

Orlando Sentinel

LOCAL & STATE

Clinic for farmworkers gets boost from grant

BY NASEEM S. MILLER
Orlando Sentinel

Since 2016, a group of UCF volunteers has been hosting a free clinic in Apopka four times a year to provide care to uninsured farmworkers and the community.

Dr. Heather Peralta, an Apopka native and a member of the UCF College of Nursing faculty, helped set up the first clinic in the Farmworker Association of Florida's office in the city two years ago expecting about 40 patients to show up. Instead, more than 80 came to seek care.

"We said, 'Holy Cow! We've hit something here,'" Peralta recalled. "And we started talking to the community to make something sustainable."

Today, the quarterly interdisciplinary clinics serve up to 500

patients each year. The program got a shot in the arm recently with a four-year, \$395,000 grant from the Florida Blue Foundation, which can help the UCF organizers want to grow the clinic.

"To be given a grant says that they see what we're doing and they understand and value what we're doing, and that's a testament into how much dedication and hard work we've put into this," said Peralta.

In Apopka, which dubs itself "The Indoor Foliage Capital of the World," more than 15 percent of adults under age 65 have no health insurance. Among them are the many farmworkers who work in greenhouses and fields that grow landscape, foliage and ornamental plants.

Please turn to **CLINIC, B2**



Farmworkers clinic is held four times a year at the Farmworker Association of Florida's office in Apopka. It's staffed by volunteer students and faculty from UCF.

UCF's \$38 million misstep to go before committees

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Amid increased scrutiny about the financing of university building projects, House panels in January will discuss improper spending at the University of Central Florida and oversight issues in the higher-education system.

The House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee, the House Higher Education & Career Readiness Subcommittee and the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee have scheduled a joint meeting Jan. 9 to delve into the topic.

The scrutiny stems, in part, from a state audit this year that determined UCF had improperly used \$38 million in state funding to construct Trevor Colbourn Hall.

The meeting of the House panels is scheduled to include a series of topics, including an investigation of the UCF spending, audit processes in the university system and the use of what are known as "carry forward" fund balances at state universities and colleges, according to a House calendar.

COMMENTARY



DAVID WHITLEY
Sentinel Columnist

Could a tsunami wipe out Orlando?

Workers have been desperately searching for survivors of a tsunami that hit Indonesia last weekend. The death toll is about 450, though it's expected rise.

It won't approach the 227,000 killed by a massive wall of Indian Ocean water in 2004, but coastal residents worldwide are again

Please turn to **WHITLEY, B2**

Columnist off

There is no Scott Maxwell column today. He is taking a break.



RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Weather to remain mild in this week

Left to right, Paul and Kate Shvets with their twins, Nicolas and Michael, enjoy the mild weather Wednesday at Central Park in Winter Park.

Citrus parade is reborn with new focus on celebrity entertainment

BY MATTHEW J. PALM
Orlando Sentinel Arts Writer

Orlando's venerable bowlgame parade will have a new name and vision this holiday season — with an eye on more entertainment and community involvement.

Now known as the Orlando Citrus Parade — and billed as "all new" — the festive downtown procession will step off at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 29 with Broadway celebrities, country singers and sports stars joining the traditional marching bands and citrus-themed floats. It will be televised live locally — and be seen later on about 200 TV stations nationwide.

"For all of us who love downtown and the culture of this legacy, we're so excited," said Steve Hogan, CEO of Florida Citrus Sports, the parade's presenter.

The parade began in 1980 and today celebrates the Citrus Bowl and Camping World Bowl, two college football games played at Camping World Stadium west of downtown.

This year's rejuvenation is an effort to position the parade for the future, Hogan said.

"We're so invested in the parade, we just love it," he said. "It's a significant part of our local history."

Florida Citrus Sports has teamed with Parades R Us and JM Best Entertainment to produce the event, which will involve more than 3,000 participants.

