

# People & Arts: Wanzie's 'Nativity' naughty, nice A2

# Orlando Sentinel

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## NATION & WORLD

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Ashton Carter has extensive Pentagon experience. A3

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It's meant to show united front vs. Islamic State militants. A3

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He asks Congress for aid to fight spread, prep hospitals. A4

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Experts say traditions fostering active family participation are best. D1

## BETH KASSAB

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## WEATHER

80°/62° (today/tonight)  
Sunny; no rain predicted.  
Forecast, B6

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## Immigration agencies get no funding in GOP plan

BY LISA MASCARO, MICHAEL A. MEMOLI AND JOSEPH TANFANI  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Hoping to prevent a government shutdown by opponents of President Barack Obama's immigration plan, House Speaker John Boehner floated a proposal Tuesday that would fund most of the government — but not the immigration agencies — through the end of the 2015 fiscal year.

The Republican leader insisted the plan remained a work in progress as leaders tried to round up support.

It would fund the immigration agencies only until early next year, when Republicans believe they would have greater leverage to fight the president once their new GOP majority is seated in Congress.

To sweeten the deal for GOP hard-liners, a separate measure condemning Obama's go-it-alone executive action on immigration would be voted on in the House as soon as this week. But that bill would be largely symbolic because the Democratic-controlled Senate is likely to ignore it.

In many ways, Boehner's move was the opening salvo in what is expected to be a long-running legislative fight to undo the president's immigration executive action, which would

## 'SOLAR SUITCASES' BRIDGE CULTURES



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fifth-grader Nemiah Wallace, 8, left, tests a "solar suitcase" recently at Winter Garden's Tildenville Elementary. They use a solar panel to make power and will go to Uganda.

## Kids learn skills that will brighten lives in Africa

BY SUSAN JACOBSON | Staff Writer

WINTER GARDEN — Valencia College student Thomas Dillen held a solar panel as high as he could, trying to catch the waning sunlight.

Two dozen fourth- and fifth-grade students at Tildenville Elementary School clustered around him, hoping the panel would power the portable generators they've been building to send to an orphanage in Africa.

"Yay!" the students cheered when an LED light bulb attached to one of the generators lit up.

The students are working on a project that's one part science, one part exercise in cooperation, a dash of cultural awareness — and a big dose of compassion and charity. In a few months, they turned a box, some wires and a light socket into technology

Please turn to LIGHT, A7

## Orion will be crafted in Florida

Thursday launch helps state build on space heritage, keep work local

BY PAUL BRINKMANN  
Staff Writer

The Orion space capsule prepped for launch Thursday morning is a first in many ways for Kennedy Space Center and for Florida.

It's the first test for a new generation of manned space vehicles. It's the heaviest launch planned in years at Cape Canaveral, drawing more tourists than any recent event.

And it's also the first space capsule in history to be mostly manufactured in Florida. None of the space capsules from the Apollo missions was manufactured at Kennedy; they were only assembled and inspected there after construction in other locations.

If all goes well, Orion will continue to be built at the renovated Neil Armstrong Operations & Checkout Building. The construction of the capsule is employing about 300 people now, said Jules Schneider, a senior manager for Lockheed Martin's Orion space-capsule operations. If all goes well, that will continue.

It's part of Florida's plan to capitalize more on its



REUTERS  
KSC tower houses Orion craft, rocket.

Many steps to Mars remain after launch test. A6

Please turn to ORION, A6

Please turn to GOP, A3



## LIGHT

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that will help poor children half a world away.

"I never knew that Uganda had no electricity," said 11-year-old Darius Braumskill, part of the after-school group building the generators.

Valencia College professor Deb Hall, an electrical engineer, got the idea for the generators in 2009 at a renewable-energy workshop, where she met a couple who designed the "solar suitcases" and donated them to hospitals in developing countries. Their company, We Care Solar, promotes safer delivery of babies in places where medical professionals have been operating by candlelight after dark.

Hall was intrigued by the chance to marry hands-on teaching with a project that could improve the world. "I just thought that was so powerful," she said.

Hall obtained a \$5,000 grant from the Valencia Foundation that paid for her students in Introduction to Alternative and Renewable Energy to build five generators, which were sent to Haiti, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Kenya. She kept one as a demonstrator.

About three years ago, Hall and a half-dozen of her students began visiting Tildenville Elementary to introduce science teacher Sharon Burnett's fifth-graders to technology and engineering careers.

"These kids need to have their eyes opened to what might be available to them in the future," Burnett said.

Hall brought along one of the solar suitcases, and Burnett thought they would be a good project for her after-school students. We Care Solar agreed to let elementary-school students participate for the first time if the Valencia students supervised and the Berkeley, Calif.-based We Care Solar inspected the suitcases before they were sent to Uganda.

Burnett got a grant to build three of the suitcases, which now cost \$1,500 apiece, and the project began in August. It ends this month. The generators can be used to power headlamps, rechargeable batteries and a lamp, all of which will be provided in each suitcase.

On a recent Friday, the children divided into three groups in the li-



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN M. DOWELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Valencia College student Andres Vera, right, shows students recently how to test a "solar suitcase" at Tildenville Elementary in Winter Garden. Below, Valencia professor Debbie Hall shows the suitcase's electronics.



**"In Uganda in some orphanages, they don't have any light at all. They have only one little candle, and it doesn't light up the whole room."**

Ariana Gonzalez, 9

and sustainable energy, but about the importance of working together, following directions, testing their work — and counting their blessings.

More than two-thirds of the children at the Winter Garden school are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch, but they live in luxury compared with the Ugandan orphans.

Ariana Gonzalez, 9, said she felt sad when she learned about the limited resources at the orphanage school.

"In Uganda in some orphanages, they don't have any light at all," fourth-grader Ariana said. "They have only one little candle, and it doesn't light up the whole room."

The class will get a chance to

connect with the African children more personally, and practice writing skills, by composing letters to accompany the bright-blue, plastic suitcases.

"We're glad to help them," said Zuleany Alers, 9. "I hope they enjoy it."

The Valencia students benefit, too. They get college credit for time they devote to the project and a chance to see the design and engineering process from start to finish.

"It's rewarding," said Dillen, a former truck driver. "I'm learning myself. It helps me remember. At the same time, we're helping them learn."

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