



# Seminole Voice

**FRIDAY'S**

**HIGH 58°**  
Rain  
**WEATHER**

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February 12 – February 25, 2010

Free!



### Mardi Gras > A7

Volunteers are honored with parades, a gala ball and more.



### Valentine > A8

Treat your sweetheart on Sunday, Feb. 14.



### Pinned > A15

A Winter Springs wrestler likely set a national record.

## Iconic eatery can't reopen

**KRISTY VICKERY**  
GUEST REPORTER

The aroma of homemade barbecue that simmered at C&W Barbecue Pit's for the last six years has been replaced by the smell of a charred foundation, after a fire devastated it on Nov. 3.

The city says to reopen, C&W needs to install about \$10,000 worth of new safety equipment, but the eatery's insurance company won't pay for it, and they can't afford it.

Located at 298 Geneva Drive, the small structure was built in 1965, Barbeque Pit owner Cora Mae White, 72, said.

Instead of a bustling business, the structure sits shuttered, with bright signs taped to the window shouting "closed" and "unsafe" — put there by city and state officials. Those signs will stay there unless a new hood suppression system, which would cost about \$10,000, is installed.

"The requirements are the requirements," City of Oviedo Building Official Patrick Hubbard said, "and there's nothing I can do to ease those requirements."

"But I have some pretty interesting people contact me in regards to this ... and they want to see it put back

> turn to **BURNED** on A3

## Saved by a sing-a-thon



PHOTO BY **CARMEN CARROQUINO** — THE VOICE

About 30 children from the performing arts group sang for 12 hours straight on Friday, Jan. 29, to raise funds to keep their venue, called The Stage.

### Winter Springs Performing Arts held a 12-hour concert to save its home

**CARMEN CARROQUINO**  
GUEST REPORTER

With the words and fighting spirit of "We're all in this together," made famous by Disney's mega-hit "High School Musical," 30 children sang for 12

hours straight to save their stage.

By keeping the music going nonstop and hosting a silent auction, the Winter Springs Performing Arts group members raised an estimated \$1,900 on Jan. 29 to keep the doors open to

their home, aptly named The Stage, for the time being.

In addition to the sing-a-thon earnings, they raised \$3,700 over a two-week fundraising effort, and have \$15,000 in pledges. But that still comes short

of their \$30,000 goal.

"We are officially reopening the program," program founder Shanda Batchelor said. "Our efforts have been successful at least temporarily. This gives

> turn to **ARTS** on A6

## Local college enrollment on the rise

### Seminole State easier on students' budgets, keeps them closer to home

**KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS**  
THE VOICE

Michael Presco is part of an increasing demographic of students that are pushing aside four-year college brochures in favor of spending their first two years at a smaller, local college.

A student at Seminole State College of Florida, Presco is taking advantage of lower tuition costs and being closer to his family's home.

"I have friends who went away to big schools like FSU and LSU," Presco said,

"but they had bad time-management skills, failed out and came back here.

"You're actually a person here, not a number, and home is right down the road."

Statistics show that cost is the No. 1 reason students choose to attend two-year colleges. However there are equally compelling reasons such as smaller class size, one-on-one time with professors, the ability to get classes at desired times, and the convenience of being close to home.

> turn to **COLLEGE** on A3



PHOTO COURTESY OF **SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE**

The new \$30 million Partnership Center at SSC's Sanford/Lake Mary campus

### What's goin' on?

The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center presents "The King and I" Feb. 12-28. It is at 203 S. Magnolia Ave. in Sanford.

**Calendar > A11**

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In "Valentine's Day," couples and singles in Los Angeles juggle romance and disappointment.



**Cinema > A10**



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# THIS WEEK



## THIS WEEK in history

Feb. 14, 278 A.D. —

Valentine, a holy priest in Rome, was executed. Ruler Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military because of their strong attachment to their wives, and had banned marriages. Valentine had continued to perform marriages in secret and was beheaded for it.

## Safe travels for Oviedo treasure

Citizens Bank is complete now that its original cannonball safe has moved back into its headquarters

KAREN MCENANY-PHILLIPS  
THE VOICE

How do you remove a 3,600-pound safe from a century-old home, transport it down Broadway Street and maneuver it into a gleaming glass bank foyer a mile away? Carefully and by making sure the move doesn't coincide with church services.

On Sunday, Jan. 24 the original cannonball safe returned to its home, Citizens Bank of Florida, 64 years after its opening in 1946. But the manganese steel treasure stubbornly guarded its secrets. It would take two weeks before the combinations were discovered by professional safe-crackers.

Bank executives are keeping the safe's secret a little longer, said Lisa Covelli, the bank's marketing officer, saving the big reveal for the March shareholders' meeting.

The cannonball safe was built by Victor Safe & Lock Company in the early 1900s and arrived in Oviedo for the newly formed Citizens Bank of Oviedo. Oviedo's first bank was destroyed by a mysterious explosion in November 1929, leaving the Oviedo community without a bank for nearly 17 years.

Business in post WWII Oviedo boomed from key industries: celery, citrus, cattle and fertilizer, but those folks were inconvenienced by traveling to Winter Park and Sanford for banking transactions. Businessmen were vulnerable to robbery as large cash payrolls moved by private car over country roads.

Cannonball safes were



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITIZENS BANK OF OVIEDO

The 3,600-pound, century-old safe was cautiously transported about a mile, from a building across from Lawton Elementary to the Broadway Street bank.

known for their gold paint, handjewelling and intricate engravings and featured a square safe on the bottom and a round safe on top. It could withstand dynamite, its circular shape baffled burglars and its lower lock could only be opened in daylight due to the triple time locking mechanism.

Decades later when the bank prepared for its new location on Geneva Drive, the stocky relic did not complement the sleek, modern décor, which included the town's first elevator. In the early 1970s bank director Ben Ward moved it to his insurance business located within a building across from Lawton Elementary School. His friend and col-

league Bernie Blackwood had an office down the hall from Ward. "He used the safe and of course he knew the combination," Blackwood said.

Over the years businesses rotated in and out of the building and eventually it was overlooked, its combinations lost.

Bringing the safe home became a top priority for Vice Chairman Jonathan S. Lukas, but making it happen took a lot of work. Lisa Covelli documented the entire nail-biting process.

"We scheduled it on a Sunday because traffic would be low. The front loader drove down Broadway while everyone was in church service. We removed the safe from the house and lowered it on a flatbed truck, then waited until church was over to transport it to the bank," Covelli said.

A custom extension created by Black Hammock Welding Company was attached to the front loader in order to move the safe. The long arm reached through the back door and into the hallway, raised the safe off the wooden floor and over the porch now home to I-Net Realty. At the bank it was lowered and slowly rolled onto tracks to avoid cracking the sidewalk and interior tile floor. Then the moving team carefully slid it between the glass doors into the bank foyer.

"It was truly remarkable that there was no damage to the house, the sidewalks

### Bank history

- 1912: First bank in Oviedo is established
- 1929: Bank is destroyed by mysterious explosion
- July 1, 1946: Citizens Bank of Oviedo is established with opening day deposits of \$704,117
- 1972: cannonball safe is moved to Ben Ward's insurance office on Broadway Street
- March 1974: Citizens Bank of Oviedo moves to its current location on Broadway Street
- Jan. 24, 2010 cannonball safe returns to Citizens Bank of Florida

— Citizens Bank of Central Florida



or the glass," Covelli said.

Her customers have been curious about the new addition: "Where is the gold bullion?" "What's the combination?" "How did you get it here?" "What's inside?"

Mimi Bruce, President of

Oviedo Historical Society, applauded the move.

"This recalls the past and brings attention to not only the city's beginnings, but reminds us of how much things have changed over the ensuing years."

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# BURNED | C&W Barbeque Pit owner says insurance won't cover new equipment

< continued from the front page

in shape and up and running."

Although White paid her insurance company, Insurance Land, for three years and the business was inspected yearly, the company told her they are not going to pay for the fire damage, she said.

"What it all boils down to is the insurance company made changes on the insurance, but did not notify her

and now they don't want to pay," White's grandson Billy White said. "It's been very hard for her these last three months."

Insurance Land declined to comment since legal action has since been taken against them.

In the meantime, White has been seeking help from other outlets in the community.

The Vine Outreach Thrift Store, in downtown Oviedo, is just one of the business-

es that's come to her aide. They hosted a bake sale to pay for an electrician to fix some of the fire's damage.

