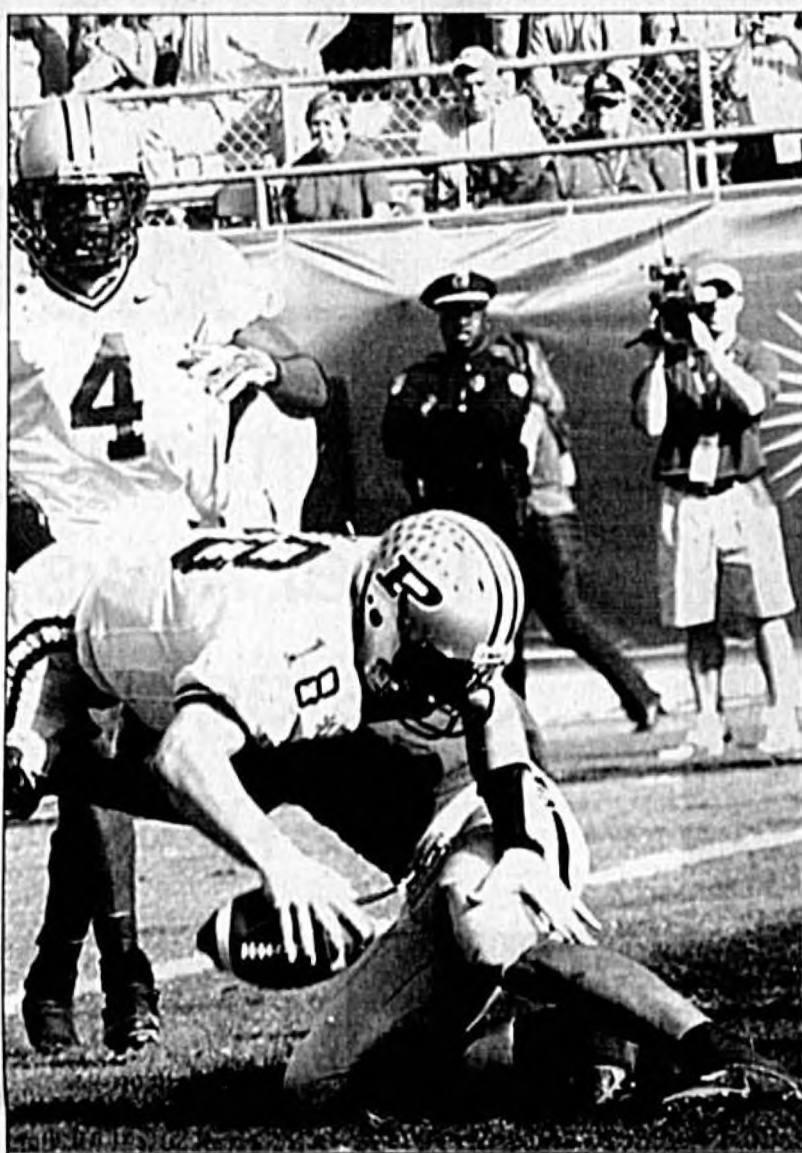
You must park in the lot between the Civic Center and Sanford/Seminole Chamber of Commerce the building at the corner of 1st Street and Sanford Avenue.

Doors open at 7 p.m. with Bell Time set for 8 p.m.

