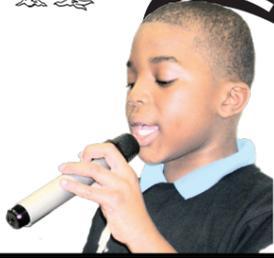




Seminole Voice



Singing loud > 7

A pioneering magnet school is changing how kids learn.



Mother's Day > 8

Where to go and what to do on mom's big day.



Mauled > 14

The Knights drop a big series against a C-USA foe.

www.SeminoleVoice.com

May 7 - May 20, 2010

Free!

Ex charged in death

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

An Oviedo woman called police at 2:40 a.m. Tuesday with a stab wound in her abdomen. Less than 14 hours later, she was charged with murder in the death of her recently ex-husband. Now police are saying she stabbed herself to make it look like he attacked her.

Robert Cline III was already dead when police arrived to investigate the scene, the apparent victim of multiple gunshot wounds.

Oviedo Police Lt. Mike Beavers said Cline and Anita Smithey had an "on-again, off-again" relationship during three years of marriage and after their divorce.

That ended for good after Beavers said it appeared Cline visited Smithey at her home on Corbin Court, and the two got into an altercation that quickly turned violent.

Cline was shot at least two times by a .38-caliber revolver, and police say that afterward Smithey stabbed herself with a small folding knife to make it appear like self-defense.

Police were called to end a domestic dispute between the couple last November, which launched an investigation into Cline possibly obstructing justice. He was never charged.

A passion for freedom



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Israeli dance troupe Re-Vital entertains the crowd in Altamonte Springs' Cranes Roost Park on April 25 during the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando's celebration of Israel Independence Day. The day was marked with high-energy events and prayer. *Continued on Page 2.*

Women take charge in Seminole County

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Teenager Karen Mills discovered a career by listening to her best friend's father tell stories of cops on the beat.

"I never thought about the danger. It was all about helping people," said Mills, Commander of the East Region, Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

Twenty-four years later she oversees one third of Seminole County's uniformed law enforcement division comprised of 100 personnel including Deputy Sheriffs, COP volunteers, sergeants, field officers, and investigators.

Mills is even-tempered, talks respectfully even to the bad guys, but her phone, radio, asp, taser and

pistol are always within reach. Her office is lined with trophies and honors, including the prestigious Diana Turner Award of Excellence Female Officer of the Year in 1993.

Mills' canine partner BOLO rode with her for nine years working many potential bomb threats after 9-11. They were welcome participants at the schools' DARE programs. Her loyal partner has passed away, and at times she can still hear the clink of his collar chains.

Mills' career advice to young women considering law enforcement, "Don't try to be one of the guys. Be yourself, stay mentally strong and well trained using all the tools available."



PHOTO BY KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS — THE VOICE

Lt. Karen Mills remembers her canine partner BOLO, a bomb specialist police dog who visited local schools during DARE week.

> turn to **WOMEN** on **PAGE 6**

USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 4.

What's goin' on?

The Rural Heritage Center will host its grand opening from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 15 at the Historic Geneva Schoolhouse.

Calendar > 11

INDEX

Celery Stalks	4
Stetson's Corner	5
Interests	7
Calendar	11
Letters	12
Young Voices	12
Classifieds and Games	13
Athletics	14

Cinema > Page 15



Tony Stark is back and now he must deal with pressure from the government, as well as face dangerous new enemies in this highly anticipated sequel.



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THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK in history

May 10, 1869 —
The transcontinental railroad is completed when the presidents of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads drove the last spike into the rail line in a ceremony in Promontory, Utah.

Celebrating Israel, festival style



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Continued from front page
With a uniquely Israeli passion, dancers and performers at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando's Israel Independence Day wowed the crowd along the sidewalks of Uptown Altamonte on April 25.

A future without water

Keep Seminole Beautiful talks about a rapidly shrinking supply that could leave the county dry

KRISTY VICKERY
GUEST REPORTER

Michael Barr carries his passion for conserving Florida's water like most people carry a purse on their arm — it goes with him wherever he goes.

"When I moved here ... I mentioned the word environment and people barely knew what it meant," Barr said. "Well, I found out I was wrong — they do know what it means and they have the same basic environmental problems here."

The executive director of Keep Seminole Beautiful, Barr has been trying to get these environmental problems addressed ever since he moved to Florida 32 years ago, and on April 22, he continued to pursue his quest with the help of

Seminole County League of Women Voters.

The event took place over Italian cuisine at Sergio's Italian Restaurant in Sanford, but Italian cuisine was not the main course — water ruled the menu on this Earth Day, as Barr, discussed the problems of serious water use and conservation challenges.

"Our current water practices are insane," Barr said. "All decisions with regard to water border on insulting ... and anybody with any level of common sense should understand we should be in a major conservation status, and we should be creating some serious innovative ways of dealing with the problem."

"Instead we're doing the typical government thing

of, 'my terms over in two years, four years, and that's as far as my horizon goes.'"

Barr is trying to change Florida's water practices and help people believe that conserving the fresh water we do have is more important than most people realize.

"It's so ludicrous that we are walking down this path when we don't have to," Barr said. "And we are all going to pay the price, a horrible price."

He said that every day we are losing valuable fresh water because we are pumping more water out of the Florida aquifer than what is being replenished.

"Now I'm not sure what you would describe as sustainability, but I know what you would describe as

not sustainable, and that's where you are taking more than you are giving," Barr said. "And eventually we are going to run out."

He said one of the big misconceptions on conserving water is that some people think because we have had rainy weather, we have enough water, but this is a misconception, because only a very small percentage of fresh water percolates into the aquifer, and the minute amount that actually reaches it will also not be used for a hundred years.

"And most of the high percolated areas, we have developed, and we develop more every day," he said. "So we get less and less water in the aquifer every day."

Seminole County resi-

dent Phyllis Currie said the most astonishing thing she learned during this event was that valuable fresh water is being pumped out of the St. John's River, for free, to be bottled and sold.

"This is crazy," Currie said. "You have to make them (our politicians) accountable ... the best way to get them to change their behavior is to shame them into it, or vote."

Environmental Studies Center founder Pat Burkett is also behind Barr all the way.

"We are going to have to look at ourselves — are we succeeding because we are sustaining?" Burkett said. "We can't keep paving over our land and using up the water and saying it's all in the means of progress, and our economy's going to die unless we do all these things, our economy's going to die if we can't supply the water for what we have."

The president of League of Women Voters said the best way to conserve water is to help others find a simpler way to live.

"What you do impacts the rest of the world," Jane Lane said. "So live simply, so others can simply live."

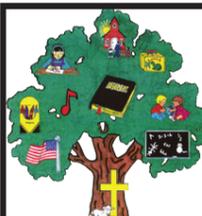
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Talking SunRail



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

U.S. Rep. John Mica, right, shakes hands with Winter Park Mayor Ken Bradley April 30 before speaking to local businessmen about what the SunRail system could do for commerce in the area.

Going Greek for a day



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Greek Donuts flew off the shelves at Greek Fest at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church just south of Altamonte Springs April 25. The festival exposed locals to culinary delights from Southern Europe.



ATTENTION! JAMESTOWN RESIDENTS

Water and sewer services are now available in your area!

Effective immediately, the Seminole County Community Development Office is accepting applications for water/sewer connection assistance.

Applications can be downloaded from the Community Services Web page under the Announcements section at: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/commsrvs/commdev/index.asp>

Applications may also be picked up from the Community Assistance Office (address below).

For additional information, please contact Tish Crampton at **407-665-2380**.

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534 W. Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford, Florida 32773



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Time for a road trip? I'm in!

