

SOUTH MIAMI

NOVEMBER 2 - 15, 2021

Connecting Communities

Jr. Orange Bowl events begin with Cross Country; SMARTRIDE set for Nov. 21



Gloria Burns

GLORIA'S GAB

The Jr. Orange Bowl Cross Country Event held at Larry and Penny Thompson Park, had registrations for 1,500 young people from 81 middle and senior high schools. While the Middle School races had no issues, the high school race that followed had to be canceled due to heavy lightning storm. Shout out to Evensky and Katz, the event's main sponsor, along with the support of Nicklaus Children and Waste Management.

For more information on results, visit juniororangebowl.org/Crosscountry.

By the way, the Jr. Orange Bowl is currently accepting applications for the 73rd Annual Parade, entitled "Miracle on the Mile: A Holiday Parade and Celebration," to be held Dec. 12, 2021, at 5 p.m. on Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. Look for more than 2,000 people with floats, bands, performers and more. There is still time to sponsor the parade and many other events. You can even create your own amateur float with monetary prizes being awarded.

For more information on their world renowned golf and tennis tournaments, basketball tournaments, scholar athlete program, creative arts and more, visit online at www.jrorangebowl.org or call 305-662-1210.

SMARTRIDE, a 165 mile bike ride from Miami to Key West, is right around the corner set for Nov. 19 - 20, 2021. This fundraiser, to benefit HIV Aids charities, begins at University of Miami departing at sunrise, after breakfast on Friday. **Day one** is a 100 mile ride with rest stops every 15-20 miles. Each day, one of the stops will be manned by the GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club, a club participates every year dressing in costumes to add to the fun and handing out fruit, water, snacks and lots of laughs. **Day 2** is a

shorter 65 mile ride with the usual pit stops and ending with a 4 mile police escort and parade around Key West and down to Duval Street where cheering crowds await. Kudos to all involved especially Glen Weinzimer, a friend and the the founder of this amazing event. For more information, visit online at www.thesartride.org

In other news, while the Coral Gables Woman's Club Halloween Party had to be canceled, the club's Nov. 9 Gringo Bingo hosted by Clutch Burger is a sell out crowd. Proceeds this month will benefit the Alzheimer's Association with a record number of sponsors including Ser & Associates, Rosie Andersen, Realtor, and South Florida Kidney Partners and, of course, in-kind donation from Community Newspapers; DJ Germain who provides music; desserts from Benoit Pagliardini (Casabake); and so many local merchants who donate prizes every month.

Elizabeth Kourtesis Fisher, GFWC FL President Projects Chair and Past District 11 Director, was busy again doing her good work. This time, she escorted a veteran on the Veterans Honor Flight and reported that it was a beautiful day in Washington DC for this trip honoring our veterans. The group toured the World War II Memorial, Korea and Vietnam War Memorials, visited Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with changing of the guard and laying of a wreath. Her veteran was Carlos Garcia who enjoyed the day with 71 other veterans. God bless all those who served our country so well.

Finally, the Miami Lighthouse For The Blind recently held a luncheon at The Biltmore Hotel. Guests found the event to be heartwarming seeing blind and visually impaired children and grownups sing and enjoy themselves with the amazing Virginia Jacko, the Director. As always, everyone raved about the food and ambiance.

Until next time, keep making each day count, share an act of kindness every day and stay safe.



MIDDLE SCHOOL RUNNERS COMPETE IN JR. ORANGE BOWL CROSS COUNTRY EVENT.



PICTURED AT LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND LUNCHEON ARE (l-r) TRISH BELL, VIRGINIA JACKO, DAN BELL AND NORMA JEAN ABRAHAM.



VETERAN CARLOS GARCIA ENJOYS A REST DURING HONOR FLIGHT TOUR IN WASHINGTON D.C. WITH HIS ESCORT ELIZABETH FISHER.