



Seminole Voice

FRIDAY'S

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WEATHER

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March 26 – April 8, 2010

Free!



Combat > A7

Unusual attraction draws players who shoot to thrill



Break out > A8

Spring break gives kids a slew of camp options



Streiking > A14

Knights trounce Blue Hose in wild weekend

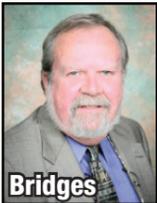
Cancer claims commissioner

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

A short battle with cancer has ended for Sanford City Commissioner Jack Bridges, who died Tuesday afternoon.

Complications from a medical procedure may be to blame in the death of Bridges, who had recently been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation to beat back the disease. He was in his early 60s.

For friend and colleague Mayor Linda Kuhn, his death struck particularly close to home.



"He'd been a friend for more than 25 years," Kuhn said. "This hit hard."

Bridges had been a Sanford City Commissioner since 2005, but had been involved in leading the city in which he was born for decades before. He'd recently retired from a 35-year career practicing law.

"He brought with him a wealth of knowledge being an attorney," Kuhn said. "We always appreciated his sage advice and input."

A funeral for Bridges will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at Central Baptist Church in Sanford.



PHOTO BY ABRAHAM ABORAYA — THE VOICE

Volunteers gather below the George C. Means Bridge, which was redesigned to connect Lake Jesup to the St. Johns River.

New State Road 46 bridge reopens choked Lake Jesup for first time in 60 years

ABRAHAM ABORAYA
GUEST REPORTER

As Ben Wheeler Jr. remembers it, a simple toss of a cast net into Lake Jesup in 1950 would yield mullet on top and bottom and bass in between.

But then the Army Corp of Engineers built a dirt causeway across the lake

and installed Government Cut canal. The bridge choked off the lake, and Government Cut rerouted the St. John's River's flow back on itself and away from Lake Jesup, further suffocating the lake.

And with that, Lake Jesup died. It degraded from a world-class bass fishing destination to a

"sewer pot," environmentalists say.

But now, the State Road 46 bridge — 50 percent of the problem — has been replaced, and stands the way it should have in 1950: A tall behemoth of a bridge, with thick piling that lets the lake flow. It's a fight that George C. Means has been fighting since the

Army Corp of Engineers first scarred the lake.

And that's why the new 46 bridge is named after Means.

"He was the bulldog holding the bone in his teeth to get this bridge put in, and hopefully get the channel out here to get the lake to clean itself up,"

> turn to **FLOTILLA** on A6

Seminole schools battle budget woes

School Board faces a potential \$25.2 million budget cut in the coming year

MATT MORRISON
GUEST REPORTER

An atmosphere of uncertainty lingers in the air for Seminole County Public School employees awaiting the new 2010-2011 budget. Though budget cuts have already hampered the system, officials warn that a further loss of government funding could force the school system to lay off as many as 400 employees this year to meet budget demands.

Seminole Superintendent Bill Vogel said the

county is facing a 2 to 6 percent cut of its nearly \$420 million budget. This means the county could lose as much as \$25.2 million this year to budget cuts alone. No stranger to financial setbacks, Seminole County has lost nearly \$40 million already in government funding over the past two years.

When the economic recession entered full force in 2008, the county had to cut down its spending by nearly \$30 million. In 2009, it was asked to make another 22 percent

cut. This caused the county to cut faculty wages in order to prevent heavy layoffs. Vogel said budget cuts could affect another 400 positions throughout the county.

Part of the problem, he said, stems from the federal stimulus money — \$22 million pumped into the Seminole school system — that will expire in the 2011-12 school year. If improvements in the Legislature's education budget are not made before then, Vogel warned, those positions may face scrutiny before

next year's budget.

"There are more questions than answers right now," Vogel said.

"We're hoping to get some direction from the Legislature."

For the past year, the county has held rallies and public forums urging the Legislature and community leaders to restore funding to pre-lottery levels, 60 percent, and to remand capital

> turn to **BUDGET** on A2



USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 4

What's goin' on?

Seminole State College celebrates its \$85 million transformation Friday through Sunday with many events. Visit www.seminolestate.edu.

Calendar > A11

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A young viking secretly befriends a beast in 'How to Train Your Dragon'

Cinema > A10



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THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

April 1, 1970 —

President Richard Nixon signed legislation officially banning cigarette ads on television and radio. Nixon, who was an avid pipe smoker — indulging in as many as eight bowls a day — supported the legislation at the increasing insistence of public-health advocates.

Downtown causes tax hike fears

Lake Mary gets ahead of the game in planning commuter rail development downtown

ABRAHAM ABORAYA
GUEST REPORTER

When Lake Mary resident Carol Slaughter received notice that the city wanted her to come to a meeting about changing the zoning on her home to a downtown development district, she had only one concern: Will it raise my taxes?

About 20 residents showed up to the March 11 meeting at City Hall, where the city's staff presented their case and fielded questions from the residents.

"We're really concerned," Slaughter said. "We really don't know what to do. Obviously we're concerned about taxes going up. We really don't care if it's commercial as long as it's not going to cost us."

The city is offering to cover all the costs for landowners around the 2012 commuter rail station to change their land designation from residential to downtown development district, a zoning change which would allow for mixed-use development.

The concern from many residents, though, is that there isn't a developer in line. If they change their land use and it sits, would it raise their taxes? The answer is no

— unless they build something else on their property.

"The city of Lake Mary is taking a bold step," Seminole County Commission Chairman Bob Dallari said after the meeting. "It's to plan for the future. It's to allow for a commuter rail development in the downtown district. They're not forcing it on anyone. They're not condemning any properties."

Lake Mary is trying to get ahead of impending Florida constitutional Amendment 4 known as Hometown Democracy, which would require all land-use changes to be voted on by residents in a city. The idea, being echoed right now in Sanford, Longwood and Altamonte Springs, is to try and get landowners to change the zoning around the stations now in case it passes.

"That's one of the main reasons we're here, folks," Community Development Director John Omana told the group. "If that issue passes, you won't have control over your own property rights."

In total, six of the about 35 households in the district have turned in the necessary paperwork to get the change moving. Many of the landowners could stand to make money in the future if a developer does come in and wants



PHOTO BY ABRAHAM ABORAYA - THE VOICE

Lake Mary Mayor David Mealor tried to pacify concerned citizens about fears of land prices rising if the city redevelops its downtown to include a rail stop.

to build a downtown area.

Or, as Lake Street resident Slaughter said, the idea of making money on her home is appealing. Slaughter said they've paid off their mortgage.

"Yes, that definitely is something were interested in," Slaughter said. "But the problem is land prices are so far down. ... We paid \$30,000 for our house, but I don't want \$30,000. I don't want \$70,000 for our house. Where am I going to go for that?"

City Commissioner Jo Ann Lucarelli said she hopes more of the property owners come around to the change. With it, she said, it will make the land more appealing for a developer to come in.

"I hope that a lot of these people will agree to it," Lucarelli said. "It is planning for the future, but it also helps promote the downtown development. As our economy hopefully starts coming out, this will attract developers to come in."

