



Seminole Voice



Big Top > 9
Alex started his rapidly growing business in high school



Skate star > 10
This local is breaking stereotypes and hoping to turn pro



Big game > 13
A pitcher's duel ends the season at Tropicana Field

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August 13 – August 26, 2010

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Enrollment sets records

MICHAEL CLINTON
THE VOICE

College enrollment is at an all-time high, particularly in Central Florida, where the economy has caused many to seek higher education.

Post-secondary enrollment in the nation set a new record with an estimated 19.6 million students in fall 2009, according to the Digest of Education Statistics: 2009, released by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Local colleges like the University of Central Florida and Seminole State College both expect an increase in enrollment this fall. Other institutions such as Valencia Community College and Rollins College are also expecting their campuses to be fuller when the fall semester starts this month.

Seminole State College

Seminole State College had 19,500 students enrolled in the 2009 fall semester and its admissions director expects the school's enrollment to exceed 21,000 by the time classes start.

Pamela Mennechey, Seminole State's director of Admissions and Recruiting, says there are a number of reasons contributing the enrollment spike.

While she says that many

> turn to **COLLEGE** on **PAGE 3**



Set for school

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE
Tim Crebs, left, from Progress Energy helps 7-year-old Mackaya check out at Seminole County's Shop With a Sheriff event July 30. The charity shopping spree was put together by the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Progress Energy to give needy children clothes and school supplies. *Continued on page 11*

Reviving Oviedo Marketplace

The mall gets a new manager; UCF students pitch new marketing strategies

CARMEN CARROQUINO
GUEST REPORTER

The Oviedo Marketplace is getting a facelift.

There's a new general manager at the wheel, pushing leasing opportunities, marketing and sprucing up the mall's appearance.

UCF business students have devoted an entire semester to formulating business strategies for the mall.

New tenants, including a fitness studio and a baking school, are filling once empty storefronts.

But many agree one thing is still missing from the Oviedo Marketplace — the full support of the community.

UCF students get involved

Happy with the change in management so far, Jim Pridemore, owner of Ashton Photography and president of the mall's merchants association, still believes community support will ultimately bring the mall back to life. He said a recent partnership with University of Central Florida business students could generate that support.

Marketing students created strategic marketing plans for the Oviedo Marketplace as their capstone project during the spring semester, benefiting both the mall and UCF students in gaining real world experience.

Robert Cascio, the professor of the class, said stu-

dents were asked to put forth everything they've learned throughout the years. It was an excellent opportunity to get their hands dirty, he said.

The top proposal each group had included more community support.

"Community involvement is a lot of what was involved," Cascio said. "It's not really a destination mall yet, so community support is definitely the key in bringing traffic and filling the storefronts."

One proposal, made by marketing senior Amit Raninga's group, suggested the mall add a unique dining/entertainment experience, such as a Dave & Buster's restaurant, which has a bar and an arcade to sway shoppers to stick

around.

Another part of his group's proposal was for the mall to host more community events such as one for Earth Day involving the Orlando Science Center or have wine tasting, art and music events.

"We think that the mall is not advertised enough and has become a place for quick shopping as well as a place where teens are dropped off to go to the movies and for social interaction (more than for shopping)," Raninga said.

"We need to make the customer's perception of the mall one that is mindful of how the mall can be a pleasant, all-day experience for shopping, dining and entertainment."

> turn to **MALL** on **PAGE 2**

USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 7

What's goin' on?

Candidates for County Commission, state and U.S. seats will speak Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Geneva Community Center, 161 First St.

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Cinema > Page 15

Liz Gilbert travels to Italy, India and Bali in search of true balance in "Eat Pray Love".



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THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

Aug. 24, 0079 —

The Southern Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum are decimated as Mount Vesuvius erupts. The cities were buried under volcanic material and were not rediscovered until the 18th century.

MALL | Merchants say community involvement is key to growth

< continued from the front page

Pridemore intends to sit down with General Growth to try to implement the students' strategies.

Shop talk

A winding line formed on Sunday in front of Regal Cinemas, while families and teenagers strode up and down the mall's corridor avoiding the rain and thunder outside. Many carried shopping bags.

"It started out relatively busy when I got here, but just got wiped out soon after," said Stephanie Larochelle, a two-year employee of long-standing store Charlotte Russe. "American Eagle and FYE were big shocks to mall when they left. The movie theater is the only thing that's keeping the mall going."

Many say Regal Cinemas is the true anchor of the mall. Bed Bath & Beyond left in August 2009 and FYE followed soon after. None of the remaining anchor stores — Dillard's, Macy's, Sears — have announced plans to leave.

Scott Schlipmann, intern at Glass Slipper Cakery, which came to the mall almost one year ago, said despite what other patrons and employees say, he sees a lot of traffic in the mall, and that there are many positive things are going on.

Glass Slipper Cakery is doing so well, Schlipmann said, they've even expanded to another storefront where they teach baking classes part

time.

The space is called Glass Slipper Cakery Academy and it joins Grand Bazaar, Avenue Ink, Snap Fitness, Gold Buyers of America and the Sweet Escape candy store as just a few new and semi-new stores. Macy's recently added a furniture section to their store.

Larochelle said she saw business in the mall pick up this summer, but says that the mall should have no vacant storefronts because the lost space makes for lost money.

She also said more name-brand stores need to come to the mall because "mom and pop" type stores don't make for much business because people don't know them.

"We just need to let people know the mall is open," Larochelle said.

Future plans

Pridemore says every tenant needs support.

"Ninety percent of malls are in the same situation as the Oviedo Marketplace," Pridemore said. "Large retailers are not expanding. How are we going draw big merchants if we don't support the ones we have?"

He said that the merchants association's goal is to do more community outreach and the association is capable of planning a wide range of events at the mall to bring families through its doors. They already host Halloween events, a Mardi Gras celebration and hurricane expos.

He wants General Growth to have

a full-time events coordinator or public relations person to handle such events to promote business.

"There's plenty of good at the mall, just not enough positive reporting going on," he said.

New manager steps in

GGP is still undergoing Ch. 11 bankruptcy protection. To emerge from bankruptcy, the firm will likely have to sell some of its underperforming properties. That could include the Oviedo center.

Gil Bankston, the new general manager of General Growth Properties' Oviedo Marketplace and Altamonte Mall, was unavailable to comment for this story. In an e-mail, David Keating, a spokesman for General Growth Properties, wrote, "It continues to be business as usual at Oviedo Marketplace. GGP's bankruptcy filing and the process has had no impact on Oviedo Marketplace or any of our 200-plus malls across the country."

Pridemore said he's met with Bankston briefly and calls him a good fit to the general manager position because of his operational background.

Bankston was the general manager of the Lakeland Square Mall, where Chris Molho, the former manager of the Oviedo mall, is now assistant manager.

"He was aware of the physical needs of the mall and seems to be showing some action with that," Pridemore said.

Bankston said in a July 29 issue of Central Florida Matters that his primary focus for the malls rejuvenation has been two-fold: making facade improvements and strengthening leasing efforts. He said a new merchandising strategy will get the word out about the Marketplace and generate community support.

"Right now Oviedo Marketplace is in need of some tender loving care, but with a well thought-out plan, this center has the potential to be a wonderful shopping center and community partner," Bankston said.



We asked Oviedo Marketplace patrons what they thought of their mall.



