

Holiday on the Hill

It was another great year-ending Soap Box event at Mike Kirby Park

See Sports - Page 8



Taste of the Arts 2025 Gala

See People - Page 5



SANFORD HERALD



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Vol. 134, No. 47 • © 2025

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HEADLINES FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wildfires latest: Winds subside as firefighters battle devastating blazes in Los Angeles area

Firefighters battled early Thursday to control a series of major fires in the Los Angeles area that have killed five people, ravaged communities from the Pacific Coast to Pasadena and sent thousands of people frantically fleeing their homes.

Scientists drill nearly 2 miles down to pull 1.2 million-year-old ice core from Antarctic

An international team of scientists announced Thursday they've successfully drilled one of the oldest ice cores yet, penetrating nearly 2 miles (2.8 kilometers) to Antarctic bedrock to reach ice they say is at least 1.2 million years old.

Schools cancel classes across the Southern US as another burst of winter storms move in

DALLAS (AP) — Another blast of winter storms on Thursday closed schools, snarled flights and put millions of residents on alert across parts of the U.S. South as snow and freezing rain caused dangerous travel conditions. The storm started dumping a mix of sleet and heavy snow Thursday morning in north Texas and Oklahoma, where schools cancelled classes for more than 1 million students. **Farming tech is on display at CES as companies showcase their green innovations and initiatives**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — When Russell Maichel started growing almonds, walnuts and pistachios in the 1980s, he didn't own a cell phone. Now, a fully autonomous tractor drives through his expansive orchard, spraying pesticides and fertilizer to protect the trees that have for decades filled him with an immense sense of pride. **Italy's Meloni hopes to attend Trump inauguration as she downplays his Greenland and Panama comments**

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said Thursday she didn't believe President-elect Donald Trump actually intends to use military force to seize control of Greenland or the Panama Canal, saying she read his comments more as a warning to China and other global players to keep their hands off such strategically important interests.

Craft Beer and Wine Festival Set for Jan. 25 at Wekiva Island



The outside of Wop's Hops Brewing in Sanford- one of the vendors that will be in attendance.

From Staff Reports

Craft beer and wine lovers, mark your calendars. Otter Fest is back at Wekiva Island on Jan. 25.

The yearly celebration of all things beer and wine will allow guests to enjoy countless sips and samples from 12 breweries and four wineries. There will also be a seltzer station and non-alcoholic samples to try. The event will run from 2 to 5 p.m. at Wekiva Island, with VIP ticketholder early admission at 1 p.m.

"We take beer and wine seriously at Wekiva Island," said Carrie Vanderhoef, manager. "Otter Fest is always a super fun event for us, and we love seeing attendees learn more about their beverages, make connections with the breweries and wineries, and find new favorites."

Tickets are \$55 for general admission and \$75 for VIP. VIP tickets include access to the VIP-only cabanas, the chance to sip taproom-only releases, and the chance to enjoy exclusive beers from five breweries, paired with gourmet bites.

See FESTIVAL, Page 2

Oviedo City Commission Recap

By Victoria Pera
Herald Intern

The mayor and city commissioners of Oviedo held their bi-weekly city council meeting on Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Oviedo city hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and then minutes were then approved for the Dec. 2, 2024 regular session.

The floor was then opened to the public where four different city citizens made a statement about the fluoride usage in the city's water supply. These citizens asked if the council could consider stopping the usage of fluoride in their water.

Oviedo citizen, Bethany Stevenson talked to the council about the dangers of fluoride consumption.

"Fluoride is essentially toxic to the human body, although in small doses, no acute effects are perceived. Our kidneys are able to filter about 50% of fluoride that we consume, but the rest is stored up in the body and known to build up over time. One organ that is particularly susceptible to fluoride buildup is the pineal gland, the part of the brain responsible for regulating sleep and reproductive hormones," said Stevenson.

son.

After the public floor was closed to commenting the mayor and committee members moved on to approve all consent agenda items and pulled two resolutions to present.

Resolution No. 4552-25 Award of Investment Advisory Services was presented to the council by City Manager Bryan Cobb.

"This is a request for the Council to approve the selection of a firm for investment advisory services," said Cobb.

