



THE SCRIBE



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Sinkhole Disperses Arts for Fall Semester

By Gabby Palacio

The Arts and Theater Department has spread out around the Sanford/Lake Mary campus this semester following the discovery of a sinkhole that damaged Building G, home of Seminole State’s Performing Arts Center.

Since early May, faculty and students have been relocated all across the campus and welcomed with open arms.

Mainly involving the arts and theater department,

students and personnel have been transferred to “the Technical Theater in the B and D buildings” as well as “J is for music and art,” said Michelle Cuomo, dean of Arts and Communication.

The issue was discovered May 6 after an electrician noticed cracks behind the stage, said Kevin Carr, manager for Environmental Health and Safety.

“We had originally thought it was a drainage issue,” Carr said. “We just had a big storm that weekend, we had four inches of rain.”

After conducting more examination, the college

contacted constructional engineer BBM company. Ground penetrating radar showed the first indication of an anomaly, which appeared to be a sinkhole, Carr said.

The damage has caused a disruption not only to the students but the facility itself. The estimated cost for Seminole State’s insurance claims calls for a deductible of \$10,000, officials said.

The plan for refurbishing the building consists of “an old upper storage unit, which would be the only

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Photo by Emily Dougherty

Zombie people and horses are among the scares for the annual Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Orlando.

‘Stranger Things’ An HHN Crowd Pleaser

By Emily Dougherty

Central Florida Universal’s Halloween Horror Nights failed to impress some guests who spoke with The Seminole Scribe, but all agreed that the “Stranger Things” house exceeded expectations.

Every year, Universal Studios Orlando goes out of its way to make sure that every visitor gets the fright of their life. To make this possible there

is roughly about a year of planning the next year’s houses, scare zones, costumes and makeup, scare actors, and most importantly the themes. This event lasts for two months through the months of September and October.

This year the park contains 10 haunted houses, five scare zones, two shows, and seven of the parks normal operating rides. It can be difficult to experience all of this in one night

which is why it’s highly recommended to buy one of the many multi night passes. Each pass comes with a set amount of days from which the passholder can choose days that work best for them. There is also an option to add on express passes, which can be extremely pricey, but helpful to those who don’t want to stand in line for possibly a few hours.

Lisa Shuck of Orlando, has been
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Smartphones
May Drain
Attention Span

By Robert M. Vincent

Nicholas Carr, an acclaimed writer on technology, came to the Sanford/Lake Mary campus Sept. 19 as part of the Speaker Series.

Carr has been known to urge caution on implementing technology, which comprises the bulk of his writings and speeches. Before his speech, Carr spoke with The Scribe and focused on how he views technology as affecting students, both here at Seminole State and at other institutions.

Many students here at Seminole State are familiar with his essay, “Is Google Making Us Stupid,” from their English I textbook. In particular, IT students fulfilling their English requirement might be inclined to read this essay above the others in the book.

Carr said it was gratifying that the essay has an influence on IT students.

“When I wrote that essay back in 2008 ... I didn’t know whether it would have a big influence,” Carr said. “It’s really kind of a thrill to know it has that effect.”

The Scribe also asked Carr how he believes technology should be implemented here at Seminole State, and at colleges in general, to which he replied, “Carefully.”

“I think as a society we’re too quick to think that technology itself can solve all problems,” he added. “To me,

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Want to Maximize College Experience? Get Involved

By Althea Castro de la Mata

Busy students who often hold down jobs find time to stay involved in the Seminole State Colleges volunteer program because they like the personal changes they experience, said the program coordinator.

“As a Seminole State College alumnus, I know firsthand the benefits of getting involved within clubs and organizations on campus,” said Beverly Sanchez, Seminole State’s Community Engagement coordinator. Programs like the Seminole State Volunteers are offered on all four of the college’s campuses.

“Many of our students involved in a leadership role on campus take full time classes and work,” Sanchez said. “What continues to motivate students to stay involved is the transformations they see within themselves.”

Maybe students are quiet and dislike public speaking, she said.

“Getting involved, for example with Seminole State Volunteers, has pushed students to step outside their comfort zone and speak with all types of people,” Sanchez explained.

“Our students always share, don’t be that person that goes to class, goes home, and goes to work. Take advantage by getting involved, it makes the college experience even better.”

Not only does volunteering help the community, it helps students engage with others, Sanchez said.

“If a student opens, allows for feedback, and puts in the extra effort, they will get a ton out of their experience,” she said in an email interview.

Even though finding some free time in the schedule of a college student can be difficult, it sometimes opens doors for future careers and networking.

“Our students have been offered internships through their volunteer efforts,” Sanchez said. “It



Photos by Courtney Kiefer/Seminole State College

Natalia Alvarez, above, enjoys helping restore playground equipment at Idyllwild Elementary with the Seminole State College Volunteers.

pays to volunteer, not only to build up a resume or service hours, but the networking involved with the nonprofit agencies as well as other volunteers.”

Sanchez said each service event they have brings in about 14 volunteers. They make an impact in the Central Florida community by partnering with agencies such as Keep Seminole Beautiful to pick up trash along the Wekiva River.

“After each service event, our volunteers reflect on what was learned and how they believed an impact was made,” Sanchez said.

Students can learn upcoming events by download-



ing the app CORQ. This resource allows students to sign up for upcoming events on and off all four campuses. Students can also visit Raider Connect (connect.seminolestate.edu) to learn about and sign up for upcoming events.