"We come here to kill time, go see a movie and walk through, not really shop."
—Travis Verge, Sanford



"It's sad to see it losing a lot of its stores. It's just not as diverse as it used to be."
—Kristie Toruno, Oviedo



"I'd love to see more name brand stores, anything to breathe new life into the mall."
—Charla Brinko, Winter Springs

Guide to Grilling



People all over the world take pleasure in the ceremony of gathering around the grill, carefully monitoring each tender morsel to capture its juices and intensify its natural flavors. Grilling brings us back to the raw, primitive origins of cuisine, and provides an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, friends and fine food all at once.

Grilling Techniques

At its essence, grilling is pretty simple—make a fire, cook food over it. We've all had our burned burgers, charred chicken and incinerated veggies—but those are stories of the past and with just a few tips it's easy to champion your grilling future.

Vegetables / Fruit

Produce is a natural match for the grill, which intensifies the natural sweetness and flavor of most veggies and fruits.

- Don't peel vegetables before grilling—you'll get more nutrients and enjoy a smokier flavor. Most fruits, however, do need to be peeled prior to grilling.

- Some veggies, including artichokes, carrots and potatoes, can be pre-cooked to shorten grilling time. While veggies like eggplant, onions, mushrooms, and tomatoes should be raw when placed on the grill.

- Ideal grilling fruits are firm and barely ripe. Watermelon, pineapple, apples, peaches and pears can all take the heat.

Poultry

Whether you choose chicken, duck, turkey or game hen, marinate your poultry or add a dry rub ahead of time. Visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com for information on cooking times and temperatures.

Meat (Pork, Sausage, Burgers, Steak, etc.)

The appropriate heat level and cooking time are crucial for grilling meat that is tender and juicy. Follow specific guidelines for each type, which can be found at www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

Tip: Wait to brush on any sugar-based barbecue sauce until the final 5-10 minutes of grilling. This allows the charcoal flavor to penetrate your food first, and prevents the sauce from becoming charred.

Seafood

When grilling seafood take extra care not to overcook it. One of the great things about grilling seafood is its quick-cooking versatility.

- Oil fish with a neutral-flavored oil such as canola to help keep it moist.

- Fish cooks quickly using the direct heat method. Remove it from the grill as soon as it's done; it will continue to cook once it has been removed from the fire.

For more grilling tips and to learn more about Whole Foods Market, visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

Morris runs again

MICHAEL CLINTON
THE VOICE

The July 30 article "Who's running in Seminole" omitted School Board District 5 candidate Jeanne Morris. Here's why she'd like to stay at the helm of District 5:

Jeanne Morris, the incumbent who has raised more than \$12,800 for her campaign, has worked with the School Board for 20 years. Morris says the budget is a crisis and will be for at least two more years. In addition to the budget, she wants to narrow her focus on the future, as she has been involved with the introduction to new bioscience and solar programs at area high schools. She says that she should be re-elected because of the success in the district and her experience. "I understand more because I have already been on the board," she said. For more information, visit www.jeanne-morris.com



Morris

COLLEGE | UCF has the state's largest enrollment, and it keeps growing

< continued from the front page

universities are almost full, the economy has driven more adult learners back into the classroom with first-time college students who are looking for a less expensive and more personal means of education.

"I think it is a money issue," Menechey said.

"A lot of students don't want to be in huge classes," she added.

University of Central Florida

UCF is the largest college in the state, with 53,644 students enrolled in fall of 2009.

That figure is a 6.7 percent increase from the 50,275 in the 2008 fall semester.

While the 2010 fall enrollment figures are not yet available, UCF is expected to have an increase in population.

Christine Dellert of UCF News and Information said that the university is not driven to have the largest enrollment.

"We want to provide high-quality students access to a world-class UCF education," she said.

Valencia

Valencia's enrollment jumped more than 10 percent last year, with 10,979 students enrolled in the 2009 spring semester, compared to 9,922 in 2008. The 2010 fall enrollment numbers will not be available until 2011, but they are expected to increase even more.

Lisa Stilke, VCC's Director of Admissions and Registration,



The University of Central Florida saw a 6.7 percent increase in enrollment from 2008 to 2009, with another jump in enrollment expected for 2010. ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

thinks the economy plays a big part in the increase of enrollment, as people who are losing their jobs are returning to school. Many of those prospective students are finding closed doors and fully booked

enrollment at other colleges.

"A lot of universities have stopped enrollment and we are getting the influx of applications," she said.

Rollins College

Rollins College had 3,294 students enrolled in the 2009 fall semester, but the upcoming fall enrollment statistics will not be available until early 2010.

"We are expecting a slight increase in students," said Holly Pohlig, Rollins College's director of admissions.

The NCES expects college enrollment to continue to set new records from fall 2010 through fall 2018, with an increase of about 9 percent.



Oviedo ~ Winter Springs

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Oviedo man confesses to slaying

JENNY ANDREASSON
THE VOICE

A 25-year-old man has confessed to stabbing his 21-year-old girlfriend to death with a kitchen knife at her Oviedo home on Aug. 5.

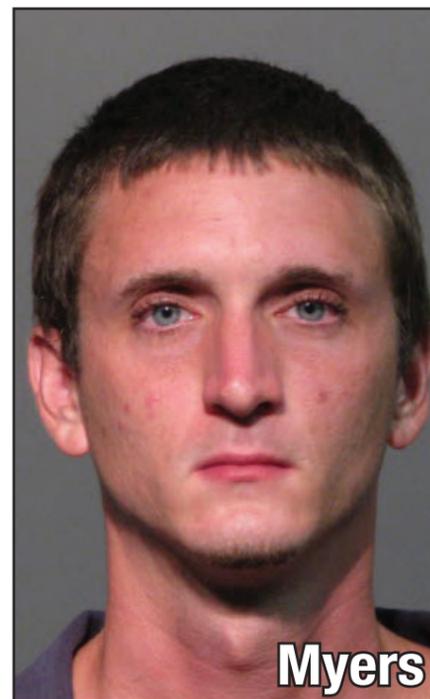
The victim's father, Darrell Shafer, arrived at the Twin Rivers home he shared with his daughter and her boyfriend at about 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 5 and found Amanda Shafer on the bedroom floor in a pool of blood, according to Oviedo Police.

Darrell told police that the boyfriend, Scott Myers, has a "very bad anger problem and goes out of control quite often."

Darrell said that at 4:50 p.m., Amanda told him over the phone that Myers had broken a door at the house. Darrell tried to call her back several times, but she did not answer. At 5:04 p.m., Myers answered the phone and said Amanda was in the bathroom.

After stabbing Amanda, Myers fled in Amanda's rental car and was later arrested at his mother's home in Winter Springs. He told police that Amanda had committed suicide and "he did not know what to do, so he left her to die", the report states.

Myers had a cut on the inside of his right hand, which he said he



got when he tried to take the knife away from Amanda. But when police told him that Amanda suffered from stab wounds in an area she couldn't have reached herself, he confessed to killing her, the report states.

He's charged with homicide and vehicle theft and is being held at the Seminole County jail without bond.

Attorneys vie for judge's seat on Aug. 24

With diverse backgrounds and resumes, this year's choice is a tough one for County Court Group 5

KAREN MCENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Which candidate for Seminole County Court judge would you want to face if charged with a traffic violation, small claims dispute or domestic violence injunction?

