



Seminole Voice

FRIDAY'S

HIGH 65°
 Sunny
WEATHER

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March 12 – March 25, 2010

Free!



Chocolate > A7

Festival brings unusual desserts to Science Center



Thrifty trip > A8

Schools get creative to fund field trips in Seminole



Triumph > A14

Knights fight back in final regular season game

Disabled grads on the rise

MATT MORRISON
GUEST REPORTER

Learning-disabled students looking toward college may have an extraordinary opportunity in Seminole County.

The county's school board just learned it ranked third in the state for graduating students with learning disabilities. And they're not just receiving special diplomas. They're graduating by the same standards as the rest of the student body.

That's something Seminole County Schools Superintendent Bill Vogel said the district has been working toward for six years with an innovative program.

With debate raging nationwide about how to educate a diverse pool of students with ever-shrinking funds, Seminole County Public Schools is taking a simpler approach — placing as many learning-disabled students into standard classrooms as they can.

Now the school board is finding that many disabled students may be able to attain higher educational goals than previously thought. The program may already be working.

> turn to **GRADUATION** on A6

Controversial vote could bring cameras to streets

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

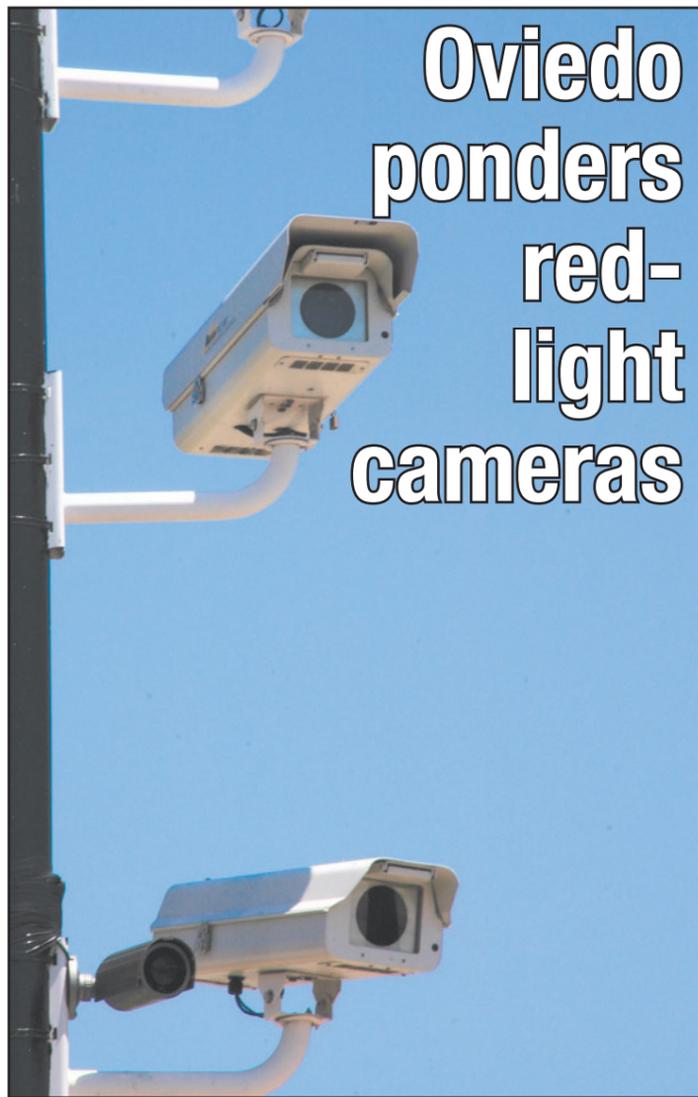
Oviedo may soon have its own red-light cameras, as the city jumped onto the national trend toward implementing the devices at Monday's City Council meeting.

But the city's vote for the cameras, which would ticket red-light runners with "code enforcement violations" and fines, wasn't without dissent. Some on the Council questioned whether the cameras would cause more harm than good, possibly increasing accidents, or ticketing drivers who wouldn't have posed much if any danger to other drivers.

Councilman Stephen Schenck was the only member of the Council to directly oppose the cameras, saying that it was "creating a solution for a problem we haven't even studied yet."

He said that intersections other Council members had cited anecdotally

> turn to **RED LIGHTS** on A3



Oviedo ponders red-light cameras

PHOTO BY **ISAAC BABCOCK** — THE VOICE
A camera similar to one in Winter Springs could soon be in Oviedo, despite fears that it could ticket drivers rolling through right turns at empty intersections.

UCF nixes fake bombs

ABRAHAM ABORAYA
GUEST REPORTER

Matthew Pye was showing a theater prop to a friend standing next to his Toyota pickup in a parking lot when he noticed two police officers and an FBI agent moving quickly toward him. That's when Cpl. Robert Douglas drew his revolver, aimed it at Pye, and shouted "Drop the bomb!"

The prop, which Pye had been assigned to build for a University of Central Florida theater class, looked good enough for an 'A' grade. Now he's being charged with a felony for possessing a fake weapon of mass destruction.

Only a few minutes before that tense stand-off on March 6, a group of teenagers had walked past Pye's black 1999 Toyota truck at the Hollywood 16 movie theater in Ocala, glanced inside and saw what appeared to be five sticks of dynamite, held together with electrical

> turn to **STUDENT** on A2

When baseball wasn't colorblind

ABRAHAM ABORAYA
GUEST REPORTER

In 1945, Jackie Robinson was signed as the first black Major League player since the 1800s, but in 1946, he came to Central Florida to play his first integrated game — and violence nearly erupted.

In Sanford, the police chief threatened to cancel games if Robinson played, and in DeLand, "faulty electrical lighting" canceled a game. Robinson played his first racially integrated game in Daytona Beach in what has now been named Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

The story of Robinson

and how he broke the color barrier is being told at the UCF Library's traveling exhibit *Pride & Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience*, an exhibit which will run until April 15.

UCF Librarian Carole Hinshaw first learned about the *Pride & Passion* exhibit three years ago from the American Library Association, which is putting on the exhibit with the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

> turn to **LEAGUE** on A6



PHOTO BY **ABRAHAM ABORAYA** — THE VOICE
Carole Hinshaw looks at an iconic photograph of Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's color barrier, serving as an ambassador for black players in a tense time.

What's goin' on?

An improv comedy troupe will perform benefit shows for the Winter Springs Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13.

Calendar > A11

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Two lovers deal with family tragedy in 'Remember Me'

Cinema > A10



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THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

Mar. 18, 1937 —

Nearly 300 students in the east Texas town of New London were killed when a natural gas explosion leveled their school. The school sat in the middle of a large oil and natural gas field dominated by 10,000 oil derricks.

Spreading the love of reading

Book fair raises money and brings books to life for Winter Springs Elementary

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Judy Mullis has taught at Winter Springs Elementary for more than 20 years but in her second year as the school's media specialist she tapped into her inner bobby-soxer as she kicked off the school's spring book fair.

Sponsored twice a year by Scholastic Book Fairs, the event takes planning and preparation in order to pull it off successfully. Bringing the theme to life inspires kids to read and become engaged with books, and Mullis went all-out, turning her media center into a lively diner setting.

She decorated with vintage cars, vinyl records, jukeboxes, milkshakes, bee-bop music and comfort food.

"Our guidance counselor Mary Satkowiak made the car and our art teacher Erin Tanner made the giant milkshake," said Mullis.

She put the jukebox wall up over a month ago so

kids could start donating money for the school fundraiser. For each donation, kids could add a milkshake or record to the wall and Scholastic matched every dollar donation. By the time her book fair started the wall was jammed with shakes and records.

Family night was a big success as parents joined their kids to select books, bestsellers, gifts and reading accessories with 50s music playing in the background.

"Parent involvement has been better; we had a great turnout," Mullis said.

What are kids reading now?

"They like the nerd books and a popular book now is 'Chewy and Chica' from The Puppy Place," said Mullis.

Arnez and Amire Rouse picked out books with their mom. "I like basketball books," Arnez said. "Our mom picked out a book about President Barack Obama for Amire."

Third-grader John Hardy



PHOTO BY KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS - THE VOICE

Young readers take a trip into the 1950s, with the help of an interactive book reading set at Winter Springs Elementary. The show was part of a bi-annual book fair at the school, where teachers bring books to life to keep students interested in reading.

says he always enjoys the book fair.

"I like chapter books that are scary, creepy and gross, and Sherlock Holmes too!"