"We do what we can for those in need," said Vine owner Cindy Cook. "That's what our store's about."

White said although she is very grateful for all the help she has received, she still has a long way to go before she can afford the hood suppression system.

"They've (Vine) done all they can," she said. "The

hood would have to be a community thing — everybody would have to go in together; it's too much for one person."

She also recently contacted Seminole State College's Small Business Development Center in hopes to find other resources available for her small business.

"We like to help the client look at all the options available," Seminole State College Small Business

Development Center Manager Robert Goetz said.

Goetz said he is hoping that he can at least guide White in the direction of the help she needs and resources she can trust.

"Her business has characteristics and culture that you want to protect, that you want to continue," he said. "Small businesses are going to save American Capitalism as we know it."

# COLLEGE | Seminole saw a 32% hike in spring enrollment, Valencia a 10% increase

< continued from the front page

Seminole State College and Valencia Community College are both seeing a steady increase in enrollments, according to school officials.

## Seminole State College of Florida

Formerly known as Seminole Community College, SSC boasts a 32 percent increase in new student enrollment this spring, said Pamela Mennechey, director of Admissions and Recruiting for SSC.

With 65 pre-major choices and its first baccalaureate class in Interior Design, SSC has experienced eight straight quarters of double digit enrollment increases at its four sites.

Osteen resident Melissa Bernosky began her college experience at SSC's Heathrow campus in January. She graduated from

Pine Ridge High School last year then took a semester off to analyze her options.

Bernosky plans to study nursing at the University of Central Florida, is majoring in respiratory care at Seminole State College and attends classes at the Heathrow and Lake Mary/Sanford campus.

"It's a totally different environment than high school — you make your own decisions," Bernosky said.

Standing out at the SSC Lake Mary/Sanford campus is the new four-story, \$30 million Partnership Center. The building houses a new library, classrooms, a student communications center and UCF Direct Connect headquarters. Students will find increased computer access, interactive study rooms and student services.

"We have many student services including a team that answers nothing but

financial aid, records and admissions questions," Mennechey said.

Students holding Bright Futures Scholarships experience significant savings, which will continue for the first two years at Seminole State College, Mennechey said.

**Valencia Community College**  
Valencia Community College accepts Bright Futures as well and has more than 4,000 recipients this semester, said Lucy Boudet, assistant vice president of Marketing and Media Relations.

A credit hour at VCC is \$87.36 with \$78 covered through Bright Futures.

Valencia Community College is also experiencing significant growth in enrollment. "Our snapshot this semester reflects a 10 percent increase over last year's enrollment of 50,255," Boudet said.

"Valencia provides a huge economic advantage for parents who are struggling. Their child gets a great education for half the cost."

VCC participates in the Direct Connect program where registered students are guaranteed acceptance upon graduation into UCF. VCC is the largest feeder into UCF, which has become a destination school for students outside of Central Florida.

Retention of students from fall to spring has been a major focus at Valencia with positive results. While the average retention rate is 60 percent, Valencia's is 85 percent. Small classes, teams of advisory counselors and a vision that "anyone can learn given the right circumstances" have supported the effort.

"We put extraordinary emphasis on not only helping them succeed but to go on. We want to build pathways with a team behind

them in, through and beyond the community college experience," she said.

Feeding new student enrollment is an even greater escalation in applications. Last spring more than 3,300 applications were received at SSC compared to 5,300 this spring.

Mennechey cautions that the process takes time — application for enrollment and financial aid, verification of Florida residency, completion of entrance exams and online orientation, providing transcripts, and scheduling first-time-in-college advisement.

"If I could give students and parents one message it would be to complete the application process early. Last year we had 350 applications we could not process because they came in too late. We like to do some hand-holding but we can't if they wait too long," she said.

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# Goodbye to BB&B, hello to new plans

## Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

I'm just wishing all out there a Happy Valentine's Day. Love is in the air on this special day, and true love begins when nothing is really expected in return. I can just see the candy and jewelry stores doing a very good business. Enjoy the day ladies.

**I guess we all said goodbye to Bed, Bath & Beyond at the Oviedo Marketplace** mall this past week. My walking group has been watching the moving-out progress and nothing is left except a few shelving items. I popped over to the new store on Vidina Place; it looks great, a bit smaller but very nice, and of course it still has one of everything just like the old store. The mall looks very sad and empty if one walks into that former entrance — there's nothing to attract one to walk farther. However I did notice that there were quite a few of the mall management, store owners and city officials gathering for a meeting. A short-term plan and perhaps a long-range plan could attract new tenants

and events, which will in turn attract citizens to visit. Let's hope so!

This is a busy month and I hope you will enjoy some of the goings-on:

**Let's start out with the Greater Oviedo Political Women's Network**, which will be meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Memorial Building in downtown Oviedo.

Guest speaker Mike Ertel, Seminole County supervisor of elections, will be speaking on the "Process of Redistricting, the two proposed constitutional amendments, and state and federal consequence of the 2010 election." The public is welcome to attend.

**St. Luke's Concert Series** will hold its next event at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 2021 W. State Road 426 in Oviedo. The University of Central Florida Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Laszlo Marosi, will present the program for the evening, "Music from the East." There will also be a contemporary concerto

by guest Israeli composer Eitan Avitsur, with his son Haim Avitsur as the featured trombone soloist. The public is more than welcome and admission is free.

**The next meeting of the Oviedo Historical Society** will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in the city's Memorial Building. Please note: It's Thursday, not the normal Tuesday. The guest speaker for the evening will be Justice James Perry, Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, who will join in the celebration of Black History month. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

**A group of local artists** are looking to exhibit a few paintings in an establishment at no cost to you. All of the artists have been in galleries and other venues locally. If a business has extra space, it can be surrounded by nature scenes, seascapes, animals, abstracts, graphics, photography, any subject it prefers. "We hang our work for 4-6 weeks or longer, your decision, and then pick them up at your convenience. You are not responsible for theft or damage of the work as stated in a waiver we provide. We contact friends, patrons, newspapers, etc. promoting our work and mention your

business place. You receive PR and the possibility of reaching potential customers/clients and we reach an audience. In this time of recession we all need help to promote each other and this is a win-win program." To see photos, jpegs and to ask questions, please contact artist Rusty Wahl at [rstywahl@bellsouth.net](mailto:rstywahl@bellsouth.net) or 407-688-0537. Visit [www.jrustywahl.com](http://www.jrustywahl.com).

Don't you just love to take road trips at the spur of the moment and visit some place you have heard of but never been and go to another area to revisit and an annual event?

My friends and I are always ready to go when someone says "road trip." A week or so ago our road trip was to **Geneva Tavern on east State Road 46**. We learned the tavern has been around for many years, so several of us popped over for lunch. It was quite a surprise in many ways — a nice yellow building set among the trees. We certainly enjoyed the food; it was top-notch and some of the best pizza the girls had tasted in a long time. We met two couples who were on their way to Mims; we had the place to ourselves. I must say what really caught our eye was the "decor" on the walls and in the restrooms — it was different.

The past weekend was

another road trip to the **35th annual Mount Dora Art Festival**; we were among the 150,000 people enjoying the arts in 285 booths. It was nippy but a fun time for all. We try to go each year. If you planned on shopping in the local stores, it was next to impossible, and we suggested going another day just for that purpose. I really enjoy going to Mount Dora and another road trip for some of us will be the annual antique show, March 27-28. Mark your calendar for that goodie.

**Just a reminder: The annual Oviedo Woman's Club Tasting Luncheon** will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the clubhouse at 414 King St. (between the Methodist church and the high school). Tickets (\$7) may be purchased from any member. For more information, call 407-365-9420.

**A thought** — "Nothing makes your sense of humor disappear faster than having somebody ask where it is." —Ivern Ball, Saturday Evening Post

### TALK TO JANET

Send word to Janet Foley about events and let her know what's going on around town by e-mailing [celerystalks@bellsouth.net](mailto:celerystalks@bellsouth.net)

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If you have any questions, please call Longwood Family Health today at 407-862-3400.

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# In love with Geneva and its people

## STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

Love is in the air as Valentine's Day sweeps into February, and we celebrate the love for our village as well as the love we feel for family, friends and lovers.

It's hard to put into words the depth of feeling that Geneva folks have for its history, people, traditions, character and belief system. It doesn't matter if you were born here or have been transplanted — the longer you live, work and play in Geneva, the stronger your bond and commitment is to this magical place and its people that make it so special.