Giving Blood Helps Others, But Includes Benefits for You

By Sierrah Martin

You might not know that you can save a life in as little as an hour of your time by donating your blood. Not only that, there are personal benefits to giving blood, and the One Blood bus will be coming to Seminole State campuses soon.

One donation of blood can save up to three lives, according to the American Red Cross.

“Blood can’t be recreated; there’s no substitution for blood,” said Jorday Williams, who regularly gives blood and has worked for One Blood for eight years.

“If blood isn’t given people are dying.”

The American Red Cross recorded that in the United States nearly 21 million blood components are transfused every year, and about 6.8 million people donate blood annually.

“It’s important to give blood because it helps save lives,” said A’rianna Duval, a Criminal Justice major at Seminole State College. She has given blood once and plans on giving again. “I always wanted to do it and help someone. My friend encouraged me to do it.”

Becoming a blood donor not only helps the community, but also benefits the donors themselves.

Doing good for your community



Photo by Sierrah Martin

The Big Red Bus from One Blood will be on the Oviedo Campus this semester on Oct. 3 and Nov. 21 in the F Building parking lot. Students can also give blood at the Sanford/Lake Mary campus when the blood donation bus arrives on Oct. 22 and Nov. 12 in the Student Center parking lot.

can reduce stress, provide a sense of purpose and belonging, according to the Mental Health Foundation.

When giving blood on one of the many One Blood buses, donors not only get the chance to save lives, but they also receive a free health check-up.

During this health check-up, a One Blood employee will take your pulse, blood pressure, and temperature. Once you finish giving blood, it will then be tested for diseases. One Blood notifies donors of all health-related concerns within a few

weeks of the donation.

One Blood buses also offer rewards for giving blood, such as gift cards, free movie tickets, free Orlando City soccer tickets, and many more items.

Donors can also reach milestones and be rewarded by continuing to give blood.

lood donor milestone rewards include One Blood shirts and other merchandise that can be earned by giving a gallon or more of blood over time.

“It brings it out into the communi-

ty,” Williams explained. “If you see a One Blood bus at the grocery store or movie theater you’re more likely to give blood.”

Even if you can’t make it to the grocery store or movie theater, the One Blood buses are coming to two Seminole State campuses during the next three months.

The One Blood bus will be at the Oviedo campus Oct. 3, and Nov. 21 in the F Building parking lot. The bus will be at the Sanford/Lake Mary campus Oct. 22 and Nov. 12 in the Student Center parking lot.

Lorenz: Sinkhole Hasn't Affected Other Building Plans

By Jovana Davila

Seminole State College first formally requested funding from the Florida Department of Education to remodel Building L back in 2005. After 14 years, those renovations on the Sanford/Lake Mary campus are now complete for the Fall 2019 semester.

The new building offers 33,000 square feet of contemporarily furnished spaces that showcase a new Academic Success Center, faculty offices, smart classrooms, and sections reserved specifically for E-Learning and academic services.

Building L also provides students with a second Canteen Cafe, serving a variety of on-the-go snacks along with the school's second on-campus Starbucks. The café features an outdoor courtyard. The Wharton-Smith, Inc. Construction Group's press release said the "1960's-style building underwent an extensive renovation and space reconfiguration that emphasizes natural lighting."

Hector Dietsch, Seminole State's director of facilities, said the construction was developed in two phases that followed the guidelines of the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, known as LEED, green building rating systems.

He said that during the first phase

of construction, which included the renovation of the third floor (completed in the summer 2011), the facility achieved a LEED Gold certification, making Building L the first LEED certified building on any SSC campus. This award authenticates that a structure was designed and built to improve performance in areas like: energy saving, water efficiency, reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, improved Indoor Environmental Quality, and resource conservation.

Sustainable materials used in the construction, Dietsch explained. The release from Wharton-Smith also said the renovations included using reclaimed water for irrigation and the transfer of construction materials from landfills.

Laura Ross, the college's vice president for Academic Affairs said department personnel had a role in designing the renovation.

"We brought together representatives from departments that were planning to move into the renovated L Building or use the classrooms for instruction," Ross said. Those representatives included people from the Academic Success Center, Honors program, the Math Department, English Department, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, Global Engagement, E-Learning Department, Curriculum Department,

Academic Services, Academic Affairs, and the IT and Facilities Department. The collaboration was lead by HuntonBrady Architects.

Ross said everyone is pleased with the result.

"Most importantly, [they] are thrilled that students are using the L building and its services as [they] had imagined," she said.

One of the key goals determined at these meetings for Building L, Ross said, "was to make the Academic Success Center more visible and inviting to students, in hopes that they would more frequently use our free tutoring services."

She explained that students who use the tutoring services often have higher grade point averages.

"At this point in the semester, we have already had more students using this free service in the new location," Ross said.

Building renovations are not stopping with the Building L, said college President Dr. Georgia Lorenz.

The sinkhole problems discovered this year under the Sanford/Lake

Mary Center for the Performing Arts has not affected any future plans on that campus, Lorenz said. Renovations are still underway on the performing arts center, also called Building G, which is currently closed.

Building V on the Sanford/Lake Mary campus will also see some repairs regarding its heating, cooling and ventilation system. Lorenz said the college has asked for funding from the state to complete both Building G's repairs and V's HVAC system along with funding for a second instructional building on the Altamonte Springs campus.