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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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BUDGET | Class size threatened again

< continued from the front page

funding to the 2007-08 level.

Vogel said the county will struggle to maintain the state's class size amendment if the budget is reduced as is expected. As well, the possibility of new course mandates and a seven-period schedule may also be hampered by budgetary restraints.

Vogel and other school leaders have touted raising the county's millage as well as sales and property taxes in order to close the budget gaps. However, political figures have been less than enthusiastic to promote a raise in taxes in light of the current economic climate, even when it comes to schools. Yet Vogel has not lessened his campaign to change lawmakers' minds. He is not alone in the fight, as the Seminole PTA plans their agenda for the upcoming week.

Last year, the Seminole PTA visited Tallahassee to rally for an

improved budget. The PTA is planning a second trip to the state capital on March 25. Legislative Chair for Seminole County Kathy Foulk said that nearly 55 people signed up to take the bus trip from Seminole to the state capital, as many as last year. Despite the problems still facing Seminole schools, Foulk said the rally last year managed to gain the attention of Gov. Charlie Crist.

"We want them to find sufficient funding," Foulk said. "There's too many mandates and too many stresses on these kids."

PTA president Judy Wiant said that people should not become complacent because of federal stimulus dollars, and that education, as much as ever, is still on the line.

"[The money is] not going to be there next year," she said, "so people shouldn't be lulled because there's not going to be any cuts."

Randall W. Hanson, Esquire

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PHOTO BY MEGAN STOKES — THE VOICE

Jesus Avila, 38, brings his two sons, ages 1 and 2, to Harvest of Hope every week to feed his family of three. The program feeds families every Wednesday.

Childhood hunger crisis finds renewed foes in local schools, churches and outreach programs

MEGAN STOKES
THE VOICE

Vanessa Colom's 4-year-old daughter tightly gripped a box of maple brown sugar toaster pastries while her 1-year-old son happily shook a snack-sized bottle of orange juice. Their eyes lit up when a volunteer handed them small containers of milk.

"They are little milk monsters. At \$5 a gallon I tell them, 'Drink water,'" Colom joked.

The East Orlando homemaker has been searching for a night-shift job for the last six months, to no avail. Her husband pays about \$900 per month in child support for two children from a previous relationship, making it hard to get enough food on the table.

Colom and 497 others showed up to Harvest of Hope, a food-sharing event hosted by several East Orlando churches on Feb. 27. The event takes place every Wednesday afternoon and on the last Saturday morning of each month at New Covenant Church in Bithlo. More than 150 of those who came for assistance were younger than 18.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida recently published its Hunger Study and revealed that the percentage of children who received food assistance from the organization rose from 25 percent in 2006 to 47 percent in 2009. Nearly half of the 21 million pounds of food distributed last year by Second Harvest was consumed by children. And Central Florida's statistics top the national numbers on child hunger.

"We are in a tourism-based area. We see families going to see Cinderella in her castle but the irony of that is not far from that are serious childhood hunger

issues," said Second Harvest CEO and President David Krepcho.

Schools, churches reach out

Alex Schiraldi, administrative dean at Timber Creek High School, keeps bread, peanut butter, jelly and other lunch foods in his office. He has spotted more and more kids without a lunch in the cafeteria in recent years, perhaps because those who are newly in need do not yet qualify for free or reduced price lunch programs in the schools but still struggle to stock their food pantries at home.

“WE ARE IN A TOURISM-BASED AREA. WE SEE FAMILIES GOING TO SEE CINDERELLA IN HER CASTLE BUT THE IRONY OF THAT IS NOT FAR FROM THAT ARE SERIOUS CHILDHOOD HUNGER ISSUES.”

—DAVID KREPCHO
SECOND HARVEST CEO
AND PRESIDENT

"I give them the key to my office and tell them to take what they need but make sure they clean up or I'll kick their butt," he said with a laugh. "You should see [Principal John Wright's] office. It looks like a 7-Eleven in there. We all try to help out."

TimberCreek is not alone. Woodbury Presbyterian Church works with several schools in the area including Bonneville Elementary and East River High School

to get food in the hands of students who need it. Woodbury's Robert Gumbs said they serve many children during their weekly public feedings on Monday and Thursday mornings. Besides food, the church collects toys, diapers, baby food and bottles to give away to the 160 people who come to each feeding; only 20 of them are homeless.

"We had about 30 kids on Presidents Day and we see a lot of them in the summer when school's out. I would say 60 to 70 percent of our clients have children," he said. "We spend more money on diapers and baby food than most people would imagine."

Hunger affects mental, physical well-being

Hungry children suffer from a lot more than just a grumbling tummy. According to Suzanne Sheres, Nemours Children Hospital dietician, malnutrition can affect the way a child's brain and body develops.

Over the last two years, Sheres started seeing malnourished children in her clinic on a daily basis. Many are being fed cheap foods that are high in fat and carbohydrates but lack real nutrition.

"Parents are honest with us. They say they lost their jobs and cannot afford it," she said. "Parents acknowledge that they know the foods they are getting are not good for their children but there is nothing they can do about it."

The most common nutritional deficiencies in hungry children are iron, which causes them to feel sluggish, zinc, which affects their ability to fight infections, and protein, which affects their growth and development. Sheres asks people who are giving to food pantries to focus on affordable, yet nutritionally complete items such as for-

tified cereal, peanuts, fruit, canned tuna, beans and meat soups.

Filling a child up with empty calories can also cause obesity, which Krepcho fears will make people think a lack of food is the least of youngsters' problems today.

"People see childhood obesity numbers growing and see that as the opposite of a hunger problem but they are being fed empty calories that are cheaper," he said. "You have single mom at end of the month with \$40 in her wallet who needs groceries for a week for her and her two kids. She will try to stretch that by buying mac and cheese rather than fresh red bell peppers for \$2.30 a pound."

Programs such as Harvest of Hope and the feedings at Woodbury are conscious of this problem and try to provide items from every food group.

Besides development issues, Sheres said studies have also shown that students who do not have enough food to eat cannot reach their full academic potential.

"It is very hard for them to concentrate. They can fall asleep in class, have trouble paying attention, have problems keeping up in PE class, and cannot achieve well on standardized tests," she said. "In schools teachers can suspect it's a behavioral problem but it may all come down to asking them what they are eating. They might be getting school meals and that's all."

Homeless children on the rise

And that problem may be growing. The number of homeless children is on the rise, according to Orange County Public Schools. In January 2008 there were 1,463 homeless students, which grew to 1,836 by the end of the year. A year later,

December 2009, that figure reached 2,200.

Jim Wright, University of Central Florida sociology professor who studies homelessness, said Orlando's Coalition for the Homeless shelters about 150 children each night. Many of them could be from East Orlando considering that most of East Orlando's homeless population lives in camps in the woods — a place where children are largely forbidden.

"When we studied populations in the woods we found that when people showed up with children in the woods they experienced pressure from others living there to get them to the shelter. They have a good sense that it was no place for kids," he said.

Although shelters are likely providing these children with food, Krepcho said homeless children are likely to miss out on regular meals.

