

THE ORLANDO LOCAL NEWS



Serving Dr. Phillips ... Windermere ... Bay Hill ... Orange Tree ... Ocoee ...
Downtown ... Winter Garden ... Williamsburg ... Baldwin Park ... Winter Park ... Maitland ...
Casselberry ...



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The Latest

LOCAL POLITICS AND OPINION

Anna Eskamani Poised for Re-Election Despite Lack of Results: What will voters decide in the future?... Page 3

Bruno Portigliatti: Dr. Phillips' Best Political Prescription: Bruno offers a welcome change... Page 3

Zip-a-dee doo-doo: Is Disney Full of It? Disney's recent decision to eliminate one of their most iconic rides has generated quite a "splash" to say the least... Page 4

Does Orlando Weekly have Any Standards? Many wonder why the publication seeks to destroy and cancel the lives of private citizens, like the owner of a recently closed bagel shop by Lake Eola... Page 4

Seminole Focus: Contributions

Benefit Chad Albritton? The aspiring politician boasts of no substantive resume. But will he win? Page 2

Nursing Home Under Investigation... Page 8

LOCAL DELIGHTS

Christini's Restaurant: The Home of Legends: For decades, Christini's has attracted hollywood legends and elites from around the globe and the legacy continues even during these difficult times... Page 5

The Russell Home: A Noble Cause In Need: Our Recent interview with the Russell Home for Atypical Children demonstrates how we can all help those in need during this challenging time... Page 7

Lisbon: A Taste of Portugal in Orlando: An honorable mention for an up and coming restaurant serving Portuguese cuisine in Orlando... Page 6

PR's Taco Palace: An Orlando Tradition: PR's remains a fixture of Orlando locals, see why... Page 6

Come Fly with Me: Marshall Swanson shares his experiences learning to fly... Page 8

Bellicoso Cigars: C. Florida Cigar Prince Smokes the Competition... Page 7

TRAVEL

Mt. Rushmore on the Fourth: With many cities cancelling fireworks for July 4th, we discovered Mt. Rushmore's recent Independence Day celebration with President Trump to be bold and yet heartwarming during this time of national crisis... Page 7

COME FLY WITH ME, INTO THE WILD BLUE! *Earning My Wings*



Our eyes steadily fixated on the heat-scorched runway ahead as we gradually accelerated down the runway. The plane lifted off the pavement inch by inch and aloft we flew! As the aircraft zoomed swiftly toward the wild blue, the splendor the moment did not for a millisecond disguise its significance. I reminisced that just a few moments prior our plane remained anchored to the ground - the same ground upon which millions throughout history fantasized of flight. What the onlookers of Icarus and Daedalus dreamt of, we had accomplished in a fractional spin of our plane's prop... CONTINUED PAGE 8

VINTAGE FLY-OVER FOR LOCAL NEWS FOUNDER

Roger Swanson, a World War II veteran and founder of *The Orlando Local News*, passed away May 7, 2020 in a Winter Garden nursing home. Despite an exemption existing for end-of-life issues, visitation was curtailed to the family until after he died. First broken in *The Orlando Local News*, the story spread to broadcast news and public outraged mounted. The primary response however came in the form of sympathy and support to the family. Due to constraints on military funerals placed by the government, the family might be alone for the funeral without any honor given to their loved one--- or so they thought. But then the community sprang into action... CONTINUED PAGE 2



CHRISTINI'S RESTAURANT: THE HOME OF LEGENDS



Though many restaurants now operate at greater capacity following the partial opening of business, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic seems to linger on without end but one restaurant in particular runs with an energizer-bunny like resilience. Christini's Ristorante Italiano's longevity over the years places the world famous restaurant in a special category all of its own: icon. How did such a restaurant last with so much success for so many years, you might ask? Hurricanes, fierce corporate competition, recession and now the COVID-19 pandemic present major obstacles to most business enterprises and restaurants. Christini's restaurant overcomes these challenges as a result of their high quality service and distinguished reputation. Many establishments do not live up to the hype. Christini's surpasses expectations.... CONTINUED PAGE 5

OPINION: BRUNO PORTIGLIATTI: DR. PHILLIPS' BEST POLITICAL PRESCRIPTION

DOCTOR PHILLIPS, FL

There is one candidate who meets the needs of all residents in Dr. Phillips and it ain't Geraldine! Raised right here in Dr. Phillips, Bruno Portigliatti offers just the right treatment for the ailments of Florida House District 44. Every neighborhood, regardless of race, religion or creed, would benefit from Mr. Portigliatti's level-headed attitude and fair-minded mentality.

Portigliatti knows the challenges of life well, working his way up in life from a server at Dr. Phillips' famous "Restaurant Row" to now holding the title of President or CEO in several notable and prominent entities in Florida. He currently serves as the President of Florida Christian University as well as CEO of Excellence Senior Living. Portigliatti enjoys strong ties to the immigrant community. Though raised for most of his life in Dr. Phillips, Portigliatti's family emigrated from São Paulo, Brazil, the city of his birth. Few stories in our history rival those of immigrants who risk their livelihoods and leave home in pursuit of the American Dream. Mr. Portigliatti married his wife Stephanie Figueiredo in 2017 and both possess a strong faith... CONTINUED PAGE 3



HISTORY ERASED: UF PRES. UNDER FIRE BY CENTRAL FLORIDA DONORS

DOCTOR PHILLIPS, FL

The Gator Bait chant at the University of Florida served as a quintessential appetizer for students, fans and alumni at football games without fail for decades. Despite the fact that a black UF athlete, Lawrence Wright, came up with the chant, Kent Fuchs, the university's President seemed to believe the hundreds of thousands of students and alumni participating inadvertently express something else: a racial slur... no, a cry for violence. Though he admits no real link exists to racial hatred, Fuchs can't seem to keep his mind out of the gutter...CONTINUED PAGE 2

OPINION: ZIP-A-DEE DOO-DOO: IS DISNEY FULL OF IT?

Walt Disney World's decision to vanquish one of their most famous rides has generated quite a splash. Some laud the corporation's move to retire Splash Mountain as "long overdue," while those opposing the purge to be an act of cultural vandalism. A basket of poison apples, or a delightful snack? Either way, Disney's leaders won't be asking your opinion... CONTINUED PAGE 4

FLY-OVER FOR WWII VET CONTINUED...

When Thom Richard heard about the tragic death of Mr. Swanson at the Nursing Home, things really started to take off (literally). Richard owns and operates the Warbird Adventures Museum and Flight School in Kissimmee, Florida. The museum consists of an entire fleet of aircraft from WWII and has restored many over the past several years. Several of the planes witnessed combat or were shot down. Richard's efforts brought not only one aircraft to the memorial service, but four T-6 planes to honor Swanson's service. The planes executed a maneuver known as the "Missing Man Formation" which consists of a single fighter leaving the formation. The spirit of the airman who passed on then occupies the space of vacancy in the formation or so the legend tells us. You can catch a video of the flyover online at our website: www.LocalNewsOrlando.Com.