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

The weather is great now, and school is not quite out, so my friends and I have decided it is road trip time. This way you venture places without all the children on the road with families — less traffic — and ideal weather. I am always ready when someone mentions a road trip — just tell me a date and time; I will be there.

A road trip took place last week with 17 dear friends from the Oviedo Woman's Club. It was off to Deland's Woodland Boulevard for shopping, eating and enjoying the friendship among us. It was a road trip alright — four SUVs heading north on Interstate 4. We certainly had a fun day and what even made it more exciting was the fact that we found free brochures on spots to eat and shop such as quilt stores, collectables, antiques and several boutiques. I don't think we missed any of the shops. Although we split into groups, the shop owners said, "Are you with the group from Oviedo? Those ladies just love to shop and they are so nice." We felt very welcome and certainly will go again.

I believe the same ladies have another road trip in mind toward the Winter Haven area, and yes, count me in for whatever date they decide. Some of the gals from the Oviedo Woman's Club like to end their year of hard work with fun and excitement.

Bojangles opens

Guess you all know the new restaurant Bojangles opened on May 3 at 5:30 a.m. Just a little too early for me, but I understand this place is lovely to look at, and the food is good as well.

Celery winners

I have been asked by lots of our town's people who won the Taste of Oviedo's Citrus and Celery Cook-off. So I checked with organizer Megan Sladek, and she was kind enough to furnish this information:

Grand Prize: Celery Meringue by Alyson Oscepinski

Citrus Division: 1st place Zesty Pulled Pork — Mike Randolph

Celery Division: 1st place Celery Meringue Pie — Alyson Oscepinski Professional Taste

Awards:

B&B Mac Salad — J.B. Bailey

Buffalo Chicken and Celery Blue Cheese Sammich — Robert King

Congratulations to all. I didn't have a taste of the goodies, but I sure am getting hungry writing this. For more information, check out the Web site at Oviedotraditions.org/cookoff/Cook-Off/cook-Off.html

Giving smiles

I am very happy to announce all the excellent work that the Oviedo Woman's Club's Sewing Group for Operation Smile (a donor matching fund) has done. As of last week, the group raised \$1,800 and that equals seven operations. When doubled, that means 15 operations for children with cleft pallet surgery in foreign countries. Check out the Smile Train Web site: www.smiletrain.org, Also, the gracious women are showing their support by making 30 quilts, 300 gowns and just more than 100 smile bags that these children will need before and after their operations. Wonderful ladies! All of these items will be sent to headquarters this week.

Pizza time

Keeth Elementary's Annual Senior Alumni Pizza Party celebrating this year's graduating seniors will be held Wednesday, May 19 at

2 p.m. in the media center at the school, 425 Tuskwilla Road, Winter Springs. Come visit with your teachers and enjoy the refreshments. For more information, please call the school 407-320-5350.

Here's the right one

Oops! I did a goof last issue with the Artistic Hand's Web address. The correct one is www.artistichandandgalleryandclasses.com. Don't forget, you still have time to register for summer set which begins the week of June 14 and adult summer classes will begin the week of May 31. For more information or to sign up, please call Del Seaman 407-366-7882.

New officers and a barbeque

The Oviedo Historical Society held its last general meeting of the 2009-2010 year. During the business meeting the following slate of officers were elected: President- Lars White, 1st VP- Jim Richardson, 2nd VP- Bea Gestrich, Secretary- Mindy Starling, Treasurer- E.P. Bruce and Historian- Gary Scarboro along with the two members-at-large- Dawn Jenson and Janet Foley. The meetings program was History Awards for the fourth grades of our city's elementary schools. The society had a full house of 75 with participants, parents, and society members enjoying everything, especially the light refreshments.

Just a reminder, The Historical Society is putting on an outdoor event on Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lawton House. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy music of all types — blue grass, R&B, gospel and more played by local bands and groups. We will also have eats — burgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies — all for \$1 each. Hope to see you there. Watch for upcoming fliers.

Happy Mother's Day

In a few days, we will be celebrating Mother's Day, all due to the efforts of Anna M. Jarvis back in the early 1900s. The first Mother's Day services were held on May 10, 1908, the anniversary of her mother's death. It was in 1914 that a bill was passed by Congress to establish the second Sunday in May as National Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all!

A thought

In a little lighter vein, this is one of my favorite thoughts, especially coming from a child like my great granddaughter. The son said, "Dad, were you a single parent before Mom came to work for us?"

TALK TO JANET

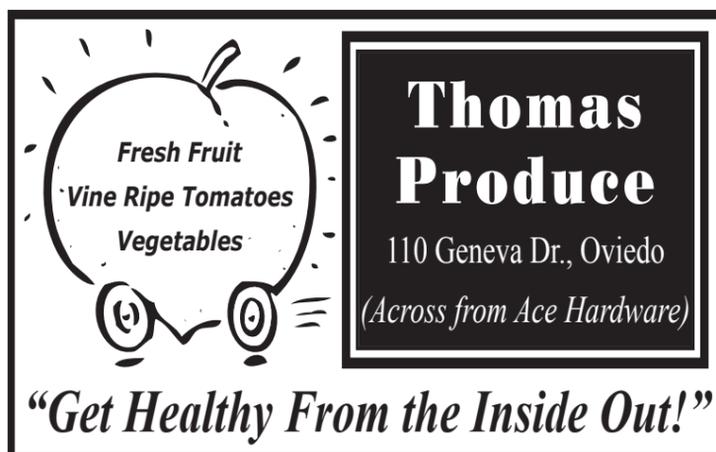
Send word to Janet Foley about events and let her know what's going on around town by e-mailing celerystalks@bellsouth.net.



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Mothers make us feel at home

STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

May is known for Mother's Day of course, and it brings us joy and tears as we celebrate the commitment that truly powers our planet, giving us pause as to why we call it mankind. It's hard to put into words what it means to have a devoted mother or mother figure at any point in our lives. Some lose their mother too soon. When it is illness such as cancer or a random traffic accident, there is an emptiness and yearning that feels raw and resentful. When mothers are taken from us by forces such as addiction, violence, divorce and abandonment, the pain feels deeply personal.

Women who selflessly fill in as mothers are so gratefully appreciated when they warm those empty heart spaces. These

nurturers are everywhere and come to the job without expectation, sometimes without experience.

They are colleagues, acquaintances, teachers, nurses, waitresses and women of every profession. They are sisters, aunts, neighbors and mothers of our best friends who see us shake off the loss as if it's no big deal but who just know we need a hug, a hot meal and a shoulder. They are women who may have never seen an ultrasound or experienced a labor pain but who care enough to give advice, lend a hand, intervene if necessary, throw together a dinner and make a midnight run to the pharmacy.

It even happens in the animal kingdom. Did you see the piece about the gray

tabby named Zoe who is nursing four bobcat kittens so they imprint with a similar species? Wildlife moms are so amazing. I haven't seen my deer moms yet, but a few days ago I did see a turkey mom with a dozen or so little fluff balls ruffling through the grass behind her.

So make this Mother's Day special for all the women in your life who care for you and yours. Tell them, show them and tell them again how much they mean to you. It will mean more than chocolates and perfume.

Rural Heritage Center BBQ
Don't forget the first annual Rural Heritage Center BBQ Saturday, May 15. It's a great family event and a chance to visit the RHC if you haven't had an opportunity yet. This is where the Brendon Squares square dancers have taken residence every week, where classes from basket weaving to quilting to photography and calligraphy have been happening since January.

This is hopefully the place that our next generations will learn about rural traditions that are still alive and sustainable. This event is new and will also be a fundraiser to help motivate more of us to support this fragile vision that many have worked so hard to bring to reality. Come inside and see the beautiful wood floor that was made and laid by our own Geneva residents, and enjoy the rooms, quilts, antiques and history the center represents. Volunteers are always needed to help with repair, construction, restoration and administration, so come out for the fun and fellowship and find a niche that suits you. Find more information at genevaschoolhouse.org.