"The most visible hungry people are the homeless, the single male holding the cardboard sign on the side of the road shuffling toward your window. That's the image most people have," Krepcho said.

"In my 18 years of food banking I have never seen anything like this. This whole group of blue and white collar workers is underemployed. They take any job they can find, they are struggling to avoid homelessness, and they have to skip on expenses like eating."

And so do their children. Colom said her children have never gone hungry but it has been hard to feed four mouths on a limited income.

"This helps," she said referring to Harvest of Hope. "It's hard but things like this save the people who are in trouble."

Rainy days and small-world connections

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

Spring is here! Golly, some days I don't think so. I chatted with a few of my old buddies in Richmond, Va., last week and they were telling me their weather has been the same as ours. I thought we were in the South. They are so happy to see the sun. Me too. They've had rain like crazy and I said the same here a while back. Per usual when it rains an awful lot, my street and my corner goes crazy with little springs of water popping up from the Miami curb — the Public Works Department knows this area well. I was chatting with one of the usual workmen on the latest occasion and he said, "A.M. Jones and his French drains." I said "You are correct and he used to live about three blocks away on

Central Avenue." I said we knew him rather well and the worker told me, "Ms. Foley, A.M. hired me to work for him and I used to meet him in his 'office' at the Town House on Broadway." Of course that led us to further tidbits of Oviedo history. I just love this town. People say this town has very friendly people and between the chickens and the town's history this little bit of Florida makes us unique.

Taste of Oviedo I guess you marked your calendars for the annual Taste of Oviedo coming up on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to be held on Oviedo Boulevard between Country Road 419 and Mitchell Hammock Road. This is the 16th celebration of the event

that features local food, vendors, businesses, children's activities, student art show, a home and garden show, and entertainment. Also featuring once again this year the annual citrus and celery cook-off for best recipes sponsored by The Preservation Project. Admission is free. If you need more information, please call 407-278-4871.

March for Meals March for Meals 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, at the Sanford Riverwalk, Seminole Boulevard. The three-mile pledge walk/run will be followed by a breakfast at the Sanford Civic Center. Walk registration begins at 7:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Meals on Wheels program in Seminole County. For more information, call 407-333-8877 ext. 103.

Jazz concerts Just around the corner: a jazz concert will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, at the Eastmonte Park Civic Center, 830 Magnolia Drive, Altamonte Springs. The Altamonte Jazz Ensemble,

directed by Mike Arena, will present a tribute to Frank Sinatra featuring vocalist Dave Martin and "Lady of Song" Linda Cole. Cost of the event is \$5. If you need more information, please call 407-322-7528. Another jazz concert is coming from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, April 3. It will be held at Magnolia Square, 200 S. Magnolia Ave., Sanford. The Jazzed in Sanford concert series will feature guitarist Larry Coryell.

History of Cracker horse, cow "Cracker Horse, Cracker Cow" presentation will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, at the Museum of Seminole County History, 300 Bush Blvd., Sanford. Ellison Hardee and Cecil Tucker will discuss the history of the Cracker horse and cow in Florida. Admission is free. For more information, call 407-665-2489.

Artistic Hand classes The Artistic Hand Gallery and Studio's upcoming

children's class schedule begins the week of April (the week after spring break). All children's classes are six weeks long and cost \$125. All materials included in cost. Art Sampler: Monday 5-6 p.m. Throwing on the Pottery Wheel: Tuesday 5-6 p.m. Drawing and Painting: Tuesday 5-6 p.m. Clay/Pottery: Thursday 5-6 p.m. Please call Del Seaman at the Artistic Hand Gallery for information or to register: 407-366-7882. The Artistic Hand Gallery is located at 353 N. Central Ave., Oviedo.

A thought: "I've learned that trust is the single most important factor in both personal and professional relationships." —H. Jackson Brown Jr.

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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Wings of spring

STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

Spring has arrived and these warmer daytime temps are definitely welcome. It's certainly been a unique winter with colder temperatures and recent heavy rains resulting in higher than average water levels. The St. Johns River north of Lake Harney is nearing 5 feet and everywhere you look the ditches and retention ponds are full and still flowing.

Speculation abounds what all this means for us during hurricane season 2010. Weather experts are calling for this being a very active season. Is it just me or don't they always say that? Looking back to 1998 we also had high water levels in spring. Unfortunately that was followed by unusually dry weather that brought a summer of fires. This is a good time of year to walk around your property and assess your risk against both fire and flood. Trees, brush, debris, flammable items, low spots and fencing all need to be evaluated while things are calm and resources are available.

Out in the rural areas birds are one of our earliest signals that spring is on the way. Warmer days bring out the chatter and activity of all the usual suspects — eagles, hawks, sandhill cranes, woodpeckers, robins, red birds and more. Seems to me there's been a lot of little mosquitoes too. We can do without them, right? People always ask me

if we have a lot of mosquitoes since we live near the water. I hope I will still be able to say that they're not any bigger problem here than anywhere else.

One of my favorite places to visit is the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey rehabilitation center in Maitland. This wonderful operation has worked with more than 12,000 injured and orphaned raptors since 1979. Tucked just off U. S. Highway 17-92 and Lake Avenue it is an opportunity to see all kinds of birds of prey up close. Coming up on May 8 is the center's annual Baby Shower, in which visitors can donate all kinds of needed supplies to the center.

During the season when lots of baby birds are born, the center incurs greater costs and benefits from community help. All kinds of cleaning, educational, medical and basic supplies such as paper towels, garbage bags, even certain types of baby food are needed. Their complete list is available on the Web site at audubonofflorida.org and there is a detailed Owl Baby Shower wish list. Call 407-644-0190 for more details. Cost is normally \$5 but on the shower day a gift will be accepted as admission. Years ago we brought an injured barred owl to the center and it was a wonderful experience to see how caring and competent this team is.

Our local kindergartners from Geneva Elementary will be going to the Lukas Nursery Butterfly Garden next week. What a great field trip and perfect way to usher in spring just before Spring Break and Easter. What little one doesn't love butterflies?

Good weather brings other signs of spring such as spring cleaning and garage sales. Our neighbors in Seminole Woods are having their big community sale this Saturday, so stop by for some great deals.

In Geneva and Chuluota, spring also has come to mean ramping up for the Annual Geneva/Chuluota Relay for Life Event. One of our favorite fundraisers is the Chili Cook-Off, Craft Sale and Bake sale from noon to 6 p.m. at the Jolly Gator Fish Camp off State Road 46. It's a great family event whether you want to participate in the cook-off by competing or tasting. Get to know Seminole Voice Associate Editor Isaac Babcock as he serves as a guest judge at the event. I can't think of a better cause and a fun time on what should be a beautiful spring day. Call 407-402-3993 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.

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Come get a taste of Oviedo

Organizers expect more than 30,000 visitors to chow down on April 17

KATIE KUSTURA
THE VOICE

Oviedo is planning an event to draw a crowd that's the size of its population — and then some.

And the Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce should have no trouble, considering the big change made to this year's Taste.