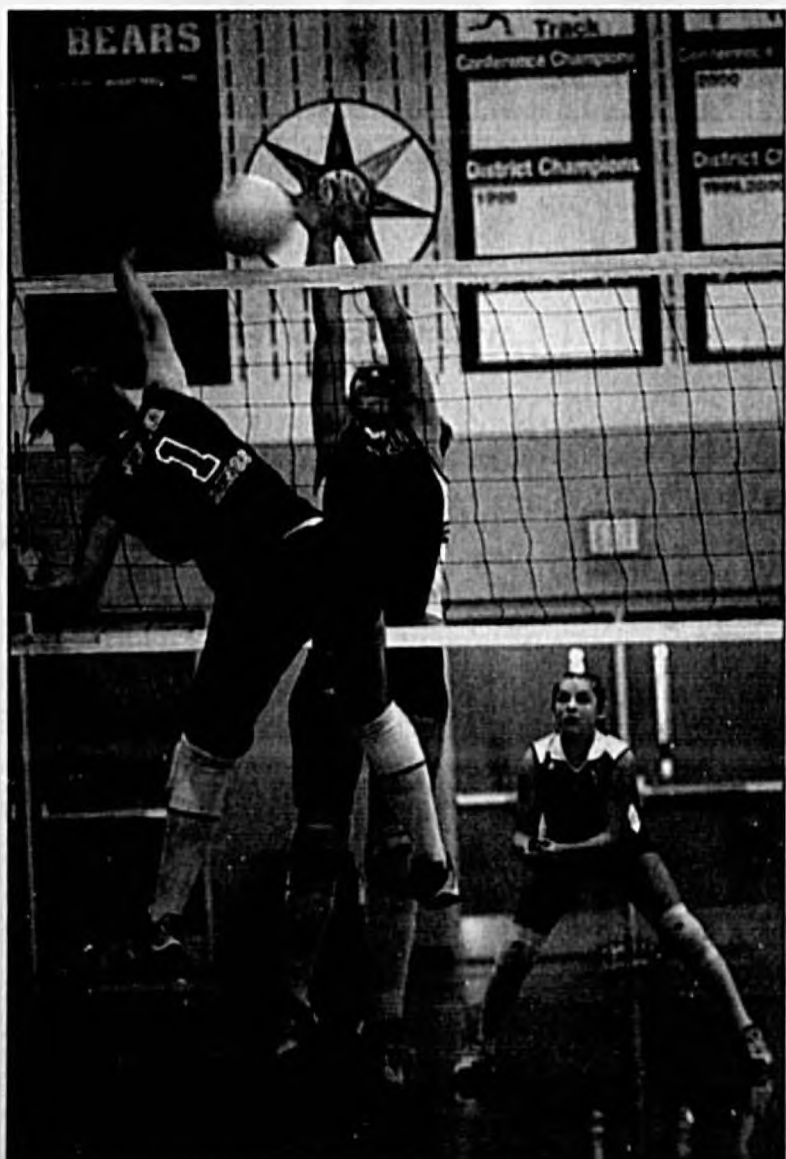
Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 6-to-12, with kids 5 & under free!!

For more information call 407-416-4458 or go to the MFW web site at www.mfw1.com.

Bulldogs best Boilermakers



Herald photos by Jim Wentz
Orlando's Florida Citrus Bowl hosted the best bowl game this season when the University of Georgia, led by MVP David Greene (left with cheerleaders) and coach Mark Rich (above talking to ABC's Dr. Jerry Punch) defeated Purdue, 34-27, in overtime at the Capital One Bowl.



Herald photo by Jim Wentz
Winter Springs' Lorin Lukas (No. 1, above) was one of 14 Seminole County athletes gaining mention on All-State Volleyball Teams by the Florida Sports Writers Association this past week.

Local girls volleyball stars lauded by FSWA

By Dean Smith
Sports Editor

The top two volleyball teams in Seminole County this past fall, Winter Springs and Orangewood Christian, led the way with a combined 11 selections as 15 local players were mentioned when the Florida Sports Writers Association (FSWA) released its All-State Girls Volleyball Teams recently.

The Bears, which finished as State Runners-up in Class 6A this season, had a first team, second team, third team and two honorable mention picks, but the Rams, the State Runners-up in Class A, did even better with a first team, two second team, a third team and two honorable mention selections.

Senior setter Kelsey Combes ran Winter Springs' complicated offense and recorded 812 assists this year to make First Team Class 6A.