July 4th Geneva Parade and Festival
It won't be long until the July 4th Geneva Parade and Festival is here. This year it will be celebrated on Saturday, July 3 and plans have been under way for a few weeks. Volunteers run

the event and more are always needed. Come to the next meeting on Saturday, June 5 at 8:30 a.m. in the Geneva Community Center if you want to help out. This parade and festival is one of the few in Central Florida that features horses, tractors, bike brigades, volunteer marching band, fire trucks, local celebrities and, of course, floats that compete for prizes. The theme this year is Geneva, Southern Style, and I hear there might be fireworks courtesy of the Geneva Baptist Church in the evening. It's a not-to-be-missed event, so come out and help make it happen!

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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From my GARDEN

to yours
Tom Carey



Fun with edible flowers

Pretty, easy, fun, and tasty are all descriptive of the nasturtium, a plant all of us should be growing in our gardens. The brightly colored flowers of red, orange, yellow and peach liven up our landscape and provide many benefits to the grower. The ultimate goal is the peppery flavored flowers, but there are several reasons to include this crop in every garden plan.

Seeds are commonly available or you can save your own. The large quarter inch seeds, placed a half inch deep in a well-drained

soil planting mix, germinate in a week. I plant six to eight seeds in an eight-inch pot set in a partially shaded area, such as under a citrus tree. In a few weeks, thin and transplant the spouted seeds to a garden bed while leaving a few in the pot. Moderate fertilization and irrigation are all that are required for a successful crop. I always have nasturtiums in several phases of growth around the garden.

As the plants grow, the round leaves trail off the flexible stems. Hanging baskets are an optional

growing method. In five to six weeks, flower buds appear, with a hint of color peaking out of the tip. The next day, bright colored flowers up to two inches in diameter will be nestled amongst the foliage.

Companion planting nasturtiums in the garden helps to repel several varieties of beetles and caterpillars. Squash grown in Florida is especially susceptible to numerous insect pests repelled by nasturtiums. This pest control is also true for the brassicas, which include broccoli, collards, mustards, and radishes. Imagine the panorama of brightly colored flowers dotting the garden, knowing the pests are being kept at bay by this pretty subterfuge.

The entire plant is edible. Pinch the flower's stem about an inch back. The leaves can be harvested this same way. Provide a safe collection basket for your edible flower harvest, as they are quite fragile. I'm all the time savoring a flower in the fresh air of the garden for the thrill of the immediate burst of flavor. Keep the harvest shaded and cool. Rinse the flowers ever so

lightly to avoid bruising the colored petals. (No wonder you can never find nasturtiums available at a retail produce counter.)

The bright colors top a salad of mixed garden greens surprisingly well. Don't mix the flowers into the salad since this will damage the effect. The leaves mixed with the other salad greens add their subtle peppery flavor. The leaves are also an excellent addition to stir fry blends, although the flowers wouldn't survive the wok at all.

By protecting the plants from the extremes of winter and summer weather, a nasturtium crop can be grown year round in Central Florida. With the motivations of beauty, companionship, flavor, and just plain fun, every gardener could be taking part in this joy of growing. I do, and so should you!

WHO IS CAREY

Tom Carey is the owner of Sundew Gardens, a you-pick gardening business in Oviedo. Visit the Sundew Gardens Facebook page.

WOMEN | Female fire chief started at the bottom as a volunteer firefighter

< continued from the front page

Lt. Jennifer Jenkins
Commander of the North
Region, Seminole County
Sheriff's Office

New Jersey native, Lt. Jennifer Jenkins was fascinated with police work and followed her brother into law enforcement. After moving to Florida she worked undercover in the high schools with the Seminole County drug unit. "That

was great training for me, it taught me how to self-manage and understand how quickly things can change," recalls Jenkins, who was promoted to Lieutenant in June 2009.

Her bright smile portrays a woman who loves her job. "I truly enjoy being with my team. My goal is to get everyone to their career goals," said Jenkins. She advises young girls, "Follow your dreams."

SCSO Captain Dennis Lemma commented on

his lieutenants, "They have phenomenal dynamics and are compassionate leaders who put the best interests of the citizens and their team above their own."

Fire Chief Leanna Mims,
Seminole County Fire
Department

Fire Chief Mims is part of a select group. She is one of only six female metro fire chiefs nationwide. At 17 she became a volunteer firefighter and remembers arriving on an accident

scene as a new EMT. "It was chaotic but being able to intervene, I realized what I wanted to do."

Mims said fire services have changed from the traditional picture of a fire truck and Dalmatian to an all-hazard emergency response operation which includes medical, auto crashes, special hazards, spills and technical rescues.

"You never know what you'll walk into," said Mims, whose responsibilities include 400 personnel, 18 stations, and 28,000 service calls annually.

"It's not about being the woman in charge, you have to set vision and communicate that to key people, empowering them to be leaders. It's not a one-person show."

Command structure and chain of command is critical. "It's imperative we respect it, otherwise we risk losing the edge in a chaotic situation," she said.

She admits that drops in funding and resources can affect morale.

"I have to always think about what we can do to take care of the team who takes care of the community," she said.

Her career advice to girls: "Find something that bothers you and try to fix it. No matter what career you choose, keep your principles and never give up your integrity."

Mark Oakes, SCFD Assistant Chief of Operations said Mims had a lot on her plate when she became chief.

"During her tenure, Chief Mims has had to take a quickly changing organization and reshape it to prepare for the future while maintaining and building traditions," Oakes said.

Maria Santana, interim director of University of Central Florida's Women's Studies Program, believes the keys to success for young women in any career

are leadership and communication. Girls under 8 years old are vocal and enjoy being noticed. But later they doubt themselves, become uncomfortable in leadership and are bombarded by media influences.

"We need to cultivate strong hearts and minds so they can be empowered at whatever career choice they make regardless of gender. Programs like Girl Scout and the UCF Young Women's Leadership Program can give them confidence. I believe our girls hold great promise."

Chief of Police Val B. Demings,
Orlando Police
Department

Florida State University Criminal Justice major Val B. Demings viewed police work as a way to pay for law school but she quickly realized that rescuing others was her calling. Patrolling the streets, she learned a fundamental truth she shares with recruits today. "When people are in crisis, they call us to make things right, that's what I love about what we do."

Her historic appointment in December 2007 gives her responsibility for over 1,000 personnel including 750 sworn officers. In her 26th year in law enforcement Demings strives to create an environment where the community is engaged and people are motivated to do their best.

Her career advice to young women, "Don't focus on who is in the field, focus on preparing yourself through education, training and volunteer opportunities, like our Explorer/Cadet program for example."

How does Demings stay balanced? "I refuel with meditation, yoga, worship and strong support from close friends and family."

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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

May 9, 1950 —

Lafayette Ron Hubbard, more commonly known as L. Ron Hubbard, publishes a book entitled, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." The book quickly caught on and eventually led to the belief system known today as Scientology.

Midway molding bright futures

Zymetris Acree is one of many benefitting from the arts school, which just dedicated its new campus

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

When Zymetris Acree walked into Midway Elementary school nearly four years ago, the kindergarten was quiet and shy.

But Ramona Acree recognized her son's musical talent shared by his two older brothers who sang with their mother and grandmother in church, even if he didn't.

"We couldn't even pay Zymetris to sing," said his mother who grew up in Midway and attended Midway Elementary.

But everything changed for Zymetris after experiencing magnet school Midway Elementary's Artful Learning teaching model that incorporates arts and creativity into the academic curriculum. He also received encouragement from teachers like Ivy Maxwell who teaches musical theater and piano. Maxwell encouraged her young students to try small solo performances in class and to participate in classroom plays.