"It definitely needed new energy," said Jeff Revels, one of the producers. "It has been reimagined as a performance- and celebrity-based parade. So it feels more like a show, like the Macy's-type parades."

The parade's grand marshals



ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE

Marching bands, such as Notre Dame's Band of the Fighting Irish in 2017, are always part of the Citrus parade.

will all be connected to Central Florida: Norm Lewis is a Tony-nominated actor who grew up in Eatonville. Baseball star Johnny Damon graduated from Dr. Phillips High School. Actor-author Ashley Eckstein, the founder of Her Universe fangirl fashion company, was raised in Orlando, as was "Stranger Things" actor Chelsea Talmadge. David Eckstein, who is Ashley's husband, is

a 2006 World Series MVP who grew up in Sanford.

Local performers such as "The Voice" finalist Sisaundra Lewis, a cappella group Voctave and music group CeCe Teneal & Soul Kamotion will also be featured.

"That all goes back to the idea that we want to involve the whole community," said producer John

Please turn to **PARADE, B2**

911 audio: Dispatcher guides neighbor through CPR

BY TESS SHEETS
Orlando Sentinel

A woman wailed over the phone to an Orange County 911 dispatcher. "My 1-year-old just fell in the pool," she said.

The dramatic 911 call released by Orange County Fire Rescue Wednesday revealed the moments just after a 1-year-old nearly drowned in the 400 block of Bonifay Avenue on Christmas Day.

In the five-minute call, the dispatcher quickly gave CPR instructions to another woman, who relayed them to a neighbor she said was trying to perform chest compressions on the child, but didn't know how.

The boy wasn't breathing. The dispatcher talked the neighbor through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, instructing him to put one hand on the boy's forehead and the other under the neck to tilt his head back.

As the dispatcher walked the neighbor through chest compressions, a man in the background was howling.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry," the man can be heard saying.

Firefighters arrived at the house off Lake Underhill Road near Econlockhatchee Trail about 3 p.m. and resuscitated the child. He was taken to Arnold Palmer Hospital in serious condition.

Polk man killed elderly wife, then himself, deputies say

BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Orlando Sentinel

An 82-year-old Polk County man shot and killed his elderly wife before turning the gun on himself after telling family members he could no longer care for her medical needs, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Polk County deputies responded to a home on Highway 559 in Polk City Saturday night, spokesman Brian Bruchey said. They found the bodies of Henry Stanekci and his wife, Nancy Stanekci, 79.

Deputies say Henry Stanekci called his brother shortly before 10 p.m. and told him he had just shot his wife. The brother said Stanekci was worried about his wife's failing health and was unable to care for her due to his own health issues.

Deputies say Henry Stanekci was found with two gunshot wounds. The couple had been married for 28 years, authorities said.

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Cops: 1 killed, 1 wounded at welfare check

Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Police officers making a domestic welfare check on a woman who asked family members on Facebook to call 911 fatally shot her boyfriend when he opened fire on them.

The incident unfolded early Wednesday when a family member of Annie Vann contacted police after seeing a message stating

“Help, call 911. He has a gun,” said Clearwater Public Safety spokeswoman Joelle Castelli.

Officers responded to the apartment and contacted Vann at the back door.

While they talked to Vann, Wayne Falana Jr., 35, appeared behind Vann and opened fire on the officers, Castelli said.

The officers took cover and Falani ran to the front

of the apartment and began shooting through a glass door. Castelli said Falani ran into the roadway, still armed with a firearm. Officers returned fire, striking Falani multiple times. He died at the scene.

Vann left the apartment and has not been seen or heard from since, Castelli said.

Police want to speak to her about the series of events leading up to the

shooting.

The four officers who fired their weapons will be placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.

Public Safety spokeswoman Joelle Castelli said in an

Clearwater responding to a domestic violence call in Florida fatally shot a man who they said olice in Florida say a man has been killed by police officers

conducting a welfare check.

