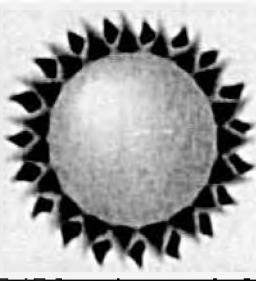




Seminole Herald

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2A



Oviedo, Lake
Brantley win
Girls Lacrosse
thrillers
Page 1B



What's on
the tube?
Page 2A

Briefly

Winter Springs Commission to consider transportation agreement

The Winter Springs City Commission will consider approval of support for a joint Transportation Enhancement Application with Orange County, Seminole County, Oviedo and Winter Springs. Public hearings scheduled include those concerning the proposed Town Center District and the possible annexation of 29 acres of the E.D. Plante Property.

The Winter Springs City Commission meeting is Monday, April 10 with a workshop at 5:30 and the regular commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. at 1126 E. SR-434.

Today is ...

Friday, April 7, 2000
Today is the 98th day of
2000 and the 19th day of
spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1927, a television image of Herbert Hoover was transmitted from Washington, D.C., to New York City. It was the first long-distance television transmission. On this day in 1949, "South Pacific," musical based on James Michener's "Tales of the South Pacific," opened in New York City. On this day in 1970, for his performance in "True Grit," John Wayne received the first Oscar of his career.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Wordsworth (1770-1850), poet; Walter Winchell (1897-1972), journalist; Billie Holiday (1915-1959), singer; James Garner (1928-), actor, is 72; Jerry Brown (1938-), U.S. politician, is 62; Francis Ford Coppola (1939-), director, is 61; David Frost (1939-), TV personality, is 61; Tony Dorsett (1954-), football great, is 46.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1963, Jack Nicklaus won the Masters golf tournament.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Good evening Mr. and Mrs. America, from border to border and coast to coast and all the ships at sea. Let's go to press."

Walter Winchell

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (April 4) and first quarter (April 11).

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Young Inventors



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Millennium Middle School students Nick Marrison, Alison Giardino, Heather Walker, and Amanda Ohbayashi invented the Kiddie Katcher, a device designed to reduce the number of injuries and deaths from crib-related accidents. The students also invented Pack Ray.

Students vie for national awards

By Bill Korne
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Four seventh-grade students at Millennium Middle School in Sanford are already accomplished inventors.

The students — Heather Walker, Amanda Ohbayashi, Alison Giardino, and Nick Marrison — finished second overall in the nation last year for the invention of Pack Ray in the Bayer/National Science

Foundation contest that challenges students to use science and technology to develop solutions to community issues.

Pack Ray can be used underneath seats on school buses to hold book bags and other items that tend to clutter the aisles. The group has formed a licensed business and is working with the Seminole County school-district's Transportation Department on the testing and development of the invention.

Not resting on their laurels,

the same group of four students are regional semifinalists in the competition this year for their invention of a Kiddie Katcher.

"There is nothing like this on the market," said math teacher Vera Delachak, who has sponsored the group two consecutive years. "We have done a lot of research. The kids have really been working hard on this since October."

See Inventors, Page 7A

PI pleads guilty to fraud

From Staff Reports

DELTONA — A private investigator has confessed that she defrauded her clients of proceeds from unclaimed property that she had located for them. Diana Lovell, 49, of Deltona, appeared Wednesday before Volusia County Circuit Court Judge C. McFerrin Smith III, and plead guilty to charges of grand theft and scheme to defraud. Lovell reportedly closed her business and turned herself in when she became the subject of a joint investigation

by the Division of Financial Investigators of the Florida Department of Banking and Finance, the Florida Department of State, and the Volusia County Sheriff's office.

Diana Lovell was the owner of Green Investigative Agency, at 928 Deltona Blvd., Suite D. According to investigators, she located missing property for her clients by utilizing the Department of Banking and Finance unclaimed property program, but either failed to provide proceeds to her clients, or only provided partial pay-

ments. It is estimated that over 50 victims were defrauded of approximately \$400,000. Victims were in several Florida cities, eleven other states, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Lovell is scheduled to appear before Judge Smith for sentencing on June 20. She is currently free on \$3,000 bond. According to the State Attorney's Office for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, sentencing guidelines for these offenses could mean a prison term of between 22 months and 30 years.

All-American girl



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent
Amanda Baker uses her cardboard American flag as a sun shade. She and her classmates at Idylwilde Elementary School were participating in Olympic type events.

Life Style

Wife fears having to pay the piper

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 18 years, and we've been through thick and thin. My husband knows all my fears, weaknesses and strengths. So why can't I get advice from him when I need him the most? I'm afraid he will think I am weak, stupid and careless. I'm afraid he will not love me anymore and will leave me.

