



COMMENTARY

BETH KASSAB
Sentinel Columnist

Music event shines arts spotlight on Orlando

My highest musical accomplishment might have been "Hot Cross Buns" on the recorder in fifth grade.

Whatever, *ahem*, talent I might have today is best belted out in my car. Alone. With the volume turned way up.

So how did I come to be sitting in the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts enthralled with a conversation about the technique of using a bow on a marimba (think giant xylophone with wooden bars)? Or the finer points of a "gliss" or the slide from one pitch to another on a harp?

That stuff is over my head. But the fact that I even know what those things are today is one illustration of the power of the National Young Composers Challenge.

The other evidence of the influence of the event, which took place Sunday, could be seen in 16-year-old Elise Arancio of Tucker, Ga. Or 13-year-old Isabella Dussias of Hillsborough, N.J.

Elise, who plays viola, began writing original compositions for a class project in fifth grade.

She was a winner in this year's challenge for her modern-sounding piece, "On the Line," for violin, piano and clarinet. And now she is leaning toward studying composition in college and beyond.

"It's always really kind of nerve-racking," she said of competitions, but added that this challenge, which gives the composers a chance to be at rehearsal with the musicians before their pieces are played in front of a live audience, was special.

"Usually, you just get an e-mail saying you won and a check," she said.

Isabella took an honorable mention for her waltz-like piece for orchestra called "Colors of Spring."

Christopher Wilkins, the former Orlando Philharmonic music director who hosted the event, asked Isabella if she would have written the music without the lure of the competition.

The answer? No. "It was the opportunity" of the challenge that prodded her, she said.

With that, jazz artist Jeff Rupert, one of the challenge judges and the director of jazz studies at UCF, put his arm around Steve Goldman, who founded the challenge, and both smiled broadly.

"That's what you're hoping for," Goldman said later. "You're hoping that this actually results in the creation of some new music, some new talent."

The challenge is one-of-a-kind for kids between 13 and 18 who are yearning to be the next John Williams or Bach or some other style of musical genius we've never seen before.

About 80 kids from across the country submitted their work. The finalists were narrowed to about 30. Six winners were chosen in ensemble performances. Three winners plus two honorable mentions were selected among the entries for orchestra.

Please turn to **KASSAB, B2**

Orlando debates nightclub safety

City task force recommends hiring a 'night manager'

By **JEFF WEINER**
Staff Writer

Orlando commissioners were divided Monday on how best to manage the city's sometimes chaotic downtown nightlife and the role police should play in securing local clubs.

The debate emerged during a City Council workshop detailing the findings of a task force convened in December, six months before the violence at Pulse nightclub claimed 49 lives, bringing renewed focus to the effort to study safety and other issues at local clubs and bars.

The task force recommended improving communication between businesses and City Hall, first through the hiring of a "night manager" and the formation of a committee to track trends and issues, and possibly

later by creating a team of "ambassadors" to serve as guides for downtown visitors.

However, the idea of an ambassador program was met with skepticism by some on the council, with District 2 Commissioner Tony Ortiz arguing police should take priority.

"I think what we need to do is beef up our Police Department," Ortiz said, arguing the city should explore establishing a ratio of officers to bar patrons. "We don't want another tragedy like what we had at Pulse."

District 4 Commissioner Patty Sheehan disputed the notion that a police presence could have prevented the killings at Pulse, where a gunman killed and wounded dozens in minutes with a semi-automatic rifle.

"I think we could have had the SWAT team on the site at

Pulse, and we still would have had a major shooting," she said.

Police Chief John Mina spoke favorably about the idea of ambassadors but also acknowledged more officers will be needed downtown in the future, especially with the planned University of Central Florida downtown campus expected to bring 7,000-plus students.

Commissioners also debated whether the cost of a night manager, or downtown ambassadors, could be justified.

"I don't want to just hire more people that are going to sit around and wring their hands," Sheehan said.