Cobb went on to explain that the city did receive proposals for advisory services and the committee then narrowed it down to two different management services. After interviewing two companies, the committee selected Chandler Asset Management to provide city investment advisory services. This resolution moves to approve the selection. Looking at the management's site, Chandler Asset Management provides investment solutions to help risk-conscious clients better serve their communities.

See RECAP, Page 6

Walmart Wellness Day Offers Free Screenings, Immunizations

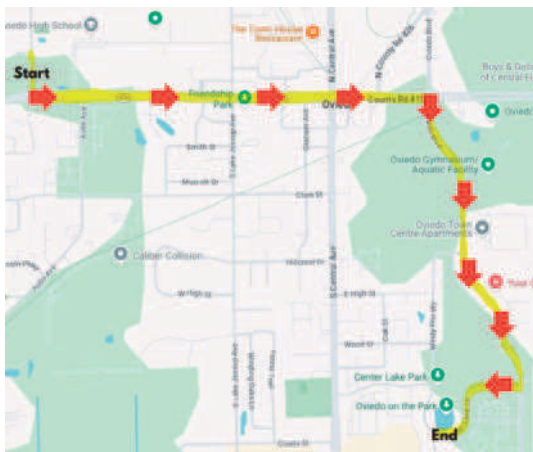
From Staff Reports

Walmart invites communities to embrace a healthier lifestyle this year by joining them for the first Wellness Day of 2025 on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time. At Wellness Day, customers can receive a variety of free health screenings including glucose, cholesterol, body mass index and blood pressure as well as affordable immunizations like flu, COVID-19, HPV, mumps, measles and more at nearly 4,600 pharmacies nationwide. Select stores will also feature vision screenings, in-store giveaways and demonstrations of wellness products.

"A new year brings opportunities for a fresh start, and we want to support people on their health journeys," said Kevin Host, senior vice president of pharmacy at Walmart. "Our Wellness Day events allow customers and patients to check in on their health in an affordable and convenient way while also encouraging meaningful connections with our highly skilled pharmacy teams."

See WELLNESS, Page 2

Three-Part Celebration Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Oviedo



The parade route through Oviedo.

From Staff Reports

The City of Oviedo, along with the Oviedo Citizens in Action (OCIA) is proud to present a series of celebrations in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the weekend of January 18-20, 2025.

There are three planned events to celebrate the legacy of MLK Jr. that the entire community can enjoy. All events are free to the public.

See MLK, Page 6

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST
As of 3 p.m. Friday

Alliant	\$98.12
Faro	\$25.77
Fastenal	\$72.94
HCA Healthcare	\$311.25
L3Harris	\$207.15
Lowe's	\$246.89
Lockheed Martin	\$468.85
NextEra	\$70.66
Tractor Supply	\$54.39
Toro	\$79.25

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Kali Venema - Student Writer



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OBITUARIES

Frederick Alfred Alexander



Frederick Alfred Alexander, 74, affectionately called "Fed" of Sanford, Florida, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 5,

2025, at HCA Florida-Lake Monroe Hospital, Sanford, Florida.
The Visitation, a time for family and friends to pay their respects, will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 1 PM - 5 PM at True Holiness Deliverance Tabernacle, 950 Historic Goldsboro Boulevard, Sanford, Florida 32771 with family wake beginning promptly at 3 PM to share memories of Frederick.
The Celebration of Life Service for Frederick Alfred Alexander will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 2 PM at the Sanford Civic Center, 401 East Seminole Boulevard, Sanford, Florida

32771. Interment immediately following the service at Evergreen Cemetery, 1975 West 25th Street, Sanford, Florida 32771. We warmly invite you, the community he loved and served, to join us in celebrating his life.
The family is providing a livestream of this service on qualitystream.tv. We understand that not everyone can be present, but we want to ensure that all who knew Frederick can join us in honoring his life.
Services Entrusted to the care of Sunrise Funeral Home, 900 Locust Avenue, Sanford, Florida 32771, (407)322-7383.