Hardy said.

Mullis hopes having one of the earliest book fairs in Seminole County will inspire her students to read

more and do well on their FCAT testing this week.

"This has been really fun for us," Mullis said. "I love to read!"

STUDENT | Prop elicits felony charge

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tape with wires running to a white timer.

When the police arrived, they found Pye, a 19-year-old UCF general theatre technician, showing it to a friend who worked at the theater. Ocala police and the FBI ordered him to put it down. Pye immediately told the officers that it was a fake theater prop, giving them a phone number for his teacher, who verified the claim.

The theater and several local businesses were evacuated as police investigated the bomb, which turned out to be a prop Pye had made for his UCF stagecraft class. Pye was arrested and charged with manufacturing, possession and display of a hoax weapon of mass destruction, a second-degree felony that could end with 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

"For us, erring on the side of safety is always the best call," said Ocala Police Department Sgt. Angy Scroble. "And we're going to make sure no one gets hurt. Period."

Pye was reached by text message Tuesday morning, but declined to comment on his arrest. He did say he's hired an attorney, though.

"Its bein[sic] recommended to me not to talk at this time," Pye wrote in the text message.

For his stagecraft class, Pye had the option of making a food, animal or weapon prop; according to news reports, Pye got an "A" for the dynamite. The UCF Theatre

Department has reacted to the incident by no longer allowing students in that class to make a prop weapon, even though students were told to destroy the prop weapons after they were graded.

They will also be reviewing their procedures for the storage and disposal of weapon props, according to a statement released by UCF. Plays at the UCF Conservatory Theater will still have prop weapons in their productions.

"UCF will not be allowing students in the stagecraft class to create weapons for assignments," reads the statement, released by Chad Binette, the assistant director of UCF News and Information. "Prop weapons in theatrical productions will continue to be stored by the Theatre Department, which follows established protocol for closely monitoring, securing and properly destroying them after use."

Scroble said that the police's handling of the situation was done by the book. Overall, 23 officers responded to the scene, although the incident happened right at shift change, so many of the day shift officers stayed while night shift took over patrols.

Scroble said that, simply put, they couldn't take Pye's explanation at face value.

"We would have risked lives just by being lackadaisical," Scroble said. "Oh, it's a class project, whatever you say.' We have to be more cautious than that because people's lives are at stake."

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Dr. Perri Dumbacher received her medical degree from the University of California, San Diego, and completed her Family Medicine Residency at Florida Hospital. She has over 15 years of experience and is actively involved in Christian missions. She considers it a privilege to minister to her patients both physically and spiritually.



Dr. Kar-Yee Ng received her medical degree from Loma Linda University and completed her Family Medicine Residency at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in California. She has worked on numerous medical mission trips abroad and in clinics in Florida. Dr. Ng has a passion for people and is excited to serve the local community.

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RED LIGHTS | Studies show red-light cameras could have increased accidents

< continued from the front page

as being dangerous hadn't been studied for safety risks or patrolled by large groups of officers to try to reduce violations.

Councilman Steve Henken was the most vocal supporter of the cameras, saying that he was in favor of them regardless of studies of red-light running in Oviedo. He cited that at three intersections in Winter Springs where cameras had been installed, red-light running and crashes were reduced.

"I'm 100 percent for it," he said. "This is all about safety."

But in a much larger research project by the University of South Florida studying the effects of cameras statewide and nationwide, accidents where red-light cameras were installed actually increased, in some cases dramatically.

"The rigorous studies clearly show red-light cameras don't work," said author Barbara Languard Orban, chair of health policy and management at the USF College of Public Health. "Instead, they increase crashes and injuries as drivers attempt to abruptly stop at camera intersections."

According to studies in North Carolina and Virginia, crashes that resulted in injuries significantly increased at intersections where red-light cameras were installed, largely from rear impacts when drivers attempted panic stops to avoid being ticketed.

In a USF analysis of Florida's red-light running and accident statistics before the installation of cameras, the incidence of red-light crashes had actually been falling over the last decade. Absent the cameras, accidents caused by red-light runners represented only 4 percent of all fatalities per year. During the last decade, red-light running accidents dropped by 33 percent.

Schenck said that in Winter Springs, though it appeared some types of crashes were reduced at intersections with cameras installed, rear impacts remained steady.

"Based on the crash numbers, we have a rear-end crash problem there now based on the crashes that we know of, and they didn't go down," he said.

Schenck proposed an alternate solution to the cameras, where the city increases the duration of yellow lights to prevent

drivers from being forced to brake hard to avoid running the light.

"Adding a little more time to the yellow is a proven technique," Schenck said. "And it lasts. There's no rebound to it."

Mark Bedard, the regional sales manager for Gatso USA, which sells the cameras, said that lengthening yellow light duration does work, but disagreed that it could work forever.

In a March 13, 2009, report in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, intersections in five cities in Gwinnett County with the cameras were shown to have reduced accidents after a state law was passed that mandated yellow light duration be increased by one second. Three months after the lengthening of yellow lights was put into effect, red-light running had dropped off so much that the cities were forced to take down the cameras due to a lack of citations being handed out.

"Over the long term, it does go back to the way it was," Bedard said. "People know they can run the yellow longer."

The city of Loma Linda, Calif., lengthened its yellow lights, which reduced accidents so much that the city

terminated a red-light camera contract.

"Lengthening yellow lights has produced a tremendous drop in violations," Councilman Rhodes Rigsby of Loma Linda said. "That is tremendous improvement in safety. We're talking about huge success of lengthening the yellow lights. ... We could have had that safety with lengthening the yellow four years ago instead of installing red-light cameras."

One Oviedo councilman questioned whether the cameras would mostly ticket drivers who didn't stop completely at the stop bar for red-light turns at empty intersections, which Police Chief Jeffrey Chudnow agreed posed less of a risk for accidents.

"My concern is giving folks code enforcement violations on a simple right on red," Councilman Dominic Persampiere said. "There isn't one of us in this room who comes to a complete stop when there's no traffic. For us to send violations to people ... I'd have a bit of a problem with that."

Bedard said that may be the case with red-light cameras.

"I would say the majority are right-turn violations overall," he said.

When asked by Mayor Mary Lou Andrews whether Gatso USA was only willing to install cameras in cities where they would generate enough revenue to be profitable, Bedard said that his company has in the past studied cities and decided they didn't require the cameras.

"Ideally the people I work for want to see more violations," he said. "Not all cities need the cameras."

Bedard said that in cities with the cameras installed, they can create a "halo effect," which

may reduce red-light running at nearby intersections that are not monitored. They also could provide insight to traffic engineers about traffic flow patterns and data.

The Council voted 4-1 in favor of installing the cameras, which would be preceded by a study to determine if the number of red-light violations or crashes would necessitate them.

There's a flaw in that process, Schenck said.

"I don't like the idea of voting for something that we don't even know we need yet," he said. "This is creating a problem before we even know we have one."



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Practice random acts of kindness

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

I love to play in my backyard when I can. No thanks to our weather report, but I pop out in the yard when the weather is behaving. Remember the old saying, "More things grow in your garden than you sow"? I believe it. Yes, they are those green things called weeds.

Now if you drive around a few neighborhoods, brown is the color of the month. Me, I am going green with at least rye grass seed. Last resort, use green spray paint, which is a no-no. Patience, my son says. However that is not my top priority at the moment.

The saying "Random acts of kindness" is the top agenda for my friends and me. Everywhere we look and listen, our friends have been suffering from allergies, sinus pressure, cancer and other maladies, to name a few. Also we must not forget the Haiti situation and now Chile. I thought February was bad and hoped the beginning of March would turn the corner. Alas, no. We all seem to be doing for others more than I have heard of in a long time. I delivered food on Friday and will do

so again in another day. We all take turns coordinating food, providing company on trips to the doctor, and comforting loved ones and friends. I have not forgotten the homeless and others in our area. We all do what we can. It just seems so prevalent now and so sad. Please help those in need if you can.

The Oviedo Historical society will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Building located on Central Avenue. Public is welcome and light refreshments will be served.