As part of its study, the city consulted with the Responsible Hospitality Institute, which found the city's current nightlife

Please turn to **NIGHTCLUB, B2**



JACOB LANGSTON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting in a little father-son time

Larry Hauman of DeLand, left, and his son Matt, visiting from Chicago, fish from the dock Monday at Lake Monroe Park in DeBary. The park also offers camping, picnic areas and a boat ramp.

Lake Pickett foes want vote delay

By **STEPHEN HUDAK**
Staff Writer

On Election Night, east Orange residents made good on a vow to oust Commissioner Ted Edwards because he disregarded them and backed two large-scale residential developments around Lake Pickett.

Now they want county commissioners to put off a crucial vote today on one of the projects until his successor takes office.

Emily Bonilla, whose candidacy was spawned by Edwards' support for the projects known as Sustany and The Grow, upset him in the District 5 race, winning 57 percent of the ballots cast.

She said she opposes the projects.

But Bonilla won't be sworn in until Dec. 6, while the final vote on Sustany is set for today. Unless the vote is delayed, the same board that approved The Grow in August will decide this one too.

"The county commission needs to go with the will of the people," said Jimmy Hester, who owns a small farm on

Lake Pickett Road.

Hester and others opposed to the projects, including the environmental group 1000 Friends of Florida, have petitioned for a delay of the vote until Bonilla and Betsy VanderLey are sworn in.

VanderLey was elected a week ago to replace term-limited District 1 commissioner Scott Boyd, who represented west Orange and voted with Edwards in August.

"In a representative democracy, elections should be allowed to influence important public decisions," said Thomas Hawkins, policy and planning director of 1000 Friends of Florida.

Sustany, also known as Lake Pickett North, proposes a development of about 2,000 homes on 1,418 acres on the east side of the Econlockhatchee River.

The river has served as Orange County's urban service boundary, separating sewer lines from septic tanks, city water from wells.

In August, commissioners gave the final OK to The Grow, which could add about 2,000 homes between Tanner Road

and Chuluota Road, an area that critics contend is rural in character.

Public meetings on the developments have drawn large crowds, predominantly foes wearing red T-shirts decrying sprawl.

Bonilla would not say whether she wanted the commission to put off today's vote until she was sworn in to serve on the board.

"But my past speaks for itself," she said.

It's also unclear if Bonilla could participate in a vote on the Lake Pickett development if the decision was delayed until December.

She might need to recuse herself because she is part of a group that has appealed the commission's decision to amend Orange County's land-use plan to allow the projects.

In documents filed with the Division of Administrative Hearings, the appeal argues that the land-use changes will "adversely" affect her interests as Bonilla resides on Lake Pickett Road.

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In Brief

Fire Marshal reviews fireworks mishap

The State Fire Marshal's Office will investigate what caused a fireworks barge on Lake Eola to catch fire during Come Out With Pride festivities Saturday night. No one was injured. The barge, one of three on the lake that night, caught fire about five minutes into the show. Nobody was on board. "When this somewhat common situation happens on land, technicians would stop a show and extinguish before continuing," said Jeff Prystajko, a spokesman for Come Out With Pride. "Since our show was on a water barge, the producer and Orlando Fire Department evaluated the situation and determined that nobody was at risk and the show was safe to continue." Once the show was over, Orlando firefighters pulled the barge to shore with a small boat and extinguished the remaining flames. About 30,000 to 50,000 people attended Saturday's Come Out With Pride events, the first since 49 people were killed and at least 68 were hurt in a mass shooting June 12 at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. The parade, fireworks and other events were originally scheduled for early October but rescheduled because of Hurricane Matthew.

Gal Tziperman Lotan

Oviedo police probe death of 1-year-old

A 1-year-old girl was found dead in her Oviedo home over the weekend, and police said late Monday that they had arrested her mother. The mother told police she had stepped out of the room to take a shower and when she returned minutes later, the child was wrapped in a cord, according to an attorney for the Florida Department of Children and Families. But investigators checked the shower and found it was dry and there were no wet towels, the attorney told a judge. The mother also was wearing makeup and refused to take a drug test, the attorney said. Police would not release the child's name or details of what happened. They also would not disclose the charges. Oviedo police Lt. Heather Capetillo said the case was under investigation. At an emergency hearing Monday morning, a judge in Seminole County ordered the child's older brother to be placed with his grandparents and ruled that his mother should not be allowed any unsupervised visits. The children's father, the mother said, is in state prison.