"This is the 16th Taste of Oviedo and this is the first year we've had free admission," said Del Burfitt, executive vice president of Citizens Financial Partners. "There's no gates. They can walk right in and partake in anything that's going on."

Last year, admission was \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

More than 200 vendors of arts and crafts, food and activities will be present at this year's Taste, held along Oviedo Boulevard.

"It's more than just an arts and crafts show. It's more than just a taste of restaurants," said Cathy Mackall, director of Marketing and Events for the Commerce. "A family can come and have a very inexpensive day. It's entertainment for everyone."

With live entertainment on the main stage all day, an exotic car show, the Citrus and Celery Cook-off and a special setup just for kids, there's plenty to do.

"Our kid's taste area has grown this year," Mackall said. "We're going to have a ropes course for the first time. I cannot wait to do that myself!"

In addition to the ropes course, a \$5 wristband will gain kids access to a rock climbing wall, bounce houses and a giant slide.

The exotic car show will have 10 to 15 cars on display that have a combined value of more than \$3.5 million.

"I really want to see those cars. I've been a car buff since I've been about 14," Burfitt said. He also said that the Chamber is trying to bring in one of the famous NASCAR race-cars to put on display.

One event that has great meaning to the area is the Citrus and Celery Cook-off. Megan Sladek, a member of the Board of Directors for the Oviedo Preservation Project, said before the citrus and celery industries took off, Oviedo was a destitute town.

"[The Citrus and Celery Cook-off] is as old as Taste of Oviedo, and the only rule is that whatever you cook has to include either citrus or celery," Sladek said. "That's a pretty flexible requirement."

One person who is already feeling the success of the event is Gladys Caughel. Caughel is a local painter and was chosen to make the new



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK - THE VOICE

Culinary delights await visitors at the 16th annual Taste of Oviedo, featuring attractions including an exotic car show and the Citrus and Celery Cookoff.

poster for this year's Taste.

"I'm honored," said Caughel at last Thursday's Chamber Luncheon. "To see something that you have done from start to finish, to see that come off the presses will be absolutely wonderful, and they say I can be there as the first one comes off the press."

Caughel will be at an artist's booth and will be available to sign copies of the new illustration for this year's Taste.

All of these attractions should make this Taste the best attended one in its history.

"We've always had great attendance," said Oviedo-Winter Springs

Region Chamber of Commerce Director of Membership and Finance, Peggy Allen. "We've always gotten in anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 people every year, but we wanted to draw out even more people this year."

Taste of Oviedo

Taste of Oviedo is on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oviedo Boulevard. Admission is free. Visit TasteofOviedo.org for more information.

FLOTILLA | Friends of Lake Jesup's efforts on hold until a new leader steps up

< continued from the front page

said Wheeler, Means' godson. "Wherever George is, I know he knows this bridge is here. And he's scheming right now how to nudge the Army Corp of Engineers to go ahead and open the channel."

In a small dedication ceremony on a rainy Sunday morning, a small group of local environmentalists came together to honor Means and the history of the bridge. They gathered some 40 strong in the shade under the bridge, sitting on green plastic lawn chairs.

The ceremony didn't

have the flash and flair and back patting typical of government ceremonies. Instead, it was a group of environmentalists, many of whom were directly involved in the process, celebrating Means' contribution to Seminole County.

"Through all this, George was stirring the pot somewhere," Wheeler said. "George was one of the only people I knew that could have walked across the state of Florida shaking hands. He never forgot a name and never forgot an association, and he used them."

Originally, the group had planned to have a flo-

tilla on the lake Sunday, but the weather canned that plan. The group talked about what was next for the lake — specifically, getting Government Cut Canal removed to restore the natural water's flow.

There's \$5 million set aside in an Army Corp of Engineers fund for the project, but environmentalists fear it will disappear without action.

The ceremony was bittersweet, though, as Robert King — who, many have said, was responsible for seeing Means' dream to fruition — announced that the Friends of Lake Jesup were

ostensibly dead. That group has been instrumental in getting both the George C. Means Bridge and the restoration process for Lake Jesup up and running.

King talked about how the cleanup for the lake has been delayed again; he said he's changed his whole outlook. He bought a boat that runs in mud because the lake is going to be mud for the rest of his life.

"The Friends (of Lake Jesup) have not met," King said. "Everybody figured out that the Friends aren't meeting. It's at an end. The good guys winning is at an end. The bad guys are win-

ning again."

King made a call to the group under the bridge for a leader to come forward. No one picked up King's crown.

"Don't look to a group called the Friends of Lake Jesup to fix the lake unless somebody picks it up and runs with it," King said. "... Basically, within the next few weeks, I'm gonna start the process of dismantling the whole thing. Until somebody else restarts this thing, we're on hold."



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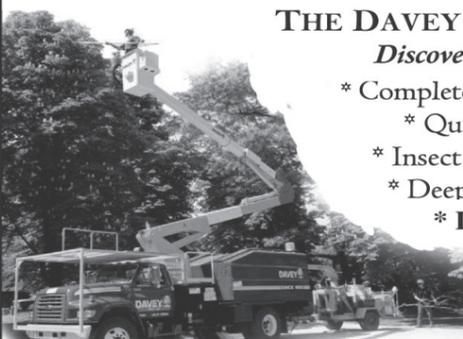
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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Mar. 29, 1927 —

Major Henry O'Neil de Hane Segrave became the first man to break the 200-mph barrier. Driving a 1,000-horsepower Mystery Sunbeam, Segrave averaged 203.8 mph on the course at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Life in the line of fire

Combat simulation turns recreational

COURTNEY GILMARTIN
THE VOICE

It's 9:25 p.m. as J.R. Gonzalez bursts through a black door and races across the dimly lit floor of an Oviedo warehouse in a running crouch with an M-16 in his hand. Shouts from behind identify enemy snipers only a few yards ahead. He picks up speed to cross into the shadows.

Special forces operations come naturally for Gonzalez, but this recent UCF grad has never taken orders in olive drab. Heart pounding, he kneels behind a wooden crate with his assault rifle's laser sight peeking just over the top. He squints his right eye and squeezes his right index finger. This is as close as he may ever come to real combat.

He's not saving the world or fighting in a war; He's leading a mission at Hard Knocks, an indoor combat sports arena and gaming lounge.

Tucked behind a row of warehouses a mile north of UCF, the unassuming tan building hides another world inside.

Gamers simulate situations such as freeing hostages and diffusing bombs in Hard Knocks' two 15,000-square-foot combat arenas, where players take down their enemies by shooting infrared beams

at their targets' vests and guns.

Helping to pump the adrenaline harder is the smoky war zone that reverberates with blood-curdling screams, rapid gunfire and alarms. Heightening the stress factor are grenades and anti-personnel mines scattered about the Coliseum that look all too real.

Although combat is intense and realistic, the fun of Hard Knocks is that the only bruises the touch-free combat will leave are on participants' egos.

Gonzalez, 25, already seems like a pro, though he's been to Hard Knocks only a handful of times. Players often take the simulations quite seriously, he said. Gonzalez has several friends in the military, and has seen gamers utilizing combat strategies such as fire team tactics and squaring the target.