Calling all adults who enjoy art and would like to take some classes in stained glass, clay, painting and drawing: The Artistic Hand has just the thing for you. All adult classes will begin the week of March 22. In addition to Tuesday and Thursday morning clay, The Artistic Hand has added a Monday night clay class taught by Robert Lawarre. There's also stained glass and painting/drawing for adults. The following is the schedule for the new session of classes beginning March 22:

Monday Teen/Adult Clay

— teacher: Robert Lawarre, 7-9 p.m., ages 13 and up, 8 weeks, cost \$200

Tuesday Teen/Adult Clay — teachers: Del, Connie, Dave, 7-9 p.m., ages 13 and up, 8 weeks, cost \$200

Thursday Adult Clay — teachers: Del, Connie, Dave, 10 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks, cost \$200

Thursday The Art of Stained Glass — teacher: Tammy Lennox, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 8 weeks, cost \$200, most materials included in cost

Saturday Teen/Adult Painting, Drawing & Much More! — teacher: Michelle Bounasr, 9-11 a.m., ages 13 and up, 8 weeks long, cost \$165

Call Del Seaman for information and to sign up: 407-366-7882

The Oviedo Woman's Club Annual Tasting Luncheon will be held on St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the clubhouse, 414 King St., between the high school and Methodist church. Tickets are \$7. A limited number will be sold at the door, but you may purchase tickets from any club member or by calling Diane at 407-977-6555. Look for our cookbooks, sold for \$8 that day.

Also coming up, which we all enjoy, is the St. Luke's Concert Series at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March

21, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2021 W. State Road 426, Oviedo. The Lutheran Cantata Choir and Chamber Orchestra will present the program "Traditions" featuring a collection of choral music celebrating the historic legacy of Lutheran Choral Music and its development in America, as well as the newer sacred music. Admission is free. Call 407-365-3408 if you have questions.

Would you like to plan a road trip to Mt. Dora? Most of the area ladies I know love to shop there for antiques and jewelry, and they have great eateries. Well, on the weekend of March 27 and March 28 you can visit the annual antique sale. I went last year and enjoyed the day with friends. It was a great outing and we had so much fun; so many sites to see and visit besides checking out all the deals on antiques.

The University of Central Florida will be hosting the UCF Book Festival on Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the main campus. Parking and admission is free. This is one of Florida's premier literary events, featuring nationally renowned authors, book signings and sales, exhibits, appraisals, forums and children's activities.

At the festival you'll see 60 national and local authors, including noted

humorist Carl Hiaasen, former poet laureate Billy Collins, and former commentator for local NPR affiliate WMFE Pat Duggins. Duggins covered more than 100 space shuttle missions for National Public Radio, starting with the 1986 Challenger disaster, and penned his first book about the space program titled "Final Countdown: NASA and the End of the Space Shuttle Program." For information, schedules, participating authors and special programs visit the Web site, www.bookfestival.ucf.edu for event details.

Rock Fest is from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 20, and Saturday, April 17, at the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, 2721 Forsyth Road, Suite 101, Orlando. Vendors will buy, sell and trade gemstones, mineral specimens and handmade jewelry items. Admission is free. For more information, call 407-625-6336.

A big reminder to all: On Sunday, March 14, Daylight Saving Time begins. The old saying is "Spring forward and fall back."

A thought: "Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer, but wish we didn't." — Erica Jong

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.

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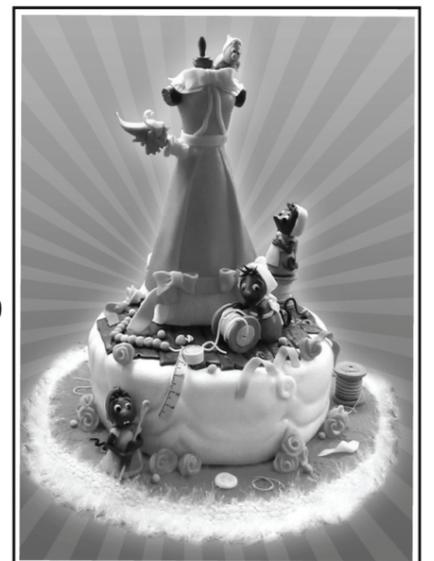


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Bargains and bowling

STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

March roared in like a brisk, windy lion but hopefully our cold weather is just about over. It's said that the frost after the March full moon is the last one but of course this March has two full moons, so we may have to wait another two weeks to be sure. Hopefully all the robins we are seeing are a good sign that true spring is close.

Speaking of spring, we couldn't go too long without mentioning one of Geneva's own, Miss Vienna Girardi, who captured the heart of bachelor Jake Pavelka on ABC's reality show "The Bachelor". Hope those rural roots keep her feet on the ground and her heart intact. Now that the show is over, this couple can take some quality time to get to know each other and see if this is really forever. Good luck!

Did you find some treasures at the Geneva Community Yard Sale last Saturday? The weather was perfect, albeit a little chilly in the morning. More than 55 booths and tables were set up as well as Geneva's own Boy Scout Troop 837, which had a huge presence just behind the fence. Thanks to everyone at the Geneva Historical and Genealogical Society who took their time to host it after canceling due to the inclement December weather.

Spring is the perfect time to bring your family on a visit to the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva. If you've passed the sign hundreds of times but never driven (or walked) back to

it, mark a couple of dates: Saturday, March 13 is the Tracks-n-Scat Class where kids of all ages can learn about animals by their tracks and droppings. On March 20 enjoy a presentation by the Florida Trail Association about mapping, first aid and animals. Also on March 20 there will be a morning guided hike through the Geneva Wilderness area. To register or find out more details on these or upcoming programs call 407-349-0959 or 407-977-4389. The Wilderness Center has a calendar full of events for adults and kids, a great place to learn about Florida flora and fauna up close and personal.

Weekends provide lots of opportunities to contribute, learn and engage in our community at the Rural Heritage Center (RHC) and the Geneva Community Center. Every second Saturday night of the month families can enjoy Classic Movie Night at the Geneva Bijou Theatre inside the RHC. Saturday, March 13 the feature is Christmas in July from the 1940s. Each feature represents a different decade and show time is 7 p.m. for \$5 per person, \$3 for kids younger than 16. It's a fun time to chat with neighbors before and after the show.

Saturday afternoons at the RHC showcase Rural Heritage workshops including basket weaving, beginning calligraphy and digital storytelling. Get pricing and details at www.GenevaSchoolHouse.org Square dancing classes

are starting up again for beginners with the BrenDon Squares on Sunday afternoon. Call 407-542-3799 for details. Calling all quilters, on Saturday, March 27 come over to the RHC at 11 a.m. if you want to learn how to quilt or meet others who enjoy quilting. This is a new group.

If you enjoy the RHC, think about volunteering to help with the maintenance and work it takes to keep it functioning and growing. There are many tasks needed whether administrative, marketing, construction or organizational. If you bought a brick last year, think about renewing your membership and also buying a "Flags Over Geneva" T-shirt. This will help pay for work done and work to be done for a building that needs much TLC to keep it running and safe. Or buy another brick to honor a loved one, a teacher or someone like yourself who loves the rural lifestyle.

As you know our rural communities are gearing up for the American Cancer Society, Geneva/Chuluota Relay For Life. If you like to bowl and want to support a great cause come to the Oviedo Bowling Center on Sunday, March 14 at noon for the Bowl-A-Thon to raise money. Contact Connie 407-452-2242 for more information.

TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at **407-221-7002**, 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.

Deborah Loukas
REALTOR, ePRO,
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Published Friday,
March 12, 2010

Seminole Voice

Volume 20
Issue No. 11

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The Seminole Voice publishes weekly online, and every other Friday for readers in Oviedo, Winter Springs, Geneva, Chuluota, Casselberry, Longwood, Sanford, Altamonte Springs and their neighbors.

Seminole Voice began publishing in 1991. Its current owner is Observer Newspapers, which also publishes the Winter Park-Maitland Observer newspaper.

The Seminole Voice is free for a single issue; additional copies are 50¢ each.

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The Seminole Voice is published every other Friday by **Community Media Holdings, LLC**. USPS #008-093
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Seminole Voice, P.O. Box 2426, Winter Park, FL 32790

LEAGUE | Negro league players some of Major League Baseball's most famous

< continued from the front page

Despite Central Florida's ties to the history, UCF wasn't one of the first 25 libraries to host the exhibit. But when they received more funding and doubled the number of libraries to 50, UCF was included in the list.

Hinshaw said that it's important, especially for young people, to realize what the black community had to go through, and how Jackie Robinson was able to make waves and set a standard and be a trailblazer. Not just the first black man in Major League Baseball's modern era, he was also one of the best. In his first year, he was rookie of the year. Two years later, he was the league's MVP.