Seminole County Court is known as "The People's Court" because most people appear without an attorney. Four candidates hope to replace incumbent Judge Ralph Eriksson, who has withdrawn from the race. The winner will join five other judges who make up Seminole County Court Group 5.

The non-partisan election will declare a winner on Aug. 24 if one candidate has 50 percent plus one vote. If not, the two candidates with the most votes will run against each other in the Nov. 2 election. Here, the four candidates discuss what differentiates them from their opponents and why they are pursuing this six-year term.

Schott

Fred Schott says he has more legal experience in appeal, mediation and trial work than his opponents combined. He said court is a 'foreign experience' to most people and believes a judge should treat all court participants with dignity and respect. Schott is prepared to face worsening budget and financial obstacles with high motivation

and energy.

"It will take hard work to move through the docket and keep the court moving efficiently. This will not be a 9-to-5 job," he said.

This father of four daughters understands juggling issues and family challenges, which he views as an advantage to his candidacy. Schott's other passion is children's issues. He teaches the Constitution to elementary students, co-founded The Steinway Society and volunteers on the Seminole County Teen Court.

Why is Schott running? "I want to give back to the community in a larger way. As a judge, I can reach more kids and make Seminole County a better place."

For more information visit www.fredschottforjudge.com

Ladan

Amir Ladan has been a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney for more than 12 years and believes he has much more familiarity with the types of cases he will face as Seminole County judge than his three opponents. "I have the technical expertise because I'm in these courtrooms every day," he said.

Cutbacks to the court budget seem inevitable but Ladan believes his hands-on courtroom experience will enable him to find ways to serve the people efficiently and effectively, doing more with less.

Ladan hopes that Seminole County continues to find better ways to protect victims of domestic violence and their rights. The Illinois native has been a Seminole County resident for 26 years and agrees with his opponents that dignity and respect must be restored to the courtroom.

"It is still an ongoing problem that some judges have not conducted themselves appropriately. No one is above the law or beneath its protection," he said.

For more information visit <http://www.ladanforjudge.org>

Krause

Debra Krause cites not being a career lawyer, legal insider or an

affiliate of special interest groups as factors that differentiate her from her opponents and allow her to be "balanced, not beholden."

Krause held various sales and management positions while in college, interned at the State Attorney's Office and graduated from Stetson University College of Law. She has practiced transactional, corporate and environmental law and believes her varied experience and strong work ethic are important qualities for a judge to have.

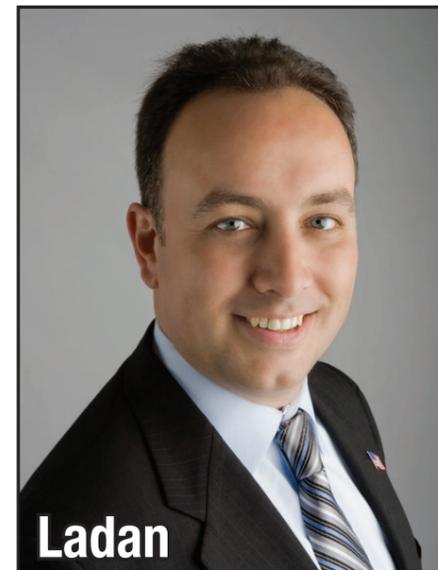
Why is Krause running? She wants to bring common sense back to the judiciary.

"I believe that the public lacks

> turn to **JUDEG** on **NEXT PAGE**



Schott



Ladan



Krause



Hass

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Seminole State sends interns far and wide

Student scientists and engineers learn how to work in the field by traveling to Mexico and elsewhere

KRISTY VICKERY
GUEST REPORTER

Austin Reed is in Merida, Mexico this summer, but this is not a typical vacation.

Reed is going to Mexico to study anthropology thanks to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research program, which is giving students a head start to making their dreams come true, at Seminole State College.

"I think having the STEM research program along with everything else I have done really helped my application with UF [University of Florida]," Reed said.

The STEM research program is the first of its kind among Florida's two-year

colleges that is helping students get an early start at gaining the experience they need.

The program is two semesters, which includes seminars that address essential research skills such as lab safety, research ethics, statistics, seminar presentations and technical writing. In addition, students will also spend several hours each week performing research under the supervision of a mentor at a participating Central Florida research laboratory.

At the end of the second semester, students submit a poster presentation, a research paper and a PowerPoint seminar detailing their findings; some may even submit their work to undergraduate research publications.

Dr. Suzy Behel began the program in August 2009, and said she has worked with a diversity of areas with the students.

"It gets students doing research earlier so they can find out if they like it," Behel said. "This has been a new movement across the nation to get more people involved in undergraduate research."

Eighteen-year-old Reed, who worked at the University of Central Florida's nanoscience lab studying nerve cell technology, is one of the few students lucky enough to enter the STEM research program at Seminole State College while still in high school.

He said being a dual-enrollment student helped



PHOTO BY KRISTY VICKERY — THE VOICE

Seminole State's Suzy Behel began the innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program in 2009 to get students into their fields of study faster to find out if they want to stay on their chosen career path.

him get a jump on research skills he will need in medical school.

"The program helped me develop the skills to where now I can walk up to a research professor and say look I've had this experience, and I'll be able to do these things for you," Reed said. "The experience was great; it helped me gather more research opportunities."

The program has also helped mother-of-two Andrea Gross get the start she needs toward medical school.

"It was very challenging with a family," Gross said. "But I think I have a huge, huge leg up as far as future research spots."

Gross is planning to transfer to UCF in the fall and said with 250 hours of research in the lab under her belt, she feels confident she'll be able to compete with other students in the same field.

"Finding a spot and getting it and securing it, is really a huge deal," she said. "I think I'm in a good spot when I go to UCF as an undergraduate to find some

descent research spots."

Although many SSC students are now moving forward into the next step in getting closer to the careers they've dreamed of, many are not forgetting the experience that they will cherish for a lifetime.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity that I had to be in the research program, it's something I look back on and say it was a smart decision," Gross said. "There are not many people that can walk away from a community college and say that they got that."

Learn more

Seminole State College operates six sites in Central Florida, including campuses in Altamonte Springs, Heathrow, Oviedo and Sanford/Lake Mary.

SSC, one of the fastest growing colleges in the nation, has enrollments of more than 32,000.

For more information on Seminole State and the STEM program, visit www.seminolestate.edu.

JUDGE | Candidates weigh the virtues of experience versus being an 'outsider'

< continued from previous page

faith and confidence in the judicial process. There have been judges who have displayed arrogance and misconduct. I want to restore mutual respect to the process. People call me and describe their experiences in court as 'horrible,'" she said.

Krause hopes that being the second female County Court judge will add more diversity to Group 5.

For more information visit <http://www.Krause4Judge.com>

Hass

Greg Hass defended Seminole County's interests at the local, state and federal level for four years as the county's assistant attorney. He believes the experience has given him unique insight. He is board certified in real estate and city, county and local government law and currently serves as senior counsel for

the Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) and general counsel for FAR's charities that provide disaster relief and college scholarships.

A Seminole County resident since 1980, he expects to face budget challenges. "It will be a lot of work but I'm ready for it," he said.

Hass trained and served as a volunteer hearing officer for the Seminole County Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) program and now serves as a volunteer PAY Teen

Court judge.

Why is Hass running? "I grew up here, and I'm ready to take my experience to the next level. I will be honored to serve in a fair and impartial manner."

For more information visit www.gregforjudge.org.