Fox 35 News in Orlando originally broke the story before going viral and being featured on Fox News, the Daily Mail and several different news stations across the US. In a conversation with Fox 35's Valerie Boey, Richard said he thought the fly-over was the right thing to do: "Roger visited us several times. He showed up here in his wheelchair," says Richard "When we heard of his passing and the unfortunate circumstances, we thought it was very appropriate to honor him."

Swanson enlisted in the US Army Air Force upon graduation from Paseo High School in Kansas City, MO. His journey as a pilot and navigator took him half-way around the world as he served in WWII. While in the Army Air Force, Swanson served as a public relations officer and editor of several newspapers in bases where he was sent. Following his military service Swanson worked as an editor at the Kansas City Star, Disney PR executive, TV anchor and later founded of this publication.

We applaud Thom Richard's eagerness to honor Mr. Swanson. For over 20 years, Warbird Adventures in Kissimmee, Florida has presented incredible, once in a lifetime experiences from the front seat of the T-6 Texan in the sky. They allow guests the ability to do something they have always dreamed of doing and take flight in the "The Pilot Maker" themselves. But guests to the museum don't need to be pilots to fly the planes. Warbird Adventures is also a vintage flight school. Their hands-on flight training packages range from introductory flights, thrilling aerobatic maneuvers, to full check out courses. Warbird adventures just added a new addition to their fleet as well--- the worlds only limited TP-40 Warhawk known as "American Dream". The dual seat, dual cockpit controls offer guests an exhilarating venture into the eyes of heroic World War II Fighter Pilots.

You may now visit their Kissimmee location to take a walk through time inside the on-site aviation museum with each exhibit having a history of their own.

As of Memorial Day, Monday May 25th, 2020 the Kissimmee Warbird Adventures Air Museum and Flight Training School opened to the public once again, resuming normal hours of operation. As a part of their reopening celebration, Kissimmee Warbird Adventures gave 10% off all T-6 flights booked on Memorial Day but potential students or thrill-seekers should always be on the look out for deals as they run.

Warbird Adventures in Kissimmee not only offers genuine, one-of-a-kind experiences to their guests and students, but also happen to be true American patriots for honoring the service of Mr. Swanson and all our veterans.

Think you're ready to fly high in to the wild blue yonder? Book a flight today by visiting the Kissimmee Warbird Adventures website at www.warbirdadventures.com. -M.S.



LEFT TO RIGHT (clockwise): Swanson with his two nieces Karen and Linda; Thom Richard of Kissimmee Warbird Adventures; four T-6 warbirds conduct the "Missing Man Formation" for Swanson

OPINION UF PRES. CONTINUED.

Does he think this poorly of his pupils? What nonchalant attitudes toward woke campus kind of an out of touch, sick individual imagines leftism seem to be fading by the day in light that anyone in today's prestigious universities think of these deranged episodes as displayed most black people should be used as gator bait, much less visibly by Fuchs. The allure of attaching a name any of the over 50k students at UF? Perhaps Fuchs to a building fades when someone might come himself isn't revealing the full picture. After all, along 100 years from now - or next week - to reverse psychology tells us many anti-gay zealots demand its removal and tear down your statue. hide in the closet. Could Fuchs virulently woke attitudes on race be a mask to hide something else in his past? We'll never know unless black face McCarthyist witch-hunt against both the jovial pictures turn up somewhere (Ralph Northam style).

While he isn't erasing history, Fuchs spends Orlando dollars alone evaporated overnight, his time emasculating the campus by striking at withheld from the coffers of the university.

President Fuchs set out on a racial fishing expedition and found minnows. Now alumni hope to do the same, and this time its Fuchs who's the financial gator bait. For a man with one of the top public salaries in the university business, donors sent a clear message: "You 'Kent Fuchs' with us!"

OPINION

SEMINOLE FOCUS: CONTRIBUTIONS BENEFIT CHAD ALBRITTON?

No, he's not a recipient of funds to benefit the underprivileged children's drive or even one of those cute kids from a Shriner Hospital. Chad Albritton is a political candidate - and we'll give him one thing: he's honest. Rather than skirt around the truth, he tells us how he really feels: it's all about him.

Don't believe such a candid candidate exists? Look no further than his website. The campaign slogan is simple: "Your contribution will benefit Chad Albritton." We all know why most politicians get into office and the reasons generally don't revolve around public service. Certainly, Albritton should be lauded for his candor, but the painfully obvious question looms: who is he? Aren't we tired of career politicians with no practical experience running for office? One thing is for sure:

with Act Blue behind his campaign, Chad really doesn't need to worry about money. In fact, neither do Casselberry residents. Clearly the carpetbaggers supporting his campaign can do a much better job of fundraising than the citizens of the town themselves!

With outside support propping up Chad's race, the outcome remains unforeseen. His campaign website as of this writing outlines a broad vision with few, if any, substantive points. Just like his website: Chad Albritton offers little but an empty suit full of empty promises (with the exception of his pockets).

Casselberry Commission Seat 4 may be the hanging chad of 2020, but one thing is for certain: Albritton's void promises and sparse agenda would punch a wide hole through Casselberry's progress over the years.

ABOUT THE LOCAL NEWS

The Orlando Local News was originally founded by Roger Swanson in 1980. His founding of *The Local News* followed a distinguished career in media and public relations that began in the US Army Air Force and eventually took him to the Kansas City Star where he served as Travel Editor and Sunday Editor. Later, Swanson moved to Florida where he served as Vice President of Public Relations at Walt Disney World. He then branched out into broadcast news on Channels 9 and 6 in Orlando before founding *The Local News*.

A one of a kind publication, this newspaper seeks only to protect and enhance the interests of the citizens living in these communities, to become a guardian in a sense of the beauty, the privileges, the freedoms and the challenges which make this area such a desirable and delightful place to live. We have no axes to grind; no particular philosophical or political point of view to expound. All of us engaged in the newspaper are neighbors or friends of these communities. The editor of *The Local News* is

Marshall Swanson, who has been involved in radio, government, philanthropy and politics for many years. The main reason for the existence of The Orlando Local News is bringing a voice to a wilderness- a wilderness that the lacks a voice, a point of view — or simply lacks the coverage of news, current events and personalities in these communities most wish to hear. Other publications simply have not paid much attention to these residents.

We refuse to submit to the pattern of conformity so prevalent among a majority of news publications in this area: out of touch, out of town corporate newspapers seeking nothing less than to gin up division and ideological propaganda in our homes.

The editorial board of this paper will certainly give opinions on matters and topics pertinent to the community represented in this publication. However, we will allow any of those opposed to our point of view a place to voice their opinions, unlike most papers in this area.