Clearwater police said in a news release that officers responded to a Clearwater apartment early Wednesday for a domestic-related welfare check. Police say officers briefly spoke to a woman at the scene before a man approached and fired at officers.

Police say one officer was shot in the foot and treated at the scene. Police say the

man fled and was confronted by pursuing officers. Police say multiple officers confronted the man, who was then shot and killed. Police say the woman also fled the apartment and her whereabouts are not known. Authorities didn't immediately release the identities of those involved.

Clearwater police say more information will be released later.

PARADE

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M. Best, who has for years produced such events as the National Cherry Blossom Parade and National 4th of July Parade in Washington, D.C., as well as Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day Parade and others.

Best, an Emmy winner for his work on the televised Walt Disney World Christmas parade, is based in Orlando. He and his team of about 75 people have long wanted to produce something in Central Florida.

“We're always traveling outside our hometown,” he said. “We've always said, ‘Imagine what we could do here.’”

This year's parade will support Give Kids the World Village, the nonprofit resort in the attractions area that provides free vacations for critically ill children and their families. The telecast will introduce the charity to the nation.

“It's so meaningful to us,” Hogan said. “Helping them just felt like the icing on the cake.”

Also on view: clips of downtown landmarks such as the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the Amway Center.

“National exposure for events like the annual Citrus Parade showcases the variety of experiences and entertainment our destination offers visitors,” said George Aguel, president and CEO of the Visit Orlando marketing agency. “As one of the largest sports-affiliated parades in



Here's a birds-eye view of the 2016 Florida Citrus Parade making its way down Orange Avenue. This year, the parade has been rebranded the all-new Orlando Citrus Parade.

the nation, continued growth and greater exposure can help broaden the perception of Orlando.”

City officials hope that downtown in particular will benefit from its time in the national spotlight.

“We do have a downtown, and there's a lot to do here,” said Kelly Allen, communications manager for Orlando's Downtown Development Board.

The presenters agree that adding “Orlando” to the parade's name reinforces the idea the city is a fun destination outside the theme parks.

“It's a powerful brand,” Hogan said.

With a higher-profile parade, the city expects about

10,000 more spectators than the usual 30,000 along Orange and Rosalind avenues. “We see that really helping to benefit local businesses, as well,” Allen said.

For those who want to watch from home, news anchor Jorge Estevez and Miss Florida USA 2010 Megan Clementi will host the telecast from 10 a.m. noon on WFTV-Channel 9. The performances will take place in front of a grandstand; tickets to sit in that “performance zone” are \$30-\$40 at the event's new website, orlandocitrusparade.com.

Among the entertainers: country singers Jo Dee Messina and Ty Herndon,

Broadway star Linda Eder, “American Idol” finalist Alyssa Raghu, “World of Dance” performers Funkywunks and The Untouchables, and contemporary Christian artist MARI.

In keeping with the community theme, Lewis — who was Broadway's first African-American Phantom of the Opera — will sing “Home” from “The Wiz.”

“I'm very honored they asked me to be part of this,” Lewis said. “I grew up with the Citrus Parade. It's going to be great — because it's home.”

mpalm@orlandosentinel.com; @matt_on_arts

CLINIC

Continued from Page B1

Statistics show that heart disease, cancer and stroke are the leading causes of death in the Apopka farmworker community.

The quarterly clinics are open to anyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status. No questions asked.

“We have a few patients who come every single time. I think the patients like that we take them when they get there. It's definitely meeting a community needs and we're planning on expanding,” said Dr. Judy Simms-Cendan, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and co-organizer of the farmworker clinics.

The clinics are staffed by the UCF Comprehensive Medical Care Outreach Team, which is made up of volunteer students and faculty from UCF College of Medicine, College of Nursing, physical therapy and social work programs and University of Florida's College of Pharmacy.