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Shows and sales dot the calendar

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

Looks like summer fun is just about over for the younger set. School starts around here on the 16th of this month. Looks like no more late morning snoozes and lazy days. Time to hit the books and time for all of us to be careful driving as traffic will certainly pick up. I wish the kids well going back to school in this heat.

Speaking of this heat, my friends and I walk in the morning, then go shopping and then it's back home for lunch. Afterward we hide out in our homes with a good book or light housework from that afternoon heat. It's much too hot to be out, and unless you are running from one air-conditioned place to another, one can always hide in the mall and do more shopping, my friend Susan said.

St. Luke's Concert Series

Mark your calendars for St. Luke's Concert Series beginning Saturday, Sept. 11. The Brass Band of Central Florida will present "American Salute" with two performances that day — a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening concert at 7 p.m. Mr. Chad Shoopman makes his debut as the new director of the Brass Band in the inaugural concert of the series' 17th season. The performances will feature a program rich with patriotic overtones to honor the anniversary of this historic day. The program includes "Heroic Fanfare", "Armed Forces Salute", "Liberty Fanfare", "God Bless America", "Music of the Spheres", "America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever". Admission is free for both performances. The event is at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2021 W. State Road 426,

Oviedo.

Big Plant Sale

The Big Plant Sale will be held at the Sanford Garden Club from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 14-15 at 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford. The Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's annual fall plant sale features bromeliads in many genera: orchids, aroids, plumeria, gingers, heliconias and other tropical plants. Gift baskets and handcrafted slatted baskets are available in several sizes. Admission is free. If you need more information, please call 407-366-4860.

Antique Tool Show

The Antique Tool Show is on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave., Maitland. The Mid-West Tool Collectors Association and the Maitland Art and History Association will offer displays and demonstrations of tools and machinery from 1885-1910. There will also be tables for buying, sell-

ing and trading antiques. Proceeds will benefit the Waterhouse Carpentry Shop Museum, which was built about 1884 by Maitland settler and builder William H. Waterhouse.

Local photo contest

The Oviedo Preservation Project is accepting photographic entries of historic structures in the Oviedo Area. The deadline for submissions is Aug. 30. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to submit pictures, and winning photographs will be printed in 7,000 calendars for distribution free of charge around Oviedo. Photographers may reside anywhere in the world, though photographs must be of historic structures in Oviedo, Chuluota, Geneva, Slavia, Jamestown or the Black Hammock area. For a building to count as "historic" it must be at least 50 years old. For more information, visit www.OviedoTraditions.org or call 407-365-1433. We are certainly looking forward to viewing next year's calendar.

Early voting

I like to vote early and I am going to participate in the early voting taking place now until Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends. You can vote at the following centers for early voting: the libraries in Oviedo, Lake Mary, Longwood and Casselberry as well as the Supervisor of Elections Office in Sanford. To obtain an absentee ballot, you may call the Seminole County Voter Hotline at 407-585-VOTE or visit www.VoteSeminole.org. Regular election voting will take place on Aug. 24, and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A thought

"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first." —Frederick B. Wilcox

TALK TO JANET

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"Get Healthy From the Inside Out!"

The career coach

We asked a local specialist what's hot and how to get hired

KRISTY VICKERY
GUEST REPORTER

As Director of Career Services at Devry University in Maitland, Kathaleen Emery's role is to coach students throughout their studies, and enable them with the skills that will best prepare them to translate their major into a career and land a job. She recently sat down with Observer reporter Kristy Vickery to talk about the today's job market.

What is the most important

thing students entering their last year in college can do to help them prepare for job market?

"They should connect with their career services department, if they have not already done so. By their senior year, it's ideal if they have already had an internship experience... but for some this is not feasible... so improving confidence through mock interviews or job shadowing is also important. We also encourage in their freshman year to learn the technique of networking."

What are the up-and-coming careers in Orlando's job market right now?

"Definitely health care and technology... technology in general, the more creative you are, is definitely becoming more and more of the trend locally I see."

What perspective can you give on how companies in the Orlando area are hiring students after graduation?

"Well, the good news is they still are hiring. I think that's one of biggest myths out there is that no one's going to hire me so I'm not going to do a job search... they are still looking for talent they can mold and fresh minds that have creative ideas."

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How should graduates negotiate stating salaries?

"They need to be open-minded and flexible. We try to coach them on the rate they are expecting... and we try to keep their expectations realistic. We also ask

> turn to Q&A on PAGE 8



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STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

Have you voted yet? Early voting is underway in Seminole County, and if you haven't cast your vote, there are plenty of tools and opportunities to get familiar with the races and primary candidates.

Kudos to Seminole County Supervisor of Elections Mike Ertel and his team who have provided online and print material to engage every voter. There is simply no excuse not to go to the polls with an educated decision in every primary race.

Start with the website www.voteseminole.org, which provides a list of sample ballots for Democrat, Republican, Libertarian and non-partisan voters. You should also have received sample ballots in the mail. If you're a split-party household you'll see the ballots are different since this is a primary election. However, look carefully because you'll find non-partisan races like the judicial races for circuit and county judges as well as the district School Board races.

Next check out the left side tab labeled "Who Is Running For Office?" This is a great gateway to become familiar with the cast of players in each race. Candidate bios are listed when you do a search, which you can customize whichever way you want. If you want to see all the Seminole County races click on "all" or choose the races of interest to you. Each candidate bio includes contact informa-

tion, a website link and a brief unedited statement. When you click on the websites, a wealth of information is available. Endorsements, education, accomplishments, community service, volunteer opportunities, financial support, upcoming events and more are generally included.

Local newspapers such as the Seminole Voice have been running profiles on many of the races as well. You can find many of these online especially in the past few weeks. There is also still time to attend candidate meet and greets such as the one being held Monday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center.

The Candidates Forum is planned to include a dozen candidates at this time for the U.S. Senate District 24, State Senate District 24, State House District 33 and the Seminole County Commission seats Districts 2 and 4. Questions will be asked by the forum moderator, who will set the time rules as well.

VoteSeminole.org also includes all you need to know about precinct locations, early voting locations and times.

With all these tools in your voting toolbox, it just makes sense to vote early and avoid the heavy crowds on Election Day, Tuesday, Aug. 24. Did you know that early voting is available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on the weekends, Saturday and Sunday from

noon to 4 p.m.? The last day of early voting will be Sunday, Aug. 22. There are five early voting locations — Sanford, Oviedo, Longwood, Lake Mary and Casselberry. The important factor here is if you do vote early, you may do so at any of those five locations, not just the one nearest to your precinct. In some cases, a location may be closer to your work or the store where you are running errands. I know it's crazy getting kids ready for school, but show them what our Republic is all about by studying the ballots and bios with them and proudly wearing your "I Voted" sticker.

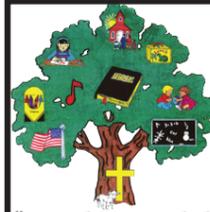
If you're frustrated with not being heard by your elected and community officials and if you want to feel more empowered, get educated, get engaged and go vote this August.

P.s. Don't forget, if you want to brush up on your government and history, classes on the U.S. Constitution will be held the next three Tuesdays on Aug. 17, 24, and 31, at the Rural Heritage Center. The classes will be from 7-9 p.m. and the cost is about \$15. Call Paula Marcinak at 407-349-5346 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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If you think we can do a better job serving you, please let us know.