We have two boys, and it costs a lot to raise a family these days, what with groceries, personal items and clothing. I try to make everyone happy, and it's killing me. What's ironic is that my husband thinks I'm a good money manager. I shop with coupons, etc., and tell him how much I've saved. He thinks it's great. I hate deceiv-

ing him.

My problem: We are approximately \$17,000 in credit card debt. My husband is unaware of our financial situation. There is also a \$1,000 loan that he does know about. He thinks \$50 is a lot of money, so how do I begin to tell him we owe \$17,000?

Hiding payments to the credit card companies is so stressful. The funny thing is, I didn't spend any of the money on stupid stuff. The gas cards are used because once everything else is paid, there's no money left for gas for the vehicles. Then there are family birthdays, special occasions, etc. — and no cash for that — so I use the store credit cards. The Visa is mostly for cash advances to pay for

groceries or to supplement a checking account that has gotten too low. I think, "I'll pay this all off soon and he'll never know." But it doesn't happen, and I'm caught in this mad cycle that never ends.

Abby, I'm going crazy. Please help me with some good, sound advice. I don't want to lose my husband. I love him.

I help anyone who needs it and I'm good to my husband's mother and family. I have had to forgive him on many occasions for things he has done in the past. Can he possibly forgive me?

For many months I have gone to bed at night asking God for guidance. I think he told me to write to you.

DROWNING IN DEBT IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DROWNING: Please stop flogging yourself. You haven't done any-

thing that hasn't been done to a lesser — or greater — degree by thousands of other people.

The Federal Reserve reports that credit card debt hit \$564 billion in January 1999.

Your husband will be understandably upset that you have kept this information from him. However, viewed rationally, you and he have far more invested in your 18-year marriage and two children than money.

Stop stalling and tell your husband of your predicament.

The secrecy and not reviewing your expenses together are what have allowed this problem to get out of hand in the first place.

You and he can regain control of your finances by contacting the National Foundation for Consumer Credit (NFCC), a non-profit organization that provides

education and counseling services on budgeting and credit.

To contact the NFCC member office nearest you, call toll-free from a touch-tone phone: (800) 388-2227.

You can also get information from the NFCC Web site: www.nfcc.org. Please don't put this off any longer, because the organization can provide you with a workable solution to your problem.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Counting a home's years

Houses have a distinct life cycle and will eventually show their age. Here are some problems house shoppers should watch for.

Although something on the order of a million new homes are built in this country every year, the typical American house is now nearly 29 years old.

And given that homeowners move once every 12 years or so, the average house is currently occupied by its third owner.

Of course, how well that house has held up over the years depends a great deal on how well it was constructed and how its various inhabitants have taken care of it.

But houses are like pieces of machinery. So regardless of how careful their occupants have been, they have a certain life cycle. Surprisingly, prime time for a house is the third through the seventh year, not the first two, according to one of the country's first independent home inspectors.

A Sample of What Can Go Wrong

- First two years — Tough to tell, unless you monitored construction. Generally, tract houses have fewer problems than custom houses.

Third through the seventh year — The ground holes may be sinking, causing swales or sinkholes.

Exterior paint may have faded.

Caulking is cracking.

Eighth through 15th year

Sidewalks and patios that weren't built on compacted soil may need to be replaced.

Appliances may need to be repaired or replaced. These include dishwasher, disposal, washer, dryer, and water heater.

Heat pump and air-conditioning units are on the way out, and poorly maintained furnaces have had it by now, as well.

Kitchen and bath fixtures may need to be replaced.

Misfired gutter nails are pulling loose.

Economy trim such as plywood panels on bay windows may be showing signs of rot.

Settling may have caused doors to jam and windows to stick.

Asphalt driveways will need to be resurfaced.

Stairs, bathroom floors and walls may sag, reflecting weak framing.

Sixteenth through 25th year —

Asphalt shingle roofs need to be replaced.

Gas furnaces and air-conditioning units need to be replaced.

The second dishwasher probably will have to be replaced, as will the original refrigerator and range.

Aluminum siding has lost much of its color.

Wood that has not been kept well painted has rotted.

Gutters may be rusted out.

If you are aware of these issues, you can make a better decision when you are negotiating the purchase of an existing home. Happy house hunting!

Barbara Hughes is the Seminole County Extension Home Economist. Inquiries may be directed to her at the Cooperative Extension Service, 300 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL 32773 or phone 865-6222.



Dear
Abby

• • • • •

are used because once everything else is paid, there's no money left for gas for the vehicles. Then there are family birthdays, special occasions, etc. — and no cash for that — so I use the store credit cards. The Visa is mostly for cash advances to pay for

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