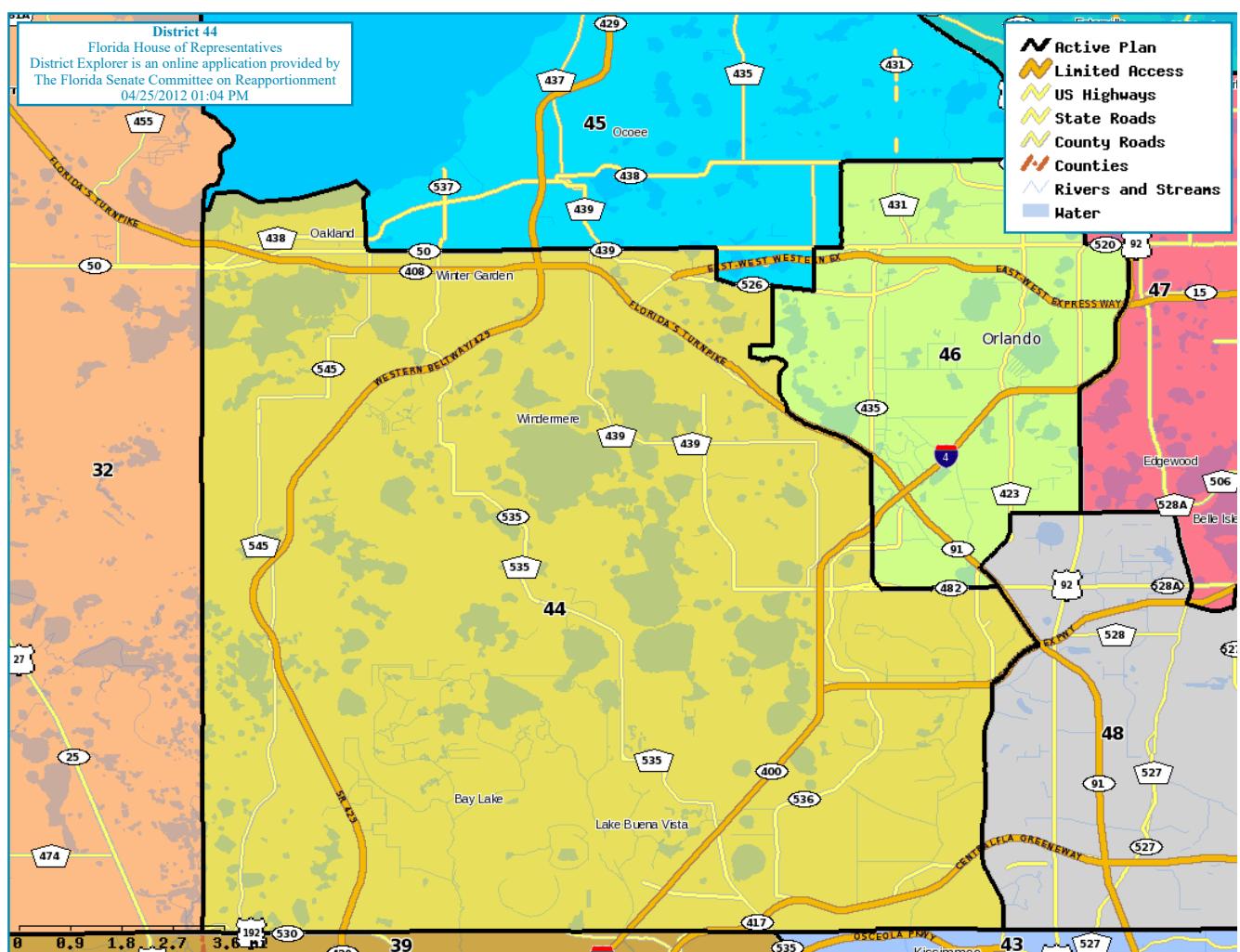
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...Republican Primary who has garnered little support. Mr. Portigliatti's campaign raised just over \$100k total. In the General Election, Portigliatti will run against Geraldine Thompson, the seat's incumbent legislator. Despite raving and sycophantic reviews by the Chicago-based Orlando Sentinel, Thompson boasts of few accomplishments to speak of, except for select programs built to benefit only a few communities in the district.

Yes, the current occupant of Florida State House District 44 not only panders to one or two select communities, but virtually ignores many others such as our elderly, veterans and small businesses. For example, we recently contacted Ms. Thompson's office by phone in regard to these issues in our community. As we reported previously, a Union veterans' cemetery in the Vineland area now sits in the crosshairs of development. Thompson seemed to demonstrate little concern for this issue. We also contacted Thompson about the recent case of a veteran of World War II who passed away alone in a Winter Garden nursing home. A similar tone-deaf response emanated from her office.

Certainly the entire disease of corrupt and do-nothing leadership is typical of Tallahassee as a whole, not just Geraldine Thompson; but, it might be entirely eliminated in this district if she stepped down today. Why step down, you might ask? If the above reasons don't convince the reader yet, just look at how she operates her office and finances. Perhaps the fact that her private charity shares the same space as her government office means nothing, or maybe there is more to the story.

What else is known of her



financial dealings? In addition to this highly unethical setup, Thompson skirted campaign finance law to appease her donors and rake in more funds than the legal limit allows. One thing is clear though--- like many of her fellow legislators, Geraldine feels an obligation to one thing and one thing only: her self-interest. "I'm not sure what she's done for us," says Tim Adams of Dr. Phillips: "I never see her. I didn't even know she existed until I stumbled upon

the race in a news article. People here need results not idle talk."

In the entire district though, Thompson enjoys significant name recognition. If only our Chicago-based Orlando Sentinel paid more attention to her record than the number of years she has been in public life! Fresh faces, youthful ideas and non-establishment figures consist of just what FL-44 requires for the future of our rapidly growing community. We thank Mr. Portigliatti for running. We

believe that the people of FL-44 will be able to see through the demagoguery, partisanship and tribal mentality brought to us by Thompson. We also wish the best to whoever wins the race and will be rooting for their success in Tallahassee as they serve the people of District FL-44.

Thompson could not be reached for comment on this story.

GOD'S WORD

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."
Jeremiah 30:17a

WORDS TO THE WISE

"Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it."
Samuel Langhorne Clemens

OPINION: DESPITE LACK OF RESULTS, STATE REP. ESKAMANI POISED FOR RE-ELECTION

By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

State Representative Anna Eskamani is completing her first term in the Florida House this year. She arrived on the scene as a force of the progressive movement in 2018, even landing as one of a few dozen women featured on the cover of TIME magazine as a first-time woman candidate. As a former pro-abortion lobbyist for Planned Parenthood, she also positioned herself as a champion of the worker: taking on minimum wage laws, advocating for paid leave, and holding corporations accountable. She has also promoted and defended alternative lifestyles: from championing gay rights to allowing people to define their own gender, and even yelling about "toxic masculinity" during anti-Trump rallies in downtown Orlando.

