

# Popular dog park will remain free — for now

By DAPHNE SASHIN  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

WINTER PARK — The popular dog-friendly Fleet Peeples Park on Lake Baldwin will remain free while the city parks commission works with a volunteer group to determine the best way to fund improvements.

The parks commission on Thursday held off on a proposal to charge annual fees of \$50 to \$75 and instead ap-

pointed a subcommittee to meet with the nonprofit Friends of Fleet Peeples Park. The groups will discuss how to implement a master plan that features handicapped-accessible trails and a separate people-only park and beach. The plan has been estimated to cost \$1 million to \$3 million.

Parks commissioners voted unanimously after two dozen people criticized the fee proposal, from the

amounts to the way they would be collected and how the funds would be spent. Some parkgoers said the city shouldn't make nonresidents pay more than city residents, while others said the proposal discriminated against dog owners.

"If my dog were here, he would lift his leg on this proposal," said Leslie Kinnaird of Orlando. "If we don't have the budget, stop. Don't go ahead with the plans."

Parks staff said the City Commission had directed them to consider a fee to fund the master plan it recently approved. They estimated the annual fees and \$5-a-day passes would net about \$33,000 for improvements.

But the minutes from the City Commission meeting showed Commissioner Margie Bridges asked only that the parks board and Friends of Fleet Peeples Park meet to

discuss each party's responsibilities, including "any fees."

Neil Frazee, the outgoing president of the Friends group, said he and his wife spent two years designing a master plan that accommodated dog lovers and families who want to picnic or take sailing lessons without the interference of animals. He made clear the group "never asked for a dime" from the city.

The parks board agreed to give the association a chance to come up with a less-controversial plan.

"First and foremost, we need to meet with Friends of Fleet Peeples," parks board member Janet Atkins said. "I would just hate to see this park not be used as a park for everyone."

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## Keller, Feeney have \$1.7M left on hand

By MARK K. MATTHEWS  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Two Republican congressmen from Central Florida have a combined \$1.7 million to spend in the final weeks of their re-election campaigns, according to federal records.

And they might need every penny against big-spending challengers.

To win a fifth term, U.S. Rep. Ric Keller of Orlando must defeat wealthy Democrat Alan Grayson, who has pumped about \$1.7 million of his own money into his campaign. As of Sept. 30, Keller had about \$983,000 in the bank, but Grayson's campaign has pledged to do "whatever is necessary."

An aide to Keller said the campaign had saved cash for a media blitz in the final stretch.

"The bulk of the money in any campaign is spent in the last several weeks," said Bryan Malenius, his chief of staff. "That's when people start to pay attention."

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Tom Feeney of Oviedo had about \$736,000, as of Sept. 30, for his campaign against Democrat Suzanne Kosmas, according to Federal Election Commission records. That's more than double Kosmas' \$356,000.

Kosmas spent more than \$800,000 against Feeney between Aug. 7 and Sept. 30, much of that money going to expensive — and negative — television ads. National Democrats also have helped

her, spending more than \$650,000 so far to help her win the seat.

Feeney spent only about \$324,000 in August and September. But his chief of staff would not say how the campaign would use its remaining money.

"We don't let people know what our campaign strategy is until after we've won," Tonnie Wybensinger said.

Grayson's campaign is largely self-funded, while Keller received the majority of his money from political-action committees, which is typical for an incumbent.

Among his checks: \$1,000 from Burger King, \$2,000 from Wendy's and \$1,000 from Darden Restaurants. Keller earned the support of the food industry after filing bills earlier in his congressional career to prohibit overweight consumers from suing restaurants.

Feeney raised much of his money from conservative groups, such as the National Rifle Association, and the financial sector, including Mastercard and American Express. He sits on a House committee with oversight of the financial industry.

Many of Kosmas' PAC donations were from unions and liberal groups such as Planned Parenthood and the Progressive Patriots Fund.

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RICARDO RAMÍREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Kasey Edwards handles a baseball Thursday with encouragement from Troy Farnsworth of Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics. Farnsworth surprised Edwards on the TV show 'Doctors.'

### ARM

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the time of his attack, was able to get the prosthetic hand after his story attracted national attention.

Troy Farnsworth, a prosthetist for Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, heard Edwards' story when he was contacted by a medical talk show on CBS called *Doctors*.

Farnsworth surprised Edwards on the show and told him he would be outfitted with the i-LIMB, which would have cost \$100,000 without insurance.

Touch Bionics, which manufactures the i-LIMB, Hanger Prosthetics and Inner Wheel Foundation —

an nonprofit that provides young amputees funding for prosthetics — contributed money for Edwards' bionic limb.

The hand, which Edwards calls the "Cadillac of prosthetics," is almost as functional as the one he was born with.

"He can pretty much do most of the things he did before," Farnsworth said.

Edwards has been wearing the prosthetic for two months.