"He just held his own and was the best player in baseball," Oviedo High School baseball coach Eric Morgan said. "He's a legend, and honoring him is a great thing. ... He led the way for other African-Americans and people of other races to realize they could live that dream."

Hinshaw said that story keeps history, and the les-

sons of it, alive.

"It's very important because we forget our history, or never learn it, sadly, in many cases," Hinshaw said. "And this (exhibit) documents that level of expertise among people who really didn't have a chance to play and make money in the league in the '40s and '50s and '60s."

After the Civil War, black players were able to play alongside whites, but an unwritten rule of not hiring blacks forced players into their own leagues — such as the Negro League's Orlando All Stars, which flourished up until the Great Depression, folded and then reorganized.

After World War II, Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers decided that if African-Americans could fight and die alongside white soldiers in the war, they could play baseball.

That's the struggle that Oviedo's Coach Morgan wants his players to know. There was a time when Major League baseball wasn't for everybody. For the men of the Negro Leagues, there were other places to play, but not under the lights of

the big stadiums.

Morgan has strolled the grass of Oviedo's Boston Hill Park, knowing full well it was one of few places blacks could play the game. Every year he reminds his players of what it was like to play there, while dreaming beyond that green hillside.

But even with a history muddled in racism, there are still happy stories to tell. If you ask Bob "Peach Head" Mitchell about the Negro League's Orlando All Stars, he'll happily send you on a meandering tale of how he beat them.

"I pitched nine innings, wasn't relieved," said Mitchell, who lives in Tampa. "I beat 'em all. That's a fact. Almighty God is the witness to that."

Mitchell didn't play his senior year in high school, but after graduation played for the West Palm Beach Lincoln Giants before being sent to the Florida Cubans in Lakeland. After a lengthy career spanning most of the 1950s, the closest Mitchell came to major league baseball was playing four seasons with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League.

Mitchell, whose nickname stuck when a friend in primary school decided his head looked round, has been working with Sen. Bill Nelson to get pension benefits for former Negro League players who — because of the color barrier — never had the chance to play in the majors and make real money. Now, there are about 40 players receiving a \$10,000 a year pension from Major League Baseball, although Mitchell is trying to expand that number.

Looking back, Mitchell agreed with Hinshaw's assessment — that it's important to show young people what they went through.

Mitchell can remember walking into a grocery store and the kids in front, maybe 6 years old, staring at Mitchell and his friend like they were "someone from the moon." Mitchell told his friend that he didn't think they'd ever seen blacks before.

At another game, a group of boys ran up and asked them, "Ain't y'all negras?"

"The racism was as you would know it. But we didn't let that bother our playing. We went and played

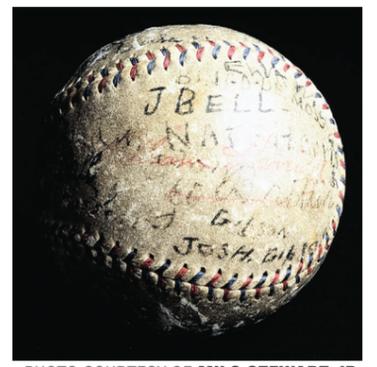


PHOTO COURTESY OF MILO STEWART JR. — BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
Autographs by the Kansas City Monarchs cover this donated baseball.

our game. We had several white folks that came to our games."

Mitchell will be at UCF on Friday, March 19 with three other Negro League legends: Harold O. "Buster" Hair of the Birmingham Black Barons, Arthur Hamilton and Leon L. Harris, who pitched for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1954. They will talk about their experience at 1:30 p.m. in the library, and throw the first pitch when the UCF baseball team takes on Presbyterian at 6:30 p.m.

GRADUATION | Disabled students placed in regular classes earn full diplomas

< continued from the front page

Seminole County graduated more disabled students in 2009 than any school system in Central Florida, as well as ranking third in the state with standard diploma graduation rates.

Those positive results could be from Seminole County mainstreaming its disabled students earlier on in the education process, setting them up for standard graduation, rather than for a special diploma.

During the past four years the portion of Seminole students with disabilities being taught in standard classes increased from 59 percent to 67 percent — 5 percent greater than the state average.

Britt Smith has seen the results from the front lines, as executive director for exceptional student support services with SCPS. In six years, he said teachers have learned to adapt curricula, rather than lowering goals for special students.

"We truly believe that our teachers, especially our general knowledge teachers, have the best understanding of the curriculum the students will need to know," Smith said.

That's not to say students with special needs are simply thrown into a standard classroom.

Cheryl Eppers, Florida Department of Education's information specialist, said a meeting between parents and teachers sets the stage

for how the student will be taught.

"[The education] is tailored for that individual based on their needs," Eppers said.

The child may need a seat near the head of the class or extra time to complete exams. Some schools employ teachers specializing in the education of students with disabilities, and integrate them into standard class settings.

Ultimately this decides whether the student will receive a standard diploma, or a special one that is awarded to students who have graduated from high school but haven't had the same depth of general knowledge courses. This special diploma often acts

as a supplement to the standard when the student is incapable of performing on the same level as average students.

But Seminole County found that many parents of students with disabilities did not want their child taught in special classrooms. That's been the county's preference as well. Setting the bar too low could end a student's education early. Though it's a diploma in name, a special diploma carries a serious caveat: It won't grant a student admission to college.

"Even to go into community college, they'd have to go back and show general competence," Smith said.

The Seminole approach uses regular classrooms in

which students with disabilities are assisted by a secondary teacher specializing in their education. This teacher may be responsible for around three or four students in a class, monitoring and advancing their learning. Smith said the teacher is able to perform, with minimal conflict, alongside the regular teacher and other students.

The county is continuing its efforts with these students by hosting its annual Transition Fair on Tuesday, March 16, at Seminole State College. The fair aims to place students in careers after high school.

"Our teachers are committed to making sure that every student is successful," Vogel said.



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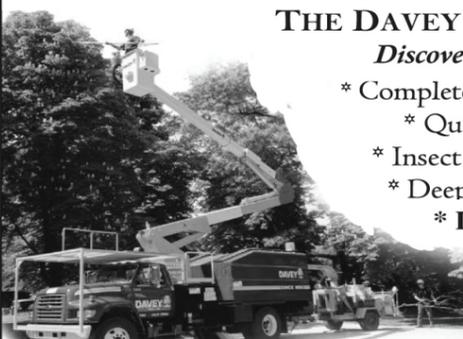
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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Mar. 13, 1942 —

The Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army began training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps." The top canine hero of World War II was Chips, who attacked an enemy machine gun nest in Italy, forcing the entire crew to surrender. The wounded Chips was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and the Purple Heart — all of which were later revoked due to an Army policy preventing official commendation of animals.

Thousands satisfy sweet tooth at fest

Orlando Science Center hosted four floors of chocolate creations, games

KATIE KUSTURA
THE VOICE

Victoria Huffman peered over the heads of two tiny boys, bouncing on her heels as she waited in line for a taste of chocolate-covered popcorn. Squeezing her way to the front, the 13-year-old blonde grabbed a handful of the stuff and lit up with a smile.

"The chocolate-covered popcorn is awesome," she said.

Chocolate-covered popcorn was just one of the many sweet treats available at last weekend's Festival of Chocolate, hosted by the Orlando Science Center (OSC).

Last Saturday, March 6, and Sunday, March 7, an estimated 7,000 attendees explored four floors of chocolate tasting, shopping, education and interactive experiences, according to Jeff Stanford, OSC's VP of Communications.

Vendors from all over Florida brought out their very best for the festival. Some of the festival's vendors have stores in Winter Park, Lake Mary and Longwood or stands at the Winter Park Farmer's Market.

Donna Moore, founder of Chateau E.I.E.I.O., brought some of her famous

Barkolate bars, which are made of dark chocolate and other natural ingredients. In addition to the Barkolate bars, the OSC had a special request.

"They asked me if I would do a gross booth, so I named it 'Double Dare Ya,'" said Moore.

Moore's gross booth featured jalapenos dipped in chocolate that were decorated to look like mice, alligator jerky dipped in chocolate and other strange sweets.

Across the room from Moore's booth, Xocai's Betty Hendrick hawked antioxidant-filled chocolate at her health-food themed table.

Just feet away from Xocai, Peterbrooke Chocolatier owners Kevin and Jami Wray said they received great reactions to their unusual turn on the popped movie theater favorite.