Building H on the Sanford/Lake Mary campus is also being remodeled to become a new "Raider Center for Athletics, Wellness, and Recreation for students," Lorenz said. The goal is to integrate fitness and recreational spaces that focus on the wellbeing of the academic community.

For more information about future and past renovations, visit the Facilities Management page, specifically under the "Projects" tab, on the SSC website.

Wellness Center to Open Next Fall

By David J. Roberts

The renovation of Seminole State College's old, underutilized gymnasium into a state-of-the-art health and wellness center is a little more than a year away.

A new cardio and strength training area with brand new equipment, team lounge for athletes, men's and women's locker rooms, training rooms, and guest lockers and restrooms for students and staff are among the renovation highlights.

This rebuild also features a gym for intramural sports as well as other school events. This undertaking aims to encompass the hub for all Seminole State fitness and athletics for the foreseeable future, according to Ethan Burrowse, project manager. Burrowse mentioned the budget for the rebuild is an estimated \$8 million, covering

26,000-square-feet. The new fitness center is to be loaded with Hammer Strength equipment. The expected re-opening of Building H is fall 2020, some time in either October or November, Burrowse said.

In the meantime, people can workout in Building D, room 124, the current fitness center.

The development company in contract with Seminole state is Gilbane Inc. The company has built facilities for top-tier universities across the country, such as Ohio State Univesity's recreation and physical activity center, Rutger University's stadium, multiple fitness centers for Arizona State University, and dozens of other facilities for schools like the University of South Carolina, University of Florida, Penn State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Maryland.

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thing redesigned because it was never built to code," Carr said. "Everything will be back to the way it was, but better."

Carr also said they have a new awareness for similar problems.

"We do have an awareness of it, our staff if they see changes in ground level, we will come take a look at it, so it's similar to what we've been doing but now we have that heightened awareness."

Local venues have offered help.

The Wayne Densch Theater in Sanford is allowing Seminole State artists to perform, for example.

"Lyman High School has lent us band instruments," said Kate Henry, vice president of Marketing and Strategic Communications.

Cuomo said student and staff have come together.

"To know that the community really knows about us and cares about us is something I learned, and this college itself have been really supportive," she said

Henry added that everybody really pulled together. "I think overall it went very well and the community came together."

The Seminole Scribe

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The Seminole Scribe is the official student newspaper of Seminole State College of Florida, with campuses in Sanford/Lake Mary, Altamonte Springs, Heathrow, and Oviedo. The student-run publication is a "designated public forum." Student editors and writers contribute articles and make content decisions without censorship. The Seminole Scribe is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, the Florida Community of College Press Association and College Media Advisors, Inc.

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Epic Speculation for Universal's New Park, But Jobs Will Follow

By Jeremy Stephens

A new addition to the Universal Orlando Resort theme park lineup is in the works, with the ultra-immersive Epic Universe being announced Aug. 1 by Comcast CEO Brian Roberts.

The new subsection of the Universal resort would be the first major theme park built in the United States since Disney California Adventure in 2001, and many reports have speculated on the massive undertaking.

"Our new park represents the single-largest investment Comcast NBCUniversal has made in its theme park business and in Florida overall," said Roberts during the press conference announcing Epic Universe.

Universal owns a 750-acre area close to the existing resort on Universal Boulevard to house the new park.

Not much is known about the new park, however, as there is still not even an estimated year of completion for the project. Construction has started on the foundation and infrastructure of the park, but Universal is not willing to reveal any more details.

Due to the confidentiality of the attraction, there is much speculation from theme park enthusiasts as to what could be in the park when it opens.

"They haven't really told us anything at all," said Cecilia Falcon, an employee at Universal Studios Orlando. "We know just as much as anybody online, we only really know where it's going to be located but anyone can look that up."

With the uncertainty of the contents of the park, speculation surrounding Epic Universe has led some to believe that a Nintendo-themed area could be on the horizon, as well as another Harry Potter themed area. Some have said they hope for a new Dream-



Works attractions, perhaps centered on either "How to Train Your Dragon" or "Kung Fu Panda" films.

What is known, however, is that Universal wants to bring an amount of immersion to the new park to rival Galaxy's Edge; the new Star Wars themed land within Disney's Hollywood Studios.

Epic Universe could also prove to be a significant economic boon to the city of Orlando as well, creating an estimated 14,000 jobs in the area, as well as increasing the starting wage for employees of all Universal parks to \$15 an hour, according to the company.

In a city that hosts the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality, this new park could open many doors for people who are interested in cultivating a career in theme park entertainment and operations as well.

Falcon, who is also a student at Rosen College, said: "It will definitely help a lot of people find jobs in the parks, whether it be in theming, attractions, or operations."

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coming to Horror Nights for seven years.

"My daughter is a character in 'Stranger Things' and she plays Dustin, which I am extremely proud of her doing," Shuck said. Many people said they weren't as scared as they'd like to be by the themes Universal had chosen this year. Jaden Rodriguez, 16, said he wasn't too impressed.

He said he believes previous years showed much more effort put into the houses and the techniques on how the actors frightened visitors.

He wasn't the only person to think this, Haley Brossia, 18, explained how, "All of the houses I've been in so far are weak, except 'Stranger Things'."