It allows him to do mundane and delicate tasks, such as unwrapping a roll of toilet paper, and more strenuous tasks such as shooting a hunting rifle, one of his favorite pastimes.

Joanne Cotton, a clinical liaison for Inner Wheel,

said Edwards has maintained a positive outlook throughout his ordeal.

"He got the confidence that he needed the minute he lost that arm," she said. "It goes back to the theme of turning a total disability into a total possibility."

Edwards said that although his new bionic hand might attract some curious glances, he is grateful for it.

"I didn't fight for my life with that alligator out there to live my life in embarrassment," he said. "It's not the arm that God gave me, but in other aspects, it is the arm that God gave me."

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## Doctor: Too many infants are dying

By JEFF KUNERTH  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The town-hall meeting was about the rising numbers of black infant deaths, but many of the problems discussed Thursday night at the Dr. James R. Smith Center applied to all pregnant women in Orange County.

"A baby dies every three days. That's a lot of babies," said Linda Sutherland, head of Orange County's Healthy Start Coalition.

You can read their names, sometimes two a day, in the obituary pages, she said.

One problem is the lack of doctors delivering babies. Medical malpractice costs contribute to the shortage. Three years ago, the county had 146 obstetricians. Today, it has 102. Yet every year 18,000 women give birth in Orange County, said Dr. Kevin Sherin, head of Orange County Public Health.

"The Orange County Health Department is the largest obstetrics practice in the county. Over 4,500 women are coming to us each year for prenatal care," he said.

The lack of doctors, and difficulties in getting pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid through the state's new automated system, contributes to the poor prenatal care — resulting in rising infant-mortality rates, Sherin said. "I can tell you, it's getting worse."

In 2005, black babies were 2.25 times more likely to die than white babies in Orange County. In 2007, they were three times more likely to die.

But even before a baby is born, it might be doomed by the mother's life preceding the pregnancy. Poor nutrition, smoking, substance abuse, and a simple lack of knowledge contributes to infant mortality.

The event's moderator, radio personality Monica May, told about giving birth to her daughter in 1989 as a single mother living on welfare.

"I had a college degree, and didn't know how to have a baby," said May. "You just need to have some momma sense. Start living like you're having a baby now. Eat right. No smoking. No drugs. No multiple partners."

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### Puzzle solutions

#### Jumble

Jumbled words: TRIPE, GAUZE, PSYCHE, SCHEME

Answer: What the guard was between when he took a rest — THE SHEETS

F	O	B	S	B	A	T	E	D	O	D	I	N		
A	R	E	A	E	B	C	L	I	M	E	R	E		
B	A	N	G	C	H	E	E	S	H	E	A	R	T	
I	N	V	A	D	E	C	A	S	U	A	L			
A	G	A	S	A	D	O	G	E	R	W	I	N		
N	E	L	L	D	R	U	I	D	A	H	M	E		
I	O	R	C	N	I	O	P	F	A	P				
I	D	E	A	B	R	O	T	I	E	R	B	E	N	D
N	E	Y	G	A	P	R	I	A	S	O	L			
T	A	L	C	P	S	Y	C	H	O	R	D	S		
O	N	E	A	L	I	A	U	L	I	W	O			
A	M	E	D	E	C	B	E	E	P	E	R			
W	I	C	P	C	T	U	R	E	A	P	L	E		
T	R	U	E	L	C	S	E	H	E	L	S			
S	E	E	R	I	N	E	P	T	E	R	S	T		

#### Daily Word Game

AURICLE: acre, aril, auric, ulcer, uracil, urea, uric, race, rail, rale, real, relic, rial, rice, riel, rile, rule, ileac, lace, lacer, lacier, laic, lair, liar, lice, lieu, lira, lire, lucre, lure, care, caul, cure, clear, clue, cruel, cure, curia, curie, curl, earl, eclair, ecru, erica

7	5	8	9	2	3	6	1	4
2	9	1	7	4	6	5	3	8
3	6	4	1	8	5	2	7	9
1	2	5	3	9	8	7	4	6
8	7	9	5	6	4	1	2	3
6	4	3	2	7	1	9	8	5
5	8	7	4	1	9	3	6	2
4	3	2	6	5	7	8	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	2	4	5	7

## State looks to cut costly fleet of planes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Charlie Crist isn't about to be outdone by Alaskan counterpart Sarah Palin when it comes to state aircraft.

Palin, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, likes to say she put her

state plane on eBay, although it didn't sell there.

After an audit last week suggesting that Florida's three planes are costing the state too much money in a weak economy, the state is going ahead and soliciting sealed bids on its oldest aircraft for sale on a pair of Web sites, www.tradeplane

.com and www.aso.com.

The available plane is a 1985 Beechcraft King Air 300 turboprop plane that's been stuck on the ground a lot this year for maintenance reasons.

Crist, however, isn't putting his preferred plane — a jet — on the block. Not yet, anyway.

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