"He grew bolder with each one," Maxwell said.

It didn't matter that the school was over six decades old and stood in a historic but economically poor community. It didn't matter that a new campus was still years away, temporarily confined to a flat blueprint. Each year Zymetris grew a little braver as he learned about creative movement,

instrumental music, vocal instruction and art.

Nine-year old Zymetris is now about to complete third grade and he sings with confidence in both solo and group performances. "Now we can't stop him from singing," his mother said.

Maxwell admires his ability to focus. "Zymetris' voice is versatile and mature. He can sing high and low notes with runs and rips, and he's willing to take risks with his voice."

Zymetris is an example of Principal Sharon Tanner's mission, "Growing scholars at Midway." Using a model developed by composer Leonard Bernstein, students experience four elements of learning: experience, inquiry, creativity and reflection. The method improves academic performance and instills a love of learning. Zymetris can read at a fifth grade level, which his homeroom and language arts teacher, Barbara Kellar describes as "quite common" at Midway. With this type of learning model students can progress at an accelerated pace up to an eighth grade level.

But Zymetris is still a typical boy who shares a room with his older brother, loves mac 'n cheese, video games, superhero books, and his chihuahua Charlie.

Singing comes naturally to Zymetris but bragging about it does not. Maxwell describes him as "humble and a wonderful young man

with a fantastic attitude."

Kellar and Maxwell applaud Zymetris' parents for always being on hand for his performances. "Zymetris' parents are extremely supportive, they never miss a beat."

Ramona remembers her parents' faces in the audience when she performed in the Midway chorus. "I was shy too. It's important for me to be there for him because my parents were there for me."

Each class incorporates a Master Work art form like Kellar's third graders who have learned about Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water house. "They learn that building a house is more than leveling trees."

The students also learn the balance of man and nature through an active earthworm compost pile in their classroom.

Kellar said Midway students don't shoot hands up in the air when asked a question. They are required to spend a few moments thinking about the question in order to give thoughtful answers — a process that works for Zymetris.

"This school has opened him up," Kellar said. "He doesn't mind giving answers in class and he backs up his answers in more depth. He has gained academic confidence from his singing ability. It takes courage to come out on stage."

During the dedication of the new campus at the end of April, Mary Larsen,



PHOTO BY **KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS** — THE VOICE
Third-grader Zymetris Acree practices for his performance of John Lennon's 'Imagine'. He's no longer microphone shy since attending Midway Elementary.

mother of a Midway student, thanked the teachers and staff "for teaching my child to think, which is priceless."

Zymetris performed "Imagine" with three other students at the school's official dedication on April 28 and he recently performed the entire song solo for the first time for an event at the Sanford Student Museum.

"Our new school is bigger and the classrooms look better. We can take dance, music and art classes, but we also study math and reading," said Zymetris, who wants to be a professional gospel singer.

Zymetris will perform in this year's dinner theater "Thoroughly Modern Millie Junior" — the first year that third graders are included.

Kellar believes in his future. "Zymetris is one of those children who will be very successful because he is confident now."

Midway Elementary School of the Arts is open to any student in Seminole County through an application process. By the end of April the school had accepted 205 applications out of 300 submitted. Midway Elementary actively works with community artists and arts organizations to provide additional resources for gifted students. The Steinway Society for example donates pianos to select students for free as long as they continue piano lessons.

Tanner thanked the Midway community and the Seminole County School Board for supporting both the old and the new campus and to her surprise the cafeteria/auditorium was named in her honor, The Dr. Sharon Tanner Performance Hall.

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SENIOR VOICE



150,000 grandparents in Florida are raising grandchildren — not exactly the retirement they pictured

BRITNI JOHNSON
GUEST REPORTER

Florida's known for its retirees. Sunny beaches, golf courses and warm weather lure the over 60 crowd with the hopes of a recreational life. But for some Florida seniors, this is not reality. In this state, 150,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren.

"My retirement was going to be much different — I had plans to do this and do that," said Orlando resident Yvonne Friend.

But once she retired, her life changed. Friend raised her great granddaughter from birth to 6 years old. The mother never gave her any money, and the father was not involved. Two years ago, she went through a tough time financially. The child's mother wouldn't sign over custody, so Friend couldn't

get housing assistance. She started paying rent with her credit card and got deep into debt.

"It was a struggle to try to clothe and feed her," she said.

When she finally gave up her home, she gave up her granddaughter, too. Ciera went back to her mother.

"It was hard for both of us — the day that she left me we cried," Friend said. "It was like I had her myself."

Friend was one of a dozen grandmothers gathered at the Rock Lake Community Center in Orlando for a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren on April 26. Nonprofit group Informed Families organizes the meetings. Employees host educational speakers, guide talks about wellness and helping the community, as well as take the women

> turn to **SENIORS** on **NEXT PAGE**



PHOTO BY **BRITNI JOHNSON** — THE VOICE
The grandmothers pose after their meeting at the Rock Lake Community Center in Orlando on April 26. Yvonne Friend, far left, and Rounette Fulse, fifth from right, have both helped raise their children's children.

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Senior Community Bulletin

Family Physicians of Clermont-Dr. Beth Oliver, Ignite Fitness and Liberty Medical are sponsoring the first Diabetic Symposium in Clermont. The event will take place on Thursday, May 13 at Ignite Fitness Gym, 1705 E. Hwy 50 (across from Perkins) in Clermont from 12:30 to 3:45 PM.

Schedule:
12:30-1:30 p.m.-Diabetic Vendors offering information and goodies.
1:30-2:00 p.m.- "Q and A" on "Enjoy life with Diabetes" by Dr. Beth Oliver, FPG
2:00-2:45 p.m.- "Live with Diabetes the Easy Way" presentation by Myra Vergani, Certified Diabetes Instructor
2:45-3:45 p.m.- "Shake Your Sugar With Zumba" Free fitness class offered by Ignite Fitness Gym
All attendees will received a two-week free gym membership pass from Ignite Fitness, a pass from a Zumba class, a tote, refreshments, goodies, diabetic food samples and more! Free glucose meters will be available for qualified individuals. For

more information, please call 1-866-999-3741 or Facebook under "Ignite Fitness Southlake".

From the Orange County Commission On Aging Newsletter May 2010:

Counsel for Caregivers Seminar - Learn about America's most popular living will, the "Five Wishes", which is written in everyday language and helps start and structure important conversations about care in times of serious illness - May 20 at 12:10 p.m. in downtown Orange County Library-3rd Floor, Albertson Room, 101 E. Central Blvd. It's free. Lunch is provided to the first 50 who RSVP to 407-836-7446 or officeonaging@ocfl.net!

Seniors vs. Crime— There is now a Seniors vs. Crime office in Orlando at 440 S. Semoran Blvd., south of Lake Underhill and adjacent to Denny's Restaurant. For info call 407-219-

5542 or visit www.seniorsvscrime.com.

Senior Expo 2010 - The annual Expo is May 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. Not only is admission and parking free but a free Olive Garden lunch will be given to the first 500 people attending each day. Visit www.SRAFlorida.org for the flyer.

Empowering the Aging Woman Seminar - Visit www.flgeronurse.org for information about this May 13 seminar being held at the Clarion Inn in Altamonte. CEUs for nurses and social workers.

Florida Discount Drug Card - This card, initially offered to qualifying seniors and low-income families, is now available to all Floridians regardless of age or income. Visit www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com for info!

Quality Senior Living Award - If you know a person / group making a big impact on the lives of older Floridians, now's the time to nominate them for one of four awards, valued at \$400. Visit www.fcoa.org for info.

