

Lawmakers mirror Crist's budget cuts, B3

Local News



Pearlman-scheme victims sue governor, B3

\$3,234

Amount a student taking 15 credit hours at Seminole Community College is likely to pay for fees, tuition, books and supplies during the term that starts Jan. 12, according to scc-fl.edu/parents.

OrlandoSentinel.com/local

Annual parade draws thousands



PHOTOS BY RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Team Wellington twirlers from Palm Beach County show off their skills during the 29th Spherion Orlando Citrus Parade on Tuesday.

CITRUS REIGNS AGAIN ON ORANGE AVENUE

By **SATTA SARMAH** || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Sometimes onlookers at a parade are just as colorful as the performers in it.

Tuesday's Spherion Orlando Citrus Parade was a case in point.

Lisa Strube of Metamora, Ill., spiffed up her dog, Babe, in a pink leopard-print tutu after efforts to find an orange tutu to match the parade's decor came up short.

Other spectators wore orange and blue Florida Gator T-shirts and danced as a float adorned in citrus fruit blared Vanilla Ice's "Ice Ice Baby," and Tone Loc's "Wild Thing."

The parade, which was in its 29th year, draws an estimated 60,000 spectators every year to downtown Orlando. City officials closed down several major streets for the event, scheduled between last week's Champs Sports Bowl and Thursday's Capital One Bowl.

Local citrus growers Heller Bros., Leroy Smith Inc. and Conoley Citrus Packers donated about 100,000 oranges, tangerines and grapefruits that float builders attached to their displays with rubber bands.

The Society of St. Andrews and Bread of Life were to receive the fruit after the event, said Bethany Coutts, an events assistant with Florida Citrus Sports, organizer of the festivities.

Scores of performers filled the parade route, which started at Orange Avenue and Robinson Street and weaved through downtown on its way to Lake Eola.

More than a dozen marching bands, a



A float moves through downtown Orlando in the Spherion Orlando Citrus Parade on Tuesday. After the parade, the fruit would go to 2 local food banks, organizers said.

PLEASE SEE **PARADE, B2**

'You couldn't throw a tangelo without it bouncing off a tuba.'

Scott Maxwell was a judge for the Spherion Orlando Citrus Parade. He's got the lowdown, including a rocker's comeback. **B2**

For more photos

For more images of the parade, go to OrlandoSentinel.com/citrus

Ringleader gets 58 years in abuse case

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

A drifter convicted of helping his gang of scam artists kill a Sanford woman and torture her young son was sentenced Tuesday to 58 years in prison by a Wisconsin judge.

Michael Sisk, 27, faced more than 136 years in prison on 10 charges, including second-degree reckless homicide, child abuse, false imprisonment and aggravated battery.

Sisk was convicted in August of helping his gang kill 36-year-old Tammie Garlin of Sanford and torture her 11-year-old son. Police found the boy locked in a closet and Garlin's body in a shallow grave behind the gang's house in Portage, Wis., about 40 miles north of Madison.

"I am sorry that everything happened," Sisk told Circuit Judge Alan J. White before his sentencing. "I would like to apologize to [the boy]. I am sorry I wasn't a man to stop everything from happening to him. I wish I could trade places with him."

Investigators think Sisk and his girlfriend, Candace Clarke, led a rov-



MICHAEL SISK: Convicted in woman's death, son's torture.

“It is probably a life sentence.”

— JANE KOHLWEY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PLEASE SEE **ABUSE, B5**

More online

More coverage of the case at OrlandoSentinel.com/torturecase.

Pick-me-ups ease New Year's traffic

By **MARK PINO** || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

If you imbibe, don't drive.

That's the message law-enforcement agencies want to send to New Year's Eve revelers.

Nearly 1,000 people died in December 2007 in crashes in which the driver had a blood-alcohol level of .08 or higher, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Besides using a designated driver or calling a cab, partyers have a couple more options this year:

Want innovation?

For a \$10 pickup fee and \$2-per-mile cost, the people from Zingo will come to the rescue with their motorbikes in a bag.

Zingo employees use fold-up scooters to get to clients. The employee then chauffeurs the client home in the client's car with the motor-

Get a ride

- Zingo:** 1-866-469-4646
- AAA Tow To Go:** 1-800-222-4357
- Earth Shuttle Pedicab:** 321-231-9215
- Five Star Pedicab:** 407-556-7527
- O-Cartz:** 321-663-0678



PLEASE SEE **RIDES, B5**

Firm to pay \$150,000 in calling-card ad deal

By **WALTER PACHECO** || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

A major prepaid calling-card company that engaged in deceptive practices in Florida will dial up more than \$150,000 to the state and a Hispanic advocacy group as part of a settlement reached Tuesday.

New Jersey-based Locus Communications Inc., also known as GEO Telecom, must reimburse the Attorney General's Office \$50,000 for attorney's fees, costs and future audits, according to the settlement.

The company also must pay \$105,000 to the Hispanic Institute, a Washington-based advocacy group, which worked with prosecutors to stop prepaid calling-card companies from targeting Hispanic immigrants through deceptive marketing and advertising tactics.

"Many Florida residents use these cards to communicate with their family, friends and loved ones," Attorney General Bill McCollum said. "These new standards will

PLEASE SEE **ADS, B5**



The West Orange High School Warrior Band steps lively through downtown Tuesday during the 29th Spherion Orlando Citrus Parade.