Rene Stutzman

Pulse club featured in John Legend video

"Love Me Now," a new video by singer John Legend, features Orlando's Pulse nightclub. Scenes were filmed outside the club, at Lake Eola Park and in IBar downtown. Norman Casiano-Mojica, who was shot twice in the June attack that left 49 people dead and at least 68 injured, said Monday that Legend and his wife, model Chrissy Teigen, "wanted Pulse survivors in the video to put [a] message of love across." Legend sings to his wife and their baby daughter, Luna. The video presents couples demonstrating their love in Orlando and at Domiz refugee camp in Northern Iraq, Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic and Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota. "They recorded a basic day in our lives," Casiano-Mojica said. "It was me being me." The song contains the lyric, "I'm gonna love you now like it's all I have."

Hal Boedeker



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LOCAL & STATE

'Ghost gun' kits worry authorities

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — Companies that make kits that allow buyers to assemble military-style, semiautomatic rifles at home have sprung up in recent years in at least one Central Florida county, alarming some in law enforcement.

These so-called "ghost gun" kits have become popular with firearms-rights activists because the parts have no serial numbers or other markings, making them untraceable.

Ghost guns can be purchased online from thousands of websites without a background check.

It's legal because of the way the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives defines a firearm.

Under the law, no manufacturer-stamped serial number is

needed if you make a gun for personal use.

At least six of these gun-kit makers are operating in Volusia County, which has worried law enforcement officers. They say the unregistered guns can make it easy for criminals to arm themselves with untraceable weapons.

"It's legal, but it's almost like a loophole in the law," Port Orange police Chief Thomas Grimaldi told the Daytona Beach News-Journal.

"We're making it easy for the criminals. I have a concern — a huge concern — over that," Grimaldi said.

One company that makes the parts for a do-it-yourself AR-15, a military-style rifle that has been used in many mass shootings, is Elite Custom Railing in Holly Hill.

The company specializes in

making unfinished lower receivers — the part of the gun that houses the trigger mechanism.

By leaving the part unfinished — meaning only partially drilled — it fails to meet the ATF's requirement of being more than 80 percent complete. Buyers can finish the receivers at home by completing the drilling.

Manager Amanda Black said the company used to make aluminum railings but found that making the untraceable gun parts was a booming business.

Black said Elite Custom Railing sells between 100 and 150 lower receivers each day.

Still, building the guns is not easy and takes a lot of time, machinery and skills, said Jim Jusick, who co-owns Tactical Machining in DeLand.

Jusick said the difficulty of building the guns keeps them in the hands of experienced fire-

arms owners, not criminals. He said it takes a high level of skill to know how to machine the parts correctly and put a properly operating gun together.

"Put it like this," he told the newspaper. "There is a possibility. But Joe Terrorist, he's not a builder."

But some law enforcement agencies say more homemade guns are being found at crime scenes, especially in California.

In Florida, it is hard to know the total because there is not a uniform method of tracking them.

"When we look at the sales that have been going on, they're selling on the internet to people all over the country," said Special Agent Graham Barlowe of the ATF's field office in Sacramento.

"And I just can't imagine that there would be an exception in Florida."

Local briefing

City's vote on buying Pulse nightclub delayed

Orlando commissioners won't weigh in for another month on whether the city should buy Pulse nightclub, after Mayor Buddy Dyer opted to delay a vote that had been scheduled for Monday. Dyer said city staff will use the extra time to create a plan for how best to solicit public input on what should become of Pulse, the gay nightclub where 49 people were killed in a June mass shooting. The city's long-term goal is to build a memorial on the site, but Dyer has argued that the club, which has become a gathering place for local and visiting mourners, should remain as-is for a time. Orlando reached a deal earlier this month to buy the nightclub for \$2.25 million.