Let's start with the weather, shall we? Yes it's been a chilly winter but we can agree that we'll take temps in the 30s and 40s any time versus the massive snow our northern and mid-Atlantic friends are

receiving. Hoisting shovels is no longer our cup of tea, thanks.

With the 10th annual Geneva Historical Bus Tour fresh in our memory, we definitely have a love of history and rural tradition. You don't even have to be a history buff to appreciate the legacies that were carved by the many pioneers, diverse cultures and courageous families that took root here. They started businesses, promoted education, were self-sufficient and worked hard with little comforts, well before there were paved roads, cars and electricity. We see it in the buildings, landmarks, artifacts and memorabilia that are lovingly protected and cataloged by the Geneva Historical and Genealogical Society in our museum. We see it in the vision and

leadership of the members of the newly formed Rural Heritage Center as workshops, dances, movies and volunteerism shows our youngsters that the rural lifestyle is organic and relevant.

History comes alive for our fourth-graders who walk to the museum every year and watch presentations by our own Dividend volunteers on ancient fossils, historical kids' games, pioneer living and Civil War soldiers, up close and personal.

One of my personal joys is enjoying all the wildlife in our area. On a weekly basis we see deer, wild turkey, red tail hawk, red bird, dove, eagle and sand hill cranes as well as our livestock and horses. Did you see the white pelicans over the weekend? Like many of you, many years ago I had one of those moments as in "The Notebook" when the white pelicans surrounded us on Lake Harney. I had never seen them before much less hundreds up close. They were silent, lovely and magical. It was one of my earliest memo-

ries of Geneva. Last Sunday I looked out on the lake and there they were. Some soared and swooped on the wind currents, others gathered on the grasses near the beach or on the water. I was grateful to have an hour or two with these beautiful birds on their way southbound.

Like most communities that are special, it always comes down to the people. If you come to gatherings like our yard sales, Fourth of July parade and festival, weekly community dinners at the United Methodist Church, monthly bluegrass jams, Rural Heritage workshops, movies, and square dances you get a sense of what Geneva is all about. You see it in the commitment, the outreach and the generosity of young and old, who step up when they feel the need to pitch in. We see it in the amazing results of the Relay for Life cancer fundraising and in the backbreaking work helping neighbors during hurricane season. We see it in the quiet hours that our volunteers spend mentoring Geneva Elementary

students with reading. We see the consistent dedication of our Geneva Citizens Association leaders who actively engage with local politicians to keep a vigilant watch on development and forces that could impact our rural lifestyle and liberties.

Geneva you are one of a kind and from the heart — here's looking at you, kid!

Sign up for future Saturday workshops on basket weaving, calligraphy and photography on the RHC Web site, [genevaschoolhouse.org](http://genevaschoolhouse.org). Also, 8:30 a.m. Saturday Feb. 27 is the first planning meeting for our Fourth of July parade and festival at the Community Center.

### TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at **407-221-7002**, [kphillips@observernewspapers.com](mailto:kphillips@observernewspapers.com) with "Stetson's Corner" in the subject line, or **fax 407-349-2800**. Thanks!

This column is dedicated to Deputy Sheriff Gene "Stetson" Gregory, killed in the line of duty on July 8, 1998. Geneva will never be the same because of Deputy Gregory — it will be better.

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# Touching the night sky, one last time



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Illuminating an early dawn, the Space Shuttle Endeavour soared toward the heavens at 4:19 a.m. Monday. The launch was the last one to be scheduled in darkness for the Space Shuttle program.

## ARTS | Performing arts group not out of the woods yet, looking for support

< continued from the front page

us the chance to hang on and keep things going for a little while longer."

Batchelor started Winter Springs Performing Arts as a way to pick up where a lot of schools, who have fallen victim to budget cuts, leave off. She said arts programs are usually the first to go when schools are dealing with financial crisis.

Money raised from the program's Save the Stage Campaign will pay rent for the program's space through April. Batchelor said her building management company has lowered her monthly rent and "is graciously working with" her. She is guaranteed the space through the end of May, and she is confident they will raise the money to pay May's rent too.

Before the good news even came about, Batchelor and her band of theater performers were all jazzed up for their sing-a-thon.

With about 30 children participating in the

impromptu musical numbers throughout the day, about 2,500 songs were performed in the 12-hour period, Batchelor said.

For each song that was sung, money was donated to the program by community members and parents who love what the program has done for their children. Songs were counted based on how many people participated in performing them, Batchelor said.

Singing and dancing all day to those songs from Broadway musicals such as "Seussical" and "High School Musical" was Batchelor's 14-year-old daughter, Alysha.

"This place is really important to me," she said. "It's so much like a second home that I wouldn't know what to do with myself without it."

The eighth-grader at Indian Trails Middle said she cried all night at the news of her mom possibly having to shut down the program.

"The closest place for a program like this is an hour

away," she said. "I've been here from the beginning and would hate to see it all go away."

For parents Diana Strembicki and Tere Lamontagne, the program brings as much pleasure to them as it does to their daughters, who have formed a friendship over their love of theater.

"This is a place they can focus their energy and support one another's talents," Lamontagne said.

"Each child gets to show their potential and come out of their shell," Strembicki said.

With a continuing theme of building self-confidence found in the program among parents, Tony Johnson, parent to two daughters, ages 13 and 11, said the program allows children to showcase their personalities, become individuals and realize their strengths and weaknesses.

He also said that the program better prepares children who want to pursue theater in high school, college or even as a career.

Not completely out of the woods yet, the Winter Springs Performing Arts program is now in phase two of its Save the Stage Campaign.

The program is in need of a new executive director, a working business plan, an event-planning committee, corporate sponsors, grants and community support through petitions and written letters justifying a need for the program to continue.

In regard to grants, Winter Springs Mayor John Bush said even if funding was asked for by the program, it would be unlikely to get any. He said the city just isn't in a position to be giving money away right now.

In the meantime, Batchelor and her staff is taking advantage of the window of opportunity by brainstorming ideas to continue the fundraising efforts.

In the works is a possible partnership with another local theater company that could showcase perfor-

mances at The Stage where a portion of the proceeds would go to the program. Batchelor even started teaching a drama class at a local private school to bring in funds.

Cory Skeates, president of the Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce, said the WSPA could join the Chamber for possible help in fundraising efforts.

"We would love to see them succeed, along with any program related to arts education," he said.

Discussions between the Chamber of Commerce and Winter Springs Performing Arts were brought up a while back, but no partnerships for fundraising events have been made, Skeates said, even though he would like to see it happen.

However, for now, Batchelor and her students still have a stage to call their very own.

Visit [www.winterspringarts.org](http://www.winterspringarts.org) for more information and to donate.



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# INTERESTS



**THIS WEEK** in human history

Feb. 13, 1914 —

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) was formed in New York. This was the first U.S. group to help protect copyrighted music against illegal public performances for profit.

## A parade for unsung heroes

### Krewe of Leaders celebrates people who quietly hold up their community

**KRISTY VICKERY**  
GUEST REPORTER

Royal kings and queens, 30-foot floats, Mardi Gras masks and hats are all making their way into Seminole County, as Oviedo and Winter Springs join hands to partner with the Krewe of Leaders to recognize and celebrate those who give back to their community.

“We rank these leaders by their volunteerism, their leadership skills and their economic value they have brought to the respective communities,” Krewe of Leader’s Director Mary Alice Wilder said.

The Krewe of Leaders, a community social club that promotes volunteerism, is honoring these leaders with a weekend of events to celebrate and raise money for the Oviedo Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce scholarship fund.

The weekend will kick off with a luncheon where the 2010 Krewe of Leaders will be announced.

Wilder said the people who vote on the Krewe of Leaders don’t know whom they are voting for — votes will be based strictly on their skills and involvement with the community.

“It is based on a blind-

application process,” she said.

The celebration will continue with several more events throughout the weekend, such as the Crowning of the King and Queen, a Children’s Mardi Gras Parade, a Gala Ball and the Twin Cities Mardi Gras Finale Night Parade on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Although the goal is to promote leadership in the community, the event will also help stimulate local businesses in the area, as well as businesses located inside the Oviedo Marketplace mall. Many merchants are thrilled by the idea.

“We are trying to get as many events as possible moved to the Oviedo Marketplace mall,” Krewe of Leaders member and Merchants Association Board member Sally Scarp said. “We really want to let the community know that we are a neighborhood family mall.”

Mall Merchants Association president Jim Pridemore said he is also pleased that they are reaching out to the community with events like these.