"Wow, that's what we hear most often," said Jami Wray. "Wow, this stuff is awesome" and "Who would've thought of putting chocolate on popcorn?"

Huffman was just one of the many that devoured a sample of the stuff.

Kids enjoyed much more than free samples at the festival. Avia Dow, 9, was one of the four who competed in the kids' cookie stacking competition.



Cookie-stacking aroused a competitive spirit in four youngsters at the Orlando Science Center's Festival of Chocolate.

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Dow said she was confident and, although she didn't win, she wouldn't shy away from the other competitions going on that day.

Aaron and Michele Banks, owners of the Young Chef's Academy (YCA) in Winter Park, also brought kid-friendly activities. Michele demonstrated how to make candy sushi and Aaron manned the cake-pop station.

"We definitely got a lot of potential here," said Aaron Banks, who hopes he met some future YCA members at the festival.

Someone who doesn't

need cooking lessons is Pam Kent, owner of Pam's Confections, who won an award for her red velvet cupcakes. Pam typically sells her sweets at the Winter Park Farmer's Market.

Sprinkles Custom Cakes, located off West Fairbanks Avenue, also received recognition at the festival, taking second place in the "best chocolate cake" competition with their famous "Oh My God" chocolate cake.

Darryl Tate may not have won anything, but he certainly received a lot of inquiries about his product. What Tate brought may not

have been edible, but the dessert-inspired art looked sweet enough to eat.

Lauren Elkins, 20, said she couldn't wait to purchase a cupcake painting.

"They were just really bright and colorful and I thought they were just adorable," said Elkins.

Marley Kunzler, 35, came to the festival with his family where he found plenty of activities for the kids and an enjoyable atmosphere overall.

"It was lots of fun," said Kunzler. "There was lots of chocolate and lots of good smells in the air."

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Family Calendar

Take Care Clinics, located at select Walgreens drugstores throughout the country, will be offering camp and sports physicals for only \$35 through the end of September. Exams are administered by board-certified nurse practitioners and, in select markets, physician assistants. Visit www.takecarehealthsystem.com for more information.

The Festival of Orchestras is holding its first ever YouTube Piano Competition. Pianists under the age of 27 could win tickets to see Lang Lang, the pianist from the Beijing Olympics' Opening Ceremony, and the Schleswig Holstein Festival Orchestra. Visit www.youtube.com/festivaloforchestras for more information.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, enjoy free fun with Kidzart: Art by kids, for kids with kids at the Jewish Community Center's Maitland campus, 851 N. Maitland Ave. Purchase tickets at the door or save by purchasing a Very Important Artist Pass. Visit OrlandoJCC.org for more information.

The Teen Xpress mobile health care unit, part of the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families, is partnering with the Wayne Densch YMCA Family Center to offer free medical services to adolescents and teens ages 11 to 21. Services will be available from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month until June 16 at the Family Center, 870 N. Hastings St., Orlando.

Children and teenagers ages 6 to 18 can be nominated to win scholarships and Kohl's gift cards through the 2010 Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program. Nominations will be accepted at kohlskids.com through March 15, and nominators must be 21 or older.

The University of Central Florida's African American Studies Program is looking for high school and college students and community members to honor at its annual Dr. John T. Washington Community Service Awards and Scholarship Luncheon. The luncheon will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, at the Student Union on the main campus. The deadline to apply for the scholarship and awards is Friday, March 19. Applications are available online at www.aas.ucf.edu.

The Friends of Casa Feliz invites all local families to attend "Kids at the Casa," a Spanish-themed children's festival celebrating music, dance, art, song and storytelling. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 20. Admission is free but donations to help pay costs will be accepted. Call Angela Roark at 407-484-1246 for more information.



Thrifty trips

PHOTO BY KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS — THE VOICE

Geneva students enjoy a field trip to a community museum in 2009. Seminole and Orange counties are getting creative when it comes to funding trips.

Schools are finding creative ways to fund trips; some bring the fun to the school

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Second-graders across Seminole County were lucky enough to spend a day at SeaWorld Orlando last month thanks to parents, teachers and volunteers who found creative ways to pay for the unique learning experience. Students might regard field trips as a highlight of the school year, but their scope and frequency have become casualties of the continuing budget crisis in Central Florida public schools.

Parents, teachers and administrators have the tricky task of balancing the benefits with home, school and school board bottom

lines. Red Bug Elementary Principal Heidi Gooch has watched field trips change over the years.

"District guidelines define what is and isn't allowed, so students have equitable access across the county," she said.

Schools used to enjoy three trips a year but now are reduced to one or two and include local visits to the Seminole Student Museum in Sanford and the Environmental Studies Center in Longwood.

School Board Community Director Regina Klaers said a list of field trip choices is available online for schools to review. "With the budget

cuts in November 2008, field trips outside the district were cut to level the playing field," Klaers said.

The district formerly covered half the transportation costs, but now the schools must cover all of it. Klaers said that one hour of bus transportation costs about \$34. She said budget savings during the first year were about \$300 but savings in subsequent years will be less as schools take fewer trips at shorter distances.

Bigger day trips to EPCOT, SeaWorld, St. Augustine and Green Meadow Farms are still approved for schools in Seminole and Orange counties, but parents incur the expense. Most school districts have a policy that

no child will be barred from going on a trip for inability to pay, but individual school budgets need help to supplement the cost. Chickasaw Elementary Principal Margarita Vega said that her school has sold T-shirts and snacks and charged a little extra at dances and skating parties to help offset the costs.

School administrators have to think outside the box — sometimes they bring the field trip to the school to relieve teachers from worrying about transportation, chaperones or weather. The cost of these programs is often lower than off-campus trips.

> turn to TRIPS on NEXT PAGE



Students at 4-C Seminole Head Start Lawton Oviedo talk about their favorite shapes and colors.

Interested in getting your face on *The Buzz*? Call us at 407-563-7023 and ask for associate editor Isaac Babcock to sign up for a visit to your school.