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From my GARDEN

to yours
Tom Carey



Starting seedlings for the autumn garden

With the start of Florida's garden year on hand, now is the time to start seedlings as transplants for our gardens. Starting our own transplants has several advantages, some far greater than economic. Our harsh growing conditions, resulting from a combination of rain, sun, heat, sandy soil and a busy schedule, lend themselves to planting our gardens with established seedlings.

Garden crop selections available as a retail purchase seem to diminish every year. Although transplants can be bought mail order delivered next day air, it's just not the same as perusing a hole-in-the-wall nursery center's eclectic inventory. Many nursery centers that do offer transplants offer the same product grown at a seedling factory in another climate zone. Lavender is a crop that just won't

grow well in Central Florida, but I see the same lavender seedlings at retail garden centers all over town. Starting my own transplants gives me the opportunity to start the much broader selection of seeds available.

The price of transplants has gone up remarkably over the last few years. Where I previously could buy a six- or nine-cell pack, now one single larger plant sells for the same price. One trick I use to save money on plants is at the grocery produce department, which sell 4-inch herb plants made up of numerous sprouts such as parsley, dill, basil or thyme. Gently separate each sprout and carefully replant it into a larger pot. Swap transplants with gardening friends, at garden club meetings or at a community garden. At the Organic Gardening Club or Herb Society of Central Florida meetings held at Leu Gardens I leave with numerous transplants every time.

Potting soil should not be overly rich in plant nutrients such as compost, fertilizer or manures. Loosen potting soil with perlite — the white, puffed quartz

that allows soil to drain excess moisture. In nature, plants always reproduce in excess. Translate this trait by dropping a few extra seeds. A cafeteria tray is an easy way to manage numerous 4-inch pots. Find a protected, bright location to germinate your seeds. Until the transplants are strong enough, keep them safe from a pounding rain.

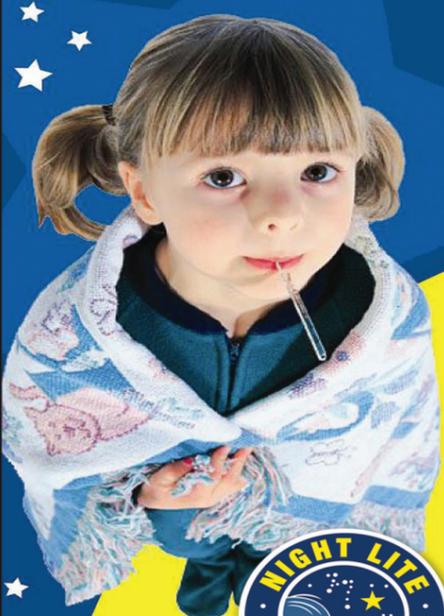
Starting your own plants from seed is an important aspect of our relationship with our world. The leap from a tiny seed, through the miracle of germination, to food on our table should leave us in awe. Maybe the simplicity of the act or the absence of the alternatives keeps us blissfully unaware. This value obtained from gardening needs to be respected from this humble beginning.

WHO IS CAREY

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

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Q&A | Any experience is good

< continued from page 6

them not to focus on the national websites like www.salary.com.... They need to really know their information and get a variety of different opinions before they go about a salary."

Should college graduates accept a position outside of their major?

"Being open-minded is key... you may have to start in another department that could utilize your transferable skills that you have to offer, knowing that you're able to get promoted within the organization... but they should really be dead set on reaching organizations that have everything they are looking for."

What are the best ways to develop a job search plan?

"Finding a mentor in the industry, if possible... in addition joining at least one, if not two, professional organizations."

What are the best ways to follow-up with potential employers?

"A great rule of thumb is to keep note cards in your glove box in your car... so when you come out of an interview you already have something to run back in with and leave with the receptionist... that's an instant thank you to that employer. If you do not have note cards available, I would definitely send an e-mail."

What are the biggest mistakes graduates make going into the career world?

"When it comes to a job search, sometimes they get so focused on one interview, then they have the interview and sit at home and they wait, and they do not continue an active job search."



Emery

What are the biggest misconceptions about the job market right now?

"Thinking that accepting contract positions will hurt their future career opportunities... getting any type of experience filling in the gaps as an active employee with an organization where you can keep networking would really continue to open doors."

How can graduates highlight certain skills to make them stand out to potential employers?

"Definitely those specific skills or buzz words for the degree that they've studied... any leadership experiences are also really key.... A big one for the Central Florida market, because we are so diverse, is listing any extra languages that you speak, so if you are bilingual or trilingual that should be at the very top of your resume."

INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Aug. 20, 1911 —

Vincenzo Perugia enters the Louvre and steals Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. It was later recovered (unharmed) in 1913 when Perugia attempted to sell the painting.

Young entrepreneur goes big

TINA RUSSELL
THE VOICE

It was two weeks before her friend's bachelorette party. Rena Tchekmeian had scoured the Internet in hopes of finding a place that could print 10 shirts before the trip.

The design was specific: three men holding up wedding rings with the man in the middle holding up the largest ring, saying "Megan picked the right one."

Every screen-printing company she contacted was through e-mail. There was no face-to-face communication or telephone communication.

"I would e-mail them, and then I would get an e-mail back, and it wasn't exactly what we wanted," Rena said. "They couldn't do a certain color, or they couldn't do the exact sizes we needed."

Three days before the bachelorette trip to downtown Orlando, Rena called her brother, Alex Tchekmeian, and he was able to make the shirts.

Five years later, Alex, president of Winter Park-based AKT Enterprises, a branding and marketing company, is materializing the need for hassle free, face-to-face communication into something tangible with the August opening

of Big Top, located at 7612 University Gardens Drive, just outside Winter Park.

This brick and mortar store offers all the same web and print media services AKT offers — identity development, web-based applications, web hosting and maintenance, online stores and fulfillment — but it also provides screen-printing services for garments to the regular consumer in a face-to-face environment.

"My sister always talks about how her and her friends who are going on these trips and how they want 10 shirts for the girls to wear," Alex said. "My vision is to have my sister and her friends walk into the store, design their own shirt, and within an hour, walk out with the printed shirts."

Alex said while the Internet sales option still exists, AKT wants to move away from the online experience with this retail store and become a business partner with the consumer.

"The new side of Big Top is making AKT more accessible to regular consumers, but we're still offering the same services to businesses, clubs and organizations that need help with promotional services. We are targeting the pizza shop opening up next door who wants business cards, logos, and designs; we are targeting the individuals; we are targeting the parents and we are targeting the moms who want monogrammed initials on all their towels," Alex said. Mendelewicz said other companies provide the