A quick glance at the "About Anna" section of her website gives an example of her long involvement in the Orlando community, where she was born and raised, as a child of Iranian immigrants. I hear little stories about Anna in the community that make me more and more

aware that she does smart community-building things all the time. Recently, she sent a personal congratulatory letter to every family whose child was a part of a successful Orlando little league team.

However, as a candidate, Anna Eskamani has not been without controversy. In 2018, she joined protesters for a "die in" at a local Orlando Publix, laying on the shopping aisles in the middle of a busy shopping day to protest Publix's support of Adam Putnam — simply because Putnam was supported by the National Rifle Association, making them guilty by association.

Anna Eskamani and her friends in the gun control movement wanted to make an example of Publix. And it worked: for a few months, Publix halted all political fundraising. After the spotlight was off them, they returned to their donations to Florida politicians across the political spectrum. CONTINUED PAGE 4



State Rep. Anna Eskamani lying on the floor of Publix in protest

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ESKAMANI POISED FOR RE-ELECTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

...This past year, Eskamani also targeted any Florida corporations that supported the Step Up For Students scholarship program, which provides opportunities for low-income families to send their children to schools of their choice. This includes private Christian schools which do not believe in same-sex marriage and do not have the transgender policies that Eskamani and some of her more progressive allies in the legislature think they should. Once again, if a corporation or organization does not fit the progressive cookie cutter agenda, Eskamani targets them, despite the long-held American principle of freedom of association.

Fortunately, for the 150,000 low-income students, mostly from black and Hispanic backgrounds, Eskamani was not successful. While a few corporations were bullied by her, most of those that held their funding, eventually came back to Step Up For Students after the smoke cleared. Even some of her Democratic colleagues stood up against her.

Representative Kimberly Daniels, a Democrat from Jacksonville, claimed Eskamani and her progressive allies in the legislature, Carlos Guillermo-Smith and Cindy Polos "bullied" her and other Democrats on issues such as educational choice and parental notification on abortion. Daniels stood her ground and said, "I will not back down from people who are merely activist motivated and not true policy makers in my opinion ... This is a message to the Anna Eskamanis and

the Cindy Polos, who are so far left they have been left behind ... the best thing they can do is tweet and get likes and undermine other elected officials with bogus media attempts."

And that's where Eskamani is really active: on social media. While she is supposed to be representing the interests of her constituents in Orlando, she is often focused on issues at the national level that state lawmakers have little to no input on – perhaps trying to be the next Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes, without the pedestal of a Congressional seat. She is also funded by Soros-backed groups and some might claim she simply turned from an actual lobbyist on Planned Parenthood's payroll to one that now lobbies for their interest from her seat in House District 47.

HD47 was previously held by a Republican, Mike Miller, from 2014-2018. He vacated it for an unsuccessful run for a Congressional seat held by Stephanie Murphy.

While HD47 was arguably trending to the left of a Republican like Mike Miller, Eskamani is as far left as a lawmaker can get and is clearly too far left for this district. And yet she not only won by a clear margin in 2018 over Winter Park businessman Stockton Reeves but is set for a clear path to victory in 2020. With that being said, why has it been so difficult for Republicans to field a high-quality candidate, with good name ID, strong community ties, and the ability to fundraise to compete with Anna Eskamani? Statewide, the Republican Party is very well-positioned in funding &

a deep bench of candidates, yet there has been little to no investment in HD47 by the local or statewide party to find a strong candidate and propel them to victory – or at least a competitive race, which might help persuade Eskamani to cool it with her tactics and move a little more to the center as a legislator. In 2020, there are currently two Republican candidates hoping to win their primary to face Eskamani in November. However, very few Republican voters have even heard of them.

Jeremy Sisson came out of the gates in late 2019 with an impressive website, billing himself as "a seasoned entrepreneur, small business owner, commercial real estate expert and philanthropic community leader," as well as a "political outsider." Word on the street has it that he hobnobbed in Tallahassee but made no serious fundraising effort while Eskamani was prevented from fundraising during the legislative session.

Kevin Miles Morenski, a criminal defense attorney, just declared his candidacy a few weeks ago and is supporting an immediate reopening of the Florida economy after the shutdowns caused by the public health concerns of the COVID19 pandemic. While no political website could be found, he appears very concerned about the growing homelessness problem in Orlando, tweeting photos of drugged-out homeless people on the streets:

"Your district @AnnaForFlorida. We are well on our way to becoming San Francisco."

While many Republicans are clearly concerned that this district is trending the way of San Francisco – on so many levels – there does not yet seem to be a well-funded, organized effort to recruit a candidate with strong name identification who is willing to run against far-left progressive Anna Eskamani. Perhaps they are afraid of her aggressive, bullhorn tactics. Or perhaps there just isn't anyone willing to do the job.

The saving grace for Florida conservatives is that Eskamani isn't a particularly effective legislator. She holds a lot of press conferences, tweets incessantly, and loves to rail against Donald Trump and Governor Ron DeSantis. But she hasn't led any meaningful legislation or brought anything back to her district in Orlando to make her standout in terms of results. The downside of this for all people in Orlando is she isn't doing anything meaningful to represent the broader community of which she was born and raised. The "representative" ahead of her name has become about as meaningless as the gender pronouns she puts on her business card.

DOES ORLANDO WEEKLY HAVE ANY STANDARDS?

By AUSTIN BURNSTEIN

Orlando, FL - Be careful what you say! Orlando Weekly - that sanctimonious publication known by so many for their LGBTQIA+ soirees and woke attitudes - may be listening. If you repeat the wrong things, you'll lose your livelihood and career. Like the monsters in the film "A Quiet Place," one peep and you're dispatched into the wilderness of nothingness for eternity. Surely, such an awesome and prominent news organization as Orlando Weekly must spend their time on more productive news investigations than the assassination of private citizens' characters? Who cares what a small business owner's religious beliefs might be, or what they think about unisex bathrooms, or how they feel about BLM? If the coffee's good, I'll drink it! The kind of fetishization Orlando Weekly has with call-out culture is simply unnatural.

The mob mentality of Orlando Weekly's incessant attacks on private citizens illustrates with lucidity the deep and ancient roots of their collectivist witch-hunt: scapegoating. The publication thrusts their own personal, psychological and professional shortcomings on the backs of those not only unrelated to their business but also on private figures with no pertinence to real news.