Jeff Weiner

High court judge to be vetted in Orlando

TALLAHASSEE — The next person to sit on the Florida Supreme Court will have Central Florida connections and will be vetted in Orlando. The Judicial Nominating Commission, a nine-member panel that makes recommendations to Gov. Rick Scott, announced Monday that it will conduct interviews with 11 people at GrayRobinson law firm's Orlando office on Nov. 28. Under the state constitution, justices must come from specific areas of the state. Justice James Perry, 72, retired in September, leaving open the Central Florida seat. The commission must give a list of three to six candidates to Scott, who is required to select from that list. The interviews will be open to the public.

Gray Rohrer

Orlando to extend pot-dispensary ban

The Orlando City Council on Monday voted to extend its temporary ban on new marijuana dispensaries, less than a week after Florida voters backed a constitutional amendment to expand medical use of the drug. Commissioners approved the moratorium in July. It's currently slated to expire December, but the city is pursuing an extension that would stretch the ban until July 1. The Council will make its final vote next month. According to the city, the pause will allow staffers to study the potential effects of marijuana distributors, including whether they should be kept at arm's length from neighborhoods, churches or schools.

Jeff Weiner

Knife-wielding man robs Circle K

Police on Monday were searching for a man who robbed a Circle K convenience store early in the morning. A man wearing a black ski mask walked into the store on Ferncreek Avenue at Michigan Street in Orlando about 12:30 a.m. and jumped the counter holding a knife, police said. He grabbed the worker, pointed the knife at her and forced her to open the cash registers, they said. He also demanded that she open the safe, but she didn't have access. She wasn't injured.

Stephanie Allen

Outtake Tuesday

Check out the best photo taken last week by a member of the Orlando Sentinel photography staff that didn't make it into print.



JOE BURBANK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Participants in the Come Out With Pride parade respond to cheering supporters Saturday in downtown Orlando. The parade is the highlight of one of the largest Pride festivals in Florida. See an online photo gallery from the event at OrlandoSentinel.com

\$1 million to help heal LGBTQ-Latino groups after Pulse

BY KATE SANTICH
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the Pulse tragedy, a nonprofit foundation is putting up \$1 million for grants to local groups working to heal and empower Central Florida's LGBTQ and Latino community — the population targeted in the mass shooting.

"Prior to Pulse, there were no organizations or space outside the nightclub for this communi-

ty," said Marco Quiroga, program director of the newly launched Contigo Fund. "By building bridges that connect all of Central Florida's diverse communities, we will defeat discrimination ... and honor the 49 lives that were taken from us."

The money comes via the Our Fund Foundation — a South Florida-based nonprofit that supports the LGBTQ community — with donations from eight charities, including the Ford

Foundation and Arcus Foundation.

Contigo — which means "with you" in Spanish — will hold two informational meetings from 5 to 7 p.m. today and Thursday at the Orlando United Assistance Center, 507 East Michigan St. in Orlando. The deadline to apply is Dec. 2.

Quiroga said grants will go not only to existing nonprofit organizations, but also to fledgling groups that address the histori-

cal disparities faced by communities of color.

About half of the Pulse victims were of Puerto Rican heritage, and many of the others were Cuban, Dominican, Ecuadorian, Mexican or African-American. Most were LGBTQ.

The grants — up to \$50,000 each — will be awarded early next year.

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'John Morgan for Governor' launches petition website

BY STEVEN LEMONGELLO
Staff Writer

Will "For the People" become "For the Governor?"

A petition website has been started to draft prominent Orlando attorney and longtime Democratic financier John Morgan to run for the top spot in Florida in 2018.

"Tallahassee is a failure," reads the website, forthepeople.com. "Lobbyists. Special in-

terests. Inaction. In our State Capitol, the People never come before the powerful."

"If we can draft John Morgan for governor in 2018, that can change."

The petition is the brainstorm of Ben Pollara, a South Florida attorney who was campaign manager for the Morgan-backed United For Care medical marijuana initiative, which was approved by voters on Nov. 8.