Other News:

Cool Web site - www.helpguide.org/elder/caring_for_caregivers.htm

Exercise Tips - The National Institutes of Health has a new webpage to help older adults start or restart an exercise program. Visit <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/exercise/toc.html>.

Health Literacy Training - The CDC has launched a new online training program: "Health Literacy for Public Health Professionals." Limited health literacy affects nine out of ten adults and impacts their capacity to fully manage their health. It's free at www.cdc.gov/Features/OnlineTraining.

Health Stats - Statehealthfacts.org provides free, up-to-date, and easy-to-use health data on 500 topics in all 50 states. Visit www.statehealthfacts.kff.org.

Medicare Primer - Visit www.kff.org/medicare/7615.cfm to learn about the key elements of Medicare, including costs and benefits.

Partner Paragraph: The Florida Council on Aging is the statewide agency on aging. And, you can learn more about them and the statewide conference coming to Orlando this August! Vendor and volunteer opportunities are available at www.fcoa.org. They also have e-blasts and a monthly newsletter on Florida aging news.

SENIORS | Grandmas typically don't mind caring for their children's children

< continued from the front page

shopping, out to eat and to the movies.

Program facilitator Sharon Warner said that the grandmothers' situations are all different, but a lot of them end up taking care of their grandchildren because

of the parents' drug use.

This was the case for Rounette Fulse, 80, who raised a 22-year-old grandchild and is currently raising her 16-year-old grandson. Her daughter was on drugs and living in a house with other drug addicts when Jalen, 16, was 2. Fulse

got the police involved and took over custody of the children then. Things were hard, but Fulse was determined to give Jalen a good life.

"Even with all the difficulties, I put the baby first," she said. "He wasn't responsible for what he was going through."

She also had to adapt to the new parenting ideals.

"The times were so different for when I was raising Jalen, from when I was raising my children; now there's no spanking and scolding," she laughed.

Fulse took parenting classes at Valencia Community College, but the support group also offers help in this area. At a certain age, disciplining becomes

more difficult.

"When you're older, you don't have that kind of energy, so some need other ideas to circumvent some behaviors," said Diane Payne, assistant facilitator.

While grandparents do have some struggles, the experience of the child isn't necessarily different or worse from a child raised by their parents, said Kimberly Renk, an associate professor at the University of Central Florida's psychology department.

The grandmothers are generally happy to take care of their grandchildren.

"The grandchildren bring movement and life into the home," Payne said.

Fulse thinks she successfully raised Jalen. He has

a job, works at his church and plays on the Boone High School football team. He hopes to be a professional football player and Fulse said she encourages him all the way. His mother has lived with them for the past year and is helping to raise him.

For Friend, the ending isn't so happy. She worries about Ciera and looks to the day she can pay off her debt and get a place of her own, one to share with her granddaughter. To those who tell her to give up, she talks about the day Ciera was born.

"Other kids have fathers and mothers - this child has no one; ever since the day she opened her eyes she's been looking at me."

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Family Calendar

The University Carillon United Methodist Church in Oviedo will be hosting Family Fun Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 8. The free event will feature food, water slides, an obstacle course and dodge ball. Go to www.ucumc.net for more information.

In the Eco Adventures class from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, May 9, youth ages 8-16 and their mothers will enjoy learning about slithering snakes. Cost is \$4. It's held at the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center. To register call 407-349-0959 or e-mail jmillen@seminolecountyfl.gov.

Family Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, May 14 at Riverside Park, 1600 Lockwood Blvd. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each game. Cost is \$2/card per person with five maximum. Call Jenette McKinney at 407-971-5591 or e-mail jdmckinney@cityofoviedo.net.

Ride, Rock, & Roll will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 15 at Riverside Park Skate Park 1600 Lockwood Blvd. There will be giveaways, raffles, vendors and big events.

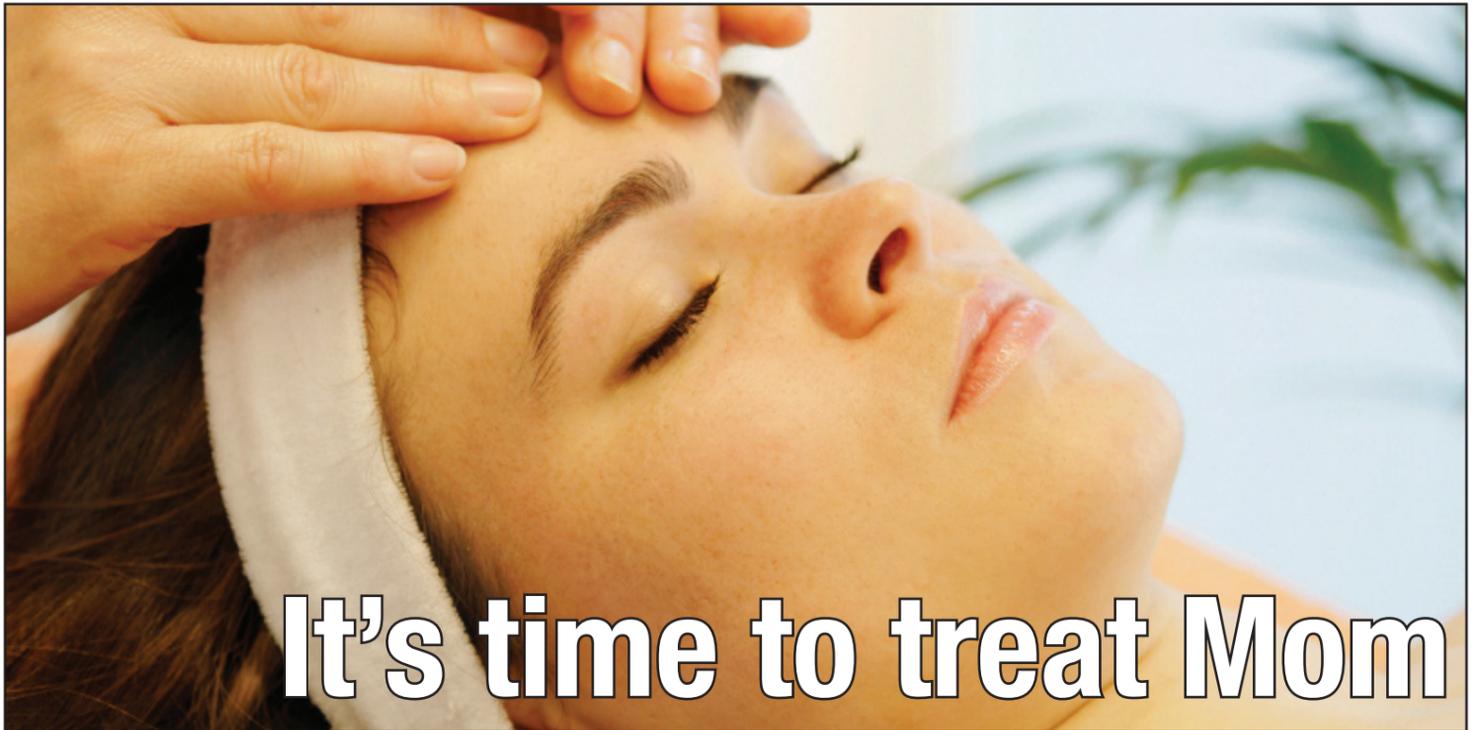
The Orange County Health Department's annual "Get Your Vaccinations Before Summer Vacation" event will take place on Saturday, May 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central Health Center located at 832 W. Central Blvd in Orlando. All immunizations are free for children. Call 407-836-2517 or visit www.orchd.com.

The Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, & Run Sectional Competition will be held on Sunday, May 16 at 10 a.m. at the Oviedo Sports Complex, 1251 E. Broadway St. Winners from all local competitions across Central Florida will compete to have a chance to move onto the team championship in June at a Tampa Bay Rays game.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet and interview qualified babysitters during a fun-filled event at 1:45 p.m. Sunday, May 16. Parents will have a few minutes to size up each babysitter before the bell rings at the Spark Enrichment Center in Winter Springs. Register online at www.getpumpedonline.org/Speed_Sitting_Event.html

Oviedo Police are partnering with Allstate Insurance Company to host a "Protect Teen Drivers" program for teens and their parents on Tuesday, May 18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Oviedo Police C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Marketplace. Contact instructor Kristy Bolin at 407-657-5867.

"Cretaceous Countdown: Investigating the Death of Dinosaurs" will examine the theories related to dinosaur extinction from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays through May 22 at the Planetarium at Seminole State College of Florida, which is located at 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford. Visit www.seminolestate.edu/planet.



It's time to treat Mom

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Relaxation is on the menu for Mother's Day, with some unique ideas for keeping mom happy. Chocolate, jewelry and flowers are all available for last minute buys.

ISAAC BABCOCK THE VOICE

Whether it's taking them out to brunch, giving them a card and candy, sending them flowers or treating them to a spa day, mothers deserve to be treated just a little more special on Mother's Day. Here are some events and gift ideas from area businesses that will make Sunday, May 9 a day to remember.

Last minute jewels

Looking for a last minute gift for mom? Precious Fine Jewelers in the Oviedo Marketplace Mall is offering up

to 70 percent off gold, silver and diamond jewelry at their Mother's Day sale, which is going on until May 15. They're located in the Dillard's wing of the mall. For more information call 407-977-8000.

The Oviedo Marketplace Mall is also offering a \$10 mall gift card if you spend \$75 or more on May 7, plus you can enter to win a Las Vegas getaway for two.

Mother's Day brunch

Looking to go Greek on this Mother's Day? Stop by the Athens Greek Restaurant in Winter Springs for a Mother's Day Brunch from 9 a.m.

to 2:30 p.m. Sunday. They're serving everything from gyros to traditional American fare. Athens is located at 5965 Red Bug Lake Road. Call 407-696-4282 for more information.

Give mom a new face

Mom would probably love to have a new look this Mother's Day, and the Face Place Day Spa in Altamonte Springs is ready to make her into a new woman with massage therapy, a high tech dry infrared sauna, whole body vibration and more. There's always complimentary champagne, wine and water to help her

relax all day. They're even offering personalized custom designed gift certificates you can print at home instantly. The Face Place is located at 689 Douglas Ave. Suite 101. Call 407-77-2544 for details.

Don't forget the chocolate

Did You Say Chocolate? Well the custom chocolatier in Winter Springs sure hopes so. Offering hundreds of chocolates made to order, Did You Say Chocolate can put your personal touch on a Mother's Day gift. Stop by at 521 E. State Road 434, or call 407-706-1385 for more information.

Race for cancer funds on May 16

COURTNEY GILMARTIN THE VOICE

After Beate Johnson of Longwood returned from a cruise with her husband in 2001, she noticed her stomach looking a little fuller than usual. Too much cruise food, she thought, and she went on a diet.

Still bloated weeks later, Beate realized that something was seriously wrong and went to the emergency room. It was there she was told she had stage-three ovarian cancer.

"I thought it was a death sentence," said Beate. "Cancer' is such a scary word."

After undergoing a hysterectomy and completing chemotherapy, Beate is now cancer free. However, with the likelihood for ovarian cancer recurrence at more than 70 percent, Beate knows that she's not in the clear, and has used her experience with the disease to help other cancer patients.

"I had no idea about this illness and its symptoms," said Beate. "I wanted to help educate women about ovarian cancer."

Beate joined the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Florida, a non-profit organization that aims to increase awareness of the disease and provide support to victims, survivors and their families.

The Longwood-based OCAF helps to fund research locally at the Florida

Hospital Cancer Institute and at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, which recently received a \$360,000 grant to research ovarian cancer.

OCAF will host its second annual Teal Ribbon 5k Run & Walk at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 16, at Oviedo Marketplace to raise funds to continue ovarian cancer study and encourage women to be aware of the disease's symptoms.

"It's a mean, ugly disease, and we want to do something to raise awareness," said Marsha Boesch, an administrative assistant at OCAF and an ovarian cancer survivor. "What we're doing is directly benefiting the people in this area."

According to Carol Dierksen, communications manager for OCAF, ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer for women. However, it's not on people's radar like breast cancer, for example, because there aren't as many ovarian cancer survivors, she said.

"Unfortunately with ovarian cancer, most women are diagnosed in the late stage, and most of those women won't be alive in five years," Dierksen said.

"We do lose a lot of people, and we don't have the numbers of survivors and happy stories that breast cancer has," Boesch added.

Although the five-year survival rate for early diag-



PHOTO COURTESY OF OVARIANCANCERALLIANCE.COM

Last year's Teal Ribbon 5k was the first year of the event, held at the Oviedo mall.

nosis of ovarian cancer is 93 percent, common symptoms for ovarian cancer seem ordinary, and can include bloating, indigestion and urinary problems.

"Knowing the symptoms and knowing your body is paramount for early diagnosis," said Dierksen.

OCAF Board President Dr. Jasmin Johnson, Beate's daughter, said many women are also under the false impression that Pap smear tests, which can detect cervical cancer, can also discover ovarian cancer.

Jasmin said ovarian cancer can be diagnosed through blood tests, MRIs and trans-vaginal ultra sounds, but that those are

typically responses to a medical need, and not pre-cautious screenings.

"You know your body better than anybody else," Jasmin said. "Be in tune with the changes in your body, and alert doctors as soon as you realize something is not right."

Last year's 5k had more than 200 participants, according to OCAF, and they are hoping to triple the turnout this year. Boesch said the event is the perfect way for friends and families to support and honor their loved ones.

"We want to be active and get the word out," she said.

Calendar

The Seminole Audubon Society May program on Sunday, May 9 from 2-4 p.m. will focus on identifying those long-legged wading birds you see along the water's edge, or flying overhead. The meeting will be held at the Seminole County Library in Sanford, 150 N Palmetto Ave., Sanford. The program is free. To R.S.V.P. and for more information call 407- 977-4389.

The Fine Arts Gallery at Seminole State College of Florida concludes its 2009-10 season with an exhibit by Florida artists Terry Trambauer Norris and Kathleen Kent Chenet in the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus Fine Arts

Gallery (building G), starting with an opening reception on Thursday, May 13 at 5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.seminolestate.edu/arts, or call 407-708-2040.

The Central Florida Zoo's annual party featuring organizations and businesses with sustainable practices or eco-friendly products and services will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 15. The Zoo is at 3755 NW Hwy 17-92 in Sanford.

The Rural Heritage Center will host its grand opening from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 15 at the Historic Geneva Schoolhouse, First and Main Street in

Geneva. After a year of hard work, the citizens debut the rural traditions of Seminole County's past, present and future. Visit GenevaSchoolHouse.org to R.S.V.P.

Resident artists at Gallery on First in Sanford will present their first "Masterpiece in a Day" event and silent auction on Saturday, May 15. Using watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, and ceramics, each artist will create 'a masterpiece' throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception from 5-6 p.m. will follow. Gallery on First is at 211 E. First Street, Sanford. Visit www.galleryonfirst.com.

The UF/IFAS Master Gardeners of Seminole County are sponsoring a unique opportunity for gardeners and garden lovers. The Fourth Annual Garden Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Jan at 407 366 9474 or visit Garden Walk 2010 on Facebook.