Jimmy Lucas, 18, of Daytona Beach said he is a scare actor at one of Universal's many competitors, Busch Garden's Halloween Horror Nights in Tampa.

Although Universal has a much higher budget for this production, they don't seem to evenly distribute the money, according to him.

For example, he said, the popular Netflix show, "Stranger Things", draws a massive crowd every year full of superfans, therefore, Universal spares no expense on the house.

Despite the critiques, most of the people who spoke with The Scribe enjoyed the atmosphere overall.

QB Questions Getting Answered for New UCF Season

By Noah Melton

The University of Central Florida football team pushes aside any larger market prejudice it faces as the 15th ranked Knights must determine who will be the team's starting quarterback.

One of the problems shared throughout NCAA sports is a general sense of elitism. This is most prevalent in football, in which 120 teams compete across the nation, while only four of them are selected for playoff contention. This issue was brought to the national spotlight when UCF finished undefeated in 2017 yet was overlooked in favor of "larger market" teams, such as Alabama and Georgia.

This glass ceiling has created a narrative of exclusion and power within college football, which has led to the Knights becoming the face of the

movement for a larger playoff, or a re-worked program in which more teams are given a fair shot.

Knights offensive lineman Jordan Johnson said the media attention, both good and bad, has left the team far from disenchanted.

"We never let the outside noise determine our level of play," Johnson said. "We know that the nationwide media won't win us any football games. Us having UCF on our helmets and jerseys won't win us any football games. It's about what happens from snap to whistle. Not worrying about anybody else's opinion. Our focus is always on our next opponent."

This determination is common throughout the UCF locker room and can best be exemplified by the battle for the starting quarterback position.

With four strong choices, the

Knights will have to choose from freshman Dillon Gabriel; Notre Dame transfer Brandon Wimbush, who started opening night; redshirt freshman Quadry Jones; and sophomore Darriel Mack Jr., who has just returned from an injury.

Spicing up this race is the fact that in the season debut, Jones, Wimbush, and Gabriel all threw at least one touchdown.

Mack led the team last year after beloved UCF quarterback McKenzie Milton suffered a nearly career-ending leg injury in a game against South Florida. Milton is out for this season but hopes to return next year. He has stayed with the team in an advisory role.

Johnson described Milton's influence and praised his choice to stick with the team.

"McKenzie's presence on the field and in the locker room has been amazing mainly because of the bond we share with him as a team," Johnson said. "Having [Milton] around even after what he's been through is so inspiring, if we're ever feeling discouraged we can look to him and he'll always be there to encourage us again."

Though the race remains tight, the likely choice will remain Gabriel, who in three games has now thrown for 719 yards and nine touchdowns. Interestingly enough, Gabriel hails from Milton's hometown of Milani, Hawaii, where the two were high school rivals.

Gabriel played the full game against Pitt on Saturday. UCF lost 35-34 and is now 3-1 on the new season. Gabriel threw 25 completions for 338 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Carr From Page 1

the important thing is to remember that technology is just a tool. It works well for some things."

He also voiced fears about how an overreliance on technology in the classroom could lead to ill effects.

"I fear that sometimes schools, both high schools and elementary schools, as well as colleges and universities, kind of think that the technology can replace good teachers, good classroom interaction among students," he explained.

When asked what some upcoming projects he was working on were, Carr said he would be teaching for the first

time in Massachusetts. He is also republishing his book, "The Shallows," as part of its 10th anniversary, and it will include an additional chapter.

When asked where technology would ultimately take us, Carr said that he tries not to make predictions because "the way we think it's going to play out is never the way it actually happens." What he hopes, however, is that we are able to build structures that let us think critically about technology.

The main idea behind his speech given later that night, "What Our Smartphones Are Doing to Our Minds," is as



Nicholas Carr

the title suggests. During the speech, he provided arguments and statistics on how smartphones merely being in the same room as us harms our attention to detail.

"We've never really experienced a technology like this," Carr said during the speech, and then went on to talk about how smartphones are affecting us in ways that we may not even realize.

In a Q&A session after his speech, Carr answered questions asked by students and teachers. On the topic of augmented reality, he urged caution, and drew a comparison to an issue fighter pilots face—while in the sky, they could potentially be distracted by the cockpit's display—and said that this could be the case with augmented reality physically distracting us. He also stated that there is no easy solution to technologic oversaturation.

“In America, we are so focused on the idea of young excellence to the point where I think I thought I was going to be this like Mozart-like overnight success story in my early 20s.”

Emmy-Nominee Vera Drew: Practice Patience with Yourself

By Elijah Davis

Emmy-nominated editor, director and producer Vera Drew talked with The Scribe about her life with film, her love for storytelling, and even ideas about a possible feature film.

Known for her work with Sacha Baron Cohen’s “Who Is America?” and Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheims Channel 5 streaming service, Drew was recently nominated for Outstanding Picture Editing for Variety Programming. Her job as an editor is more than sequencing shots and adding in fancy transitions. Drew glues stories together to give the visual content structure and continuity.

Scribe: When did you first start working with film?

Drew: I have been making stuff ever since I was old enough to hold camera—about six years old I’d say. After seeing “Back to the Future” for this first time. I remember my grandparents explaining to me what a writer/director does, and I immediately knew that’s where I wanted to end up. So it’s always something that’s just kind of been there. My first big job in the industry was on a Roman Coppola movie called, “Charles Swan.” Over the course of pre-production, I helped put together animatics based of Roman’s shot list. He liked my work so much that I was eventually hired as a line editor on the movie.