During the clinics, when sometimes as many as 100 volunteers sign up, students from medicine, nursing and social work collaborate in teams, addressing issues ranging from high blood pressure to domestic violence. Physical therapy students and faculty help with work-related injuries. Meanwhile, pharmacy students help patients find affordable drugs.

“It's one of the few opportunities where you have students from all disci-

plines get together and work with the faculty. This is real patient care with real cross education,” said Simms-Cendan

Part of the grant will support a part-time position for Peralta to organize and manage the clinic. It will also help the program to purchase equipment and supplies.

And a storage unit. “Right now everything lives in my garage. I can put band-aids on all of Apopka,” Peralta joked.

Peralta and Simms-Cendan are also excited about using some of the grant to bring technology into the clinic and use telemedicine to connect patients with specialists like dermatologists, endocrinologist and neurologists, especially in between the quarterly clinics.

Many farmworkers develop lesions because of exposure to the sun or pesticides. A virtual visit with a dermatologist can help with quicker diagnosis and treatment, UCF officials said.

The clinic team is also planning to develop an app that will help patients track their medications and get reminders about their refills.

“My heart grows about four times every time we do one of these clinics,” said Peralta. “Watching all of the students, realizing that they can give something back, it's the most awe-inspiring thing, and it makes me want to be a better educator.”

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WHITLEY

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wondering:

Could it happen here? There is a real-life disaster movie script all but written for Orlando, and it prompted an Ask Orlando question.

“I'm worried about the La Palma Canary Island ‘mega-tsunami’ striking the east coast of Florida. Would Orlando be safe from the wall of water?”

Fear not, it would be very safe.

“You don't have to worry about that at all,” said Uri ten Brink, a research geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The big reason is the simple real-estate mantra - Location, location, location.

But a wall of 50-foot wall of water rolling down Church Street is also far-fetched due to the earth tectonics. To really understand that, you need to know the difference between a tsunami and a

megatsunami.

A tsunami is usually caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption. It triggers relatively shallow waves that pile up as they approach shore, forming a surge of water about 20-40 feet high.

A megatsunami is when a large amount of material plops into water. And by large, we do mean mega.

The most famous scenario forms today's question. La Palma is a Canary Island off Africa's west coast. It is home to the Cumbre Vieja volcano.

The way the theory goes, a volcanic eruption sheers off a chunk of the island, which plummets into the Atlantic Ocean.

The splash causes a wave 2,000 feet high to race across the Atlantic. About seven hours later, the wave has dropped to about 150 feet high.

That's still a horrifying sight to millions of residents of the Atlantic seaboard. They are swept away, along with everything in the

wave's path, like Miami, Jacksonville, Daytona and ... Orlando?

The scenario was popularized by the BBC docudrama “End Day” in 2000. It was based on actual geological research, but most scientists give “End Day” about as much respect as “Sharknado.”

“This scare should be consigned to the garbage can once and for all,” wrote Prof. Dave Petley, pro-vice chancellor at the University of East Anglia.

A single, coherent landslide is theoretically possible, but the bulk of research says it has happened about every two million years - or never. Even if the La Palma's megatsunami script came to life, there would be hours of warning for low-lying areas.

That's not to say Florida has never felt a few ripples.

There have been 37 verified tsunamis in the Caribbean region since 1498, according to National Geographic. Most were caused by earthquakes in South

America, but they did little or no damage.

There is the occasional freak wave. A swell estimated at 15-18 feet hit Daytona Beach in 1992. It damaged about 100 cars parked on the beach, knocked over toll booths and washed garbage cans out to sea.

Its cause was a mystery, and explanations ranged from an earthquake to a sudden release of natural gas to aliens belly-flopping into water from their UFO.

Three years later, the Bulletin of American Meteorological Society attributed it to wind gusts from a storm. “A shallow-water gravity wave forced by a propagating squall line,” to be precise.

When it comes to doomsday threats to Orlando, an 18-foot wave in Daytona is much a worry as Typhoon Lagoon overflowing and washing out I-4.

