

# Universal Orlando profit falls

PARK ATTENDANCE DOWN, OTHER BUSINESS NEWS, C5

# Local & Business

Four Corners may get college campus soon, C3

**39** Florida's ranking among the 50 states for per-pupil funding in public schools, according to *Education Weekly*. For more statistics, click on [OrlandoSentinel.com/data](http://OrlandoSentinel.com/data)

[OrlandoSentinel.com/local](http://OrlandoSentinel.com/local)



Donna Banks, a coordinator at Spring Hill Community Resource Center, works to improve the poor community.

PHOTOS BY ROBERTO GONZALEZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL

## A STIMULUS FOR SPRING HILL?

By SATTI SARMAH || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

**S**pring Hill, a 4-square mile area identified as the poorest community in Florida, is a world unto itself.

During the day, only a handful of cars travel the community's main thoroughfare, Adelle Avenue, a paved road still missing sidewalks in some areas.

Spring Hill is just five minutes from downtown DeLand. But it's almost absent of businesses, aside from God's Son Car Wash and an outdoor barbecue stand, both makeshift establishments with prices scribbled on roadside boards.

With a median yearly income of just \$13,000, homes dependent on septic tanks and a nearly 46 percent poverty rate, Spring Hill is in need of a bailout.

Residents and local leaders hope that money will be carved out of the \$787 billion stimulus package Congress passed last month. Volusia County and its 16 cities have requested more than \$604 million for 50 capital improvement projects. About

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Adelle Avenue is the main thoroughfare in Spring Hill, a Volusia County community that the U.S. Census Bureau has identified as Florida's poorest.

**“ We don't want this to happen in Gainesville and then the opposition turn toward Orlando.”**



— GINA DUNCAN  
ORLANDO ACTIVIST

## Gays eye vote that imperils rights

By JEFF KUNERTH  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Gay activists in Orlando and across the state are keeping a wary eye on a vote in Gainesville today that would remove antidiscrimination protections for gays and lesbians.

Amendment 1 would eliminate all antidiscrimination provisions from the city's charter except those provided by Florida's Civil Rights Act.

The state law does not include protections based on sexual orientation and gender identification.

Members of Orlando's gay community have been staffing phone banks and canvassing neighborhoods in Gainesville, just a few hours to the north.

“We feel it's sort of like in our own backyard and we want to do whatever we can to help,” said Gina Duncan, an Orlando gay activist. “We don't want this to happen in Gainesville and then the opposition turn toward Orlando.”

Duncan and others say the Gainesville amendment would strip away some of the same antidiscrimination protections that gays in Orlando fought hard in recent years to win, including employment and housing safeguards.

Proponents of the Gainesville amendment have based much of their campaign against a provision

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## Rain falls but fails to quench area's drought

No need to haul out your umbrella today. The sprinkle Central Florida received late Sunday and early Monday won't make another appearance until at least Sunday, weather forecasters say. “This time of year, we just don't get the day-after-day chances of rain,” meteorologist Randy Lascody said. The little bit of rain — about one-quarter of an inch in Orlando — fell far short of quenching the current drought. Year to date, the area has had 3.03 inches of rain; typical rainfall for this time period is 7.46 inches. Don't expect much more until the rainy season starts in early June. On the bright side, look for sun today and temperatures in the high 70s.

RED HUBER  
ORLANDO SENTINEL



## Who wants to be mayor? The good, the blah and the Three Amigas

**O**range County Mayor Rich Crotty is going from lame duck to dead duck.

He may not be a crook, but I'm getting flashbacks to Richard Nixon — under siege, surrounded by a cadre of loyalists giving him bad advice, lashing out against critics, wondering who is plotting against him now.

Now here is a quick look at some who are plotting to get his job.

Commissioner **Bill Segal** is going for it. I don't know why other than he just wants to be mayor. The commitment to politics is there, but what about the commitment to public policy? Where is the big picture for making this a better place to live? When has he



**Mike Thomas**

SENTINEL COLUMNIST

taken a risk for something he believes in? What does he believe in?

Please, Bill, give us a reason to vote for you.

Instead I see a likable, cautious guy

PLEASE SEE **THOMAS, C4**

## **\$** The economy || Park system

### Perks to the tune of \$745K?

By MARK SCHLUEB  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Despite projections for the toughest budget crunch in years, Orlando officials are set to spend nearly \$750,000 to install sound equipment at Lake Eola Park and study the rest of the city's park system.

The City Council agreed Monday to pay a consultant \$225,000 to examine Orlando's existing parks and come up with a “master plan” on the city's fu-

ture recreation needs.

And later this week, an advisory board is expected to OK the city's half of a \$520,000 plan to buy sound equipment and bury electrical conduit around Lake Eola, so visitors will be able to hear the music playing at the park's band shell from the other side of the lake. Orange County is expected to pick up the other half of the city project through a grant program meant to pro-

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