"I like to play with pink and red hearts."
— Mia, age 5



"Pink is my color, and I like rectangles."
— Alyssa, age 3



"I like red roses. A triangle has three sides."
— Lynna, age 5



"I like blue birds and stars by the moon."
— Jason, age 4



"I like purple, rectangles, stars and hearts."
— Elizara, age 4

Shooting toward a starry sunset

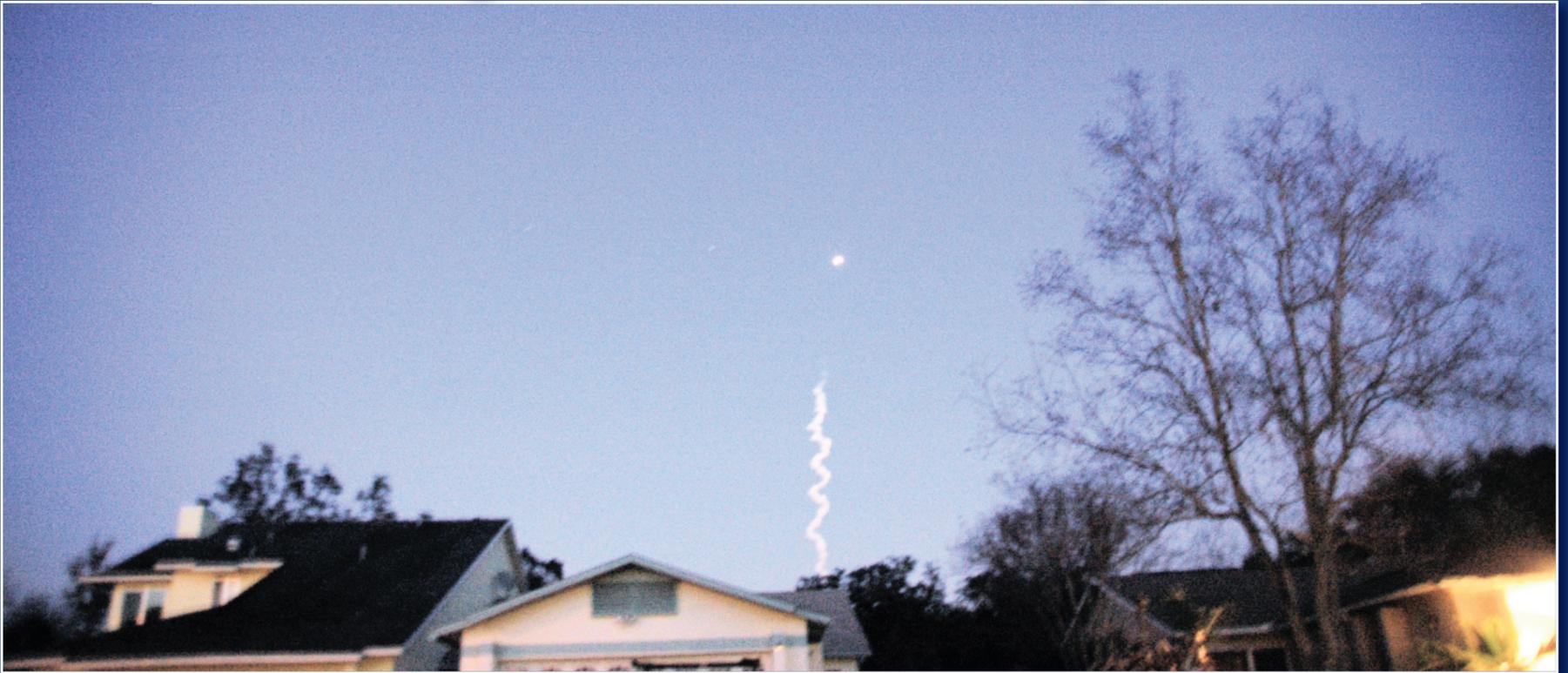


PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

The wispy white plume of a steam trail paints the blue dome of the twilight sky March 4 from an Atlas 4 rocket, which punched its way through the atmosphere to launch an environmental satellite.

TRIPS | Some schools turn to corporate sponsors such as Wal-Mart and Kohl's

< continued from previous page

Eastbrook Elementary Assistant Principal Keaton Schreiner said his school's kindergarteners enjoyed "Reptiles Revealed," an educational program geared toward the science benchmarks of each grade level. Klaers said that even the Barberville Pioneer Settlement in Volusia

County has made educational visits to Seminole County schools.

Sometimes learning experiences are just around the corner. Geneva Elementary fourth-graders walk down the sidewalk just a few steps to the Geneva Museum of History, where volunteers dress in period costumes and present aspects of local Florida

history. Last fall Geneva students raised money to help with the expenses of upcoming field trips by selling snow cones and marshmallow launchers during a family movie night event.

Gooch's school found community support from local retailers Wal-Mart and Kohl's.

"We were selected by our local Wal-Mart to receive

support in the form of gift certificates for our teachers," Gooch said. "We also are fortunate to have several parents who work at Kohl's and are part of the Kohl's A-Team. When five employees work an event for a minimum of three hours Kohl's will donate \$500 through the Kohl's Cares for Kids program."

Christie Itzin from Kohl's

Corporate Public Relations said in an e-mail, "In 2009 more than 30 volunteer associates from Kohl's Oviedo store supported Red Bug Elementary with nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer service amounting to \$3,000 in grants."

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Cinema

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

Coming March 26



Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures

'How to Train Your Dragon'

Coming April 2



Photo courtesy Lionsgate

'Why Did I Get Married Too?'

Coming April 9



Photo courtesy Twentieth Century-Fox

'Date Night'

Coming April 16



Photo courtesy Lionsgate

'Kick-Ass'

'Remember Me' — Opens Friday



Photo courtesy Summit Entertainment

Tyler and Ally, two new lovers, face the trials of a rocky relationship together after Tyler's parents split up following a family tragedy and Ally is traumatized by a terrible memory.

PG-13 - 2 hours 8 minutes

Also opening: 'Green Zone'



Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

A U.S. Army officer goes rogue after he discovers unsettling secrets about weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

R - 1 hour 55 minutes

Coming next week



Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

'Repo Men'

R

Notes

Two women who got lost in the Econlockhatchee Forest would like to recognize the Seminole County Fire and Rescue Department for guiding them to safety. Kathleen Roy and Susan Capps spent more than two hours looking for the Snowhill Road trailhead before coming across the firefighters, who brought them back

and gave them a safety talk.

Larry Volenec, external affairs manager for Florida Power & Light Company, has joined the Board of Directors for the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Garden.

Jo Ellen Willink, a paraprofessional at

Hopper Center in Sanford, was named the 2010 School-Related Employee of the Year for Seminole County Public Schools at a celebration held March 2 at Lyman High School. Willink has worked in the district for five years.

The Small Business Services Department at Seminole State

College is sponsoring "New Horizons: Entrepreneurship for the Boomer Generation," an eight-week program designed for individuals interested in starting their own businesses. Gene Romagna, past chair of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business Chamber and a Certified Business Analyst for the UCF

Small Business Development Center, will help participants to explore business options, create business plans and understand key issues. The program costs \$149, and will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays from March 25 to May 13 at the Heathrow campus. Call 407-321-3495 to register.

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Provided to you by: Jenn Carlisle

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Seminole County Public Schools will announce the 2011 Teacher of the Year on Thursday, April 1 at Winter Springs High School. The finalists are music teacher Suzette Swallow, Evans Elementary; language arts teacher Nicole Rosemeyer, Sanford Middle; and social studies teacher Bradford Barsalou, Crooms AOIT.

The National Coalition of the Homeless and Krissy Todd's Hope Foundation run a speakers' bureau made up of homeless people who give presentations to the community to educate, raise awareness and humanize the plight of homelessness. They are looking for groups, organizations and churches who would like to host speaking engagements. Call Christine Tudhope at 407-245-5525 for more information.

Celebrate Shelda Wilkens' 26 years of service to the Seminole County 4-H program with a 4-H Alumni Reunion. Members, alumni, friends and family are invited to the 4-H Family picnic, which begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 22 at the park on Golden Lake on East Airport Boulevard. Attendees can bring their own picnics or make reservations for dinner, which costs \$10 and \$5 for children age 10 and younger. Call Sharon Roberson at 407-349-4070 for more information.

Calendar

Random Acts of Insanity Comedy Improv Troupe, from Daytona, is scheduled to perform benefit shows for the Winter Springs Performing Arts youth theater, 1425 Tuskawilla Road, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 12, and Saturday, March 13, to help raise funds for future student productions and continue educational programs. Tickets are \$10. Box office will open at 6 p.m. For more information please call 386-314-6158.

Seminole County Public Schools Exceptional Student Support Services is offering a Post-High School Transition Fair at the Seminole State College Student Center from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, for all Seminole County Exceptional Education students grades 6-12 and their parents or guardians. The event will showcase services available for young adults as they prepare to transition to adult life.

The Hometown Democracy initiative, which would require voter approval of land-use changes to a county's or city's comprehensive plan, is the topic of the next Seminole League of Women Voters' forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the Seminole County Public Schools Educational Support Center, 400 E. Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford. Visit LWVSeminole.org.

The Small Business Development Center at Seminole State College will host the Kauffman Foundation's Listening to Your Business seminar. The free seminar will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, at the Heathrow campus and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, March 26, at the Altamonte Springs campus. Visit www.seminoleSBDC.org for more information.

Seminole State College's Fine Arts Gallery continues its 2009-2010 season with an exhibit by Stafford Hiroshi Smith and Dennis Schmalstig. The opening reception for the exhibit will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, at the

Sanford/Lake Mary campus. The exhibit runs through Thursday, April 8, and the gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and during music and theater performances. Visit www.scc-fl.edu/arts for more information.

A fundraiser for Crohn's disease and colitis will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 19, at the Black Hammock Fish Camp, 2356 Black Hammock Fish Camp Road, Oviedo. There will be free food, live music by local band The Retreads, a cash bar and more. The suggested donation is \$5. Call 407-432-7104 for more information.

The Winter Springs Police Department and Oviedo Police Department will play in the second annual Charity Flag Football Game on Saturday, March 20, to raise funds for Kids House of Seminole. The game will be held at the Winter Springs High School stadium. Gates open at 3 p.m. and the game begins at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. In addition to the game, there will be food, raffles and activities for children.

Oviedo Police are partnering with Allstate Insurance Company to sponsor a free "Protect Teen Drivers" program for teens and their parents from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Oviedo Police C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Marketplace (inside by Dillard's). Parents are encouraged to attend with their teens. Visit www.protectteendrivers.com or call Kristy Bolin at 407-657-5867 for more information.

The UCF Young Alumni Club hosts its second Professional Conference and Career Knight starting at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at the FAIRWINDS Alumni Center on the UCF Main Campus. The registration fee is \$7 for members of the UCF Young Alumni Club, and \$12 for non-members. For more information, visit www.ucfalumni.com/yac.