That’s when I fell in love with editing—it helped that it was on a pretty cool set ... I mean, I literally got to meet Bill Murray on that job and for a comedy-nerd from the Midwest, it was like I died and went to showbiz heaven. But it’s when I really saw how much editing is almost like the final draft at the script. From there, I got a job at Tim and Eric’s Absolutely Productions and climbed the post production ladder. I saw that the editors at Abso were, in a way, basically just writers who use Final Cut instead of Final Draft. So I saw it not only as an opportunity to learn more about the craft of filmmaking, I knew editing there would teach me how to direct and write.

What’s your favorite part about the editing/writing process?

My favorite part of editing is screening my first cut for the director/lead creatives. I know many editors who find it to be the most stressful part of the job, but I love it. It gives me such a rush—that make-or-break moment where your boss essentially is watching what they shot for the first time with you You either cracked the tone or you didn’t.

One specific time that comes to mind was when I edited “Kraft Punk”. For that show, they essentially shot three panels and a few days worth of documentary footage in D.C., I spent a week or two in the edit bay on my own putting together my editors cut. It was nerve-racking because the show only really had a rough outline as a script so it was really up to post production to weave that story together—like literally all the writing needed to happen in post. Not to toot my own horn, but I nailed it When I screened it for the director Eric Notarnicola and the showrunner Dan Curry, I could tell that I really put something together that



Photo submitted

Vera Drew was nominated for an Emmy for her work on “Who Is America?”

not only I was happy with, but they were happy with. After that screening, we continued to make adjustments, get it down to time, and incorporate the parts of their vision that I may have missed. I am so proud of that show. It’s the first time I was ever credited as a writer and it was all because of that initial editor’s cut.

Did you attend a college or university? If so what was your experience like?

I went to film school I mean the answer I am supposed to give is, “omg it was great!!!” But honestly, I feel like it wasn’t worth the amount of debt it put me in. I learned a little bit as far as the technical aspects of filmmaking go. I got in there *right* as digital was becoming the standard for everything and I am grateful that I went to a school that recognized that film was dying and digital was the future. But I feel like it made me very confused as an artist. Being told what stories I could and couldn’t tell ... blah. I mean, to me there is nothing sadder and more ill-advised than someone telling a 19-year-old filmmaker how she can make something that is “sellable.” The whole thing felt kind of gross. I ended up turning it into a good experience though. I ended up really leaning heavily into experimental filmmaking, found footage editing, and gross-out comedy, much to the chagrin of my professors. They’d teach me the rules and then I’d break them. Having that much free access to equipment was definitely a big perk so I just tried to make shit as much as I could. When people ask me if film school is worth it, I usually say that every filmmaker should have the safe space to make mistakes, learn their craft, and film school *can* be a good place to do that. It’s just definitely not worth 40,000 dollars a year. And to be honest, in the entertainment industry, your craft usually speaks for itself. No one has ever asked to see my diploma.

Did you ever have doubts about your career path? What kept you motivated when pushing through some of the tougher parts of existing and working?

Oh gosh, I mean ... all the time. This business is not easy at all, especially for someone who is trans and really likes making weird shit. Even this year, despite having all the success I’ve had, I spent a good chunk of it wondering if I had made the right call in sticking with this film and TV stuff. It’s hard hustling for work and when a lot of the #metoo stuff was coming out, I was really feeling like I was a part a machine that was too ugly for me. What keeps me motivated is remembering why I do this. I love storytelling. Really, the only thing that makes me feel complete is creating things, and this is the way I best know how to. I usually find myself feeling doubt when I am working on something that doesn’t align with my values or is something that I wouldn’t watch—I’ve been fortunate enough to not experience this a ton in my career. It’s cheesy, but I find when I trust my gut, follow my heart, and collaborate with people I respect on projects that I believe in, the doubt completely slips away. Also, having a cute dog to spoon after a hard day on set helps a lot.

You’ve directed a few music videos like, “I Want To Break Free,” by Russian Red and, “World is Mine,” by Phils Pills, how does that process differ from working on shows?

Music videos are a blast to direct because they are kind of the last place where I get to really utilize those experimental/art film muscles from college. The process of storytelling in a music video is much more freeform. You really get to be artistic and do weird stuff. “I Want to Break Free” was amazing because for that Russian Red just came to me and said, “I wanna shoot a video where I get sucked into a giant plate of spaghetti.” So that’s what we did, and then some. I went full weird with it—time loops, overlays, dreamy gold tinsel, glitter bursts. I really feel like I found my voice on that video in a way that I hadn’t known it before. That kind of experimental environment really helps you grow as an artist.

TV is much more regimented—there are more moving parts. More planning. More people. And I like that a lot too! It’s

different but in a great way. Especially the writing aspect of TV. I just had the opportunity to write on a new series, and it was really fun world-building and developing characters over the course of one season. And now, seeing it come to life as we shoot it is has been incredible—none of that is possible without the sheer amount of people and planning that goes into making a show.

You mentioned in an interview with Slashfilm that you’d like to make a “carpenter-esque film about gender dysphoria” (gender dysphoria is the term used to describe the feeling of disconnect from assigned sex characteristics for transgender people), do you think we’d be lucky enough to see something like that be put into production any time soon?