The biggest surprise was Lake Mary's Angie Pressey making the Class 6A All-State First Team.

Not that the Cal-Berkley signee didn't deserve the honor after recording 405 kills and in November being named the Student Sports All-PowerBar Team Athlete of the Week for the Southeastern United States with 84 kills during the Trinity Prep Invitational. But it is unusual for a team that didn't even get deep into the state playoffs to earn such an honor.

Senior outside hitter Lorin Lukas was a

Second Team pick for Winter Springs after finishing the season with 299 kills, 80 aces and 203 digs.

Middle blocker Brianna Barry, a 6-foot-3 sophomore, was the Bears' Third Team selection, while Caitlin Belvin, a sophomore setter and Shelby Hock, a sophomore outside hitter, were Honorable Mention picks from Winter Springs.

The final 6A Honorable Mention pick was Oviedo's outstanding senior outside hitter Julie Darty.

Orangewood Christian were ranked No. 1 in the FSWA Class A State Poll for much of the season and the Rams were honored with six All-State picks.

Leading the way was senior star Rachel Miller, a setter who was most appropriately named to the Class A First Team.

Gaining Second Team honors were Cara Childers, a senior outside hitter, and Meg Weathersby, a freshman outside hitter, while Meg's older sister, Julie Weathersby, a senior outside hitter, made the Third Team.

Rounding out the Orangewood picks were Honorable Mention members Blair Muller, a sophomore setter, and Sarah Baker, a senior outside hitter.

The final two picks were from coach Kathy Finucan's outstanding squad at Trinity Prep.

Senior middle blocker Erin Kirkwood was a Third Team Class 2A pick, while junior outside hitter Carly Plotkin was an Honorable Mention selection.

THE SEMINOLE HERALD

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WEEKEND

JANUARY 11, 2004



Sports in high gear

With the football bowl season over, it didn't take long for other sports to pick up the action.

See Sports, Page 14

Winter Springs woman abducted, thrown in trunk

A Winter Springs woman was abducted Wednesday and locked in her own vehicle trunk.

The 22-year-old victim tells authorities she was attacked by a man who was hiding inside her car, who forced her into the trunk and then reportedly drove around with her locked inside before leaving the car in a wooded area near Temple Way and Shore Road in Winter Springs.

The woman says it all began around 11 a.m., Jan. 7. She says she went to the Great Clips hair salon at Tuskawilla and Red Bug Lake roads to get a haircut. She says the wait was too long so she went back to her car in the parking lot. She says once she was inside her car, a man hiding in the back seat attacked her and forced her into the trunk. She says she was in the trunk until the early afternoon when a family member called her cell phone. The family member was concerned because she hadn't shown up for work. The victim says when the cell phone rang it awakened her and she told the family member what had happened.

The family member called Winter Springs police and an officer made contact with the victim and instructed her how to get out the trunk. The victim got out, walked to the intersection of Temple Way and Shore Road, and informed police of her location. According to investigators, she suffered cuts and bruises, including visible injuries to her face.

She describes her attacker as a white male, in his late 20's to early 30's, who was wearing a blue, stocking-type cap that fit snugly around his head. She also said he was wearing a heavy, dark-colored, jacket.

Anybody with information about this case is asked to call the Seminole County Sheriff's Office at 407-665-6600, or Crime Line at 1-800-423-TIPS.

Seminole Smile



Caroline Schneider — Member of the Fort Mellon Society, Children of American Revolution

Thieves 'smash and grab' for jewels at mall

From Staff Reports

SANFORD — An armed robbery Thursday at Mayor's Jewelry Store at the Seminole Towne Center resulted in the loss of several thousand dollars in jewelry.

The robbery was reported at approximately 11 a.m.

Sanford police said five Hispanic or Caucasian males, wearing dark clothing and ski masks entered the store and broke some of the jewelry cases with a hammer and sledge hammer. The hammers were located on the floor of the store after the five escaped. A witness said the men were speaking to each other in

Spanish, and that one of them apparently had a handgun.