“Our goal is drive more families there (Oviedo Marketplace) and let them see these shops that are



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE  
City Commissioners Rick Brown and Joanne Krebs throw beaded necklaces to attendees of the 2009 Mardi Gras festival. This year’s parade will run down Oviedo Boulevard and also offer live entertainment. There will also be a ball and crowning of royals.

coming in, and just make it a nice place to come and spend some time with the family,” Pridemore said. “That’s the whole Merchant Association’s goal right now — community outreach.”

He also said many people in the community are excited about the idea that Oviedo and Winter Springs are working together.

“It’s a regional event,” Wilder said. “We are trying to touch base with each city.”

#### Announcement of new Krewe of Leaders

The Oviedo Winter Springs Regional Chamber of

Commerce will be hosting a luncheon to announce the new Krewe of Leaders from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Tusawilla Country Club. Cost is \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for guests.

#### Crowning of the King and Queen

Meet your community leaders and the Royal Court and see the crowning of the 2010 King and Queen of Mardi Gras presented by the Krewe of Leaders Royal Court at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19 at the Oviedo Marketplace food court.

#### Children’s Mardi Gras Parade

Bring the family to the first Children’s Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oviedo Marketplace. Prizes will be awarded to kids who make the best box floats, Mardi Gras funnel hats and Mardi Gras masks. Line up at the Bed Bath & Beyond entrance at 11 a.m. The parade starts at noon toward Macy’s.

#### Gala Ball

The Krewe of Leaders presents its 2010 Regional Mardi Gras Ball at 7:30 p.m.

> turn to MARDI GRAS on A9

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# Family Calendar

**Target Family Day** will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Orlando Museum of Art. The free event, sponsored by Target, will give families the chance to celebrate planet Earth with eco-friendly activities that include gallery hunts and art projects. OMA is also offering free admission into the galleries from noon to 4 p.m. Visit [www.omart.org](http://www.omart.org) or call 407-896-4231 for more information.

**Couples looking to enjoy a romantic night out** on Valentine's Day weekend can drop their children off at the Roth JCC of Greater Orlando in Maitland on Saturday, Feb. 13. Children between 18 months and six years can eat pizza and play gym games from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Prices for members are \$32 plus \$15 for each additional child; non-members are \$42 plus \$25 for each additional child. Children 7 to 12 will enjoy Wii tournaments and candy creations at a sleepover party from 6:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. Member prices are \$40 and \$20 for each additional child; non-members are \$50 plus \$30 for each additional child. Visit [www.orlandojcc.org](http://www.orlandojcc.org) or call 407-645-5933 for more information.

**School might be out for President's Day on Monday, Feb. 15**, but My Gym in Lake Mary is open for gymnastics, games, relays, sports and more. The President's Day Camp will be from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at My Gym, 3581 Lake Emma Road. Go to [MyGymLakeMary.com](http://MyGymLakeMary.com) or call 407-333-8069 for more details.

**Family bingo night** begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 at Riverside Park in Oviedo. Each bingo card costs \$2, and there is a maximum of five cards per person. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Space is first come, first served. Call 407-971-5575 for more information.

**The Twin Cities Children's Mardi Gras Parade** will begin at noon on Saturday, Feb. 20 at Oviedo Marketplace. Children are encouraged to dress up in Easter bonnets and Mardi Gras costumes. The parade is sponsored by Krewe of Leaders, and they are still looking for vendors, music, and groups and clubs to participate. Call 407-484-5461 for more information.

**Youth ages 8 to 16** can learn about native birds and nature through an interactive Eco Adventures Class from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21 at Sylvan Lake Park in Sanford. The class will include discussions, live animal demonstrations and hiking, and costs \$5. Call Jane Millen at 407-349-0959 for more information.



## Cupid strikes again

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ENZIAN

The classic film "Casablanca" will be shown as part of the Enzian Theater's "Here's Looking At You Kid: A Casablanca Valentine's Brunch" on Feb. 14.

### Celebrate on Sunday with edible art, star gazing and paranormal investigations

Love is in the air this week, as Valentine's Day, Sunday, caps off the weekend. Here are some activities and gift ideas for this week, whether you're celebrating with the kids or without them:

**Singing Valentines** are available from a Quartet at the Barbershop Harmony Society, Orlando Chapter. You can order yours on the Web by visiting [Orlandobarbershopchorus.com](http://Orlandobarbershopchorus.com) or by calling 407-831-6498 by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12. Delivery will be made to specified locations (within reason) and the quartet will deliver on your behalf, a rose, box of fine chocolates, card with message, and two songs ("Heart of My Heart" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"). Delivery dates are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 or Saturday, Feb. 13 or from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14. Prices start at \$60.

**Drop off the kids** at the Roth JCC of Greater Orlando in Maitland on Saturday, Feb. 13 and enjoy a romantic night out on Valentine's Day weekend while your kids enjoy fun and entertainment! The sleepover party from 6:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. is for children ages 7-12 years and includes gym games, Wii Tournaments, candy creations and pizza dinner. Members prices are \$40 plus \$20 for an additional child; non-members are \$50 plus

#### Single this year?

Check out the Valentine Social on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Dance Orlando, 311 Dane Lane, in Longwood. The singles ballroom dancing class starts at 7:30 p.m. with music by DJ Bob Jaegar from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 and includes a soda and snacks. There is a cash bar. Visit [DanceOrlandoClub.com](http://DanceOrlandoClub.com) for more information.

\$30 for additional child. Please call 407-645-5933 or visit [Orlandojcc.org](http://Orlandojcc.org) for more information.

**NightFlight** is unique in its approach to paranormal investigations. Beginning at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, a limited number of guests will be admitted to Fantasy of Flight as they join API's paranormal exploration guides for a four-hour after-dark experience to search between this world and the next for signs of supernatural activity. Priced at \$75 plus tax per person, participants are encouraged to bring a camera, voice recorder, video recorder and extra batteries. Participants must be at least 16 years old and accompanied by an adult if under 21 years old. For more information, visit [Fantasyofflight.com](http://Fantasyofflight.com). To make a reservation, call 863-984-3500.

**Fresh: An Edible Performance Art Event for Your Valentine** offers a Willy Wonka-like edible fantasy world where couples will watch dancers perform with food, stroll through an art and candy market, and indulge in a four-course, hands-on dinner. There are showings Feb. 11-14 at The Cameo Theatre, 1013 East Colonial Dr. in Orlando. Tickets start at \$55 per person. To reserve tickets or for more information, visit [ILoveDRIP.com](http://ILoveDRIP.com) or call 517-449-3765.

**The Planetarium at Seminole State College** of Florida offers romantic Valentine's Day fare this month as well as a new show exploring the mysteries of life from outer space. The planetarium will present a special Valentine's Day show called "Heavenly Love" at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12 and Friday, Feb. 26. This original show will explore three mythological love stories and how ancient storytellers used them to explain the night sky.

Enzian launches its

**year-long 25th anniversary celebration** on Valentine's Day with the afternoon brunch and movie showcase, "Here's Looking at You Kid: A Casablanca Valentine's Brunch", at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 14. Indulge in an elegant brunch buffet — all while a pianist belts out the hit song, "As Time Goes By". Event-goers will then experience the screening of cinema romance classic "Casablanca". Table for Two Packages are \$125 per couple or \$100 for Enzian Film Society members. Visit [Enzian.org](http://Enzian.org) or call 407-629-1088.

**"Music at the Casa" Sunday Open House** presents Beautiful Music with Shannon Caine from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14. It is at the Casa Feliz Historic Home Museum, at 656 N. Park Ave., Winter Park. For more information, call 407-628-8200, ext. 3 or e-mail [casafeliz2@earthlink.net](mailto:casafeliz2@earthlink.net). Listen to beautiful music and take a tour of the house and the James Gamble Rogers II Studio by trained docents. It is open to the public and the sug-

gested donation is \$3 per person.

**The following events will be held at Whole Foods Market** at 1989 Aloma Ave. in Winter Park:

**Friday Night Pour: Valentine's Special** will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12 and includes an evening of wine, sweets and live music in the Specialty Department. They'll also be raffling off a Basket of Romance including wine, chocolate, candles, lotion, flower voucher, and a pair of massages.

**Kids Club: Make Your Own Valentine** will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Registration is required at customer service. Kids, join us for a hands-on class as we make our own valentines, Whole Foods Market-style of course. Class is for children ages 6 to 12 and space is limited to the first 15 to register. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pick up on Feb. 14 two dozen roses for only \$19.99!