"If you have military training it helps, but it's just free-for-all fun," Gonzalez said. "It's like paintball or anything else like that. You get into it."

Hard Knocks owners Joe and Dena Wheeler left their respective jobs as a consultant and schoolteacher to create Hard Knocks, which opened in 2007. They were inspired by action movies and video games, and wanted to turn them into a live,



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Assault rifle in hand, J.R. Gonzalez takes aim in a military operation simulation at Hard Knocks.

interactive business.

The Wheelers designed the facility, arenas and missions so that they would appeal to different audiences and age groups.

Joe said that birthday parties and summer camps were profitable no-brainers, but that in order to succeed as a business, they would have to market the business to different segments of the community.

"Coming from the corporate world, I knew that there's not a lot of edgy, instructional entertainment for team building," he said. "Even though companies are downsizing and having tough economic times, they're still looking to better engage their people."

Hard Knocks' corporate

team building clients have included Hyatt hotels and Chili's restaurants. To set the corporate stage, the couple set up bookcases, cubicles and copy machines and even has office tunes playing in the background to set the mood.

Dena said that law enforcement, like police officers and military groups, were another easy customer bracket because those groups typically have smaller budgets and lack training areas within their own facilities.

Hard Knocks also hosts everything from youth group gatherings to bachelor parties, and offers promotions to students from local colleges and those who bring in good report cards.

UCF student Ashley Baldwin, 19, frequent Hard Knocks on Thursday nights, which is Ladies Night, for free, unlimited combat.

"There are different tasks you have to do every time, so it's never repetitive," said Anton of the 35 different 3- to 7-minute missions.

Hard Knocks

Hard Knocks, a combat simulation venue and gaming lounge, is located at 5707 Dot Com Court, Suite 1025 in Oviedo. To learn more about Hard Knocks visit www.indoorwar.com or call 407-359-9091.

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Family Calendar

Take a walk on the wild side while raising money for Hope and Help Center during Sanford Stroll, which will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens. The event is free, and there will be entertainment, a scavenger hunt, food and prizes.

Sanford pottery studio Hot Pots is hosting spring art camps from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday March, 29, through Friday, April 2, for children ages 7 and older. Each day will feature a different 90-minute project, and the camp costs \$10 per session or \$40 for the week. Visit www.HotPotsSanford.com for more information.

Adolescents and teens ages 11 to 15 can learn the importance of leadership, infant care, accident prevention and basic CPR and First Aid at a babysitter course. Courses will be from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9, and Saturday, May 8 at Riverside Park in Oviedo. The course costs \$45 for Oviedo residents and \$65 for non-residents. Call 407-971-5575 to register.

Enjoy a fun-filled night of Bingo at Family Bingo Night, which begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 14, at Riverside Park in Oviedo. Each card costs \$2, and prizes will be awarded to the winners of each game. Businesses and organizations wishing to donate prizes should call Jenette McKinney at 407-971-5591.

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 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.

Nirva Vassa from Sanford Middle School was one of more than 120 middle and high school science fair champions from Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Polk and Volusia counties who unveiled their science projects on Saturday, March 13, at the Orlando Science Center Science Challenge. Vassa won in the junior division in the chemistry category with her project "I Got C".



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

Children at a past Orlando Science Center spring break camp learn about "Science on a Sphere." Many camps are being offered.

Arts, sciences, history and even basketball are the subjects of camps next week

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Spring break camps can be a great way for kids to explore new interests and preview activities for summer camp. Camps may require pre-registration or fill up quickly — call for enrollment details. Orange County Public Schools spring break is Monday, March 29, through Friday, April 2; Seminole County's is the following week, April 5-9. Here are some spring break camps around town:

In Orange and Seminole counties:

Orange County Regional History Center
65 E Central Blvd,
Orlando

During "The Making of a Superhero" kids will explore the courage and nobility of both real and make-believe superheroes and learn what makes a hero.

It's appropriate for grades K-5. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m. Extended day is available until 6 p.m. for an additional \$10 per child, per day. The cost for members is \$100 per child, per week;

non-members are \$125 per child, per week.

Call 407-836-8500, e-mail educationprograms@ocfl.net or visit www.thehistorycenter.org.

Orlando Magic Spring Break Basketball Camp

Camp is held for both Orange and Seminole counties.

From March 29 - April 2 it is held at the RDV Sportsplex near Maitland, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando.

From April 5-9 it is held at Lake Mary Preparatory School, 650 Rantoul Lane, Lake Mary.

The camp includes 20 hours of instruction from the National Basketball Academy and a free ticket to a home Magic game. It is for boys and girls ages 7-16; all skills levels welcome. Camp hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$155.

Applications are available at www.OrlandoMagicCamps.com. Call 407-916-HOOP (4667).

Victory Martial Arts Spring Break Camps

In Orange County the camps are offered at:

> turn to NEXT PAGE



Second-graders at Eastbrook Elementary were asked:

"What's your favorite healthy snack?"

Interested in getting your face on *The Buzz*? Call us at 407-563-7026 and ask for associate editor Jenny Andreasson to sign up for a visit to your school.



"I like all grapes, apples and carrots."
— **Rachel,**
age 7



"I like sliced apples with crunchy peanut butter and celery with ranch dressing."
— **Skylar,**
age 7



"I like green, seedless grapes, whole carrots and oranges."
— **Ruben,**
age 7



"I like strawberries, sliced green apples, oranges and purple grapes."
— **Shanna,**
age 8



"I like corn, grape juice and smooth peanut butter and grape jelly."
— **Devin,**
age 7

Cops grapple on the gridiron



Oviedo and Winter Springs police officers battled on the football field Saturday, trading their badges and guns for pigskins and cleats to raise money for Kids House of Seminole.

PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

SPRING BREAK | Rock climbing, martial arts and gymnastics are some of the spring break options

< continued from previous page

2175 Aloma Ave., Winter Park (call 407-671-7300)
783 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando (call 407-736-0222)

In Seminole County the camps are offered at:

931 North State Road 434 #1295, Altamonte Springs (call 407-774-5400)

3855 Lake Emma Road, Lake Mary (call 407-444-5636)

150 Alafaya Woods Blvd, Oviedo (call 407-977-5200)

For non-members of

Victory Martial Arts arrange to meet with the staff in advance to see if this camp will be a good fit. Campers learn martial arts basics which develops fitness, self-confidence and self-defense. Visit www.victoryma.com.

Just Seminole County:
Aiguille Rock Climbing Center's Spring Break Camp 2010

999 Charles St., Longwood
Campers strengthen minds and bodies, no climbing experience necessary.

Camp is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 407-332-1430 or visit <http://www.aiguille.com>.

PAL Spring Day Camp

Held by the Police Athletic League at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, it's \$90 per child per week. Fee includes activities like skating, bowling, movies, arts and crafts, including a field trip to SeaWorld.

"We keep our kids busy with activities inside and out," said PAL's Pam Kaiser.

Download the applica-

tion and send to Pam Kaiser at 100 Bush Blvd, Sanford. Spring and summer camps are held at 1151 E. 28th St., Sanford. Call 407-708-7641 or visit www.seminolecountypal.org.