MLK

Continued from Page 1

The schedule of events is as follows:
- Saturday, January 18, 2025 – 9 a.m.
Community Prayer Breakfast with awards honoring the 2025 recipients of MLK, "I Have a Dream Award". The location is at the Oviedo Cultural Center, 357 Center Lake Lane.
- Monday, January 20, 2025 – 10 a.m. – Celebratory parade with the Lake Mary Little League World Champions as the Grand Marshals. The parade starts at Oviedo High

School and will end at Center Lake Park, 299 Center Lake Lane.
- Monday, January 20, 2025 – 11 a.m. – Fun Day at the Park, immediately following the parade. There will be vendors, food, entertainment and "Skills and Drills" with the Orlando Magic. Pre-registration is required. The Fun Day will be at Center Lake Park, 299 Center Lake Lane.

CENSORSHIP

Continued from Page 3

Or we can decide the cost is simply too great. I'm here today because I believe we must continue to stand for free expression."
But then, in 2020, Facebook began to cave under pressure from the federal government on issues ranging from Covid coverage to the Hunter Biden laptop story. By 2021, the Biden White House was openly lobbying Facebook to change its standards to downgrade the traffic of the Daily Wire, among others. That same year, in April, our traffic began to plummet. Overall, our reach dropped by 90%.
Facebook got comfortable with censorship; Zuckerberg has admitted as much. The Biden administration, Zuckerberg claims, pushed for censorship. And Facebook conceded.
Not anymore. As Zuckerberg explained this week, "The recent elections also feel like a cultural tipping point towards, once again, prioritizing speech." That is absolutely correct. And it is also

a damning indictment of a Democratic Party that always values power above principle. Free speech has become a Republican principle because Democrats abandoned it. And now free speech is returning. Let's hope that remains a permanent feature of the social media landscape, not merely a temporary move to buy off the resurgent Trump administration.
Ben Shapiro's new collection, "Facts and Furious: The Facts About America and Why They Make Leftists Furious," is available now. Shapiro is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Law School, host of "The Ben Shapiro Show," and co-founder of Daily Wire+. He is a three-time New York Times bestselling author. To find out more about Ben Shapiro and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.
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LAW

Continued from Page 3

Nevertheless, for the past several decades, the decisions of the courts, popular or not, have been followed, and the Nation has avoided the standoffs that plagued the 1950s and 1960s. Within the past few years, however, elected officials from across the political spectrum have raised the specter of open disregard for federal court rulings. These dangerous suggestions, however sporadic, must be soundly rejected.
Across the political spectrum?
I'm not so sure. The dangerous suggestions I've heard, at least, come from the Republican side. They come from J.D. Vance and from Trump himself. Vance has been explicit. In a much-quoted podcast from 2021 that helps explain why Trump picked him, the vice president-elect said: "If I was giving him (Trump) one piece of advice, fire every single midlevel bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state. Replace them with our people. And when the courts -- because you will get taken to court -- and when the courts stop you, stand before the country like Andrew Jackson did and say: 'The chief justice has made his ruling. Now let him enforce it.'"
That is dangerous talk, which Vance has reaffirmed. In an interview last year, he told George Stephanopoulos: "The Constitution says that the Supreme Court can make rulings, but if the Supreme Court -- and, look, I hope that they would not do this, but if the Supreme Court said the president of the United States can't fire a general, that would be an illegitimate ruling, and the president has to have Article II prerogative under the Constitution to actually run the mili-

tary as he sees fit." Article II prerogative to ignore the rule of law? Trust me, they don't teach that at Yale Law School. Or as he told Politico: "When the Supreme Court tells the president he can't control the government anymore, we need to be honest about what's actually going on." What's actually going on is that we live in a democracy, with an independent judiciary, with checks and balances.
It's not just the vice president who has expressed contempt for the rule of law. In his pointed rejection of Trump's latest request for what he called "president-elect immunity," Judge Juan Merchan, the judge in Trump's New York conviction case, noted: "Defendant's disdain for the Third Branch of government, whether state or federal, in New York or elsewhere, is a matter of public record. Indeed, Defendant has gone to great lengths to broadcast on social media and other forums his lack of respect for judges, juries, grand juries and the justice system as a whole."
What happens when the president and the vice president openly express such contempt? The chief justice is right to be worried. Jan. 6 was a routine day. The next four years look to be anything but.
To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.
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RECAP