Looking to the 2018 political

landscape — in which Republican Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and Democratic U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham have already been discussed as possibilities for governor — "I see a real leadership vacuum, not only on my side of the aisle but both sides of the aisle," Pollara said.

"People are sick of politicians around the U.S., sick of the status quo," he said. "They're hungry for someone like John Morgan. He speaks truth to power, but

more importantly, he speaks truth."

When he first told Morgan about the petition idea, "He laughed and said, 'I see what you're saying,'" Pollara said. "I took that as an opening, and enough to see how big of an opening it is."

Morgan did not return a request for comment.

slemongello@tribune.com or
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LOTTERY

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

Selected Monday

Pick 2 (midday): 6-2
Pick 2 (evening): 1-0
Pick 3 (midday): 7-0-4
Pick 3 (evening): 7-9-7
Pick 4 (midday): 1-7-0-6
Pick 4 (evening): 8-3-3-0
Pick 5 (midday): 0-2-3-8-3
Pick 5 (evening): 6-0-5-3-7
Fantasy Five: 1-16-18-26-31

Selected Sunday

Fantasy Five: 6-8-17-29-34

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KASSAB

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The winners' pieces were played by members of the Orlando Philharmonic.

"That's like coming up with some plays and having them executed by the Yankees or the Cubs," said Rupert. "Or designing an airplane and watching it take off."

Beyond that, Wilkins, now the music director for orchestras in Boston and Akron, interviewed each young composer and the musicians playing their pieces.

What the Food Network's Alton Brown does to make the science behind cooking accessible to the masses, Wilkins does for the techniques behind symphony music.

He demonstrated, for instance, how a part 14-year-old Theodore Servin of Hollywood, Fla., wrote for the piano worked more like a bass drum in what Wilkins called "ravishingly gorgeous music."

"This passion and seething emotion in this mild-mannered

14-year-old," Goldman, a computer entrepreneur-turned-arts-champion, remarked.

"I just keep thinking how scary it would be to be his parent."

Now in its 10th year with a full orchestra, Goldman and other supporters — UCF, Rollins College, Full Sail University and Timucua Arts Foundation — would like to see the challenge continue to grow.

Jeff Moore, dean of UCF's College of Arts and Humanities and a percussionist, says he would like to get even more students in the audience.

This is exactly the sort of thing many people were likely envisioning as an important part of the mix when the community set out to build a more than \$400 million performing arts center.

A free event where jeans are acceptable and kids are welcome. And even those of us who don't know the difference between a B Flat and an A Minor come away with a new understanding.

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NIGHTCLUB

Continued from Page B1

policy is "not a sustainable model" for the future.

Currently, Orlando police close down a stretch of Orange Avenue each Friday and Saturday as an estimated 20,000 club-goers flood to its dense collection of bars, resulting in a chaotic scene that spills across downtown when clubs begin to close at 2 a.m. Many officers work off-duty as security for bars.

The institute suggested phasing out the street closures and off-duty police security in favor of a hospitality police force, but Orlando's task force stopped short of recommending such sweeping changes.

Its priorities included creating a marketing campaign to promote music and dining downtown; establishing transit hubs to connect club-goers with a ride home; expanding the police bicycle unit; and overseeing nightlife similarly to events at the Amway Center or Camping World Stadium.

City staff argued the night manager and committee should come

before any of those reforms, but Sheehan said downtown Orlando's issues are well known. Action is needed, she said, not more analysis.

"My frustration is, y'all could have bought me lunch, and I could have told you half these things," she said.

District 1 Commissioner Jim Gray argued trying to better accommodate tens of thousands of revelers is the wrong approach. Downtown has "way, way, way too many bars," he said.

The City Council took no action Monday on the recommendations.

But according to David Barilla, assistant director of the Downtown Development Board, the city's meetings with bar owners during the task force study have already prompted better communication between downtown clubs, which was a major goal identified by the task force.

"We're actually seeing a lot of the things that we talked about kind of come to fruition without the city having to formally require individuals to follow best practices," Barilla said.