Dinamo Sanford/Lake Mary Gymnastics

901 Central Park Drive, Sanford

Kids ages 3 to 14 years will receive daily gymnastics instruction. Bring your own lunch plus two snacks and two drinks. The cost is \$40 for one full day; \$100 for

three full days; \$140 for five full days. Call 407-302-2044 or visit www.dinamosanfordgym.com.

In Orange County: Art Camp at the Orlando Museum of Art

2416 N Mills Ave., Orlando

Students will create collages, eco-art and paintings while exploring landscape paintings, photographs and contemporary art. Programs are for grades 1-6. Pre-registration is required.

Classes are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids should wear closed toe shoes and dress for mess. The cost for five days is \$200, \$180 for museum members. The daily rate is \$40-\$45, with a \$5 fee per child per day for early drop and late pick up. Call 407-896-4231 ext. 262, e-mail info@omart.org or visit www.omart.org.

Orlando Science Center's Spring Break Camps

777 E. Princeton St., Orlando

At "Seahorses, Sharks, and Scales, Oh My!" students explore the ocean including sharks, seahorses and other ocean dwellers. "Spring Break camp is a great time," said Mike Lowe, director of marketing.

Camp times are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pricing includes care from early drop-off at 7:30 a.m. to late pick-up at 6 p.m. Fees range from one day for \$50-\$60 to five days for \$195-\$225. Call 407-514-2112, e-mail reservations@osc.org or visit www.osc.org.



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Celebrity Appearances By:



Jack Bradshaw, an On-Air member of Real Radio's The Philips Phil, WTKS 104.1 FM.



Dr. Anna Marie, health specialist for the Weather Channel, is leading the Greenovation of Terra Verde project in central Florida that is transforming a 1970's energy inefficient home into an energy efficient, eco friendly and ultimately healthy home.

Cinema

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

Coming April 9



Photo courtesy Twentieth-Century Fox

'Date Night'

Coming April 16



Photo courtesy Lionsgate

'Kick-Ass'

Coming April 23



CBS Films

'The Back-up Plan'

'How to Train Your Dragon' — Opens Friday



Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures

Hiccup is a young Viking and a member of a clan that wars with dragons. When he captures and befriends one of the beasts, he learns there's more to dragons than he's been told.

PG - 1 hour 38 minutes

Coming April 30



Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

'A Nightmare on Elm Street'

Also opening: 'Hot Tub Time Machine'



Photo courtesy MGM

Four friends on a modern-day retreat step into a hot tub and accidentally travel back to the '80s, where they meet past acquaintances and try to improve their lives.

R - 1 hour 40 minutes

Coming next week



Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

'Clash of the Titans'

PG-13

Notes

Congratulations to Matthew Benedict, a Geneva resident and Oviedo High School graduate who was recently accepted into the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

are music teacher Suzette Swallow, Evans Elementary; language arts teacher Nicole Rosemeyer, Sanford Middle; and social studies teacher Bradford Barsalou, Crooms AOIT.

Seminole County Public Schools will announce the 2011 Teacher of the Year on Thursday, April 1, at Winter Springs High School. The finalists

Robie Learning Center is hosting a summer SAT Prep program at First Baptist Church in Winter Springs. Call the center at 407-415-5470 for more

information.

Third grade students in Stacy Pluto's math class at Crystal Lake Elementary in Lake Mary participated in World Math Day, where they challenged students from 235 countries, including China and New Zealand, at timed math drills. Congratulations to the "McPluto

Mathletes," who placed ninth in the world.

Two nursing professors from Seminole State College have been selected from nursing faculty throughout the United States to participate in a national conference to develop nursing education strategies. Latoya Wells and Marilyn Wells will

take part in the Quality and Safety Education in Nursing Education Consortium Institute from April 14 to April 16 in Washington, D.C.

The Florida PTA State Reflections awards have been announced, and four Seminole County Students have won "Awards of Excellence." Congratulations to Lola Dragosavac, photography, Lake Mary Elementary; Clair Pelletier, visual arts, Lake Orienta Elementary; Lizzie Yakovleva, dance choreography, Partin Elementary; and Lennifer Ladines, film production, Keeth Elementary. The students will represent Florida at the national level of the Reflections competition and will be honored at an awards ceremony at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at Winter Springs High School.

Nearly 215 golfers helped the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools raise more than \$40,000 at its annual Golf "FORE" Education Tournament, which recently took place at the Alaqua Country Club in Longwood.

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407 323-1040



Benedict

Calendar

Support students at Evans Elementary School in Oviedo at the Founder's Day Family Fun Night fundraiser at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 26. Families will enjoy an obstacle course, bounce house, basketball challenge, teacher dunk tank and other carnival games. Call 407-739-0325 for more information.

Seminole State College will be celebrating the \$85 million transformation of its Sanford/Lake Mary campus from Friday, March 26, through Sunday, March 28, with a weekend of events focused on music, theatre and art. The community is invited to attend the free events, which include a concert by the college's jazz band, the debut of a new planetarium show and an inaugural 5K run/walk to support athletic scholarships. Visit www.seminolestate.edu for more information.

Join the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society for the Spring Mineral & Gem Show at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. The event will be held from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 28. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, and parking is free.

The Orlando Scottish Rite will bring history back to life with WWII reenactments, military vehicle displays and a USO-themed party that begins at 10 a.m. on both Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28. The free events will be held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1485 Grand Road, Winter Park.

Join St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, for a 5K Road Race Challenge to support Help for Haiti. The race will be held at

St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 869 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs. Call 407-339-7301 for more information.

The grand opening of the City of Winter Springs' permanent dog park will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 27. The event will be held at "Hound Ground" which is located next to Central Winds Park. There will be training and agility demonstrations, a dog parade, contests and more.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Geneva/Chuluota is hosting a chili cook-off fundraiser from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 at the Jolly Gator Fish Camp. There will be a craft sale, bake sale and raffles, and all are welcome to enter a pot of chili. Pre-registration for the cook-off is \$5, and registration the day of the event is \$10. Call 407-402-3993 for more information.

The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in Sanford is hosting The Family Series/Children's Weekend Show production of "Once Upon A Time," which will be playing at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 28. Tickets are available the day of the show and on <http://waynedenschperformingartscenter.com/>.

Celebrate the music of Frank Sinatra with the Altamonte Jazz Ensemble. A Tribute to "Ol' Blue Eyes" will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 28 at the Eastmonte Civic Center, 830 Magnolia Drive. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Seminole County Friends of Abused Children is kicking off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month by hosting its 10th annual Light of Hope Ceremony to remember the victims of child abuse. The

ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 28 at Cranes Roost Amphitheatre.

Former Winter Springs Mayor Paul Partyka, a Democratic candidate for Florida's District 24 Congressional seat, is hosting a golf outing for campaign staffers, contributors and supporters. The event will begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday March, 30, at Black Bear Golf Club, 24505 Calusa Blvd., Eustis.