Although the metal roll up gates were down at the entrance to the store, police believe entry was made from the back corridor door, and it is believed that is the same door through which the men made their escape.

A number of police officers and security personnel attempted to track the five men down, but were unsuccessful.

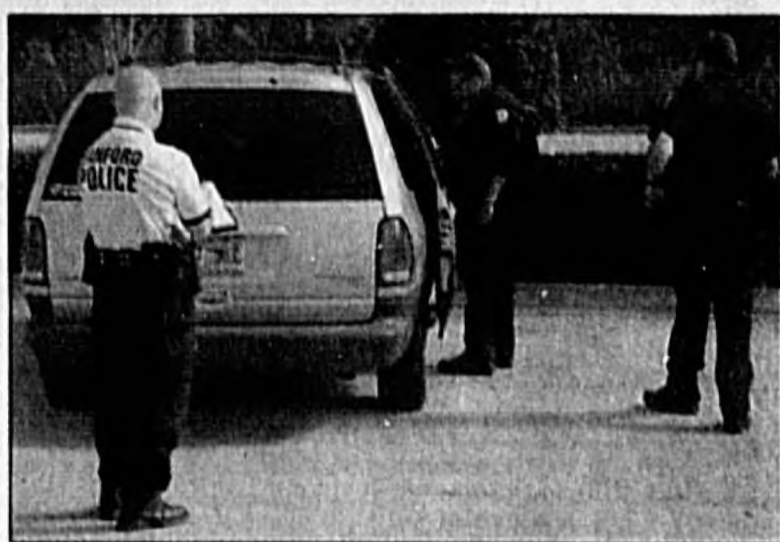
During the investigation, police were informed that a Voyager van was found on the east parking area with the ignition punched and the motor still running. Also, the vehicle's sliding side

door was open. At the time the vehicle was located, no one had reported it as stolen. Several items, possibly used in the robbery were found inside the vehicle. Crime scene investigators processed the vehicle.

There was no immediate indication of what was taken in the robbery, but it was revealed that possibly 60 or more Rolex watches were taken.

Charges which will be placed against the perpetrators are expected to be robbery with a firearm, and grand larceny of more than \$100,000.

The robbery continues under investigation by Sanford police.



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Sanford Police Department (left to right) Officer Bill Wixson, Sgt. Pat Smith and Lt. Darrell Brewer investigate a vehicle parked near the Parisian department store that is suspected to be a part of the jewelry heist.

CITY BATTY FOR NIGHT-FLYING MAMMALS

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

SANFORD — There's a new attempt to reduce the pesky midge population along Lake Monroe and no it's not a retreat of years ago when martin birdhouses lined the lakefront.

For decades, Sanford has been searching for ways to stop the proliferation of the midge, or blind mosquito, each summer. The small, fragile flies lay its eggs in the lake and then dance throughout downtown Sanford leaving behind a green

film on many building exteriors costing businesses lost profits and the city potential development.

The city's downfall in the martin bird ploy was the non-biting midges were out at night while the birds flew by day. Enter Sanford's newest tactic of encouraging bats to Lake Monroe. The Sanford Historic Trust recently donated a \$350 bat house to Sanford and coordinated with the city on the best location for the house.

Last week, city employees installed the bat house behind the Sanford Museum at 520 E. First St. The newest addition to Sanford's lakefront will hopefully mitigate two problems, said Linda Kuhn, president of Sanford Historic Trust.

"We noticed this terrible smell all summer," said Kuhn, a resident of Sanford's historic district on Palmetto Avenue. "And then we noticed the house (across the street) had bats in it."

According to Laura Seckbach Finn, a



Herald photos by Tommy Vincent

Sanford Historic Trust President Linda Kuhn

Iraqi Diary: Rumors regarding Saddam's capture

Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Charlie C. Carlson III, son of Sanford historian Charlie C. Carlson II, is deployed in Baghdad as part of the 549th Military Police Company. He is providing the Herald with a journal of his experiences.