Talk about creepy! Just take a look at a recent article by Orlando Weekly on a local shop owner near Lake Eola. A recent graduate of the Center for Really Asinine People, why can't Natalia Jaramillo seem to grasp the concept that - except for a tiny but vocal community of trolls like herself - no one cares what a small-business owner thinks about political issues? Perhaps an X-Ray of her skull might reveal a vacancy of the cranium! But in truth, Natalia and her counterparts aren't that ignorant. They know by destroying

the reputation of certain people, their media constituency will further transform themselves into full-fledged, zombie-like sycophants of demagoguery and programming.

Despite their secular fanaticism, Orlando Weekly, like all secular left-wing groups, derive their obsession with victimhood from Christianity. But Christianity commands forgiveness and repentance together, not just one of those concepts. A hero of both the left and right, Dr. Martin Luther King sought to mend divisions based on the Christian virtues of redemption and forgiveness, but Orlando Weekly seeks to do the exact opposite by propagating stories that upset careers of private individuals and stoke the flames of division. The publication really should follow the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, when he said: "We must not seek to defeat or humiliate the enemy but to win his friendship and understanding."

An easy and expected response to this article might be to criticize our website as a blog, but then again - unlike Orlando Weekly - we hired more than four employees. We also publish a regular newspaper, distributing in areas the tenderfoots at our rival publication can't seem to garner supporters from. Why not go back to the drawing board and figure out a way to pick on somebody your own size, Orlando Weekly!

ZIP-A-DEE DOO-DOO... (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 1)...Among of Walter Elias himself. After all, the complaints lodged against the ride his niece is on record labeling remain its connection to actor James their founder as a gender bigot and Baskett's portrayal of an African racist.

American in the film Song of the South. Some suggest the film reeks of racist rancidity, though the star Walt Disney - the right-wing Republican of the picture himself accomplished founder of Disneyland - never explored the concept of exclusion. In fact, his purpose for including James Baskett in the film Song of the South served as a means to give a veteran black actor his life's crowning achievement. None of the minorities working for Disney ever accused him of racism. At a time when large swaths of Hollywood by winning an Academy Award. We contacted a relative of the James Baskett to ask his thoughts on the ride's removal and the scorn for the film.

Although the anonymous relative supports removing Confederate statues, his stance on Splash Mountain and Song of the South indicated a concern for seeing beyond our present understanding: "Some people were slighted for roles that they had no option to accept. If we can find some good in our history, especially with James, it would be worthwhile. Young people sometimes don't have the benefit of seeing that there are two sides to every story."

If such an innocuous ride as Splash Mountain goes the way of the dodo, why stop there? No real connections to the stereotypical portions of the film exist in the animatronic displays on the ride.

On their next fishing expedition, why not rename Snow White? Perhaps eliminating the Seven Dwarfs Mine Ride altogether will be the real cure to stamp out racism. While they're at it, Disney should expunge most of the statues from the Hall of Presidents and rebrand Tom Sawyer's Island for being an outgrowth of racist literature. Or better yet, maybe the sanctimonious zealots at Disney's toxic inquisition will remove statues

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CHRISTINI'S RESTAURANT: HOME OF THE LEGENDS

(Continued from Page 1)...Born to a poor and Gene Simmons. The late Arnold Greco-Italian family in Sparta, Greece, Palmer enjoyed a close friendship like his ancestors, Chris Christini has with owner Chris Christini and many always been a fighter. Immigrating to the local power players and socialites dine United States, he worked his way up from frequently in addition to the thousands the bottom as he trained in New York of guests who flock to the restaurant under restaurateur Joe Baum. His history from around the world. The vast array prior to founding Christini's Ristorante of awards won by Christini merely Italiano includes being a veteran of such confirms this reputation of excellence, establishments as the 21 Club in New York, The Four Seasons and opening the and the Restaurant Hall of Fame in the original Italian Pavilion at EPCOT among United States of America.

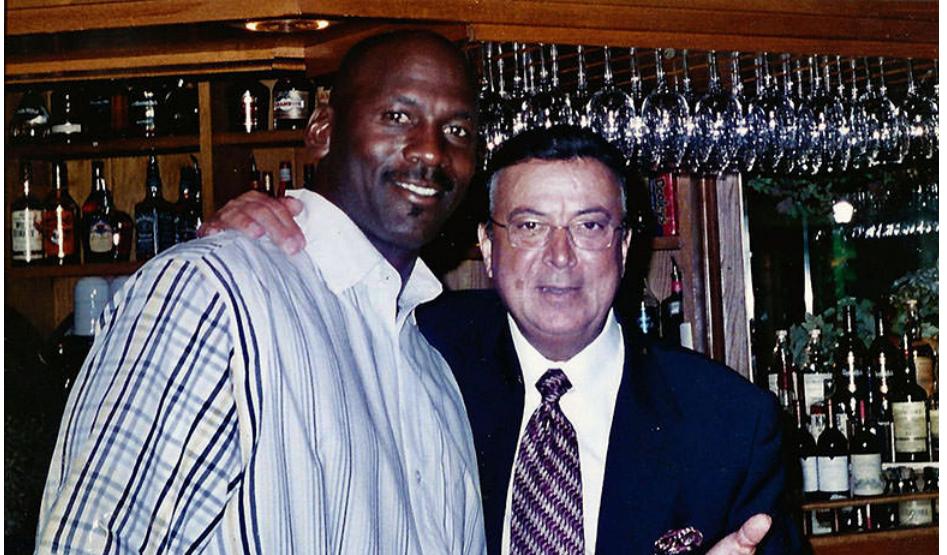
many more great posts.

Of course many people also enjoy In the early 1980s, development the classy and nostalgic atmosphere in Orlando boomed but wilderness for special occasions as they dine still abounded in the meantime. This to the serenade of a world renown wilderness served as the launch pad accordionist over Christini's finest for Christini's world famous restaurant. Chris Christini took a gamble that many believed would fail. Instead, his restaurant achieved heights thought to be impossible by most of his contemporaries. We at The Orlando Local News give his incredible establishment an A+.

With a history of four decades while we may not be able to travel fine dining in the Central Florida area, to Italy at the moment, we can bring Christini's boasts of guests as varied as home some of Italy's finest dishes, Mick Jagger, Pat Sajak, Rudy Giuliani compliments of Mr. Chris Christini.



FAR LEFT: Pat Sajak of Wheel of Fortune; TOP RIGHT TO BOTTOM: Arnold Palmer, the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger, Michael Jordan, posing with world-renown restaurant owner Chris Christini at his establishment in Dr. Phillips, Florida



CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE OF OUR LOCAL HEROES!

**FIRST LIEUTENANT HANS FETTERHOFF OF OAKLAND
GRADUATES RANGER SCHOOL AT FORT BENNING**



CHURCHES TO RE-OPEN JUNE 7

Several major churches are expected to re-open starting June 7 including Christ Church of Orlando. Pastor Paul and the entire team is excited to extend a welcome to the faithful and hopes to see you there. Founded over a half-century ago, the church has grown rapidly in recent years. In the last few years, the church expanded, building a new worship center and meeting hall. The motto, "you're gonna love this church," rings true for most who step foot inside. Among several other churches to open on June 7 is First Baptist Church of Orlando, whose pastor David Uth requests prayer for a recent bicycle accident from which he is recovering. A more expansive list of church openings can be found on our website at www.OrlandoLocalNews.Com.