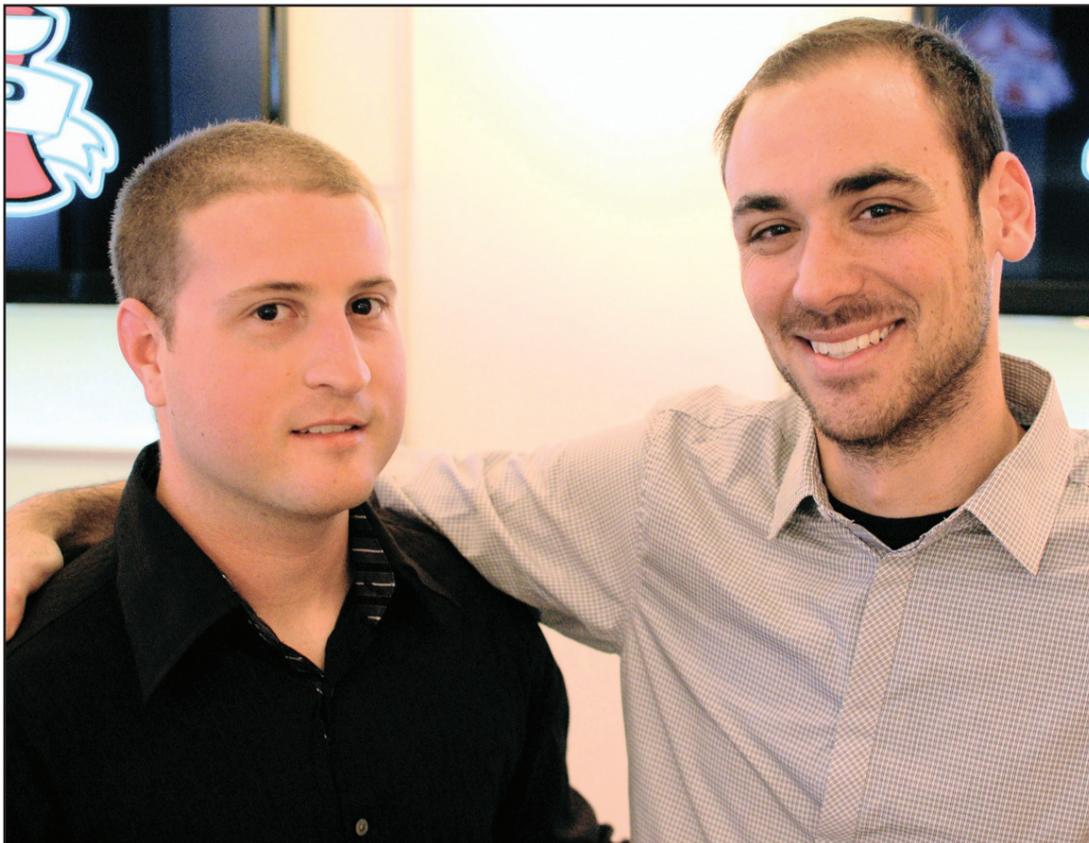


PHOTO BY TINA RUSSELL — THE VOICE

Alex Tchekmeian, left, and Jared Mendelewicz are taking Big Top to new places, opening up a retail store for their burgeoning branding and marketing business. They'll also offer screen printing and custom shirts at the store.

same amenities they provide, but a person would have to go to four or five different stores to get what they can do under one roof.

The logo for Big Top consists of a circus tent with the words "Big Top" laced in ribbon. Mendelewicz said the name for Big Top came up randomly in conversation, and from a marketing standpoint, Mendelewicz and Alex wanted it to be over the top but still professional, which is where the circus theme came into play.

"The closest thing I can approximate Big Top to is an Apple store," said Will Chung, general manager for AKT Enterprises. The retail space of Big Top consists of modern décor where form follows function. The store oozes red, white and black with

plush red swivel chairs, circular white and silver corner tables, black tables, and flat screen televisions.

Big Top is the flagship store for AKT Enterprises, and Mendelewicz and Alex already have plans to open up additional locations in the future. Alex said he would like to have one additional Big Top developed or in the works by the end of 2010 with five or six additional stores either opened or in the works by the end of 2011.

Twenty-four-year-old Tchekmekian, who started the business when he was 17, wants to expand with locations closer to the University of Central Florida or Sanford.

To learn more about AKT Enterprises, visit their website at www.aktenterprises.com/

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Family Calendar

The Star Spangled Showcase will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 at the Winter Springs Senior Center, 400 N. Edgemon Ave. The talent show is free. Aspiring singers of Winter Springs will compete in a singing contest to be named the Star Spangled Showcase winner. Also, there will be guest performances by Winter Springs Performing Arts' own Lindsay Strembecki and Zach Meadows. For more information, please call 407-327-6593.

Catch the fun of youth softball and baseball. Winter Springs Babe Ruth is currently registering players for the Fall Season. Come out to Central Winds Park on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for sign-ups and Saturday, Aug. 21 beginning at 8:30 a.m. for skills assessments/late registration. All girls and boys, ages 4-18, are invited to play. For more information, go to wsbaberuth.com or call 407-699-6063.

The Summer End Fest to benefit Oviedo Education is Saturday, Aug. 14 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at the River Run Seminole Campus, 141 River Run Point in Chuluota. There will be free admission, fun games, great food and live entertainment. All proceeds will benefit Oviedo middle schools. Preregister at OviedoEvents.com.

On Saturday, Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Amway Arena, thousands of Central Florida children will receive a backpack stuffed with school supplies and access to immunizations, dental screenings and much more: all free. Visit www.hopenowinternational.org or call 1-877-674-7497.

Come to the Park on Park in Sanford for Cinema in the Park on Friday, Aug. 20. The movie is "The Goonies". The show starts at 8:30 p.m., or sunset for optimum viewing. Admission is free.

2010 Bears Football will host two big events to kick off the season:

-Help fund team meals at the Purple and Gold Scrimmage on Friday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. See the Bears in action at WSHS for just \$1. It will be a great night of football, fun, food and fellowship. Come and get a first look at the team that many are saying is the "best bet" to win the district. With 26 returning seniors, including 16 starters, the Bears are primed for back-to-back state playoff berths.

-Join Coach Hesselbart, the coaching staff and team as they are introduced to the city in a fun-filled evening at The Hollywood Bistro in the Winter Springs Town Center for the Bears City Pep Rally on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 5-9 p.m.

Skater looks for airtime

On the verge of breaking out, this clean-living Chuluota resident breaks the mold

BRITNI JOHNSON
GUEST REPORTER

As Bert Wootton drops his board, hops on and glides over, it seems as natural as walking. And maybe it should be; the 21-year-old has been skateboarding since the fourth grade.

"I thought, 'This is the funnest thing I've ever done in my life,' and that's all I did from then on out," Wootton said.

The Chuluota resident has since won two Red Bull Manny Mania competitions, one for his region at Universal CityWalk in Orlando, and the last in Woodward, Pa., to earn his slot to represent the U.S. at the world competition.

Wootton is headed to New York City for the Red Bull Manny Mania Amateur World Final on Saturday, Aug. 21, and will compete against skaters from every continent (except Antarctica.) The winner gets \$10,000 and a spot to participate in the Manny Mania Pro competition against professional skaters.

That's a big deal for Wootton. For him, skating is it — there's no backup plan. And a chance to skate in these competitions could launch a professional career.

"Then you're living the dream," he said.

Wootton already skates as if it's his job. He spends at least five hours a day, six days a week skateboarding at skate parks and around town.

"He just loves it. He lives it, eats it and breathes it," said mom Kathy Wootton. "If it's not raining he's skating."

And that's what makes Wootton such a good skater, along with his

creativity, his friends said.

"He brings something new to the table—he's not a cookie cutter skater," said Ryan O'Connor, Wootton's friend and sponsor through Rip N Dip Clothing, also based in Orlando.

Fellow skater Kevin Eubanks agreed with O'Connor. He said that Wootton's style is unique because he looks at skating obstacles in a different way, and does tricks no one else thinks to do.