—Jenny Andreasson

### NOTICE TO PATIENTS

**Effective January 15, 2010**, Tania Morales, MD, of Oviedo Family Medicine Specialists, will no longer be practicing in Oviedo, Florida.

Dr. Morales is relocating out of the area. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Your medical records will continue to reside at Oviedo Family Medicine Specialists. If you would like to request a transfer of your medical records, please call 407-366-8856.

Please note that Perri Dumbacher, MD, will continue to see patients at OFMS. If you have any questions, please call Oviedo Family Medicine Specialists today at 407-366-8856.

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# A throne for do-gooders

Mary Alice Wilder created the Krewe of Leaders nonprofit organization which hosts Mardi Gras

**MEGAN STOKES**  
THE VOICE

Mary Alice Wilder has dedicated her adult life to the East Orlando community. During her years working with various nonprofit organizations, she watched countless people working hard to improve the community without so much as a pat on the back.

"I felt if only the community knew what these people did day after day, they would value them and be inspired," Wilder said. "People pay more attention to the bad rather than the good these days and that only rewards the bad. They should give more recognition to the person who does good, rather than the person robbing the bank."

This feeling inspired Wilder to create the Krewe of Leaders Inc., an organization that honors local community contributors in an annual Mardi Gras event, where the nominees from 25 different community organizations ride on a float, applauded by the community they have donated so much of themselves to. Organizations nominate Krewe members based on longevity in the organization, the time they dedicate and impact they have on the community.

March 2009 was the inaugural event in Winter Springs but Wilder wants the 2010 Mardi Gras, being held Feb. 19-27, to be bigger and better, so she's including a scholarship compo-

nent to help local students get to college. She started seeking sponsorship from big corporations such as Darden Restaurants and Chase Bank but realized she needed to be a 501(c)(3) organization first so these corporations could write off their donations on their taxes.

"Everyone I was approaching kept asking, 'Are you a 501(c)(3)?'" she said.

When she started her quest to become official she found herself in front of piles of paperwork filled with jargon she couldn't understand. "There is not much help out there for organizations who want to become a 501(c)(3)," she said.

Then she found OC Grant Consulting Associates, an Orlando-based company that offered a series of informative seminars to help local organizations attain nonprofit status, form a board, design the program and write grant applications.

Olivette Carter started OC Grant Consulting in the University of Central Florida Incubator two years ago. In a sense, she said, she's doing for seminar attendees what was done for her in the incubator, only on a smaller scale.

"There are a lot of people in the class who are already doing good in the community and providing services, but they are not formulized yet," she said.

Carter has taught many



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY ALICE WILDER  
The king and queen of the royal court visit during the 2009 Regional Mardi Gras Ball, which was held at the Winter Springs Civic Center. This year's Mardi Gras celebration kicks off on Feb. 19. See story on A7 for more information and for a schedule.

people in the workshops. Some have a business background but Carter said a majority of them are just passionate about making a difference in the community.

"This is an inexpensive way for them to get the help they need. They could take a course somewhere like Rollins (College) but this is much more affordable," she said, of the program which costs \$25 a workshop.

Wilder took three of the workshops and expects her 501C3 nonprofit status to be approved within a month. Carter walked her through the most essential steps in forming a nonprofit including writing the organization's bylaws and developing the board of directors.

"I work all day on Saturdays and Sundays on this," she said.

Recently nominated Krewe member Cynthia Sucher, who has belonged to dozens of community organizations and served on the boards of the Epilepsy Association of Central Florida and the Albin Polasek Museum, said she was most excited to be a part of the organization when she heard about the student scholarship.

"Mary Alice is giving an elevated level of purpose to the event by having it benefit scholarships. In a time where we are finding ourselves economically challenged, education is so important," she said.

Wilder said the scholarships target students who

come from families too wealthy to receive financial aid but too financially challenged to pay for their child's education. The student should participate in community service but earn a B+ average, which usually limits scholarship opportunities. She is hoping to raise enough money to hand out five \$1,000 scholarships.

Wilder said she got her passion for the community from her father who, after being diagnosed with polio, did a lot of work with the March of Dimes and the American Disability Association.

"I guess I learned this from him," she said. "I just want to do my part."

## MARDI GRAS | Proceeds from event benefit scholarship fund for local students

< continued from the page A7

Saturday, Feb. 20, at Deer Run Country Club. The event will celebrate community leaders with entertainment, hors d'oeuvres

and a late-night meal. Cash bar, black tie preferred, coat and tie required. Proceeds go toward scholarship fund for area students. Cost is \$35 single members, \$60 a couple; single non-mem-

bers \$45, \$80 a couple.

### Twin Cities Mardi Gras Finale Night Parade

Thirty-foot floats make their way down Oviedo

Boulevard on Saturday, Feb. 27. The entertainment is from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and includes live music, bead-throwing and area vendors to make this street party fun for all. For more infor-

mation on any of these Krewe of Leaders events visit [www.kreweofleaders.com](http://www.kreweofleaders.com) or contact Mary Alice Wilder at 407-484-5461.

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# Cinema

A showcase of this week's releases, and a look ahead to upcoming movies.

Coming Feb. 26



Photo courtesy Overture Films

'The Crazies'

Coming March 5



Photo courtesy Overture Films

'Brooklyn's Finest'

Coming March 12

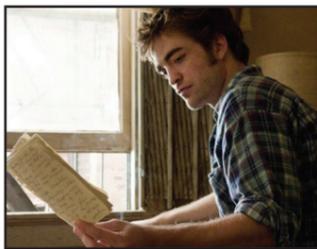


Photo courtesy Summit Entertainment

'Remember Me'

## 'The Wolfman' — Opens Friday



Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

At the request of his brother's fiancée, nobleman Lawrence Talbot returns to his estate after a long departure when his brother vanishes. Weird things start happening when Lawrence learns of a beast lurking in the nearby woods.

R - 2 hours 5 minutes

Coming March 19



Photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

'The Bounty Hunter'

### Also opening: 'Valentine's Day'



Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

A collection of couples and love-struck singles in Los Angeles experience the ups and downs of romance in the time surrounding Valentine's Day.

PG-13 - 2 hours 5 minutes

### Coming next week



Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures

'Shutter Island'

R

## Notes

**Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas** visited the Recovery Act-funded North Lockwood Boulevard resurfacing and sidewalk project in Oviedo on Monday, Feb. 8, to view the progress of the job-creating infrastructure improvements. The tax relief and recovery package has provided more than \$1.3 billion to Florida for improvements to roads and bridges, including more than \$1.75 million for Oviedo.

**Oviedo High School junior Nicole Morgan** is the southeast region's Youth Limited Champion in Reined Cow Horse, and has placed third and 10th nationally. She will be competing in the NRCHA World Competition in Texas, where she placed seventh last year.

**Graduates of Seminole State College** achieved the highest pass rate of all Associate Degree Nursing

Programs graduates in Central Florida. Visit [www.seminolestate.edu/nursing](http://www.seminolestate.edu/nursing) for more information.

**Participating Popeyes restaurants** will be selling coupon cards valued at \$30 for only \$1 through Monday, March 15. Proceeds will support the Muscular Dystrophy Association's worldwide research and services programs.

**The Christian Sharing Center** announced new Board of Directors officers: Chairman Dennis Bowman, Treasurer Nancy Brown and Secretary Barbra Snider.

**Teachers and administrators** from Douglas Stenstrom Elementary School in Oviedo received \$2,200 in grants from the Foundation of Seminole County Public Schools' "Grants for Great Ideas" program.

**Oviedo High School students** Brittany Skeels, Allison Tatet-Cortese and Hyung-Jin Kim were winners in the commercial PSA category of the statewide Florida KidCare Act-Out for Health contest, which challenged students to create advertisements promoting the state and federally supported children's health insurance program.

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# Calendar

**The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center**, 203 S. Magnolia Ave., Sanford, presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's glorious musical "The King and I" on Feb. 12, 13, 19 and 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 and 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$18 and \$23, Students \$10. Please call the box office at 407-321-8111 or [WayneDenschPerformingArtsCenter.com](http://WayneDenschPerformingArtsCenter.com).

**Festival of Orchestras** presents the acclaimed Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the Northland Performing Arts Center (Northland Church) in Seminole County at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12. Single tickets start at \$20. For more information visit [Festivaloforchestras.org](http://Festivaloforchestras.org).

