

GET ON THE HODGES UNIVERSITY

Wheel!



WHEN YOUR EMPLOYEES FINISH WHAT THEY STARTED, YOUR ORGANIZATION BENEFITS

Retention of highly skilled employees is a key driver of organizational success. Hodges University will partner with you to offer the Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management. Throughout the learning process, students will be challenged to think critically, work collaboratively, and grow as effective leaders.

What is the Hodges University Wheel Program?

- The Wheel is a comprehensive and customized learning structure—potentially offered on your site—that offers an unmatched educational experience by attending class once a week with other like-minded professionals.

This is a program designed specifically for working professionals who want to advance their careers by completing their Bachelor's degree in as little as one year.

- Previously earned credits from another institution can make this possible.

We are credit transfer ready!

The distinctive advantages for completing a Bachelor's in Organizational Management?

- Learn how to make more informed, strategic business decisions
- Gain an understanding of the most important functions of business and management
- Gain leadership skills for advancing in management
- Earn a degree that is applicable to all areas of a professional career

The distinctive advantages for an Employer (and Employee)?

- Incorporate customizable content specific to your organization's needs
- Network and build camaraderie with their classmates through the entire program
- Schedule the class to suit employees' schedule
- Share experiences that enrich the classroom experience

What will your Employee learn?

- Fundamentals in management, strategy, teams and collaboration, and ethics
- Advanced management techniques
- Effective leadership skills
- Critical thinking skills

For immediate information please contact:

Dennis Golden, Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships
239-598-6126 or email: dgolden@hodges.edu



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Hodges University is an equal access, equal opportunity organization.



HODGES UNIVERSITY

Hodges U. rolls out Wheel

DR. JOHN MEYER

President, Hodges University

Proper wheel alignment is important for vehicles in many ways. First, it provides a safer ride, and second, a longer life for your tires. As a mechanic in a previous life, I saw firsthand what happens when car owners don't have their wheels aligned. The car pulls to one side and the tires don't wear evenly. Ultimately, that means time in the shop and more money out of pocket.



MEYER

Now take that thinking and apply it to your career and education. Our students are focused. They want to complete their degree as quickly as possible, moving in a straight line and focusing only on the elements they need. That's the foundation for the Hodges University Wheel.



Our first wheel is for those professionals who want to complete their bachelor's degree in organizational management. We are transfer credit friendly, so with previous military or college credits earned, it is possible to graduate with this degree in as little as one year.

We selected this degree because all organizations require professionals in management positions. This degree will help you learn to make informed, strategic business decisions, gain a full understanding of the most important functions of business and management, and learn effective leadership skills for advancement. You'll learn from a

dynamic professor with practical, real-world experience, so it's not just about learning the theory, but also applying that theory to your personal and professional life.

Time is money, so in addition to graduating in as little as one year, class is held once a week, with the remaining work done on your own time. Most of our students are balancing the demands of working full time and family, so this wheel was designed with that in mind. Best of all, students have the option to take their weekly class planned for multiple locations: on campus at Hodges University in Fort Myers, or in the Hodges

Direct classrooms located in the Community Resource Center of Goodwill in Port Charlotte or in Naples at a location to be announced.

Another perk for our students: they have the option to attend class one evening during the week or on a Saturday. This is especially beneficial for students who work shift schedules. By meeting once a week, our students have the opportunity to participate in a class that is engaging, challenging and inspiring. There are also the added benefits of camaraderie with classmates.

Classes start in the fall, so now is the time to learn more about the Hodges University Wheel and what it can do for you and your career goals. A year from now, you could be graduating with a bachelor's degree with the knowledge, tools and confidence to take your career to the next level. ■

— Dr. John Meyer is president and a two-time graduate of Hodges University.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Protect our library

BY HOWARD L. SIMON

America's culture wars came to Sanibel last week. You couldn't be so naive as to think that our island paradise would be immune.

Last week more than 100 people, many more than capacity, crowded into a meeting room of the Sanibel Public Library for a meeting of the Library District Board of Commissioners. Never had they had anyone attend one of their meetings, commissioners noted in amazement.

Most were there to defend the judgment of the professional library staff and commissioners — and the role that libraries have traditionally played in America as guardians of the First Amendment's value on access to information.

An online article in a local right-wing publication had reported that two mothers and their children recently visited the Sanibel Public Library and that one child came across a small display on one of the shelves in the children's section of the library honoring Pride Month. The display included two children's books dealing with transgender youth ("Jack, Not Jackie" and "My Own Way"), which the mother believed to be inappropriate for her child. The second child came across another children's book also describing transgender youth ("When Aiden Became a Brother").