Haha, I hope so! I have it written. It’s a feature. It’s a really good idea and wouldn’t take that much money for me to pull off. It’ll be awhile I think before I get the chance to make a feature film, but I think this is what will ultimately be my first. It’s honestly a lot more than just the quote from Slashfilm. I kinda built my own psycho-horror cinematic universe with it, while also telling a grounded, slice-of-life story about my trans experience. That’s all I’ll say for now. I promise you’ll get to see it some day and in some form.

Do you have any advice for young creators? What piece of advice do you wish you heard when you were younger?

I’ve been asked that a lot lately. Patience is important—both when it comes to working with others but also patience with yourself. In America, we are so focused on the idea of young excellence to the point where I think I thought I was going to be this like Mozart-like overnight success story in my early 20s. And the truth is, finding your footing in this industry takes time—you have to meet the right people, make mistakes, find your voice. You gotta have a healthy mix of ambitious drive to reach your goals and the Zen calm of knowing you are right where you need to be at any given moment. It’s often easier said than done.

I’d also say—and this more for people who wanna write and direct—play the game. Kiss the asses you need to kiss. Do what you’ve got to do to get to that point where someone lets you direct or write or whatever, but never NEVER let anyone tell you that what you are creating is wrong or not-sellable or unmakeable or whatever. I feel like early on I let so many jaded old timers in this industry fill me with those kinds of doubts, and I regret ever letting it affect me.

If you have an interesting story to tell and a way to tell it that people haven’t seen before, then do it. And don’t apologize for it. Life is too short to copy the career of someone else or meet the expectations of someone who isn’t ready for new art.

Drew continues to work with Absolutely Productions, creating shows like “I Love David” and “Tim and Eric Quiz”. The Creative Arts Emmys were held Sept. 8 and 9. Drew did not win the Emmy losing to “Last Week Tonight.”



Seth Cottle/Unsplash

The Amazon has experienced a record number of fires threatening human populations and the region's lush biodiversity.

Oviedo Club Follows Amazon Fires

By Jeriann Nieves

This summer's reporting of a record number of fires in the Amazon rain forest has concerned the president of an environmental club at the Seminole State College Lee Campus in Oviedo.

"The Earth is our home, and it confounds me that people don't actually get that or remember that this is our only home and we should be taking care of it," said Janina Bagherzadeh, president of Environmental Initiatives Club at the Oviedo campus.

People have grown unaware of the Amazon rainforest's importance not just to Brazil but the Earth itself, she said.

She advocates for more people to become vegan, which would cut down on meat and dairy products. The need for meat consumption tends to lead to deforestation in the Amazon in order to grow crops to feed cattle, pigs and chicken.

The Brazilian government is led by new President Jair Bolsonaro, who has weakened protections for the forests, according to news reports.

"They are not reprimanding the people that are doing this; they are letting it slide," Bagherzadeh said.

She added that she feels as if Brazil could do more with its power to stop the fires.

Instead of preventing fires, she said, Brazil has provided more of an incentive for farmers to continue burning and developing the Amazon River basin and the surrounding forest.

National Geographic reported last month that there were about 76,000 fires burning across Brazil at one point this summer. That represents an increase of more than 80 percent from the previous year.



Janina Bagherzadeh

wildlife and plant life.

"Very few people talk about biodiversity, but the Amazon is the most biodiverse ecosystem on land, and climate change and deforestation are putting that richness at risk," said climate scientist Carlos Nobre of the University of Sao Paulo's Institute for Advanced Studies in Brazil, as quoted by National Geographic in August.

Mark Bush is a professor of paleoecology at the Florida Institute of Technology. National Geographic quoted him last month about the Amazon fires.

"The signature of fire is a uniquely human signature in the Amazon," Bush said. "It comes right in with maize or manioc agriculture—you know exactly what's going on; it's the people in that landscape."

The Amazon rainforest has become a target for farmers, who are continuously tempted to clear more land.

The Writer's Nook



Amazon, Become Me

By Janina Bagherzadeh

I can't wait to get out

To break out of this world

that chains me in freedom

—only by word

Let me feel the leaves on my toes

The ants crawling over my eyelids

as I slumber on the

forest floor

Let the monkeys pick the bugs from me

the corruption of my advancement.

Let the rain douse me in its flesh

Purify me

Purify me

Purify me

Make me the seed you wish to grow

in barren lands

The graveyards of your trees.

Amazon, become me.

Rinne: China, U.S. Know Trade War Is Not Good

By Joseph D. Venuto

Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne told CNBC that the United States and China are both in agreement that a trade war is not in anyone's best interests in spite of continuous reactive tariffs being dished out by both sides.

The battle began in 2018 when the United States slapped Chinese products with tariffs, prompting Beijing to adjust U.S. tariffs accordingly.

This has had significant ramifications on a global scale, economically speaking—diminishing popular opinion for businesses and investors.

"Speaking to CNBC in an exclusive interview Friday, Rinne told CNBC that President Donald Trump and his administration

'know that this is not the best way to handle international relations... at the same time I think that also China's leaders know that this kind of trade war, this kind of situation, is not good for Chinese people and this is not the best way for China to handle these kind of situations...' as transcribed by CNBC digital reporter Silvia Amaro.

President Trump posted in a tweet last September that tariffs "have put the U.S. in a very strong bargaining position, with Billions of Dollars, and Jobs, flowing into our Country."