Talented student-artists will display their work at the Seminole County Public Schools' Advanced Placement Art Show. The opening reception will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, at the AAA Headquarters, 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow. The artwork will be showcased through Tuesday, April 20.

The history of Florida's crackers, cows and horses will come alive with a presentation by two well-known experts of cracker lore, Ellison Hardee and Cecil Tucker. The presentation, which is a part of the Museum of Seminole County History's Heritage Lecture series, will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 1 at the museum in Sanford.

Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft will be the featured speaker at

the Christian Chamber of Central Florida's business building lunch at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, at First Baptist Orlando. Tickets cost \$20 for chamber members and \$30 for non-members. Call 407-814-1124 for more information.

Support cystic fibrosis research at the Cruising for Cystic Fibrosis Motorcycle Poker Run fundraiser, which begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 10 at Seminole Harley Davidson in Sanford. Visit www.cruisin4cfcpokerrun.com for more information.

The Frankie Valli tribute band Let's Hang On will be performing at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, at the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available the day of the show and on <http://waynedenschperformingartscenter.com/>.

Jeff Rupert and the UCF Jazz Ensemble will play at the Central Florida Jazz Society's April concert, which begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 11 at the Plaza Theatre, 425 N. Bumby Ave., Orlando.

Longwood restaurant the Melting Pot will donate \$10 from each cheese fondue purchase made on Sunday, April 11, to Camp Boggy Creek in honor of National Cheese Fondue Day.

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Drinking to Your Health

By Kar-Yee Ng, MD
Oviedo Family Medicine Specialists

Losing weight is a beast that haunts most of America. More than two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese, and the numbers (and waist lines) are growing, according to an article by Elizabeth Dennis in the journal *Obesity*. Most people who are overweight know the recipe for losing those extra pounds: diet and exercise. Even though we've all heard it before, it's difficult to put into practice. After a long day of work or school, we're exhausted, and the last thing on our minds is taking a jog around the neighborhood or hitting the weights at the gym.



There's no magic pill that can replace good old diet and exercise, but studies suggest that drinking more water significantly increases loss of body weight and fat in overweight people, independent of diet and activity, says Jodi Stookey in *Obesity*. Water makes up 60 to 70 percent of adults and is crucial to the essential functions that occur in the human body. Human beings can only survive days without water. Staying hydrated is necessary in energy production, toxin removal, repair of cells and many other functions. It's not surprising then that water is needed to burn calories and fat.

That's great news! Drinking water is something so simple that everyone can add it to their daily routine (in addition to the dieting and exercise). We can all carry a bottle of water to work or school and drink to our hearts' content. So, let's have a toast then—here's to a more hydrated and healthier you!

At Oviedo Family Medicine Specialists, we're committed to helping you maximize your health and take control of the weight loss beast. If you want more information, please call 407-366-8856. We're located right off of Highway 417 in the Oviedo Marketplace at 8000 Red Bug Lake Road, Suite 100, Oviedo, FL 32765. See you soon!

Dennis, Elizabeth A., and et al. Water Consumption Increases Weight Loss During a Hypocaloric Diet Intervention in Middle-aged and Older Adults. *Obesity*. 2010;18:300-307. Stookey, Jodi D, and et al. Drinking Water is Associated With Weight Loss in Overweight Dieting Women Independent of Diet and Activity. *Obesity*. 2008;16:2481-2488.

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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

April 8, 1935 —

Congress voted to approve the jobs-creating project Works Progress Administration, a central part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal." The careers of several important American artists, including Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, were launched thanks to WPA endowments.

Lost your job? Don't be afraid to ask for help.

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



This week's topic is really a serious one. I have had a couple of people send in questions related to finances and sat with a few others who were really hurting financially.

The loss of a job is devastating. In this economy, be prepared for it to take longer than you expect

to find a new job. It's fine to take a few days off to reflect and grieve the loss, but after that, it's time to get busy with the search.

If you are eligible for unemployment benefits, please file for them. I had someone tell me they didn't want to take a handout. It's not a handout, it's an insurance benefit that you and your employer paid into. This man had one more month of savings before tapping into his 401(k), and he would rather take the tax penalty for that than file unemployment. He is not alone.

Next, if you lose your job, and

you have a 401(k) or severance package, contact a financial planner. Check with the Better Business Bureau — there are many good ones out there. They can help you find the best way to deal with debt and stay out of trouble. Before you lose your job is actually the time to plan.

Lastly, do not be afraid to ask for help. We are so worried about what people think or that someone else needs help more than we do, that we would rather suffer in silence than ask for help. Christian HELP and other agencies like us are there to assist you. By using the resources

available to you, it will help with your search and ease your burdens.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Focus is on jobs in Legislature

I'd like to update you on my last article on the proposed budget from the governor. The total amount that the governor proposes the state spend for next year is \$69.2 billion, an increase more than the \$66 billion allocated for the current fiscal year. When I first took office in 2006, our state budget was \$73 billion; however the economic turmoil over the last few years has certainly taken its toll on the state. Out of the major policy areas, the breakdown is as follows for "The People's Budget":

- 3.1 percent allocated to Environment
- 2.6 percent allocated to General Government
- 0.6 percent allocated to the Legislature/Governor
- 7.5 percent allocated to Public Safety
- 14.1 percent allocated for transportation and economic development.
- The governor's pro-

posed budget requests an allocation of \$21.5 billion for education (31.1 percent of his budget proposal) and \$28.4 billion for health and human services (41.1 percent of his budget proposal). As you can see, 72.2 percent of next year's budget as proposed by the governor is for the state's two core missions.

The governor's budget outlines his paramount concerns about ensuring Floridians are finding gainful employment and striving to make businesses stronger. The governor is proposing a 1 percent reduction on the corporate income tax rate on the first \$1 million of a corporation's taxable income while also providing for a 10-day back to school sales tax holiday as in previous years. This tax holiday, according to the governor, will help Florida's families save on school essentials such as clothing and supplies while also stimulating the economy.

The governor's proposed budget places a strong emphasis on funding education, with an estimated \$22.7 billion to be allocated for Pre-K-12 education and a 2.61 percent increase for public per-student funding. He is also calling for increased funding for community colleges and universities. His budget also calls for continued funding for the continued steady decrease of Florida's prison population, while also looking to preserve Florida's abundant natural resources.

His optimism about Florida's economic future is one to admire, and I commend him for his continued dedication to education and health and human services. While his budget is certainly fiscally optimistic with the inclusion of an unconfirmed \$1 billion in aid from the federal government and \$400 million from a gambling compact, we in the Florida House must continue to be more

Editorial Cartoon



diligent in our concentrated efforts on ensuring the budget is balanced fairly and properly the first time. If this is not accomplished, we risk having to reduce the budget mid-year and possibly causing disruptions in certain programs and agencies.

It is important to remember that the key to Florida's economic recovery will be jobs, jobs, jobs. I, along with my colleagues

in the Florida House, will continue to focus on job creation and economic development during the legislative session. I welcome your feedback. If you are interested in learning more about the governor's proposed budget or have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 407-884-2023. As always, it is an honor to serve you.