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FINE DINING AND LOCAL EATS**PR'S TACO PALACE
AN ORLANDO TRADITION SINCE 1987**

Hungry for some delicious Taco's and a mug of beer? Why not drop by PR's Taco Palace?! PR's longevity derives from the owner's belief in people. It's all about fun and good times at PR's. Perry and his team will help you kick back and relax after a stressful day, or on your day off! Perry opened PR's in November of 1987 after being let go by his previous employer. Little did they know, it was their biggest mistake!

Perry's talent caused PR's not only to survive but thrive. Told his business might only last 90 days, Perry now boasts of 33 years serving the public, and Coronavirus isn't getting him down! "We turned this place into a gold-mine from hard-work, day in, and day out," Perry said. "My daughter and I came to work every day without fail to make it better and better."

One of the best parts of PR's is the food, and Perry isn't ashamed to tell you that: "I love to cook. I probably have more cookbooks than most men have playboys!" Although his locations aren't exactly on the ritz, people flock to PR's without end: "People like to eat. You can have a dive location but you can also have the greatest food in the world!"

And the food goes with the customers, too. Take for example, one regular for the past few decades: Jimmy, a Marine Corps veteran and car collector loves to pull up his 1968 Corvette nearly every day for a bite and a beer. His friendly attitude and fun spirit exemplify most all of Perry's customers. And why? Well, the answer is simple: PR's is a family and that's just how you're treated; so what are you waiting for? Stop by and scarf down some tacos and thirst quenching margaritas today!

**LISBON PORTUGUESE RESTUARANT
OUR VERDICT: DELICIOSO**

Want a taste of Portugal without leaving Orlando? Try Lisbon Portuguese Restaurant nestled in The Marketplace near Restaurant Row. One step inside will leave you enchanted with the sights, sounds and smells of Lisbon. Ornate patterns on the walls reflect the aesthetic beauty of Portuguese art. Live entertainment will serenade you to the music of Lisbon. Best of all, the wine and food is absolutely delicioso, though some dishes might suit standard American taste buds more than others. For an exotic and unique food adventure, Lisbon has so much to offer you. The friendly wait staff and servers all come right from Portugal and can tell you anything and everything about their home country. Eat the cuisine of Vasco de Gama and Henry the Navigator and explore the many scrumptious dishes of Portuguese culture. Rui and the entire Lisbon family will welcome you into their castle as guests of honor where you will feast like Kings and Queens. Visit Lisbon Restaurant, we did and can say you won't regret it!

**LISTEN TO DARIUSZ
WE DARE YA!**

It's a weekend and Jimmy Dorsey lives on in the fingers of Dariusz Grabowski. After finishing a seasonal concert he often performs with the Dorsey Orchestra, Dariusz heads to Christini's Restaurant for his nightly extravaganza of magical music. As he masterfully plays the piano and accordion, the spirit of the Dorsey brothers permeates the air, but so do Nelson Riddle, Sammy Cahn, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Frank, the Chairman of the Board.

With each note Grabowski tugs at the heartstrings and leads you to the tender trap of his music. But his talents aren't one dimensional. Grabowski serenades lovers and lonely stags in a simultaneous barrage of romantic and melancholy tunes. You will always find a song to fit the occasion with Dariusz, stick around and he will eventually play it. He even plays rock music, though his talents on the accordion much better suit a more sophisticated genre.

Dariusz may not realize his talent's impact on diners, but his music draws tears from the eyes and songs from the heart. Even a basic birthday melody gives cheer to the receiver! Far from a simple accordion player, Dariusz's talents extend to the field of pianist and always leave the listener begging for more. A musician with such a widespread and diverse field of abilities is a rare find today indeed.

But the level of skill Grabowski boasts of didn't appear over-night. His talents matured from years of study at the Fredrich Chopin College School of Music in Olsztyn, Poland, and the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland. His parents, Stefania and Antoni, sought to endow a love for piano and music in his heart from a very young age. They succeeded, and now their son lives his dreams as a world class musician.

His down to earth humility may be charming and friendly but don't let that fool you. This musical genius plays for the world's most famous leaders, politicians and celebrities, including the President of Poland, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. Add to that list Queen Elizabeth and Pope John Paul II, and you'll really start getting the picture! Though Grabowski plays in concert as a paid musician, and occasionally for public consumption, you can see him in person tonight at Christini's Ristorante Italiano in Dr.

Phillips, Florida. Wherever you encounter his incredible music, you'll be bewitched, bothered and bewildered from the moment the first note sounds off. So don't wait! Listen to Dariusz - we dare ya! Visit www.dariuszgrabowski.com for more information.

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ESTABLISHED 1980

CONNOISSEUR'S CORNER

BELICOSO CIGARS

LOCAL CIGAR PRINCE SMOKES THE COMPETITION

At the height of the pandemic, in the depths of an economic downturn, one Orlando business managed to do the impossible: not just survive, but thrive. The greatest of all achievements for any venture come not in times of peace and stability but rather in moments of uncertainty and the unknown. The guiding hand of Joshua Fabelo provides the steady leadership responsible for the success of Belicoso Cigars. But Joshua's expertise didn't just arise from trial and error. His family enjoys a long legacy in the annals of cigar history. His great uncle, Arturo Fuentes, founded the Fuentes Cigar brand known world round for their legendary quality and famous smokers from Hemingway to Churchill. Though Fuentes Cigars do not own the business, the spirit of Arturo permeates every facet of the venture. Launched in 2014, the cigar café took off exponentially on the sidewalks of Park Avenue in Winter Park, despite the presence of a competing cigar lounge on the Fairbanks end of the street. Belicoso immediately drew large swaths of customers attracted to the establishment's unique aura and far more reasonable prices. The swarms of visitors ranged from local Winter Park residents to pilgrims from all around Central Florida. After several years of success on the Avenue, owners recognized the need to expand their flourishing business to a venue with greater capacity and space for their packed location. That's when Joshua and his business partner chose to move to their Mills location. Offering outdoor seating on a terrace both upstairs and on the first floor, the move inadvertently allowed the flexibility necessary to cope with the new reality of the Coronavirus pandemic. Joshua spoke to *The Orlando Local News* about the current crisis. Though the relative success of Belicoso remains a point of pride for the establishment, the pandemic still fosters a challenge for the business: "It's hard but bars will never go away," said Joshua of Belicoso Cigars. "The cigar side has issues with regulations but people will always want to come out and smoke cigars. Part of the allure of having a cigar is not just staying home but enjoying a smoke around people. Part of my family's legacy and tradition was going over to my uncle Carlito's (Arturo's son) house and smoking over scotch." By maximizing the benefit of outside seating, Joshua lived up to that tradition by allowing the establishment's atmosphere to be both welcoming to groups and health cognizant. Belicoso secured their customers' trust as a place of safety for health-minded guests while remaining compliant with the law. But Belicoso doesn't simply cater to cigar connoisseurs. They also boast of a delicious menu, complete with BBQ and donuts, served by a friendly wait staff. No competing cigar bar in town boasts of the wide variety of options Belicoso offers to enjoy an evening of cigar smoking with friends. From Arturo Fuentes to Joshua Fabelo, the flames of success continue to propel the business toward even greater heights!