Regardless of economic impacts and professional critique, the U.S. president continues to defend his stance on the issue.

Chinese and U.S. officials are scheduled for a meeting next month to discuss a new round of

trade deals. A week ago, Trump stated he might contemplate an interim deal with China, but he would much prefer getting "the whole deal done."

At the same time, Trump has threatened to place tariffs on car-makers from Europe.

The market is going strong in places like Germany and has been an important driving force of the region.

Although Finnish statistics shows a 0.5 percent growth rate since August, according to the previous three-month period, there has been a decline in exports—a detrimental aspect of its economic growth.

This wouldn't be the first time the United States has been involved in a Trade War, there have been a few times in history that called for similar circumstances.

In 2002, according to history.com, "In an effort to boost the country's steel industry, George W. Bush imposed temporary tariffs of 8-30 percent on steel imports."

The European Union reacted swiftly by putting taxes on Florida oranges, American made vehicles and more, but Mexico and Canada were excused because of NAFTA issues. The World Trade Organization would receive a complaint against the United States finding the country broke rules of tariff rates agreement. Bush ended the trade war in 18 months—this being earlier than his original three-year plan.

The end result saw a rise in the cost of steel and, according to the Institute for International Economics, up to 26,000 jobs were lost within the steel industry.

Ladies Golf Tees Off to Defend Title

By Jesse Richardson

The 2019 NJCAA Champion Lady Raiders look to continue their recent success after placing third at the Lady Falcon Invitational in Daytona Beach.

After a rally on the Saturday round, Seminole State was able to be second best on that day, placing them third overall. Sophomores Sophia Warren and Alex Giles lead the way for the Raiders to help them place top three.

The team practices daily on the Timacuan Golf Course in Lake Mary. The players try to balance their time for doing their school work and progressing their golf game. Some practices, they make a strong effort to make a birdie (stroke below par) on each hole they play.

Some of the team's student-athletes attend Seminole State from overseas nations, such as the United Kingdom and Asia. Two of the eight golfers are Florida locals. The rest of the squad creates a diverse group.

Sophomore Alex Giles from Bristol, England, said she enjoys the Florida fairways in comparison to the British courses.

"[The Florida courses] are a lot different," Giles said. "They tend to be wider, longer, even the grass is different. But it's good. I like it."

Giles came to Seminole State to get her golf career started. She said she likes the close community atmosphere at Seminole State.

"Everyone seems to be so friendly," she said, "even if you don't know someone, they'll still say 'hi.' It's just a nice place to be." Giles plans on transferring to a four-year university once she's obtained her degree from SSC.

Freshman Mary Ma is also eager to fill her role with the defending champs.



Photo by Jesse Richardson

The Seminole State College Golf Team practices at Timacuan Golf Course in Lake Mary.

Born and raised in China, Ma made the move to Lake Mary to start off her college golf career. Before Seminole State, she attended Lake Mary Prep High School, a nearby private institution where she also practiced her game.

Much like the rest of the squad, she said she loves playing with her teammates and learning from her coaches. Ma said she really appreciates the number of players that hail from other countries.

"I like playing with people from everywhere," she said. "We have [players] from like five countries now. That's my most favorite thing."

Ma is majoring in education.

"I'd really like to be a teacher and educate people," Ma explained. "I would love to go into early child-

hood [education]."

After speaking to the team last Wednesday, you can tell what's on the players' minds: "Another National Championship" was the unanimous answer to a question about players' expectations for the 2019-2020 season.

There are freshmen on the team who missed out on the national victory last year. But their intention remains the same: Win.

Up next for the Lady Raiders are three tournaments in Florida: This Sunday the team will travel to Jacksonville for the Bubba Burger JU Classic; Stetson's Alaqua Invitational starts Oct. 6 in Daytona Beach; and the Flagler Fall Slam begins Oct. 20 in St. Augustine.

Coach Clark Leads Full Cross Country Team

By Kayla Lewis

As a former distance runner, Seminole State College cross country Coach Octavius Clark understands what it's like for his student-athletes.

He said his favorite moment as a coach is seeing the athletes improve their times, and he likes the camaraderie with the student athletes. He also understands the pain and anguish his athletes go through when they are injured.

Clark is in his second year of coaching the new team at SSC. For the first time, the college's cross country team has a full roster on the men's and women's teams.

Clark has been a cross country coach for 22 years. He said he started coaching because he was a runner in high school and in college, and he didn't have a great high school coach. So when he became an athlete and then retired he wanted to give something back to young runners.

Not only does he coach the college squad, he also coaches the Winter Springs High School team. Clark said coaching at the college level is a lot different from high school.



Photo submitted

The Seminole State College Cross Country Team poses at practice.

"With High School, at the end of practice, kids go home to their families, to mom and dad," Clark said, "and in college, they go home to their apartments or to their dorms and you kinda always have to be on the alert because they're still young people and you worry about them."

Derartu Berrios is a freshman team member for Seminole State. She said she is enjoying her time on the team, and she thinks Clark is amazing.

"He's very funny and believes in his athletes, and he knows how to push us

to do better," Berrios said.

Hurricane Dorian cancelled a bunch of the teams' practices, but now they are practicing Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the men's team finished third and the women's team ended up fifth out of 15 teams at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Universal meet in Daytona Beach.