**The Orlando Idol Voice Competition** will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Trinity Prep School Auditorium in Winter Park. Although the competition, which has a first place prize of \$1,000, is no longer accepting applications for contestants, it is open to the public. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased by calling 407-260-8103.

**Celebrate jazz music** with Seminole High School's second annual Journey Thru Jazz, which will feature musical collaborations between professional jazz musicians and Seminole High School's Jazz Chiefs. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at the Seminole High School's Auditorium in Sanford. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for

children and are available at the door.

**Seminole State College** is hosting Dr. Joe Gennaro's presentation "Early Influences on the Beatles" as part of its Art Matters series from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the college's Sanford/Lake Mary campus. For more information, visit [www.seminolestate.edu/arts/music](http://www.seminolestate.edu/arts/music).

**Learn about Oviedo's history** during a downtown walking tour. Tours will depart every half hour from at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20 from the First United Methodist Church of Oviedo. A pancake breakfast will also be served from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church. The cost for both is "whatever you can afford," and the day's profits will go to help students and those in need.

**Oviedo High School** is hosting a Fashion Show at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22 to highlight the new dress code for the 2010/2011 school year. Call Cindy Daniel at 407-320-4050 to obtain a program or schedule.

**"Lightning Stalker" David Stillings** will be presenting the lightning photos he's captured at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at Indian Trails Middle School. His work has been featured on The Discovery Channel, and his presentation will be a collaboration of music, poetry and images.

# WEATHER

**FRIDAY, FEB. 12, 2010**

Sunrise 7:06 a.m. / Sunset 6:13 p.m.

**RAIN**

WIND: E 15 MPH

UV INDEX 4 moderate

**TEMPERATURES: LOW-HIGH-LOW**

<b>43°</b> 6 a.m.	<b>58°</b> 3 p.m.	<b>45°</b> 6 a.m. Saturday
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**TODAY:** Cloudy, with a high near 58. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east. Gusts of 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**SATURDAY MOSTLY SUNNY**

**MORNING LOW 45°**  
**DAYTIME HIGH 64°**

Sunrise 7:05 a.m.	Sunset 6:14 p.m.	clear skies	Wind NNW 15 mph
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**TODAY'S MOON PHASE**

**Waning crescent**  
Moonrise: 6:07 a.m.  
Moonset: 5:10 p.m.

**SUNDAY MOSTLY SUNNY**

**MORNING LOW 43°**  
**DAYTIME HIGH 67°**

Sunrise 7:04 a.m.	Sunset 6:14 p.m.	clear skies	Wind WNW 10 mph
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**MARINE FORECAST**

**Cocoa Beach tide schedule**

Time	Low	High
Saturday	12:58 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Feb. 13	1:20 p.m.	7:21 p.m.
Sunday	1:34 a.m.	7:44 a.m.
Feb. 14	1:55 p.m.	7:59 p.m.

**MONDAY PARTLY CLOUDY**

**MORNING LOW 44°**  
**DAYTIME HIGH 64°**

Sunrise 7:03 a.m.	Sunset 6:15 p.m.	20% chance of rain	Wind SSW 10 mph
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# VOICES



**THIS WEEK** in political history

Jan. 25, 1870 —

Hiram Rhoades Revels, a Republican from Natchez, Miss., was sworn into the U.S. Senate, becoming the first African-American ever to sit in Congress. During the Civil War, Revels, a college-educated minister, helped form black army regiments for the Union cause.

## A handwritten note seals the interview

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Ask Sandi



Last week, the Central Florida Employment Council and Christian HELP had an employment seminar. More than 150 people, mostly professionals, came to find out more about networking and creating a job-search plan.

We've heard several success stories since then (after only one

week!). I wondered what changed for the people I spoke with and they said it was their attitude.

They believed that the interview would result in a job. It sounds simple, but after talking to many human resources professionals, it seems that many people are not confident in their abilities or are not prepared for the interview.

Go into all interviews prepared. Research the company prior to your visit and come armed with good questions. Ask about a typical day at the company as well as what the culture is like. Do they have core values? Picture yourself in the

job.

If you go in prepared to deal with objections, you will be better equipped to give good answers. If someone says you are overqualified, let them know they don't have to settle for someone with fewer qualifications. End the conversation asking about the next steps and if you are interested in the job, let them know this.

Finally, follow up. Get the hiring manager's business card and send a note. If there is anything you did not cover in the interview and wish you had, this is a good time to say what you wanted to say.

A handwritten note is ideal, but if time is of the essence, an e-mail can work.

Think positive and choose your attitude.

Until next time,  
— Sandi

### TALK TO SANDI

Sandi Vidal is the executive director for Christian HELP and the Central Florida Employment Council, with more than 10 years of recruiting and human resources experience. Please send questions about employment by fax 407-260-2949, sandi@christianhelp.org, or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707.

## Letters to the Editor

### Commission owes apology to former manager

Arrogance, as that shown by the White House and at times by our elected officials, should only be taken so far, after which a more ameliorating fork in the road should be the logical choice in order to soothe all injuries/damage created by one's arrogance.

Vindictiveness, on the other hand, is an action that should never have a place or be practiced by politicians elected by the people to serve.

In many of your printed issues, professionalism and clean journalism had made a difference when disseminating information for the public to digest.

While doling out constructive criticism of a subject well-known to the people of our city, your media source has been criticized because in reality politicians do prefer to have the truth swept under the rug. However our mayor demonstrated intestinal fortitude while standing tall and holding his ground while the former city manager was being vindicated and I offer kudos for his action. *The inquisition should now be over.*

As I wrote months ago,

this organized witch hunt was one of many tactical efforts to get rid of the city manager, and the reasons were more personal than professional.

The City Commission authorized the negligent expenditure to hire nuclear auditors in order to have the needed proof to fire the city manager without exposing the vindictive nature of the act. The ultimate goal of the hatchet persons was for the audit to show criminal activity with which to charge the city manager, thereby destroying his career and any possibility of future employment.

It was a sad day in Winter Springs politics when the Commission opted to negligently spend the amount of money misspent to injure one of their own for political gain and self-aggrandizement. People need to get rid of power brokers.

Employees were laid off and civic activities were not approved and threats of cuts in services were the call of the day under the name of "Financial Crisis," but the budget could provide for a hateful act in order to destroy the character and good name of an individual that had served

the city well for many years.

Does anyone in our city really believe that the city manager resigned willingly? A look at the record will show that he had two years to go in order to be able to retire and collect a well-earned pension same as every other civil servant. This is like saying that an individual committed suicide when he had every wish and desire to live and enjoy life.

I earnestly believe that the City Commission of Winter Springs needs to make a public apology to our former city manager for their dereliction, thus allowing the residents of our city to change their psychologically imbued opinion about the former city manager.

Thank you.

—Edward Martinez Jr.  
Winter Springs

### Central Florida responds to Haitian disaster

Within hours of the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, a small army of volunteers and local, state and federal agencies swung into action right here in Central Florida. Their efforts deserve praise.

Knowing that thou-

sands of U.S. citizens, foreign nationals and Haitians would seek refuge from the devastation, The Department of Homeland Security chose Orlando Sanford International Airport as one of the primary receiver airports to coordinate their arrival in the U.S., local accommodations, and transfer to other travel centers, such as Orlando International Airport.

Orlando Sanford International Airport President Larry Dale immediately began contacting more than 15 local, state and federal agencies for support and organized volunteers to assist them. Less than 24 hours later, when the first planes began arriving, Central Florida was prepared.

National security was a principal concern of federal officials, so the reception effort required a substantial security contingent. The earthquake's devastation included Haitian jails and prisons, and we were alerted that some of the thousands of escaped prisoners might make their way onto refugee transports.

Emergency responders here on the ground in Central Florida ranged from the Florida

Department of Child and Family Services to the U.S. Transportation Security Administration and officials from customs, immigration and security agencies as well as local law enforcement and fire/EMS departments, churches, hospitals and volunteers.

As the Orlando Sentinel has reported, coordination of the arrivals has been a huge task. As of Jan. 27, 92 emergency flights have delivered more than 7,600 evacuees to our reception center, including 5,600 U.S. citizens and 2,000 foreign nationals.

Altogether, these flights delivered 63 earthquake victims who were classified as medical transports.

All of us continue to pray for the victims of this disaster, and Americans have been generous with their private donations and public assistance in the relief effort.

Here in Central Florida, more than 300 agency workers and volunteers can take pride in their own relief effort, which is ongoing.