Let's play along that they stumbled on the offending books, not that they went hunting for them as part of a nationwide effort designed to remove books and take over library boards.

Apparently, according to the comments of these parents at the library commission meeting, books dealing with gay families and gay relationships can be tolerated, but information describing transgender youth crosses some line of permissible inclusion in the library's children's collection. It should be noted that all these books are available at public libraries throughout Lee County and in fact, libraries throughout the country.

These days, few people are oblivious to public support for America's oldest constitutional values of free expression and access to information. Few people will proclaim that they are actually for censorship — greater subtlety is required. The two mothers requested that the display be "relocated" to a spot where young library patrons would be less likely to see the offending books.

Surely every parent has the right to



SIMON

direct the upbringing of his or her children. Accordingly, the Sanibel District Library Policy states that "Responsibility for library materials use by minors rests with their parents or guardians." What is distressing in censor-

ship debates is the notion that a parent would think that the appropriate way to protect their child from what they regard as harmful information is to force a government agency like a public library to adopt a policy that would keep information away from everyone's children.

By well-established policies of the American Library Association, every library typically has a procedure by which a patron can file a complaint requesting that, for one reason or another, a book be removed from the shelves. The mothers decided not to file the complaint form and to make their appeal directly to library commissioners.

Not succeeding in having the offending books removed or the display relocated so the information would be less accessible to youngsters, it seems that a strategy of vigilante censorship was adopted: the offending books were checked out en masse to keep them out of circulation.

This issue is far from over: six of the seven seats on the Sanibel District Library Commission will be filled during the November election. Three of the six seats are uncontested. There will be a contest for the remaining three seats — two of which the protesting mothers are seeking to fill.

This is a nonpartisan election, so the difference between candidates is not the usual partisan division. The difference between the candidates is likely to be between those supporting restrictions on information, even censorship, and those supporting the First Amendment's value of access to information on a diversity of topics and representing diverse points of view.

If you vote on Sanibel, get informed about the candidates for the Sanibel District Library Commission so you can help defend our library staff and our public library. ■

— Howard L. Simon, Ph. D., is a Sanibel resident and president of Clean Okeechobee Waters Foundation Inc.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY THE EDITORS AT ANDREW MCMEEL

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Least-competent criminals

— In Salt Lake City in mid-June, a couple of geniuses rolled up next to a company box truck in a parking lot in their own pickup truck. While one waited, KSL-TV reported, the other got under the company truck and drilled a hole into the gas tank, presumably hoping to steal fuel. But the perp's shirt caught on fire while he was under the truck, causing him to roll around the parking lot while trying to remove his shirt. He then jumped into the pickup and the pair of would-be thieves drove away; the company truck still had flames and smoke billowing from underneath, as seen on a surveillance video. No

arrests have yet been made.

— Also in June, Austin Beauchamp, who was working as a summer instructor for a youth social services program in Grove City, Ohio, applied for a police communications technician job there, WKBN-TV reported. As part of the interview process, a detective ran a background check on Beauchamp and found he was wanted in North Carolina on a statutory rape charge. Grove City police arrested him on June 22 and expected him to be extradited to Guilford County, North Carolina, for trial.

It's good to have a hobby

Neruno Daisuki, a Japanese illustrator and manga artist, stumbled into a new hobby as he tried to pass the time during the COVID lockdowns of the past year, Oddity Central reported. He started collecting the various little items that become stuck in the tread of one's shoes — pebbles, glass fragments, etc. — and laying them out neatly on boards with grids.

"When I was removing the pebbles caught in the groove on the back of my newly bought sneakers," he said, "I felt that it was a waste to just throw them away, and I thought, 'It would be interesting to collect them.'" He ended up with 179 pebbles, 32 glass fragments and one nut. Now he's considering further categorizing his collection between his left and right shoes.

Good sport

Katie Hannaford, 36, of Essex, England, just wanted to please her daughter by taking part in a parents' race on sports day at the girl's school. But when she tripped over her own feet and fell to her knees, Hannaford inadvertently flashed her bare rear end to the crowd of students, parents and teachers, the Mirror reported on July 7. At first, she said, she was humiliated,

but Trophies Plus Medals presented her with a Bottoms Up award trophy and medal; Elle Courtenel, social media manager for the company, said they "felt she deserved her own award despite not making it to the finish line." And Hannaford has come around to see the humor of it: "It's definitely the funniest thing I've ever done in my life!"