Berrios said she looks forward to the final two meets that compete for state and national championships. The Florida College System Activities Association Championship takes place Oct.

25 in Tallahassee. Then the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship is set for Nov. 9 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"They are our last meets, and it'll be exciting to finish off the season strong," Berrios said.

Principal Peter Gaffney of Winter Park High School has known Clark anywhere about 15 years.

"I was the principal over at Keeth Elementary School, and I actually invited Mr. Clark to be our guest speaker one time during our Veterans Day because he is a veteran," Gaffney said. He added that being a veteran is "a big part of who Mr. Clark is."

Gaffney said when he thinks about Coach Clark, he thinks about someone who is "all in" for everything the school does.

"His enthusiasm, commitment, and drive to always want kids to succeed, he's gone above and beyond for his kids all the time to do things for them that many coaches would not," Gaffney said in describing Clark. "He's always there for them and always there to cheer for them, and he just has a passion and commitment about running that matches no other."

Sanford Music Fest Showcases Local Music

By Rob C.C. Clark

The Sanford Music Festival provided a place Sept. 7 for musicians from all over Central Florida to show off their chops.

The festival started at noon and hosted more than 40 bands. The 12-hour concert started off at a crawl, and slowly reached a run as the sun began to set. About mid-event, people filled the West End Trading Co. and the surrounding lots to watch as bands played on four outdoor stages.

Bands spanned from genres such as country and folk to rock and metal. Musicians blasted their tunes to an eager audience looking for the best in local music.

Ben Gardner from OrlandoBands.com and The Local Music Guild organized the festival.

Gardner said he has noticed that “a lot of festivals are focusing more on quality bands and less quantity.”

This quality over quantity seems best for the concert goer, but this poses a problem for musicians that are trying to get their name out there, especially in an area like Central Florida, he explained. Here every band must compete with Disney and Universal Studios for attention.

So, Gardner and OrlandoBands.com decided to put on a festival that is more “local music-oriented.”

For the average concert goer, music festivals provide the biggest bang for their buck, organizers said. With an estimated attendance of 1,000 to 1,500, the Sanford Music Festival provided local bands to a wide variety of audiences for a \$10 pre-sale



Photo by Fletcher McCall

The Sanford Music Festival featured more than 40 bands, including Luna Cruise from Jacksonville, and gave music lovers a chance to experience the quality of local talent.

ticket; tickets were \$15 on the day of the concert.

The bands like the set up as well, said Sean Harris, lead guitarist of Luna Cruise, based in Jacksonville.

“You’re going to hear stuff you wouldn’t have heard otherwise,” Harris said. It is exactly that variety of music that makes music festivals appealing in the first place, but additionally, since the festival is on the local level, you can see the bands again.

These types of festivals also allow for gathering and collaboration among musicians.

Harris describes it as “all about people getting together and meeting new influences and seeing bands they like, people they want to play

with, play shows with and jam with.”

That musician centered atmosphere makes the Sanford Music Festival stand apart from the big national music festivals like Lollapalooza, Coachella, and Country 500.

A festival like the one in also allows local bands to have a kind of break from the bar and pub scene that is the usual venue for a band trying to gain some notoriety.

Jon Carp, a solo indie folk musi-

cian from St. Augustine, said he is often burdened with all the prep that goes into putting on a show. He sees festivals as “a kind of break.” The festival provides a space that allows the musician to focus on putting on the best performance that they can, he said.

In addition to OrlandoBands.com, the Sanford fest was presented by The Local Music Guild in partnership with Ladies 327 Supperclub.

17-92 Road Work Nears End

By Robert M. Vincent

Construction on State Road 17-92 may be coming to an end in late fall, according to a representative of the Florida Department of Transportation.

“Work specifically at General Hutchinson Parkway is taking longer than anticipated due to plan revisions needed on a retaining wall in the area,” said Jessica Ottaviano, the representative from the Florida Department of Transportation. “It is estimated that the work at this specific location on the project will be complete late fall of this year.”

If you’re someone who commutes on 17-92, and if you’re coming from anywhere south of Longwood, you most likely encounter the same problem: perpetual construction. What should be an easy drive through a forested area becomes far more harrowing than it would be normally. For over a year, parts of this road have been cordoned off or had their lanes redirected, although now there seems to be an end in sight, and a reasonable explanation for the delays.

Since March 2018, State Road 17-92 has been undergoing a widening project. General Hutchinson Parkway, a road linking 17-92 with Ronald Reagan

Boulevard, has been closed because of it. As noted on one of the department’s websites, cflroads.com, the construction extends all the way to Lake Mary Boulevard, but the section near General Hutchinson is where it is the most obtrusive. They also urge drivers to use heightened caution in this area.

Earlier this month, there was a crash on 17-92 in the area around General Hutchinson that resulted in two casualties. A driver by the name of Shane French, 30, veered into the opposite lanes and collided head-on with two approaching vehicles. Both French and a man named James Johnson, 57, died in the accident, and multiple others suffered injuries.

Many students are frustrated at this construction project, as they have perceived it as going on for too long. When asked about the construction, Seminole State student Darien Nazario, said, “I don’t know too much about construction, but it seems a little too long for what they are trying to do.”

It has started to feel like this construction has become a permanent facet of our weekly commutes. Good things come to those who wait, so come autumn, this road might turn out better than we could imagine.

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