—Geof Longstaff, chairman of the Sanford Airport Authority, which operates Orlando Sanford International Airport

## Young Voices

Students from Winter Springs Elementary talk about their Valentine's Day plans.



I'm giving valentines to my new baby cousin, my other cousin Taylor and to my Aunt Becky because I love them a lot. We give hearts to celebrate the spirit of Valentine's Day.

—Victoria S.  
8 years old



I'm giving valentines to my mom and dad and to my little sister Brianna who is 3 years old. I like when people write letters and say nice things.

—Alexander G.  
8 years old



I'm going to send my mom a Valentine's Day card because she is in Ecuador. It will have hearts and smiley faces on it. Valentine's Day lets us celebrate people we care about.

—Marissa R.  
7 years old



I will give my dad a Valentine's card because he always takes care of me, and he does a lot for me. We celebrate Valentine's Day so everyone can be in love.

—Ashley B.  
7 years old



I'm in first grade and will give a Valentine's card to my friend Chris. He is my friend at school. He makes soldiers and plays cool games with me.

—Devon H.  
6 years old

We would love to hear from your **Young Voices!**

Call editor Isaac Babcock at 407-563-7023 to have The Voice visit your class or group.

# The Marketplace

## help wanted

**REALTORS:**  
Licensed Real Estate Professionals needing to earn additional income. Become a part time or full time loan officer. Control your own closings. Gain access to hundreds of mortgage programs. Save your clients thousands of dollars. Call Maitland Mortgage Lending Company (407)629-5626

**ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE**  
Account Representative needed to work on behalf of our company. 18+ needed and must have computer skills. Accounting experience needed. Any job experience. Email to mclarkemployment111@gmail.com for more information.

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Oviedo Office Space, great frontage. 750 to 1,050 sf available. \$1,070 to \$1,350 per month. 1401 Broadway St. Contact Megan at (407) 687-3524.

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FRANCHISE ALERT: In our 45-year history, there's never been a better time than now to become a Huddle House franchisee! Huddle House, THE 24-hour family diner and community gathering spot, is looking for qualified franchisees for development in Oviedo and Winter Springs! For a limited time, take advantage of our amazing, new development incentive program, which includes a \$5k Franchise Fee (normally \$25k) and NO ROYALTY for your first five months! Certain restrictions apply, so call today 800-418-9555 x1393 or visit www.HuddleHouse.com to learn more!



## workforce job listings

### Seminole County

Log on to WorkforceCentralFlorida.com where you can enter the Job Title in the "Search For Jobs" box to see more information on these jobs and search thousands of additional openings throughout Central Florida, at NO COST. Apply by following the directions listed. For further help visit the WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA Office at 5166 East Colonial Drive or call (407) 531-1227.

**Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Operator**  
Job Description: Responsible for running a CNC machine and assisting fabricator in day-to-day operation of shop. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: \$9.85-\$12.00 per hour  
Job Order Number: 9457976

**Billing Support Representative**  
Job Description: Responsible for filing invoices, matching check stubs to invoices

## workforce job listings continued

and filing, and providing customer service. Researches proof of deliveries (PODs) for customers. Work 8:00am-5:00pm, days may vary.  
Pay Rate: Salary based upon experience  
Job Order Number: 9457451

**Administrative Coordinator**  
Job Description: Responsible for managing administrative, clerical and office activities. Balances daily receipts with company guidelines and policies. Oversees human resources records/systems and ensures that office equipment is kept in working order. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: \$8.00-\$9.00 per hour  
Job Order Number: 9458305

**Staff Accountant**  
Job Description: Responsible for reviewing and auditing to verify that calculated tax amounts are taxed in the state's guidelines. Prepares statutory annual reports per state's guidelines and prepares schedules as necessary to complete required compliance forms. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: Salary based upon experience  
Job Order Number: 9457483

**Personal Lines Customer Service Representative**  
Job Description: Responsible for completing applications, quoting clients, binding coverage, invoicing clients, processing endorsements, and answering telephones. Work Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm.  
Pay Rate: \$10.00-\$15.00 per hour  
Job Order Number: 9457625

**Data Entry Clerk**  
Job Description: Responsible for accounting procedures, processing orders, and filing. Work Monday-Friday, hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: Salary based upon experience  
Job Order Number: 9457212

**Receptionist**  
Job Description: Responsible for answering a 21-line switchboard and routing calls to appropriate person. Takes messages and maintains files and records. Performs light filing and clerical duties. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: \$7.50 per hour  
Job Order Number: 9457231

**Program Assistant**  
Job Description: Responsible for delivering open meal routes as necessary, ordering meals, routing new clients, checking

## workforce job listings continued

telephone messages every morning and afternoon to determine if any routes are down and calling substitute volunteers to fill open routes. Compiles new volunteer packets, makes necessary changes to route sheets and sends sheets to appropriate sites. Oversees pet food program and coordinates delivery of pet food to clients. Assists the home delivery coordinator in specific duties including monthly orientations, Thanksgiving/Christmas Day meal deliveries, and Volunteer Appreciation events. Work Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm.  
Pay Rate: \$8.00 per hour  
Job Order Number: 9456256

**Video Editor/Photographer**  
Job Description: Responsible for editing videotape for reporter and anchor packages, voiceovers, and natural sound pieces for newscasts. Shoots and edits video and audio for newscasts, new programming, promotion and other station related purposes as needed and assigned. Operates vehicles and equipment and uses editorial/visual judgment. Creates and adds special effects to tapes pieces. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: Salary based upon experience  
Job Order Number: 9457641

**Over the Road (OTR) Driver**  
Job Description: Responsible for transporting and delivering goods/packages and unloading truck, when required. Work days and hours may vary.  
Pay Rate: Salary based upon experience  
Job Order Number: 9457580

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## Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**

3	8	9	6	7	4	5	1	5	2	9	1
7	7	5	2	7	3	1	5	6	9	8	4
6	9	4	1	9	2	8	6	7	3	5	2
5	2	3	5	2	4	7	8	6	4	9	1
4	6	9	6	2	5	1	3	7	3	8	7
8	7	8	6	4	9	4	6	9	2	5	8
5	4	2	8	1	9	7	3	5	6	1	7
6	9	1	7	3	2	5	8	4	6	3	5
9	1	5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1	3	5

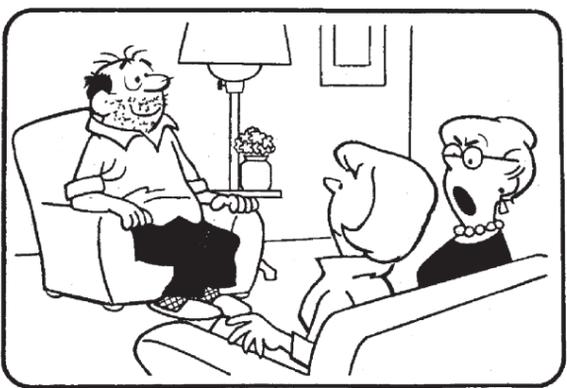
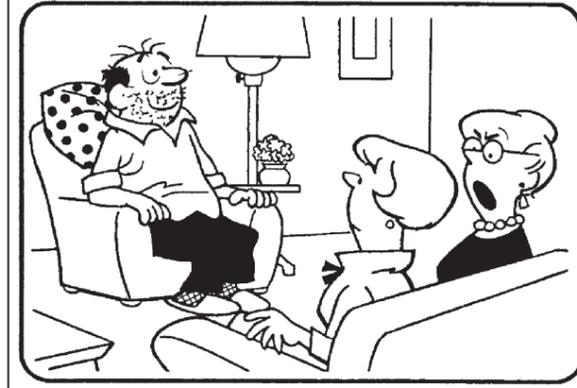
**King Crossword**

P	O	G	O	L	A	R	I	E	R	I	Z	O
L	I	H	S	C	O	L	L	E	R	S	O	
A	M	A	U	S	E	D						
O	M	X	A	M								
H	X	A	M									
N	A	V	O									
B	E	G	A	T								
E	L	E	D	I	L	E	R					
E	T	E	L	I	D	A	B	E				
T	R	I	L	E	R							
A	C	E	P	I	T	A						
S	W	A	P									

# Fun & Games

## Answers on this page

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF  
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pillow is missing. 2. Picture is wider. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Bow is missing. 5. Vase is taller. 6. Table is missing.