Weddings Around the World Take 2 will be held from 1- 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 16 at Cranes Roost Park in Altamonte Springs, 1/4 mile west of the Altamonte Mall. Brides can pre-register for 2 for 1 \$5 food sample armbands at www.WeddingEventDesigners.com. The first 250 brides receive a beautiful

Weddings Around the World tote bag filled with goodies.

The Seminole County Economic Summit 2010, sponsored by the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Thursday, May 20 at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary from 8:30 a.m.- 11 a.m. Registration and networking will begin at 7:30am. This year's theme is "What Drives the Seminole County Economy?" Tickets for the Summit are \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members. Contact Jo Alaniz at jalanz@seminolebusiness.org.

Notes

The Jefferson Awards-Deloitte Students in Action is proud to announce that Seminole High School and Lake Brantley High School were selected at the 2010 Students in Action Spring Competition as the Seminole Recipient For Outstanding Service By a High School.

Share your home, family and culture with an exchange student for the school year and enrich your own lives. Host families provide a bed, meals and inclusion in daily activities. Students come with spending

money and medical insurance. Local orientation and support is provided for students and host families. For more information, visit www.afs.org or call 407-977-0286.

The Leadership Seminole Character Video Contest Breakfast was held on April 23. This year the students were charged with producing a video that focused on one of the critical issues including drug/alcohol use, body image, depression and conflict resolution. The winners for this year are: First Place: Oviedo High, Second

Place: Winter Springs High and Third Place: Lyman High.

Costa DeVault—a wordwise company, brought home the top honor at the 2010 Orlando Area Chapter's Florida Public Relations Association's Image Awards competition for its work with Midway Elementary School of the Arts, Seminole County's only fine arts cluster elementary magnet school.

The Pollo Tropical in Oviedo is undergoing an exciting transformation to offer a new, "elevated" experience

— complete with table service, sangria and wine list. A grand re-opening event will be held Saturday, May 8 at 4 p.m. Festivities include a red carpet greeting, complimentary new menu item food sampling, music, a visit from the Pollo Tropical mascot and a chance to win \$5,000.

Starting on May 11, three Seminole County schools will be competing in some friendly fundraising in the Pollo Tropical Charity Challenge, where the winner will be named the Charity Champion and receive a

bonus \$1,000 contribution from the restaurant. It features three local schools: Tuskawilla Middle School, Lawton Chiles Middle School and Lawton Elementary School. Each will host a Benefit Night where 20 percent of sales generated during their individual benefits will be donated to the schools. Visit www.pollotropical.com and click on the Community tab and then Charities.

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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

May 15, 1800 —

The federal government is moved by President John Adams from Philadelphia to Washington D.C. As of June 11, 1800, Philadelphia ceased to serve as the nation's capital.

Need to get on your feet? Call 211

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



I really appreciate the calls and e-mails I receive in response to this column. When we started it three years ago, it was in response to the ever-changing employment market. Now, the questions coming in seem to be geared more toward survival during unemployment.

The last few e-mails I received were in regards to financial assistance so I wanted to give some resources to our readers to help

you through financial crisis.

I spoke with Michele at the United Way about local resources for people in need. She was able to provide me with the following information:

211 is United Way's free, 24-hour crisis hotline and information and referral helpline, which links people in need with assistance from more than 2,000 local health and human service programs. Staffed by highly trained, multilingual operators, 211 is the community's connection to finding help with food, housing and clothing, 24-hour crisis and suicide counseling, youth and child care issues, physical and mental health services, elder services and much more.

Here are a few suggested resources:

-The Sharing Center (electric assistance)
407-260-9155

-Catholic Charities of Central Florida (rent and electric assistance)
407-658-0999

-Seminole County Community Assistance (rent and electric assistance)
407-665-2360

-Jewish Family Services of Greater (Rent and Progress Energy electric assistance)
407-644-2985 and 407-644-7593

I have found the people at the United Way to be extremely helpful. Please keep in mind that agencies are receiving unprecedented numbers of calls for resources, and those resources are limited.

Please continue to let me know how we can help. Visit cfec.org for information on the Mayor's Job Fair on May 19 and our Employment Seminar on May 27.

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

City forgives fines and throws expensive parties

On April 12, the cartographers that make up our Winter Springs City Commission were charting the road to the future of our mid-sized city.

The first item taken up dealt with forgiving a city-operated business \$18,000 in fines and accepting a settlement offered by the owner of said business totaling \$500.

What has not been mentioned nor taken into consideration is the fact that the owner withheld payment until he had a friendly Commission in place and after the former city manager was history. The City Commission very willingly approved a land use and zoning change for the property in question that increased the value of the property by the millions. The trail is owned by the Seminole County government.

In addition, the

Commission spent a good hour once again debating the celebration of the Fourth of July — a national holiday with ingrained patriotic ramifications — because of an expense of \$19,000.

They then proceed to establish a Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and a Recreation Advisory Committee with initial costs of \$3,076 each and a Board Appreciation Dinner costing another \$3,000.

I have nothing against the Bicycle Advisory Committee nor the Board Appreciation Dinner, in spite of members of some boards receiving a stipend for their attendance.

However, in retrospect, the city has been an autonomous political subdivision for 50 years and never before needed such committees while developing and surfacing into the 21st century.

Each day it appears that we are making every effort

to emulate Washington, D.C.

Look around and get involved. It's easier than you think!

God bless our city and our country and all its citizens.

—Edward Martinez Jr.
Winter Springs

The green bait and switch

In 2006, the state passed the Solar Energy Incentives Program to provide incentives to citizens and businesses to utilize solar renewable energy here in the Sunshine State. We personally "stepped up" and assumed our responsibility to use renewable energy in our home by installing solar photo voltaic cells on our roof. We laid out more than \$27,000 for a system that can generate 3.24 Kilowatts of power and many times make more power than we use providing the balance back to the power grid for others to use. Additionally, by doing

so, this reduces pollution by utility providers, as the power we create is truly clean.

Florida's rebate incentives are among the best in the country and should be. Thousands are gainfully employed in manufacturing, selling and installing solar energy-related products.

From a personal standpoint, this is where our satisfaction ended. We came to find out that the rebates offered under the program are not available unless funding is appropriated by the Legislature and approved by the governor. We came to find out that promises made by the state are not necessarily promises kept.

The budget awaiting Gov. Charlie Crist's signature does not contain appropriations to pay rebates for solar energy projects to more than 9,600 residents that undertook projects similar to ours. Offering incentives to

Florida residents to encourage benevolent behavior and than failing to provide these incentives is akin to "bait and switch" in a retail environment.

Expect lawsuits to be filed against suppliers and contractors that represented the rebate program in their sales materials. Expect companies to go under as a result of the weight of pending litigation. Expect job losses when these companies fold and further job losses when consumers cease buying these systems. Expect a class action suit against the state by homeowners, who will insist on payment of the rebates by Florida. None of this would necessarily occur if the governor does the right thing and vetoes the budget and insists that he will not sign it unless the rebate program is funded and the state's promise to the people kept.

—Ed Riordan
Winter Springs

Young Voices

Here's what kids at the May Day picnic at Ft. Lane Park in Geneva had to say to and about their mothers.



Thank you for caring for us during your fight with breast cancer. I admire my mom for all she went through.

—Sarah P.
16 years old



My mom takes us to the park and plays on the swings with me. She cooks good macaroni and hot dogs.

—Thomas S.
8 years old



My mom cares about us and helps me with my homework. She plays with us and takes us to fun places like the pool and McDonalds.

—Alyssa S.
8 years old



My mom is pretty, and I like when she kisses me. We go to the water park and swim. I love my mom a lot.

—Tyler M.
5 years old



My mom takes care of me when I'm sick. We go shopping together. Thank you for all you do for me. I hope you have a great Mother's Day.