THE RUSSELL HOME
A NOBLE CAUSE IN NEED

The Russell Home for Atypical Children serves children with disabilities when no one else will (sometimes for life!). They not only provide housing and life sustaining medical care, but also give to those children a sense of family and love. Without the Russell Home, many of these children might enter into neglectful situations or fall through the cracks of the system. The home does not adhere to a specific denomination but infuses faith and Christian morals into their program. Thankfully they've since helped countless numbers of children with disabilities live rich and extraordinary lives. Though America boasts of a reputation as one of the highest in terms of charitable giving, the pandemic has also hit the pocketbooks of many who give. That's why it is more important than ever to ratchet up our giving to organizations such as the Russell Home in this time of dire need. Jesus said "let the little children come unto me" to show his love for even the meek and mild among us. Shouldn't we do the same?

Today you will find in the home a dusty occupational license dated Nov. 13, 1951, when Mrs. Russell opened her home to the first child to "see if it would work out," and it did! In 1967, the Russell Home became a nonprofit organization as well as the first residential facility in the country for brain-damaged children. Grandma Russell was the remarkable and dedicated woman who started this venture and volunteered 24 hours a day, seven days a week – to provide ample care and support for the residents. That legacy is carried on today but not without your generous financial contributions. Keep these vulnerable children safe through the storm of the pandemic: donate today, if you are able, by visiting www.RussellHome.org.

TRAVEL

A VISIT TO MOUNT RUSHMORE
ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

In 2009, President Barack Obama ended the Mount Rushmore fireworks celebration out of apparent fire concerns for the area. Indeed, the surrounding lands abound with forests and greenery that sometimes do catch fire from even non-human causes. However, authorities usually extinguish these fires without much problem. In the nearly seven decades preceding President Obama's decision to cancel and permanently suspend the July Fourth celebration at Rushmore, not a single major fire occurred on the site due to pyrotechnic related issues.

Recent outcry against President Trump's reignition of the Independence Day weekend fireworks display at Mount Rushmore came from all four corners of the Earth. With so much pushback, that means the event is probably a good thing! But hand-wringing over the President's actions didn't just stem from environmental reasons. Aspersions came from all corners, but mainly all corners of the left. An alleged affront to the Native American community in the area, local tribal leaders protested, echoing the words of many in the media, that Mt. Rushmore stands on "stolen land." But of course this type of rhetoric overlooks the fact that much of the United States is stolen land - first by the natives themselves, warring with each other for centuries before Europeans arrived, and then (in some cases), by settlers, or via broken treaties.

The idea that this land belongs only to Native Americans, or only to Europeans, or only to blacks or hispanics, is an insult to the millions who gave their blood, sweat and tears to forge our nation.

And though the President's speech on July

Third did include some partisan rhetoric, his reflection of American history refreshed in the minds of the viewing audience the greatness of our nation's history and our potential in the future. The sculptor of the monument, Gutzon Borglum, originally planned to make the hills into a monument of four Western heroes. However, once the magnitude of the task manifested, the decision was made to sculpt the hills into four great Presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

While the greatness of these men certainly reflects the greatness of the nation, their colossal size allowed the perfect backdrop not just for momentous events such as Independence Day fireworks extravaganzas, but also a number of films - including Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* with Cary Grant.

The closest town to the site is Keystone, South Dakota. Though a bit touristy, the scenery still welcomes nature lovers and the people of the town are warm and jovial. Hotels do exist in Keystone, but the funnest way to experience your time in the area is camping in a cabin or tent. The most scenic route to take on the way to Mt. Rushmore begins in Denver, Colorado, either winding up south from Nebraska or west from Wyoming.

Don't forget that the famous structure isn't the only site to marvel at in South Dakota. The Badlands, the Black Hills and a variety of sites from the Wild West set the imagination aflame with intrigue and fascination.

Whether your visit to Mt. Rushmore involves fireworks or not, the monument inspires everyone who sees it year round to live up to the greatness of America.



Our Business Director Francisco Gonzalez recently traveled to Mount Rushmore to witness the site's first July Fourth fireworks extravaganza in more than ten years. This joint article, co-authored with Editor Marshall Swanson (who traveled to Rushmore in 2018), seeks to highlight this great event and the dos and don'ts of any future trip you might plan to the area. Pictured top to bottom, clockwise: Rushmore fireworks display July 3, 2020; Marshall Swanson, Editor of The Orlando Local News; Pres. Trump and First Lady, Melania Trump; Francisco Gonzalez (middle), Business Director of The Orlando Local News.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR:

Each and every day, *The Orlando Local News* attempts to imbue in our work the highest standards of professionalism. That is why we felt it necessary to respond when critics lambasted our recent "pandemic" spelling error in a headline. As with all publications, large or small, we make mistakes from time to time. We appreciate the feedback and thank you for your loyalty to our home-town paper.

ESTABLISHED 1980

COME FLY WITH ME (Cont'd)...

...No, we didn't fly on Icarus' wings of wax- nor those of a mighty jet, but rather the humblest of birds: a 1968 Piper Cherokee. Though modest in appearance, the aircraft possesses a certain magnetic charm bewitching even the most amateur of aviation connoisseurs. And for my family, a long history of love for Pipers solidified my intrigue for the plane. Following his discharge from the Army Air Force in WWII, my grandfather served as Travel Editor for the Kansas City Star, sweeping across the globe with his family on a similar aircraft, the Piper Arrow (among a few select others).

As a child, this love for flight permeated my being as well, when on many a day we'd ride down to the executive airport for a "flight lesson." Now at 24 years old, the flames that burnt then continue in my heart. When I began my training at First Landings Flight School in Apopka, I didn't quite know what to expect. After all, I'd taken a sabbatical from flying in smaller aircraft for fourteen years since the days of my childhood. An avid traveler on jumbo-jets, I'd grown accustomed to a less intimate form of flight, but the thrill of this new adventure only propelled me further toward fascination with the prospect of being a private pilot.