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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

Mar. 22, 1933 —

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Beer and Wine Revenue Act. This law levies a federal tax on all alcoholic beverages to raise revenue for the federal government and gives individual states the option to further regulate the sale and distribution of beer and wine.

Keep your job search momentum going

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



I received some interesting mail after my last column about online applications. It seems employers are defending them and applicants do not care for them at all. Thank you for your insights.

Today I spoke with a professional lady who seems to have all of

her ducks in a row. She has a great work history, presents herself well, has been networking and applying for every opening she sees in her field and yet, she feels no closer to getting a job than when she started the search.

Another professional told me he thought he would take a month off to rest before beginning his search, and I cautioned him not to in this environment.

Unemployment is still 11.9 percent, and the average job search is longer than the unemployment benefits are received. The competi-

tion is stiff. I probably don't have to tell you that.

So what do you do if you are doing everything you think you should be? My answer is, keep the momentum going. You need to find someone you can talk to and vent to when things don't go right and someone to celebrate with when things do.

Keep networking. For professionals, you have several choices including ProNet, www.pronetcareerresources.com, Career Management Network (www.careermanagementnetwork.com) and Transitioning Professionals of Orlando.

Above all, don't give up. This economy is tough, don't be down on yourself.

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

Cold snap threatens Florida's manatees

The cold winter of 2010 has resulted in unprecedented numbers of cold-related manatee deaths in Florida.

Through Feb. 12, there have been more than 300 confirmed deaths from all causes. Of these, 167 have been attributed to cold stress. Another 116 deaths have been labeled as undetermined/unrecovered, and many of these were also likely caused by cold stress because of their location and timing. Based on a synoptic survey of 5,076 manatees counted in January, this year's deaths represent a loss of 6 percent of the entire state's population in just the first six weeks of the year. These tragic numbers come on the heels of last year's record mortality. Incredibly, in the last 14 months, at least 729 manatees are known to have died in state waters. We can only hope that 2010 does not bring red tide to our coasts or another record year for manatee boat strike deaths like we saw in 2009, as these events could result in hundreds more manatee deaths. Although

cold-related deaths are considered a natural cause, the events of this winter highlight the vulnerability of our state's manatee population, and reinforce the importance of safeguarding winter habitat and minimizing human-related threats to this species.

When we hear countless news reports of hundreds of manatees dying from cold, we can feel powerless to help. However, there are a number of actions that everyone can take to help safeguard our state's iconic manatees.

If you live in Florida, contact your legislators and ask them not to cut funding for the manatee critical care treatment program, which is a part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) budget. This money helps Florida's three critical care facilities provide vitally needed emergency treatment for manatees injured by boats, entangled, orphaned or suffering from cold stress or red tide toxicity. Without this funding, injured manatees would needlessly suffer and die.

Florida's springs provide natural winter habitat

for Florida's manatees. Reduced spring flows caused by increased human demand for water have decreased available habitat at some of our springs, while access to other springs has been reduced or eliminated by weirs or dams. One such spring is Silver Spring in Marion County, which is the largest of Florida's springs. Manatees have completely lost access to this spring due to the Kirpatrick (Rodman) dam. Restoration of the Ocklawaha River and removal of the dam would restore manatee access to Silver Spring. Unfortunately, this restoration would be delayed at least another 50 years if the Jim King State Reserve bill passes during the spring session of the Florida Legislature. If we are going to safeguard manatees in the long-term, we need to protect and enhance their natural warm-water habitat. Floridians, ask your legislators to support the Florida Springs Protection Act this session (SB568) and vote against the Jim King State Reserve bill (SB466/HB695).

If you live in Florida, or plan to visit the state, look for ways to decrease water use to protect water resources. Every drop of groundwater or surface water we use is a drop we take away from the manatees' home. The area hardest hit by this winter's cold weather was the Everglades. Historically, warm groundwater would exit the aquifer through seeps and small springs and provide a refuge to manatees in the Everglades during winter months. However, extensive development and canal dredging have altered the flow of water over the last 100 years, decreasing the availability of these seeps and springs.

If you boat on Florida's waterways, either as a resident or a visitor, always be on the lookout for manatees. Careful boaters can prevent manatee injuries and deaths caused by watercraft. If you see an injured or dead manatee, please immediately contact FWC's 24-hour hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Manatees simply cannot afford another year of record watercraft deaths.

Manatees and Florida's environment need your support and your voice. These simple actions can make a life-saving difference for Florida's endangered manatees.

—Dr. Katie Tripp
Director of Science & Conservation
Save the Manatee Club

Stop Niagara's water pumping

Some experts believe our supply of drinking water will dry up within a decade. You, as a homeowner, with your own well, are restricted from pumping more than a few hundred gallons per week as a means of preserving the aquifer. Yet a for-profit company, Niagara Bottling, was given a permit to pump 484,000 gallons per day. If our citizens are so weak and naive to let this stand, then they deserve to be made slaves to a bureaucratic government. When our water supply dries up, you have only yourself to blame. It is time to protect your rights and your future. *Stop this now.*

—Don Thompson
Winter Park

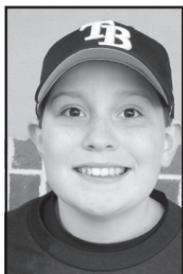
Young Voices

Here's what players from Sanford's Minor Division Ray's team had to say about why they like baseball.



Last year I was shortstop, and one day I'd like to pitch. I like to run around the bases, hit the ball, and have fun with my friends. I like the Boston Red Sox.

—Devin B.
8 years old



I play catcher and have played for seven years. It's fun to play a sport and my father and grandfather have helped coach too. My favorite player is Manny Ramirez.

—Jacob R.
11 years old



I play shortstop and right field — I like to hit the ball and catch the fly balls too. I've been playing since T-Ball and we get along together and learn how to be a team. I like the Boston Red Sox.

—Noah S.
9 years old



I love making home runs and hitting the ball, running around the bases. I play shortstop and sometimes first base. My favorite team is the New York Yankees.

—Jalen H.
9 years old



I play second base and have been playing since I was 4 years old. My dad is the head coach — he encourages us to play and have fun. We have to work hard to get the ball to first base. I like the New York Yankees.

—Christopher K.
10 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.

ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

Mar. 25, 1958 —

Sugar Ray Robinson defeated Carmen Basilio to regain the middle-weight boxing championship. Born Walker Smith, Jr., "Sugar Ray" got his boxing name when he borrowed his friend Ray Robinson's Amateur Athletics Union card to enter a boxing tournament at age 16.

Knights fight back in final night

After four C-USA losses in a row, the Knights right their momentum just in time for the postseason

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

After dropping four straight conference losses heading into the final game of the season, the Knights were looking for a boost heading into the Conference USA tournament. They found it Saturday against Rice, whom the Knights dropped 66-59 on a dramatic play by A.J. Rompza.

Rompza would hammer home the deciding 3-pointer to split the scoring gap open going into the final minute of the game. But it was Taylor Young who led the Knights in scoring, with 14 points in the contest. Marcus Jordan, who has rapidly improved his scoring ability in the second half of the season, picked up 12 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists in the game.

The Knights shot 56.8 percent overall, one of their most accurate games all season.

The Knights had been in free fall in their final two weeks of the season, losing crucial games to C-USA opponents that could have righted their season. Had the Knights won their final five games, they would be 10-6 and tied for 5th in the conference. Instead, they dropped to 9th in that same period.

Their nail-biter win over the worst team in the conference didn't improve their standing on the C-USA ladder, as they remain 9th of 12 teams with a 14-16 overall record and 6-10 in conference play.

Their ninth seeding in the Conference USA champion-



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

A reinvigorated offense shot longer and more efficiently as the Knights fought for a final victory to close out the season. Taylor Young and Marcus Jordan led the charge.

ship put them in an uncomfortable position going into the first round against SMU at press time on Wednesday. Despite slotting just below the Mustangs in the conference rankings, the Knights were badly outmatched in the two teams' previous meeting. The Knights lost 65-43 to the Mustangs on

Jan. 27.

If they make it through to the second round, the Knights could be playing again at 10 p.m. Thursday against UTEP — the conference's best team at 24-5 overall and 15-1 in the conference.

Rams win state title

Second title in five years made possible by strong defense

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

The Lake Mary girls basketball team is on top of the state for the third time in the team's history after a 49-40 win over Miami Lourdes on Feb. 27.

