

24/SEVEN



A Chic Makeover

The home of the iconic little blue box, **Tiffany & Co.**, has more than 300 retail stores worldwide, with 11 in Florida including one at The Mall at Millenia. This Orlando hub, which first opened in 2002, unveiled a complete redesign at the end of October. Each element of the 4,192-square-foot store is meant to reflect the brand's luxurious heritage.

The facade features clear panels as well as Tiffany Blue glass walls etched with wheat leaf detailing, a motif that can be found throughout the store to represent a chic melding of traditional and modern. Inside, a mix of marble, travertine, glass, and steel creates an elevated, bright, open environment. Built-in wall displays accented with white marble and fluted mirror case lines bring attention to the exceptional jewelry pieces. This store also offers two private salons for exclusive viewings.

Other interactive zones include a Blue Box wrapping station and a personalization counter, where clients can customize their purchases with engravings. Also new, as of October, the company committed to sharing the full craftsmanship journey of its individually registered diamonds. (tiffany.com)
—Christina Cush



THE NEW TIFFANY & CO. FEATURES A LOVE & ENGAGEMENT SALON (BELOW) AND ALSO OFFERS DETAILED INFORMATION ON ITS DIAMONDS.



NEIGHBORHOODS

New in Lake Nona

Homebuyers are flocking to this connected community, as evidenced by the record number of residential sale contracts processed this summer. Residents and visitors alike have much to look forward to in terms of new shops, restaurants, amenities, and happenings. Here, we highlight two just-launched places to check out in the area.



LAKE NONA TOWN CENTER

RAFTERMEN



AMALIE ORRANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

1 VEG'N OUT: Owner and operator Ashley Torres brought this healthy eating locale to the Lake Nona Town Center with the goal of delivering quick and fresh veggie-centric cuisine to area diners. “We’ve gone to great lengths to make sure what we’re serving is the freshest and the best,” she says. The inspiration for the healthy fare came from Torres’ husband, Daniel, and his struggle with diabetes. Transitioning to a plant-based diet worked for him, and he lost 75 pounds in six months. Veg’n Out offers cold-pressed juices, customizable salad and grain bowls, and smoothie bowls drizzled in peanut or almond butter. Torres recommends the Blue Heaven smoothie bowl (the most popular) and the Sunkissed juice, which has no added sugar. (vegnoutnow.com)



AMALIE ORRANGE PHOTOGRAPHY



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XL SOCCER WORLD: Following the success of its Winter Park location, XL Soccer World will open in Lake Nona this month. “The southeast region of Orlando has grown exponentially,” says Adrian Jones, marketing director for XL Sports World. “XL Soccer is just part of families’ growing need for things to do after school.” With two full-size fields, this indoor soccer facility will cater to a variety of ages and athletic abilities. Other highlights include a bar and lounge area, locker rooms, and 20 large-screen TVs. Of interest to promising young players, the facility will host a full-time soccer academy program, headed by former English Premier League star Alan Smith. (xlnona.com) —Kala Parkinson

RETAIL THERAPY

Holiday Shopping REDUX

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS, OR IS IT? COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS ARE SURE TO MAKE THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPERIENCE A BIT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IF YOU PLAN ON PURCHASING PRESENTS AT THE MALL AT MILLENIA? OI GOT THE SCOOP FROM THE MALL'S MARKETING TEAM:

- Santa is coming! Mark your calendar for November 11, when little ones can share their Christmas wishes with the Big Guy and parents can take photos of this meeting in a safe setting. Book your visit at mallatmillenia.com.
- There's a scavenger hunt, of sorts, for families. New this year, the interactive “Holiday Wander” experience lets supervised kids roam the mall, traversing candy cane swirls and snowflake blizzards, beginning November 28. The cost is \$20 per child and includes a gift such as a backpack, journal, or superhero cape that children can decorate with stickers and fabric markers.
- Curbside shopping continues through Millenia Express, with retailers delivering packages directly to customers' cars. Home delivery is available through Millenia Direct.



TOM HURST PHOTOGRAPHY

- For exclusive one-on-one services, book time in the personal shopping suite on November 1. Guests relax in the luxurious suite while a complimentary personal shopper picks out gifts for all of those on your list. —Christina Cush

OH, IT'S ON!

Thanksgiving Football Rivalry

*UCF and USF fans prepare
for a Black Friday matchup*

By Christina Cush



JACK SANTORO

Have you ever heard of the War on I-4? It's not a group of environmentalists worrying about turtles on the sides of the highway (although that is a thing). This battle is waged between two schools along the I-4 corridor that are only about 100 miles apart: the University of Central Florida in Orlando and the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Though the gridiron competition is the focal point of the rivalry, it's not the only event up for bragging rights. The schools' other sports teams, including women's volleyball and men's tennis, get in on the fun too. Though COVID-19 restrictions have put a temporary damper on many collegiate sports that are typically played in the fall, football has been greenlit.

The rivalry series started back in 2005 but had spotty momentum until a big rebrand in 2016, when a trophy shaped like an I-4 highway sign emblazoned with the logo from the winning school was introduced. Since then, the UCF Knights and the USF Bulls have asked fans to choose a side, and families with students or alumni from both schools joke that they live in a house divided.

The Knights have won every matchup since 2017, keeping the trophy in Orlando. This year, the Bulls have the home field advantage at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. The game is scheduled for November 28 and will be televised by ESPN and aired on the radio at 96.9.

With football forging ahead, fans seem to be taking comfort in this return to a beloved pastime. Jack Santoro, a recent UCF graduate who earned a degree in civil engineering and now works for a construction



“EVERY TEAM HAS AN OPPORTUNITY NO MATTER WHAT CONFERENCE THEY ARE FROM. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RANKED TOP 10 TO MAKE IT THIS YEAR.” —*Jack Santoro*

company in Orlando, is really excited for this season, especially the War on I-4. Santoro thinks his Knights will trounce the Bulls, mostly because of the superior coaching with a focus on discipline, as well as quarterback McKenzie Milton, who is supposedly making a big comeback after a horrible knee injury. Santoro notes, however, that he'll be cheering on his team from home, having decided to pass on attending games in-person due to COVID-19. "It's too much of a mess," he says. "Home games get pretty crazy, there's a lot of jumping around in the student section."

Looking ahead, Santoro believes that the changes the NCAA has made to the playoff qualifications and format have given schools like UCF a much better chance to go the distance. "I think we will make it to the playoffs," he says. "Initially, when college football programs were announcing their plans, only two athletic conferences were going to play. Something like 60 percent weren't playing, but now things are opening up and expanding, more conferences are playing. Every team has an opportunity no matter what conference they are from. You don't have to be ranked top 10 to make it this year."

Though he is excited about the War on I-4, Santoro would love to see Orlando's home team spar with the University of Florida. "That's my dream matchup, the Gators," he says. Though that may be on hold for now, Santoro notes that the current big controversy in Florida collegiate football is the question of who is the best team in the state. He adds, "Our quarterback says it's us, not UF or Miami." Let the games begin!