Bert Wootton could be the next big thing in skating, but he's trying to shake the stereotypes of drinking and drugs that are sometimes associated with the sport. On Aug. 21, he'll be competing on the national level, hoping for his big break. PHOTOS BY BRITNI JOHNSON — THE VOICE

"He gives me inspiration to try new tricks, be creative and skate differently," he said.

Wootton likes that he can inspire other skaters, especially those younger than him. He hopes his drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle will serve as a good role model for young skaters, and will represent the sport, sometimes stereotyped as one for stoners, in a different, more serious way.

you don't need that if you're really into skating," Wootton said. "I just hope to set a good example for the little kids at the skate park."

He does. Parents at Riverside come to him and thank him for being that role model, Kathy said.

But things haven't always been easy for the skater. He's had a dream future dangled in front of him before, just to have it smashed. There have been times when he's been sponsored and almost turned into a recognized amateur, but then nothing happened, Kathy said.

"It's disappointing for the whole family," she said.

But right now hopes are high, and Wootton can't wait to head to New York City for a chance to get noticed and maybe start "living the dream."

First, he has to get over competition jitters.

"At first I'm really nervous, butterflies and shaky legs, until I land that first trick, and there's a spark and I'm in the mode."

"People are stunned that I don't drink or do drugs, but



Shopping with Seminole Sheriffs



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE
 At left, Sheriffs' Citizen on Patrol Shirley Fossa helps Anya, 9, pick out new clothes at a charity event that helped children buy school supplies and clothes for school.

Notes

The Oviedo Preservation Project is accepting photographic entries of historic structures in the Oviedo Area for its free calendar. The deadline for submissions is Aug. 30. Photos must be of historic structures in Oviedo, Chuluota, Geneva, Slavia, Jamestown or the Black Hammock area. For a building to count as "historic" it must be at least 50 years old. For more information, visit www.OviedoTraditions.org or call 407-365-1433.

Ray Rowland has secured a college wrestling scholarship where he will continue his academic education; transforming from an Oviedo Florida High School Lion to a McKendree University Bearcat. "As a team captain, he led our program to a fifth team State Championship this

past high school wrestling season, as well as a national ranking. He will continue to do the same great things for his new team in college," Oviedo High School Head Wrestling Coach JD Robbins said.

Do your first (or next) half marathon at the Rock 'n' Roll Las Vegas event with Team Challenge. Raise money for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation while reaching your own personal goals. Go to www.ccteamchallenge.org or call 646-875-2079 for more information.

Those 55 and older are invited to join the Oviedo Recreation and Parks Department as they travel to Tampa to spend the day at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino on Tuesday, Oct. 12. The cost is \$25 per person before

Oct. 1 or \$30 before the registration deadline on Oct. 8. JB Bus will provide round-trip bus service. To register for the trip, visit Riverside Bank at 1600 Lockwood Blvd., or call 407-971-5575 for more information.

Seminole State College of Florida's Center for Public Safety will offer two new college credit programs this fall — a Homeland Security Certificate and a Gang Investigations Certificate. The credits can be applied to the Associate in Science in Criminal Justice Technology degree offered at Seminole State.

The National Coalition of the Homeless, hosted by Krissy Todd's Hope Foundation, has a speakers' bureau made up of homeless or formally homeless people who give

short presentations to the community. They attempt to educate, raise awareness and humanize. They are looking for any group, organization or church who would like to host a speaking engagement with them. If interested, please contact 407-245-5525 or ctudhope@nationalhomeless.org.

There have been changes to the Seminole County Public School Dress Code for the 2010-2011 school year. Visit www.scps.us and click on the "Dress Code" link, which will bring up a picture guide of what's allowed at school.

Central Florida animal advocates are mourning the death of "Dondi," a female Asian elephant who was a regular performer at Flea World, a

flea market in Sanford. Dondi died of unknown causes on July 28 at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, Mass.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Aug. 5 at the new Endeavor School site, located at 3010 Old Lake Mary Road in Lake Mary. The completion date is August 2011. It is a replacement facility for the Rosenwald School, currently located in Altamonte Springs.

There are only days left until the opening kickoff for the 2010 high school football season. In an effort to keep the excitement from last year's playoff season going and to keep the community posted on Winter Springs Bears Football news and events, the team has a new website that will be updated with all Bears football news — www.wsbearsfootball.com. If you have player news or info you would like considered for the site, send it to trekking@aol.com.

21st Century Insurance and Financial Services, Inc., a member of Farmers® Insurance Group, is currently looking to hire 35 sales and service representatives for their Lake Mary Call Center location. Apply online for these positions by visiting www.farmers.com/careers and clicking on "Corporate Careers".

875 Clark Street, Suite A
 Oviedo, FL 32765

www.OviedoVision.com
 407.366.7655

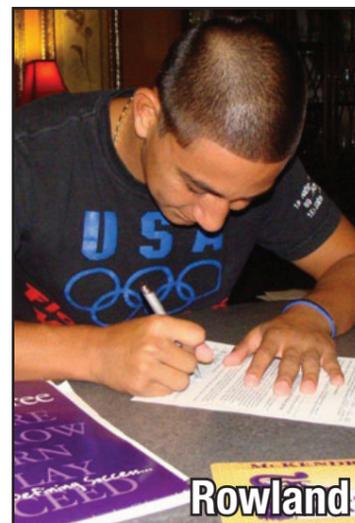
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Calendar

Come to the Just Between Friends of Central Florida consignment sale Aug. 13-14 at the First Baptist Church of Altamonte Springs, 900 N. St. in Longwood. At the event, families will find great deals on items including children's and maternity clothing, every type of baby equipment, furniture, children's outdoor and sporting items, DVDS, toys and home school supplies. Visit www.jbfsale.com for more information.

Orlando kids, families and volunteers will turn a local gym into an all-night volleyball event to benefit Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, for the second annual Bumps for Operation Christmas Child event at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 through 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14 at Winter Springs High School. Last year, this event raised nearly \$7,000 for Operation Christmas Child. Visit www.DeMossNews.com/OCC for more information.

The play production of "Steel Magnolias" will play from Aug. 13-

22 with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in downtown Sanford, 201 S. Magnolia Ave. "Steel Magnolias" will be directed by Randy Tapper. Tickets are available at www.WDPAC.com or call 407-321-8111.

The Big Plant Sale will be held at the Sanford Garden Club from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 14-15 at 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford. The Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's annual fall plant sale features bromeliads in many genera. Gift baskets and handcrafted slatted baskets are available in several sizes. Admission is free. If you need more information, call 407-366-4860.

The Fertilize Appropriately Class is Saturday, Aug. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Seminole County Extension Auditorium in Sanford, 250 W. County Home Road. For registration or more information, please contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator at 407-665-5575 or e-mail fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

gov.

Come to the Geneva Candidates Forum on Monday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Geneva Community Center, 161 First St. (across from Marathon Gas Station). Candidates from Seminole County Commission Districts 2 and 4, U.S. House District 24, Florida State House District 33 and Florida State Senate District 24 will attend. For more information, contact Richard Creedon at 407-349-1266.

The League of Women Voters of Seminole County will host a hot topics lunch featuring candidates running for State Senate seats in Districts 20, 22 and 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19 at Sergio's Italian Restaurant, 2895 S. Orlando Ave. in Sanford. The cost is \$15 for the public and \$13 for League members. Pay cash or check at the door. Call 407-339-9266 or e-mail lvwseminole@gmail.com to make a reservation.