4 Jan. 2004 Remember that plastic mannequin leg we found several weeks back, the one that we had on the back of the humvee until they made us take it off, well, it is now the center piece in the room where my soldiers live. That thing will probably end up back at Fort Stewart as some kind of monument.

Our platoon made some kind of cabbage, pepperoni, and macaroni soup on our fire pit last night and it tasted pretty good. It was cold outside last night and the smell of the wood burning and that big pot of soup reminded me of the Civil War (Although I

wasn't ever in the Civil War). My canteen cup is now my pen and pencil holder on my makeshift desk, which is made out of four MRE boxes with an electrical fuse box door laid across for the top.

Our Internet guy, Dana, who ran our computer service, was fired for embezzlement. His father fired him, as his father owns the computer business that furnishes us Internet service.

I forgot to mention in my last e-mail that I in the boxes from the Herald, there was a brand new wallet for me from Mr. Jones of Sanford, and inside was a \$20 bill. So I thank Mr. Jones for that. I put the money to good use. I bought Internet time for my soldiers so they could send



Carlson

some e-mails home. It costs \$4 an hour to use the Internet, but it actually works better than the mail system and is certainly faster.

Remember how I complained about the 130 degree heat? Well now it is shivering cold at night in the warehouse where we live, I have to sleep under my blanket. Make no mistake, I will take the cold over that desert heat.

We have made our living area better. We now have doors to our areas. I have made two rooms for my place. You come in and close the flap, a poncho liner, behind you and then you have to go through another flap to get into my office and living room. If I stay here long

enough and can put enough flaps of canvas I can turn my area into a four room place. With all the talk about us coming back to Iraq I may as well rent myself an apartment in Baghdad since we aren't allowed to live in the USA anymore as the result of back-to-back deployments.

We now have tower duty on tower 5 and 6. The 3rd Platoon is escorting the Regimental Commander around. Tower duty is boring. We do 0700 until 1900 hours and then 2nd Platoon has the duty from 1900 until 0700 hours.

5 Jan. 2004 I heard some stuff about Saddam Hussein's capture. Remember how I wrote a couple of months back about how they thought they had him cornered in the hotel area of Baghdad? We were involved with that hunt.

See Diary, Page 11

Airport numbers flat for 2003

But officials optimistic about domestic gains

By Dan Ping
Editor

SANFORD — After four consecutive years of growth, passenger counts at Orlando Sanford International Airport remained flat for 2003.

Airport officials remain upbeat about the facilities growth despite a 1 percent decrease in the number of passengers who traveled through Sanford last year. Combined domestic and international statistics indicate 1.253 million people used the airport in 2003 as compared to 1.263 million passengers in 2002.

"2003 was a challenge for us," said Victor White, vice president of the Sanford Airport Authority. "The first six months of the year

See Airport, Page 13

Authorities arrest man for fraud

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

LAKE MARY — Lake Mary police helped bring down a man Thursday suspected of defrauding more than 50 Floridians.

The operation began when Lake Mary officers fielded a call Tuesday from an area bank that suspected a man had deposited a couple fraudulent checks, said Lake Mary police Chief Richard Beary. Southern Community Bank, 175 Timacuan Blvd., Lake Mary, questioned several Ford Motor Credit checks totaling more than \$20,000 that were deposited by a Keith Alan Wright — an alias for 39-year-old Rodney Todd Wright. The next morning, the man tried to cash another fraudulent check at the Southern Community Bank branch in Longwood, 2491 W. State Road 434.

"The man was trying to cash a check — testing the waters to see if those others had cleared," Beary said. "We had that

See Credit Card, Page 3

Sanford's **ACE** Hardware

Celebrates 25th Anniversary
SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE TODAY