As I arrived at the Apopka Airport, my flight instructor, Cody, greeted me with



warmth and friendliness. At the time he seemed rather young to be a pilot, (but of course so was I), though the 20-year-old soon proved his mettle. With over 4,000 hours of flying, Cody's encyclopedic knowledge of the subject and his calm demeanor quickly assured me that my training was in highly capable and talented hands.

From pre-flight procedures to radio communications to landing and take-off: from the onset, the task of flying seemed at best a challenge and at the worst daunting. However, Cody's clear instruction and my months of training in the simulator prepared me well.

With hours to go before solo, I am reminded of the words that my grand-

father's flight instructor spoke to him and on many occasions he recited to me: "Most people have the wrong idea about flying. Almost anybody can do it if he really wants to. Like anything else it just takes practice. But once you earn your license you have one of the world's most prized possessions- a ticket to go anywhere as high, as fast, as far as you want."

Typically, 40 hours of flight training are required to attain a private pilots license. Depending on the frequency of your flights, training may take longer or shorter than expected but of course every case is individual.

The setting at First Landings Flight School in Apopka is ideal for conducting flight training. All instructors enjoy

hundreds or thousands of hours in flying before being hired as instructors. In Cody's case, his uncle inspired him to fly after spending many hours of his childhood as his "co-pilot" in Massachusetts. Earning his pilot's license in January of 2017, Cody trained on the simulator for years prior since age 10. In high school, I participated in Air Force JROTC where a brief "boot camp" introduced me as well to simulators at MacDill AFB.

Though I only practiced on my home simulator for a year or two in high school, I picked it up again in 2019 anticipating my upcoming time in flight school. For anyone learning to fly in Central Florida, I recommend two steps beforehand: practice in the simulator, and most importantly, choose a great flight school like First Landings to receive the highest quality instruction from great aviators like Cody. To find out more information about flight lessons at First Landings in Apopka, go to: firstlandings.com. I'll be sure to update our readers with a new article in the coming months. Until then, see you in the wild blue!

COLONIAL LAKES HEALTH-CARE ADMINISTRATOR UNDER INVESTIGATION KEEPING THEM ACCOUNTABLE

Roger Swanson, a WWII veteran and founder of *The Orlando Local News*, passed away alone last month in a nursing facility, despite unheeded requests for end of life visitation to the home by the family. The nursing home at Colonial Lakes Healthcare in Winter Garden grants such requests by family so long as no COVID-19 symptoms are apparent. Swanson passed away of normal causes not related to COVID-19.

Recent recordings and whistle blower witnesses emerged validating many of the claims made by the family. A sign on the front of the facility and message machine also stated an exception for end of life visits so long as the individuals remain free of Coronavirus symptoms. The sign has since been removed. According to the family, Swanson's nurse and CNA stated his symptoms earlier in the day appeared to be end of life. Immediately following his death, the nursing home allowed the family to view the body despite waiting for hours outside. A long discussion with nursing administrator Kim Lane resulted in an exercise of verbal gymnastics with few answers being given on the issue, according to Swanson's family.

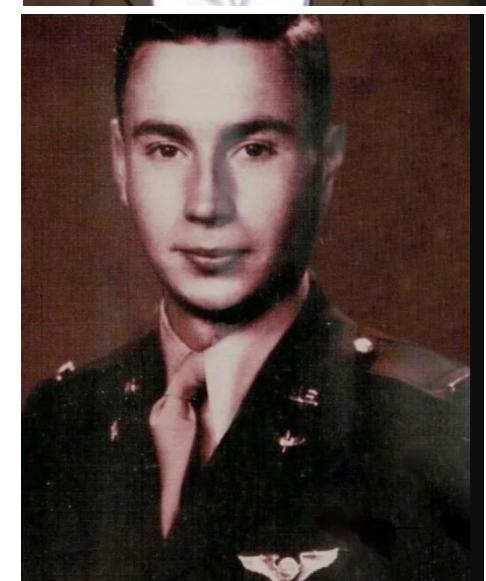
That's when *The Orlando Local News* stepped in to find answers. The editor of the Local News began an investigation once the red flags were raised. The recordings revealed both a lack of compassion on behalf of the administrator and a neglectful attitude. Causing even greater concern in regards to the care received at the facility and the possibility of purposeful neglect, just last month a

different family filed a police report into an alleged beating of a patient at the facility by staff.

The Orlando Local News approached Kim Lane at the facility and met with her outdoors in a public area. Kim Lane's official title is Executive Director. Nevertheless, Lane neither holds a nursing degree nor any other medical certificate. When asked why the nursing home did not allow Swanson's family to visit upon end of life symptoms, Lane engaged in a lengthy rant even the late prominent attorney "Racehorse Haynes" would be proud of.

The diatribe began by Lane giving a lecture crock full of technicalities and semantics that often contradicted themselves. First Lane, an administrator with no education in medicine, dismissed the diagnoses presented by her own nurses and CNAs who claimed Swanson had been deteriorating for hours, according witness accounts. Then, Lane played ignorant by failing to acknowledge that the term "end of life care" and the term "crisis care" were not one in the same - until she admitted they were. When asked what qualifies for crisis care, Lane said when "it's eminent and he's going right now." Outdoor audio recordings which took place in a public area also exist with medically trained nursing staff who describe the situation a bit differently than the administrator Kim Lane. His nurse stated that: "After the second shift at three o'clock I came and checked on him and he was just laying back. Being in this profession I kind of knew it was that time..."

When I came in here I knew it was almost that time." Swanson died at approximately four o'clock. This can be verified by his death certificate. Meanwhile many of his family waited outside as the nursing home in restricted access. The family of Swanson additionally stated that the attitude directed at them by Lane embodied hostility to their questions and a lack of care for their loss with Lane even checking the time during their brief chat. Once the family entered the room where Swanson's body lay, they waited hours before staff took to the phones and contacted the funeral home, even as the family prodded them several times. As the family waited in Swanson's room, they noticed the empty walls. None of the photos given to the facility were ever placed there. Due to the lack of funds for medical care in nursing homes, many hire staff with bare-bones training. As a result, most conscientious families know the dire necessity to visit on a regular basis to monitor their loved ones care. When Swanson entered the nursing home, his medical condition remained stable. However, in several short weeks he lost a substantial amount of weight and deteriorated rapidly. The family claims that his decline occurred due to restrictions placed on the family by the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to visitation. Without visitation, the family said, little could be done to ensure his wellbeing under the poor care he received.

**About the Editor:**

Marshall Swanson is the grandson of founder Roger Swanson. He is the current Editor of *The Orlando Local News*. He previously worked in the US House of Representatives, operated in the field of political activism and campaigns, as well hosting a radio program on both the AM and FM dial. In addition, he has traveled to Iraq on numerous occasions for charity and research which he submitted to Members of Congress and the National Security Council at the White House.

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