—State Rep. Bryan Nelson

Young Voices

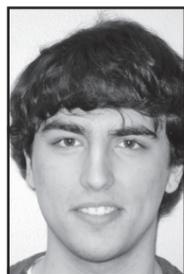
Here's what seniors at Lake Mary High School had to say about being National Merit finalists and semifinalists.



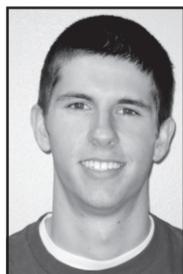
Being a National Merit Finalist will help me get into a good college. I've applied to University of Florida, University of Chicago, Princeton and Harvard. I'd like to go into politics, writing or psychology.
—Anna W.
17 years old



My family is proud that I am a National Merit Finalist. I like computer sciences but haven't decided on a major yet. I'd like to attend a college like Auburn or Carnegie Mellon.
—Matt G.
18 years old



Being a National Merit Semi-Finalist is significant and made the difference for me for my choice of college. I'd like to go into civil engineering or architecture. Southern Methodist University is a top choice for me.
—Andrew F.
17 years old



It was interesting being compared with other National Merit Finalists across the country. ... I plan to ... major in microbiology. I plan to go to medical school and possibly specialize in orthopedic surgery.
—Austin R.
17 years old



My sister was also a National Merit Finalist and she attends Dartmouth. It is still up in the air where I will go to college. ... I'd like to attend a school with a strong liberal arts program. My parents ... attended Duke University.
—Charlie M.
17 years old

We would love to hear from your Young Voices!

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Answers

7	8	9	1	4	2	5	3
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Weekly SUDOKU

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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. Hat is black. 2. Bricks are different. 3. Dog's leg is hidden. 4. Bushes added near house. 5. Tree is wider. 6. Leash is longer.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



CURRENT HEALTH CARE SYMBOL

King Crossword

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- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 31 Tin Man's need | DOWN | 24 Weep loudly |
| 1 "Dragnet" star | 32 — de deux | 1 Cleanse | 25 Spy-novel grp. |
| 5 Steffi of tennis fame | 33 Towel designation | 2 Fair, for short | 26 Fine |
| 9 Society newcomer | 34 Hairless | 3 Rorschach figure | 27 Duel tool |
| 12 Car bar | 36 Lamb's dam | 4 Improved | 29 Carnival city |
| 13 "Mona —" | 37 Put an end to | 5 Smooth-talking | 30 Kreskin's claim |
| 14 Buckeyes' sch. | 38 Insurgent book | 6 Tractor-trailer | 35 Lair |
| 15 Focus on | 40 Lindbergh | 7 Blond shade | 37 Soap opera, e.g. |
| 17 Miss at a barn dance | 41 Pigs | 8 Deadly | 39 "Borstal Boy" author |
| 18 Spa | 43 Make fizzy | 9 It may include a pair of aces | 40 Drenched |
| 19 Terrible | 47 Trail behind | 10 Isaac's eldest | 41 Poor area of town |
| 21 Former partner | 48 "Don't let go!" | 11 Wall Street optimist | 42 Carry on |
| 22 City of India | 51 "That's 19-Across!" | 16 Illumination measure | 43 Tosses in |
| 24 "Lion King" baddie | 52 Dumb-founded | 20 Terse question | 44 Taj Mahal city |
| 27 Geological period | 53 Diva's delivery | 22 Speak slowly? | 45 Anything but that |
| 28 Shrek, for one | 54 Encountered | 23 Facility | 46 Greek vowels |
| | 55 Trawler gear | | 49 Have bills |
| | 56 Glaswegian girl | | 50 Allow |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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!

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ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

April 5, 1984 —

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored the 31,420th point of his career, breaking the NBA's all-time scoring record, which had been held by Wilt Chamberlain. The 7-foot-2 Abdul-Jabbar was born Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor Jr. in 1947 in New York City, and changed his name in 1971 after converting to Islam.

Knights sweep, Tars swept

UCF trounces Presbyterian by combined 31-4 runs in three-game series; Rollins falls in close game

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

A nine-run second inning set up a blowout for the Knights, as they easily defeated Presbyterian 10-2 March 21.

The win made a three-game sweep of the Blue Hose, and catapulted the Knights to a 13-8 record overall.

UCF had already socked it to the Hose in 15-1 and 6-1 routs Friday and Saturday before turning to their big bats again to deliver the final blow on Sunday.

And in the second inning, the Knights delivered, going on a nine-run scoring barrage that included two homeruns.

It was a long inning for the Hose, who watched some early pitching mistakes turn into a long run of hits for the Knights. After four runs scored on three singles and a sacrifice fly, Jonathan Griffin blasted a

shot that crossed the street over the left field fence, clearing the bases and bringing the score to 7-0.

Two batters later, Ryan Breen was up for his second at-bat of the inning. Three pitches later, he sent another shot over the left field wall to bring the score to 9-0.

The devastating rally left Presbyterian stunned. The Knights' Joe Rogers took care of the rest, holding the Hose to zero earned runs in five innings from the start, striking out two in the process.

Rogers' record improved to 3-0 with the win.

After traveling to Miami at press time, the Knights will take the long trip to Houston for a three-game series to open Conference USA play starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday. They'll return home against Bethune Cookman at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

A big second inning for the Knights left the Blue Hose stunned in their series finale Sunday, as the Knights piled on nine runs, batting around the order in the process. They travel to Houston on Friday.

Rollins Tars

The Rollins Tars fell to 19-10 after falling twice to Florida Tech at home last weekend. They fell in a 19-2 blowout in Game 1 before nearly exacting revenge in a nar-

row 6-5 loss March 21.

Tim Griffin pitched 4.2 hitless innings in relief Sunday while his team mounted a comeback, but the Tars' bats weren't enough.

The Tars travel to face Nova Southeastern this weekend, and then they return home against Saint Leo at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Horacio Gutiérrez

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— The Boston Globe

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Lions shock Wildcats in comeback

After starting the season in a slump, Oviedo shows spark in dramatic win

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

The Winter Park baseball team fell to 7-5 on the season thanks to a comeback shocker by the Oviedo Lions (5-8) in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Wildcats had dominated in the game up to that point, putting runners on base with ease as they batted around the order. But the Cats had trouble getting those batters across home plate, as the Lions shut them down just in time despite several innings of rallies.

Heading into the 7th inning the Lions were behind 3-2. They'd trailed for the entire game leading up to that point, but had

slowly chipped away at the Wildcats' lead.

But with runners on board and in scoring position in the 7th, the situation turned dangerous for Winter Park in a hurry. Oviedo's Blake Mitchell smacked a base-clearing hit to drive in two runs and swing the score in favor of the Lions. The Lions would hold on to win the upset, handing the Wildcats yet another loss.

The Lions will try to keep their momentum going this Friday against Hagerty. The game starts at 7 p.m., as the two teams meet for the second time this season.

The Lions will host Boone at 6 p.m. Monday.



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE
A two-run base-clearer in the seventh inning turned the momentum around for the Lions, who had trailed for most of the game against Winter Park on Monday. They play Hagerty on Friday night.

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