Government in action

Victor Roy, Oceanside, California's elected city treasurer, is in hot water after an email from Treasury Manager Steve Hodges to Roy surfaced, Voice of San Diego reported. The June 6 email includes several allegations against Roy, but the most titillating details, in an anonymous complaint filed in June 2021, allege that Roy looked at pornography on the Mission Branch Library computers. The complaint stated that Roy was "looking at magazines that when he clicked on

the cover, the images inside the magazine were full nudity." Roy was told by library staff that he couldn't view nudity on public computers, and he replied that "he knew, that is why he came when it was slow and that he was being cognizant of his surroundings," the complaint continued. Assistant City Manager Michael Gossman, who confirmed that the leaked email was authentic, said Roy had not repeated the inappropriate behavior at the library. ■

State jobless claims reflect strong economy amid lingering inflation

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

First-time unemployment claims in Florida remain relatively flat and at a pre-pandemic pace, reflecting strong economic activity amid lingering inflation.

The U.S. Department of Labor late last week issued a report that estimated 5,135 first-time claims were filed in Florida during the week that ended Aug. 27.

That was down from a revised count of 5,809 claims during the week that ended Aug. 20. Despite a brief uptick in January, Florida has been around 6,000 to 8,000 new claims a week for most of the past year. The numbers are similar to the levels of claims filed before the COVID-19 pandemic crashed into the economy in early 2020 and caused massive job losses.

But while the state's economy has rebounded, businesses still struggle to find qualified workers to meet demand from consumers, said Adrienne Johnston, chief economist at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

"We actually are seeing, right now, there are more people, more Floridians in our labor market," Ms. Johnston said in the Florida Chamber of Commerce's "Future of Work Florida" podcast. "That means more people, talented workers, are out there actively seeking work. And we actually have seen that employers are reporting more payroll numbers than they had prior to the pandemic."

The Department of Economic Opportunity reported Florida's unemployment rate stood at 2.7% in July, matching the level before the pandemic.

The department will issue an August report on Sept. 16.

The July rate, reflecting an estimated 283,000 Floridians out of work from a workforce of about 10.66 million, was down from 2.8% in June and 4.5% in July 2021. It also came amid signs, including a drop in gasoline prices, that inflation has slowed after hitting a 40-year high of 9.1% in June.

Over the past four weeks, the state has averaged 5,754 unemployment claims a week.

During an appearance in Live Oak, Gov. Ron DeSantis touted Florida's economic climate, as the state had a lower unemployment rate than the national mark of 3.5% in July.

"People have gravitated here because they knew they could be free over the last couple years," Gov. DeSantis said. "I mean, you look at these people that would come from these lockdown jurisdictions just to visit Florida. They'd get off the plane. And they're like, 'Man, you know, this must be what it felt like to go from East Berlin to West Berlin.'"

While businesses try to decipher varying economic signs, Florida continues to experience higher-than-normal numbers of people leaving jobs for opportunities with better pay and benefits.

"I would also point out that while most employers are reporting that they're having struggles finding qualified talent, there are some concentrations in certain industries like leisure and hospitality," Ms. Johnston said. "So, it is widespread, but there are certain areas that are struggling more than others."

In August, state economists updated projections of general-revenue tax collections for the current 2022-2023 fiscal year and the 2023-2024 year by about \$5.3 billion. ■

Finish WHAT YOU STARTED!



Get on the Hodges University Wheel today and receive an unmatched educational experience by attending class one day a week in Goodwill's SWFL Community Resource Center in the heart of Port Charlotte, (24123 Peachland Blvd.) where we have a dedicated, fully-equipped classroom.



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- ✓ Understand the most important functions of business and management
- ✓ Gain effective leadership skills for advancing in management
- ✓ Earn a degree that applies to all areas of a professional career

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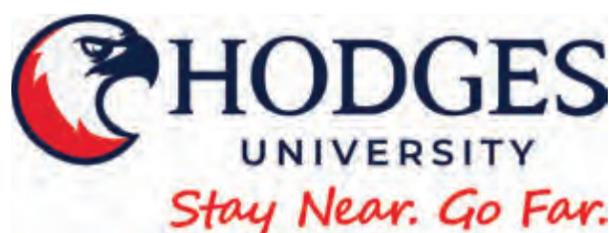
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