—Jackie B.
10 years old

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

Call 407-563-7026 or e-mail editor@observernewspapers.com to have The Voice visit your class or group.

ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

May 17, 1875 —

The Kentucky Derby (the first leg of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing) started today. Oliver Lewis riding Aristides, with a time of 2:37.75, won the first race.

Knights fall to another C-USA foe

After winning the first game of a three-game series, the Knights drop two against Memphis



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

The big bats came out at the start of the Knights' showdown against Memphis, but they were outscored by the Tigers' red hot hitting on Saturday and Sunday.

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

For the fifth time this season, the Knights have lost a three-game series with a conference foe. They dropped two of three games

to Memphis last weekend, putting their overall conference record at 27-19 overall and 7-11 in Conference USA play.

The Knights had come back in a dramatic ninth inning rally to erase a four-

run deficit and draw even with the Memphis Tigers on Sunday, in a desperate bid to win the series.

UCF had been behind since the fifth inning in the wild, back and forth game in which the game was tied or the lead changed seven times.

But after picking up four runs in a dramatic bottom of the ninth rally, Austin Johnston, who had batted .500 and driven in a run in the game before, struck out

with two runners in scoring position, ending the rally on the verge of a victory.

A long rally by the Tigers in the top of the 10th only ended when UCF's Brennan Dobbins got Memphis' Adam McClain to fly out with the bases loaded, but by then the damage was already done with a run scored on the Tigers in the lead.

The Knights managed to put together another rally to put two on and a run-

ner in scoring position with two out, but Ryan Breen also struck out with the winning runner on base. Breen had a miserable series as the Knights' designated hitter, picking up just two hits in 14 plate appearances.

Having lost all but one of their series against conference foes this season, the Knights get a welcome respite with three non-conference games starting at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday versus Jacksonville.

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Cinema

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

Coming May 21



Photo courtesy Dreamworks

'Shrek Forever After'

Coming May 28



Photo courtesy Walt Disney Pictures

'Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time'

'Iron Man 2' — Opens Friday



Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures

Tony Stark, the billionaire inventor behind the Iron Man costume teams up with War Machine in the sequel. Now that the world knows his alter ego, the government is pressuring Stark to share his technology with the military.

PG-13 - 2 hours 4 minutes

Coming June 4



Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

'Get Him to the Greek'

Also opening: 'Babies' (PG)



Photo courtesy Focus Features

Babies from San Francisco, Tokyo, Namibia, and Mongolia are filmed for their first year of life. This documentary depicts the many differences in the lives of four very different children.

Coming next week



Photo courtesy Summit Entertainment

'Letters to Juliet' (PG)

Regional action on the diamond

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

All of the Seminole County baseball teams that made it into the first round of the regional tournament bowed out in their debut games, leaving a clean slate for next year on the diamond.

Oviedo and Hagerty entered the tournament with the potential to play each other in the second round if they'd won their first games in the

regional ladder.

The Huskies entered the tournament with a 15-10 record with a string of wins leading into the end of the regular season.

But Timber Creek had just enough offensive firepower and pitching prowess to shut them down, winning in a nail biter 2-1 final.

Oviedo had trouble in the regular season scoring runs against strong pitching, but managed to

put 4 across home plate against Freedom, despite their starter Trey Olier pitching a complete game with eight strikeouts. The Lions would fall 6-4.

Softball

Winter Springs' softball team has been making things exciting in the postseason, with two nail-biter wins heading into a showdown against Fletcher at press time.

In the first round, the Bears edged Timber Creek 1-0 in a 13-inning thriller, then barely squeaked by perennial rival Lake Howell with a 2-1 win in the second round.

With a win over Fletcher, the Bears could be into the state semifinals on May 14.

The 2007 state champion Trinity Prep Saints fell in the first round of the regionals, blanked 5-0 by Mt. Dora Bible.

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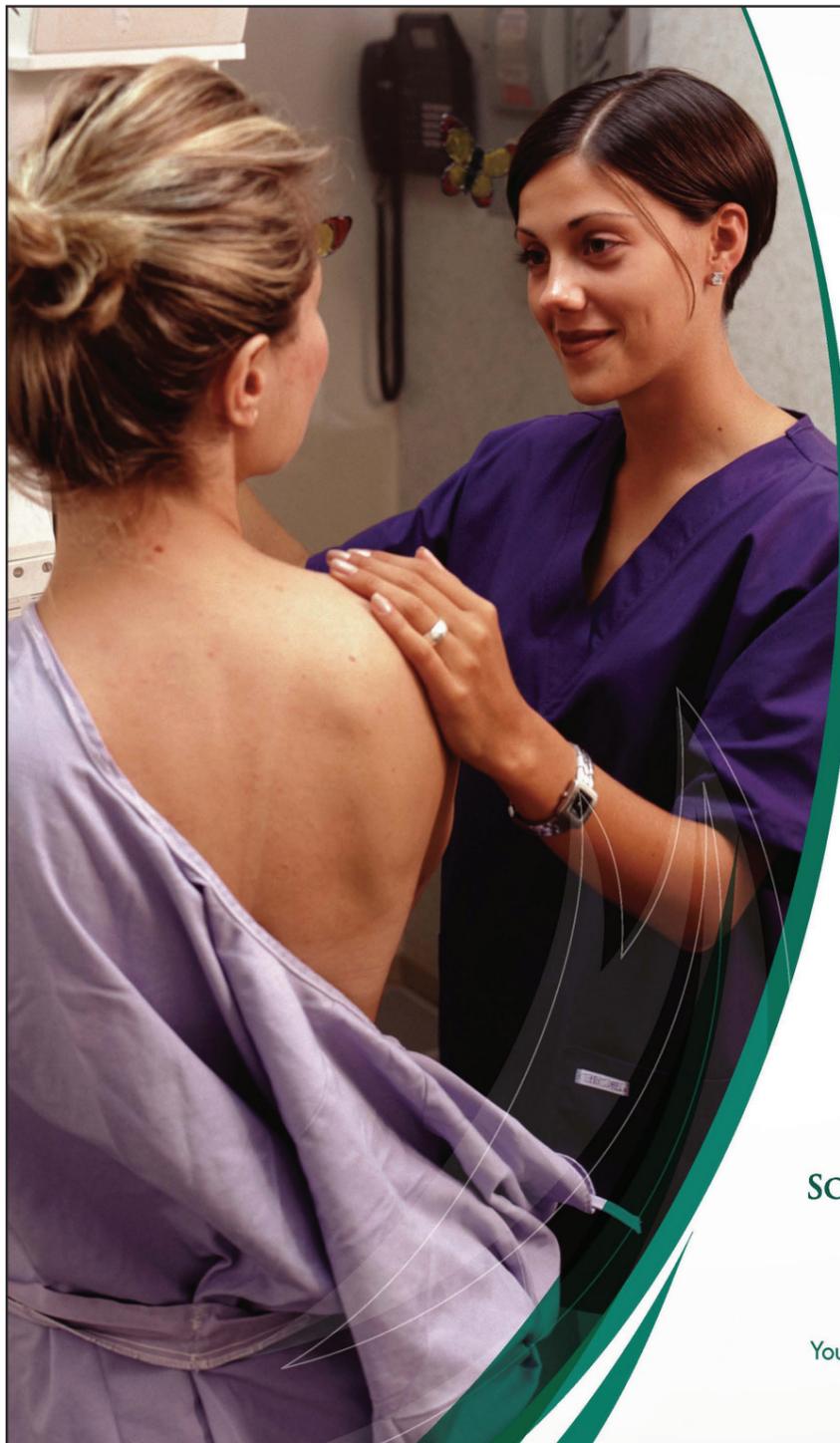
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