But what about a 150-foot high monster?

An earthquake or volcanically-triggered scenario is miniscule, but there's al-

ways the chance of a meteorite plummeting from outer space and hitting the Atlantic at 150,000 mph.

There's a chance, just not much of one.

First, it's never happened. Even if it did, the splash would be massive but localized.

“It's like throwing a rock into the ocean,” ten Brink said. “There's a lot of energy, but it's all concentrated.”

If a meteorite hit near the coast, there would be problems.

“In low-lying areas with a lot of industry and people living near the shore, it could cause extreme damage,” ten Brink said. “But the probability of that happening is very low, really low.”

If a meteorite hit 5 miles off Titusville, people would have to head for the hills. The problem is that there aren't a lot of hills around here.

Orlando's elevation is 82 feet, so a 150-foot-high meteorite-triggered death wave would conceivably ruin your day. But again,

think location.

Orlando is 40 miles from the coast. That'd be far enough inland to spare us from Indonesia's fate.

“The reason is not so much the height of the water but the distance itself,” ten Brink said.

So to answer the Ask Orlando question, you could worry about a La Palma megatsunami.

You could also worry about a sharknado, but there are better things to do with your time.

Editor's note: This story is part of Ask Orlando, a new feature in which we ask readers to ask questions, we hunt down the answers and report back. If you have a question you'd like us to report on, you can fill out the form below, or head to OrlandoSentinel.com/AskOrlando.

David Whitley is a member of our Community Conversations Team. He can be reached at dwhitley@orlandosentinel.com

LOTTERY

For more information, call 850-921-7529 or visit flalottery.com

Selected Wednesday

Pick 2 (midday): 2-2

Pick 2 (evening): Numbers were not available at press time

Pick 3 (midday): 8-0-3

Pick 3 (evening): Numbers were not available at press time

Pick 4 (midday): 9-8-0-0

Pick 4 (evening): Numbers were not available at press time

Pick 5 (midday): 0-2-0-4-8

Pick 5 (evening): Numbers were not available at press time

Lotto: Numbers were not available at press time

Powerball: Numbers were not available at press time

Selected Tuesday:

Fantasy 5: 6-9-19-21-30

Lucky Money: 14-19-26-47-3

Mega Millions: 2-8-42-43-50-6x3

Florida Lottery
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FloridaLottery.com

5 police officers attacked breaking up Christmas street brawl: report

BY TIFFINI THEISEN
Orlando Sentinel

Five police officers were attacked as they broke up a large Christmas evening street brawl, the Winter Haven Police Department said Wednesday.

No police officers were injured as they dealt with a “crowd that continued to escalate in aggression,” Public Safety Director Charlie Bird said in a statement posted on the department's website.

Those accused ranged from a teen who ended up charged with two felonies, to a 52-year-old man whom police pepper-

sprayed after they say he ignored commands and tried to prevent cops from breaking up the fight.

The melee was reported shortly before 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Seven people were arrested, including a 16-year-old boy, T'Artis Washington, whom police say pushed cops and refused to obey commands as police tried to control the crowd. He was charged with battery on law enforcement officers and resisting with violence.

Also charged with battery on law enforcement officers and resisting with



Among those arrested in a Christmas night street brawl in Winter Haven were Terrance Miller (from left), Latoya Munson, Eddie Munson, Marquarius Jasper and Derrick Munson.

violence was Marquarius Jasper, 18, accused of pushing a cop and then tased while running away.

Charged with battery on law enforcement officers and resisting without violence were Derrick Munson, 26, whom police

say spit in a cop's face; and Latoya Munson, 37, accused of grabbing an officer's arm.

Charged with battery on a law enforcement officer were Terrance Miller, 33, accused of pushing an officer multiple times.

Charged with resisting without violence were Eddie Munson, 52; and Shantee Walden, 39.

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