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Humbug!"
  - 4 Trade
  - 8 Leno's feature
  - 12 Expert
  - 13 Gyro holder
  - 14 Fight the clock
  - 15 Michael Jackson album
  - 17 Previously owned
  - 18 Shadow location
  - 19 Honest politician?
  - 21 Chemical suffix
  - 22 Comic "married" to Fang
  - 26 Sired
  - 29 Visibility hindrance
  - 30 Galena, e.g.
  - 31 Ear-related
  - 32 Indulge in pugilism
  - 33 Check bar codes
  - 34 "— Town"
  - 35 Tussaud's medium
  - 36 Stickup job
  - 37 Extremely impressive
  - 39 Bovine utterance
  - 40 Sapporo sash
  - 41 Entertained
  - 45 Piece of work
  - 48 German poet/dramatist
  - 50 Leak slowly
  - 51 Sub-sequently
  - 52 Swiss canton
  - 53 Will beneficiary
  - 54 Ethereal
  - 55 19-Across' party
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Decrease
  - 2 Needing liniment
  - 3 Roll call reply
  - 4 Immobilizer
  - 5 Dorian Gray's creator
  - 6 Corroded
  - 7 Seeming contradiction
  - 8 Inhumane
  - 9 Possesses
  - 10 Capades site
  - 11 Homer's neighbor
  - 16 Of the upper hipbone
  - 20 Huge
  - 23 Places
  - 24 History chapters
  - 25 Musical based on "La Boheme"
  - 26 Amazon.com buy
  - 27 Needle case
  - 28 Any of the Dionne quintuplets
  - 29 Henhouse threat
  - 32 Starbucks employee
  - 33 South Korean capital
  - 35 Symbol of intrigue
  - 36 Basis for grits
  - 38 "The Biggest —"
  - 39 "Real Time" moderator
  - 42 Punch
  - 43 Architect Saarinen
  - 44 Plumbing problem
  - 45 La-la preceder
  - 46 "The Raven" writer
  - 47 Submachine gun
  - 49 Greek workplace

**King Crossword**

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18								19	20			
				21				22		23	24	25
26	27	28					29			30		
31							32			33		
34				35					36			
37				38				39				
				40				41		42	43	44
45	46	47					48	49				
50							51			52		
53							54			55		

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3				4				9				
	1			2							6	
		2	8			7						
5		4				7						
		3			2						4	
	6		9		3							
		5	8								9	
4					1			2				
	9		5					6				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

# ATHLETICS



**THIS WEEK** in sports history

Feb. 22, 1980 —

The underdog U.S. hockey team, made up of college players, defeated the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y. Two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the hockey gold.

## Knights course-correct in conference

UCF rounds out eight shaky C-USA games with a team-building 67-56 victory against East Carolina



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Despite lackluster shooting, the Knights rebounded last week, ending a 3-game conference slide. Now with C-USA play dominating their schedule, they're looking to build momentum heading to the postseason.

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
THE VOICE

On Feb. 2 the UCF men's basketball team bounced back against C-USA bottom-dweller East Carolina with

a 67-56 win. It was only the second time this season the Knights have shot below 48 percent and won.

After a long break, the Knights returned to the

court Wednesday at press time, hoping to maintain their turnaround.

Against ECU, Taylor Young took over on center, leading his team with 16 points in the game, plus 6 assists. A.J. Tyler was instrumental on defense, grabbing 9 boards while scoring 10 points.

Nearly absent from the scoreboard despite playing 25 minutes as a starter, Keith Clanton scored just 2 points in the game after acting as his team's top gun in the past week. But other Knights came together to even out the score for the win.

The game was a big reversal for the Knights, who had struggled against conference foes so far.

They were three games into their longest losing streak of the season at the start of the week, coming off a devastating 55-50 loss to Tulsa on Saturday night.

Thirty seconds before that moment, the Knights (11-11, 3-5) were poised to tie the game and nearly even out their Conference USA record. After the final ball dropped, the Knights held the dubious distinction of

the second-worst record in the 12-team conference.

Three of their five conference losses had come on their home court, on which the Knights had only lost one game all season before conference play began.

That recent home court disadvantage couldn't have been more apparent than Saturday night against Tulsa, when the Knights were down by only a 3-pointer in the final minute of the game, but wild shooting and other offensive flubs threw the Golden Hurricane's defensive prowess into stark relief.

In the entire game, the Knights would average only 37.3 percent shooting, but only picked up 10 offensive rebounds. The Hurricane, on the other hand, picked up 25 defensive rebounds after Knight shots missed, taking away second chances and easily spreading the scoring gap.

Despite near-season lows in shooting in the second half of the game, Coach Kirk Speraw praised his team for its defense.

"For us to shoot 28 percent in the second half ... and [Tulsa is] fighting to

hang on in the second half that tells you what a good job our guys did on defense," he said.

The Knights substantially improved against Tulsa, whom they were facing for the second time this year. In their last meeting the Knights fell 90-70.

Aggressive C-USA defenses have proved the bane of the Knights' shooting as of late. During the past four games, including their recent win over East Carolina, they averaged 37 percent shooting from the floor. In their 78-71 win over Houston before the start of the streak, they'd shot more than 50 percent.

Only four of the Knights' 10 wins this season have come after they made less than 50 percent of their shots.

When they've shot less than 47 percent, they've only won two games, including a dismal performance against Howard on Nov. 17 in which the Knights were actually out-shot 41.5 percent to 37.9 percent, but took enough shots to win 68-59.

They'll take on Tulane at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

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## REGIONAL MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL

February 19, 7pm Crowning of King & Queen  
Announcing The Royal Court  
Oviedo Marketplace

February 20, 11am - 4pm Children's Parade  
Oviedo Marketplace  
Gala at Deer Run Country Club  
Doors open 7:30pm Tickets Required

February 27, 11am-9pm Festival  
on Oviedo Blvd. 5pm Night Parade,  
with Bleacher Seating

contact: [maryalicewilder@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryalicewilder@bellsouth.net)  
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# Breaking records on the mat

Winter Springs wrestler Matt Nereim's lightning-fast pin highlighted the Bears' district victory

ISAAC BABCOCK  
THE VOICE

It's one of the most hallowed moments in sports history. Babe Ruth, standing in the batter's box during the World Series, stares down the pitcher then points to the outfield. Seconds later he blasts a shot more than 440 feet beyond the center field fence. A legend was born — or maybe a myth.

On Saturday afternoon, Matt Nereim called his shot before a wrestling match. He was going for a pin, he said, and not just any pin. He was going to be the fastest in school history. Little did he know, he was about to challenge a national record.

The cameras were rolling when the 140-pound Winter Springs state champion pulled off his warm-up sweats to reveal a gold singlet, and shook hands with Hagerty's Kevan Cooper. It was the district championship tournament, with the post-season at stake. Since entering his first district tournament four years ago, Nereim had never lost.

"He said to me about 20 minutes before the match, 'this is what I'm gonna do,'" Winter Springs Coach Scott Gomrad said. "I'm going for the record.' I've never seen anything like it."

The record for the fastest pin was 6 seconds, held by former Bears standout Dwayne Tolleson, who at one time shared Nereim's weight class. That was already a quick number. In wrestling, the bigger the weight class, the harder it is to pin your opponent, Oviedo wrestling Coach Tom Coffman said. In the lightest weight classes, down to 103 pounds in high school, pins can happen much more quickly.

As the referee blew his whistle to start the match, Nereim leapt forward, a surprise attack that went right for the face as his feet nearly left the ground. Within a second, the wrestlers were already down to the mat, with Nereim quickly spinning his opponent as an eternity passed in seconds and the referee scrambled to call the pin. Four seconds after the clock had started, it stopped, and Nereim leapt to his feet.



Matt Nereim's senior year has been filled with shattered athletic records and accolades, including being named a high school All-American. He was presented with that award at a football game last September, below. He led his team to a district championship last weekend, with seven teammates earning individual titles.

By that night, the Bears were district champions, with seven individual champions among them — Mike Riccard, Eric O'Neill, Nereim, Ariel Serrano, Brent Basich, Robert O'Neill and Ryan Petro — and 13 wrestlers qualifying for regionals — a school record in its own right.

Nereim left the mat holding every wrestling record in the school, and possibly a national record, though that is being verified. As it stands, he holds a tenuous tie for the fastest high school wrestling pin in U.S. history, and the Bears, once again, are regional bound.

"We're definitely trying to win our first regional championship," Gomrad said.

The action starts at 10 a.m. Friday at Forest High School in Ocala.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

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