For the Rams, this was the second class 6A state championship in five years.

The winning score came mostly on the shooting of Rams star Morgan Jones, who hammered home 30 points to seal her team's vic-

tory. Danielle White added 8 points, with Sarah Taylor close behind with 7.

Shelbi Lindsey provided the brunt of the Rams' defense, with 8 rebounds, 2 blocks and 2 steals in the game. That dominating defensive performance proved an important factor in the game, as the score stayed low despite both teams.

Taylor had played a key role in the Rams' semifinal win against South Broward, pouring in 19 points to push

her team to a narrow 39-36 win.

The championship win capped off a nearly perfect season for the Rams, who had won 23 games in a row to finish the season with a 32-1 record. Their only loss of the season came against Lake Howell, a 66-56 shocker on Dec. 10. The Rams would later avenge that loss twice against the Silver Hawks before winning it all.

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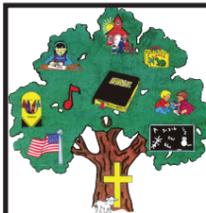
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Predators retake field

Arena football returns with new league, big expectations

J.C. CARNAHAN
GUEST REPORTER

When the Arena Football League suspended the 2009 season a little more than a year ago, before folding altogether, Orlando Predators veteran Kenny McEntyre was left to ponder a life away from the football field.

He was hardly alone. Players were sent scattering to find a means to provide for their families while faced with the reality that their careers may have abruptly ended.

There was no ceremonial sendoff. Little, if any, advanced warning. And as far as McEntyre was concerned, no real trust in the talks that followed suggesting the league would indeed return.

"I've got two kids that depend on me," said McEntyre, 39. "When they canceled the season, I started thinking about what I was going to do with my life after that."

The all-time leader in interceptions and three-time defensive player of the year spent the past year working as a personal trainer when he was not on the golf course or joining teammate Marlon Moyer-Moore in hosting youth football camps throughout the area.

"I was just getting acclimated to the real world," said Moyer-Moore, who also launched his own fitness company and coached Pop Warner football this past year. "Coaching and training those kids was probably the best thing for me."

It proved an amicable distraction from the reality he and his peers faced.

"We were shocked [upon learning of the AFL's demise]. I've been playing football now for 17 years and it was hard to sit and watch the NFL during a time when I'm usually preparing for my own season."

Earlier this year, the Predators made their return to town as part of the newly formed Arena Football One (AF1), where salaries are expected to be significantly lower than they ever were in the AFL when they reportedly ranged between \$30,000 to \$189,000 a year. Despite that, McEntyre and Moyer-Moore had no reservations about returning.

"My passion to play football outweighs the pay," Moyer-Moore said.

Back in black

Predators' managing partner Brett Bouchy vowed all along to bring arena football back to town in some form or another and he backed it up by banding with several other AFL owners to help form the new league.

He's now confident that The Jungle at Amway Arena will again be packed with fans just as it once was.

"April 30 will be a sell-out," Bouchy declared at a news conference at the Citrus Bowl Varsity Club after making a public apology to fans, coaches and players for the cancellation of the 2009 season.

"It's going to be a crowd like none other. It's going to be rocking in The Jungle, I fully expect that," he said.

Because of conflicts with the schedule of the Orlando Magic, the Predators will start the new season with a bye during opening weekend (April 2-3) then will be on the road the next two weeks before another off week sets the table for the home opener against the Iowa Barnstormers.

The 18-week regular season will run through July 31 with 15 teams participating. Franchises have been meshed between the big-market holdovers of the original AFL and the outposts that made up arena football 2, the minor

league of Arena Football.

"Our fans love Orlando and as long as we keep playing hard and give them a reason to come, then I think they'll be there," Moyer-Moore said.

The organization is banking that familiarity will help bring many of them back. Local fans throughout the years have helped give the Predators a unique home-field advantage ever since coming onto the scene in 1991.

With the recent signings of AFL star-power league wide, and the deals reached locally with former players such as McEntyre, Moyer-Moore, T.T. Toliver, Justin Cleveland, Damon Mason, along with the hiring of former Orlando quarterback Pat O'Hara as the organization's fourth head coach, there's a bit of nostalgia already brewing in the air.

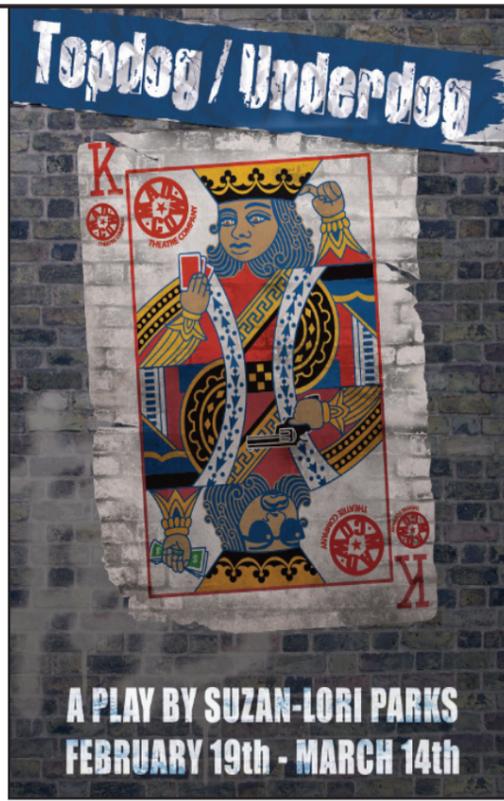
Though maybe with one particular face noticeably missing.

Before introducing O'Hara to the public, Bouchy extended an open invitation to former head coach Jay Gruden — who spent his time away from arena football as the offensive coordinator with the United Football League's Florida Tuskers — "to contribute in any way on the football side of things that he can." He cannot return because of contractual obligations with the Tuskers.

So maybe the return won't exactly be like old times, but with a little less than two months remaining before Orlando's beloved Preds take the field, it looks as if Bouchy's vision is truly taking shape.

"We're back," McEntyre said. "We've got to let '09 go. It's 2010; it's a new year. Arena football, for whatever reason, is back here in Orlando, and it's time to put the past behind us."

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WEATHER

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STORMY | WIND: S 15 MPH

Sunrise 6:38 a.m. | **Sunset** 6:32 p.m.



UV INDEX  **4**
Moderate

TEMPERATURES: LOW-HIGH-LOW

67° 6 a.m. | **72°** 3 p.m. | **61°** 6 a.m.
Saturday

TODAY: Showers. High near 72. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%

LOOK TO THE STARS **Headed back**
Mars halts its westward motion against the stars of Cancer and begins moving east again.



TODAY'S MOON PHASE Waning crescent
Moonrise 4:41 a.m.
Moonset 3:58 p.m.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On March 11, 1911, Tamarack, Calif., reported 451 inches of snow on the ground, a record for the U.S.
— David Ludlum

SATURDAY MOSTLY SUNNY



MORNING LOW 61°
DAYTIME HIGH 76°

Sunrise 6:37 a.m. | **Sunset** 6:32 p.m. | **clear skies** | **Wind** W 16 mph

SUNDAY MOSTLY SUNNY



MORNING LOW 53°
DAYTIME HIGH 73°

Sunrise 7:36 a.m. | **Sunset** 7:33 p.m. | **clear skies** | **Wind** W 13 mph

MONDAY MOSTLY SUNNY



MORNING LOW 52°
DAYTIME HIGH 74°

Sunrise 7:35 a.m. | **Sunset** 7:33 p.m. | **clear skies** | **Wind** WNW 5 mph

THE VIEW FROM YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS



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MARINE FORECAST

Cocoa Beach tide schedule

Time	Low	High
Saturday		6:00 a.m.
March 13	12:13 p.m.	6:17 p.m.
Sunday	12:31 a.m.	7:37 a.m.
March 14	1:49 p.m.	7:56 p.m.

FLORIDA FORECAST

City	Friday	Sat.
Jacksonville	62/73	58/71
Miami	69/81	68/76
Tampa	65/71	62/73
Pensacola	57/68	49/66

NATIONAL

City	Friday	Sat.
Seattle	47/51	40/52
Los Angeles	47/70	52/68
Houston	48/69	48/71

INTERNATIONAL

City	Friday	Sat.
Atlanta	52/68	46/60
Chicago	44/55	40/47
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London	32/44	41/46
Paris	34/47	35/43
Tokyo	37/62	46/64

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