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THE FINE PRINT GET BEHIND-THE-SCENES SCOOPS AND NUGGETS ON LOCAL BUSINESSES, EVENTS AND PEOPLE

Daytona Beach boosts Orlando in value index

Posted February 8, 2007

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Orlando has managed to jump three places on Hotwire.com's travel value index. Orlando sprung from seventh to fourth place on the list of most affordable vacations. How is that possible, you ask, considering Walt Disney World, SeaWorld and Universal all increased ticket prices in the past year? It seems that Hotwire.com is now including Daytona Beach in the extended Orlando area. "To have Orlando do so well on this list we have to take a broader look beyond the theme parks," said Clem Branson, Hotwire vice president.

Scouting for barbecue

If you have a craving for barbecue, don't stop at the Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q in DeLand. The restaurant, which suffered extensive damage in last Friday's twister outbreak, is not reopening. A spokeswoman for Sonny's said the DeLand restaurant was closed because the franchisee chose not to renew a license agreement, which expired on Sunday, just two days after the tornado struck. Sonny's is now scouting for a new site for a restaurant in the DeLand area, the company said.

Battle of the banks


Colonial Bank is talking about an aggressive expansion in Orange County that could help it capture more market share from SunTrust, the region's largest bank. But this "battle of the banks" has an interesting twist. In recent years, Colonial has been gaining ground in Orange County -- SunTrust's "backyard" -- but SunTrust is also gaining in Lake County, which has been Colonial's stronghold since 2005. That's when it acquired First Federal Savings Bank of Lake County. The latest deposit data in Lake indicates Colonial leads SunTrust by less than one-third of a percentage point.

UCF students victorious

It was 24, but without Jack Bauer. Four University of Central Florida students recently won a sports business management contest, the MBA College Class Competition, at the National Sports Forum conference in Los Angeles. Each team had 24 hours to read and react to a case study relating to efforts to create the L.A. equivalent of Times Square around the Staples Center. The UCF students, Ryan Vandament, Danielle Kushner, Stacy Martin and Faith Miller, all are scheduled to graduate this spring with master's degrees in sports business management.

Dolphin, Swan make list

the house of style



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READER TO READER

If you had \$1 million to give away, who would get it?

Name:

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BUSINESS NEWS ON THE WEB

The Dolphin and Swan hotels at Walt Disney World ranked 70th in a list of America's favorite architecture. The national poll was conducted by the American Institute of Architects and Harris Interactive. America's favorite? The Empire State Building in New York City. The White House was second.

Closed for renovations

Those taking a stroll around Lake Eola may have noticed that the less-than-a-year-old Market Street Cafe on Central Boulevard is closed. A recorded message on the restaurant's answering machine notes that the dining spot has closed temporarily for renovations intended to add more banquet space for city events. Callers to the restaurant were directed to the Market Street Cafe in Celebration, which remains open. Both restaurants were developed by Orlando-based Restaurant Partners, a consulting company.

Taking steps

Mayor Buddy Dyer, who has suggested downtown denizens' own two feet are an ideal solution to reducing traffic on city streets, walked the walk this week. He logged a quarter-mile lap around Al Coith Park to promote a walking program for seniors. The free program, at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Mayor William Beardall Senior Center, is part of the city planning department's Get Active Orlando initiative.

Compiled with contributions from Richard Burnett, Mark Chediak, Chris Cobbs, Sara Isaac, Beth Kassab and Jack Snyder.



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