Continued from Page 1

Resolution No. 4552-25 was passed with a vote of 5-0.
The council then moved to a presentation for Resolution No. 4554-25, Third Amendment to Disaster Debris Removal Services Agreement.
This resolution was presented by Mr. Cobb, and he said this is a request to amend the contract with the city's debris management company to add clarification to the debris hauler's payment.
"FEMA requires us to do is to go from the pick up on the right of way, take it to our site first, where it can be counted and reviewed by our inspectors, and then take it to the landfill. So, what we're doing tonight is to amend the agreement such that it accounts for taking it to our site first and then taking it to the landfill second, rather than the one time of going the right of way to the landfill," said Cobb.
Resolution No. 4552-25 was passed with a vote of 5-0.
The council then moved to discussion items. Mr. Cobb reminded Mayor Megan Sladek and commissioners that this is the time of year to choose what council members will serve on specific committees for the next year.
Council member for group two, Keith Britton, mentioned he wanted to be involved with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in the next year.
Council member for group four, Jeff Boddiford gave away his spot on the Seminole County Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board to council member of group 3, Alan Ott for the next year. Boddiford mentioned it was hard to attend the meetings last year due to his work schedule.

City Manager Cobb then completed his report by wishing the council Happy New Year and reminded them that this Wednesday, Jan.8 from 9am to 12pm, the Seminole County legislative delegation will hold their annual meeting at the Seminole County Commission Chambers. Where Patrick Kelly and Chief Coleman will be presenting their entertainment district.
The meeting moved to the city attorney's report, where they brought up a discussion about amending the city's charter allowing for voice votes instead of mandatory roll call votes during council sessions.
The subject was brought up of the possibility of limiting the number of times an ordinance can be reconsidered. The discussion was tabled to continue in future sessions. All the council agreed to follow up.
All individual commissioner reports were made, and Mayor Sladek emphasized the need to have a discussion about the use of fluoride in the city's water.
Council member Boddiford, reminded the council of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan.20. The council was reminded of the MLK day parade on route from Oviedo High School to Center Lake Park.
The city's next meeting is Tuesday Jan. 21 at 6:00 p.m. and the same night at 6:30 p.m., the council has their regular session. For more information of meeting minutes, please visit <https://www.cityofoviedo.net/340/Mayor-Council>. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. by Deputy Mayor, Natalie Teuchert.

MAMA

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I know one young fellow -- actually, he's 40 -- who lives with his parents in their upscale suburban house. For a while, he was in and out of jobs, doing physical labor in another state and living in an unglamorous rental. He's now back with Mom and Dad.
His mom makes minimal demands of him. She's doing his laundry. Her friends ask why. Mom explains, well, she's doing laundry anyway. Meanwhile, having neatly folded piles of clean T-shirts, shorts and socks placed on one's bed is hardly an incentive to change living arrangements.
A sister moved out long ago into her own pad. She has a job and cuts hair at people's homes for extra cash. She hasn't had an easy time of it, having suffered a tumultuous long-term relationship. But she soldiers on as an independent adult.
The Wall Street Journal recently featured the Moreno family of Miami as an example. The Morenos have four children, three boys and a girl. The boys live in the parents' home. The girl is out in the world, having graduated from business school and gotten engaged.
The boys talk about wanting to work but complain they can't find a high-paying job. (Starting in a lower-paying job seems not worth their while.) Two dropped out of college. One never went.
It's true that young men haven't profited from

the recent rise in real estate and stock values that older generations have enjoyed. But neither have the girls who are out making do. Other economic reasons include inflation and student debt. Again, the girls face the same economy.
Could arrogance play a part? The parents don't seem keen on lowering their expectations. And there's no disgrace in sharing rents with friends. If boys feel priced out of super expensive markets like New York, Los Angeles or Miami, they could go to great cities that cost less.
We can't dismiss the social media bluster dispensing tales of crypto bros easily amassing piles of dough as they sit in robes around a pool. It's a lot of baloney but may account for the refusal of many to accept temporary work or what we call starter jobs.
There may be several explanations why the boys are living with their parents. But could Mama be a reason?
Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.
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