On Saturday, Aug. 21, Target is inviting all UCF freshmen to board

a Target bus that takes them directly to the local Target store in Orlando, 325 N. Alafaya Trail, from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. for great back to school deals, games and a chance to win a drawing to participate in the Target Mad Dash. Students can enter for a chance to win the Target Mad Dash on Aug. 21, between 7-8 p.m. at Target's on-campus Welcome Week promotion. One lucky winner will be chosen at random at 8 p.m. The Mad Dash will take place at the Target store in Orlando and will begin at about 9:45 p.m.

Join the Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association at the Orange County Extension & Education Center for "National Honey Bee Appreciation Day" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21. The center is at 6021 S. Conway Rd. Orlando. For more information, please visit orangeblossombeekkeepers.org.

The planetarium at Seminole State College of Florida will entertain stargazers with the following events.

For more information, visit www.seminolestate.edu/planet or call 407-708-2360:

- "Central Florida Nights" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Aug. 27.

- "The Cradle of Civilization" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Aug. 20.

- "Luna" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.





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Photo courtesy of Scott David Photography

ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

Aug. 19, 1909 —

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway holds its first race. Now the speedway is home to the Indianapolis 500. With seating of about 400,000, the Indianapolis 500 is the best-attended event in American sports.

Kraze players top the league

These star players helped Central Florida's top soccer team finish in the top half of its division

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

Central Florida's top soccer team has something to cheer about, despite finishing short of the playoffs this season. They have multiple players who finished with some of the best stats in the league.

The Central Florida Kraze's top goal scorer, Jonathan Mendoza, was named to the Southern Conference team as a midfielder.

Mendoza had scored four goals in 13 games with the Kraze this season, picking up two assists along the way.

Conspicuously absent from the all-conference team was midfielder John Sosa, who picked up four goals and three assists in 14 games with the Kraze.

Also finishing just shy of Premier Development League honors, Wesley Giachetti finished high in multiple defensive categories despite suffering from erratic playing time.

Giachetti finished the season with an impressive .714 goals-against average,

giving up only five goals in seven games as the Kraze's keeper.

Had he played just one more game this season, he would have been eligible to be in the top 10 for the best starting goalkeepers in the league, nationwide. His goals-against average was good for seventh in the Premier Development League out of more than 300 keepers who defended the net this season.

Had he played one more game and recorded a shut-out, Giachetti may have been tied for the best goalkeeper in the country in total goals allowed.

Next season, Central Florida will have a new soccer team, thanks to the soccer club that brought the Kraze and Krush to the field. Though a name has yet to be announced, Orlando will have a professional soccer team for 2011 that will play in the United Soccer Leagues' top league.

"I'm really excited about the future," Kraze Coach Joe Avallone said.



Jonathan Mendoza was the Central Florida Kraze's top gun, scoring four goals and picking up two assists while firing off more than 30 shots during the 2010 season. His numbers were good enough to put him on the PDL Southern Conference team.

ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Dawgs win championship

After Sanford fell in the playoffs, Winter Park and Leesburg had a pitcher's duel at Tropicana Field

ISAAC BABCOCK
THE VOICE

After a long season when the bats came out to play, it was a pitcher's night underneath the lights of Tropicana Field, with Winter Park's Nick Goody throwing a 1-0 masterpiece on the big stage Aug. 5.

The Florida Collegiate Summer League Championship has frequently been a moment for the league to go into upheaval, with regular season champions frequently falling in the playoffs.

Not this time. The Diamond Dawgs' hurler established his dominance from the start, sending the first three Leesburg Lightning batters back to the dugout on a dominant three-strikeout first inning.

Seven innings later, Goody had nine strikeouts and had ceded only two hits to the Lightning.

Things weren't so sunny for the Lightning's Kyle Wahl, who despite a brilliant six-strikeout, four-hit performance in 6.2 innings ended up with a loss, giving up the one run that made all the difference.

Scrappy play by left fielder Spencer Theisen in the seventh inning manufactured a run for the Dawgs, as he turned a walk into a stolen base, then touching home after catcher Chase Okey smacked a single down the right foul line.

The next inning Leesburg struck back with a one man rally courtesy of shortstop Nick DeGuidice, who doubled to the left field wall and then raced to third base on a fielder's choice. With only 90 feet to go, DeGuidice watched as third baseman Matt Pierpont fouled off two straight pitches before grounding to second to end the threat.

With no run support, Wahl would go on to take the loss in one of his greatest pitching performances of the season.

For Goody, a stellar season comes to an end with 49 strikeouts in just 41.1 innings, along with a 1.52 ERA.

An optimistic coach Clint Chrysler, still elated after the win, said he's proud of his team.

"It was a great season," he said.



Only one run would separate the Diamond Dawgs from the Lightning in the championship game, as a pitchers' duel kept things close through all nine innings.

ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

August 15, 1945 —

Emperor Hirohito of Japan announces the unconditional surrender of Japan in World War II to the Japanese people through a radio broadcast.

Want a job? Have a job search plan

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



The purpose of this column is for me to answer questions and give advice on employment questions our readers have. I would love to hear from you about your job search and if you were able to use tips from this column.

I love when I get feedback from readers on their search. Recently we were able to help two readers with new resumes. We have also helped people create job search plans, invited people to attend classes and more.

If you have questions relating to employment or related services, please e-mail me at sandi@christianhelp.org. My phone number is 407-834-4022 if you do not have e-mail. (I am much faster returning e-mails than calls).

Some of the tips to always keep

in mind when you are searching:

-If you do not have computer skills, take classes to get the basics. Some job searches are done completely on the computer.

-Your resume has to be perfect. Two pages is the maximum, and it must have no errors. Concentrate on your skills and match your skills, achievements and experience to the job description.

-Keep a log of places you apply and user names and passwords.

-Have a job search plan for networking, applications and follow

up.

-Remember every contact matters from application to offer. Network, network, network.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

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

Limit voting to districts

There's a glaring error in the recent story "Who's Running in Seminole?" (July 30) In the first sentence, the Voice writes "The political landscape for Seminole County could change in August..."

Really? Each and every new candidate running for County Commission and the School Board is a Republican. Each and every candidate running for re-election in those positions is a Republican. (Also, nowhere in the two-page story does the Voice mention that all are Republicans.) How is that change? For true change, voters need a choice in political ideology.

There are nearly 92,000 registered Democrats in Seminole County, and in 2008, this historically "red" county almost tipped into Barack Obama's column by less than 2 percent.

So why are there no candidates other than Republicans? The answer is money. Look at the war chests racked up by some of these candidates: \$80,000 for John Horan, \$110,000 for Mike McLean — even more than \$21,000 for School Board candidate Karen

Almond. It's expensive to launch a campaign for commissioner and School Board because the election is district-wide. Democratic and independent (NPA) candidates, who traditionally don't have the finances of their GOP opponents, can't compete. That's why the Seminole County Democratic Party believes that to truly represent each district's distinct need and to open the doors to diverse political candidates, voting should be limited to those within each district. Then, and only then, will we have the change Seminole County needs to accurately and prudently serve each district and every resident.

—Wendy Wander Mize
Winter Springs

Don't approve charter school

It appears from all indications that the City Administration is playing April Fool's Day on the residents of our city in the middle of a very hot summer.

Why would the Winter Springs City Commission even entertain an application for a charter school from a developer who, as usual, is seeking to make a

bundle, run away with the loot and never ever again remember Winter Springs.

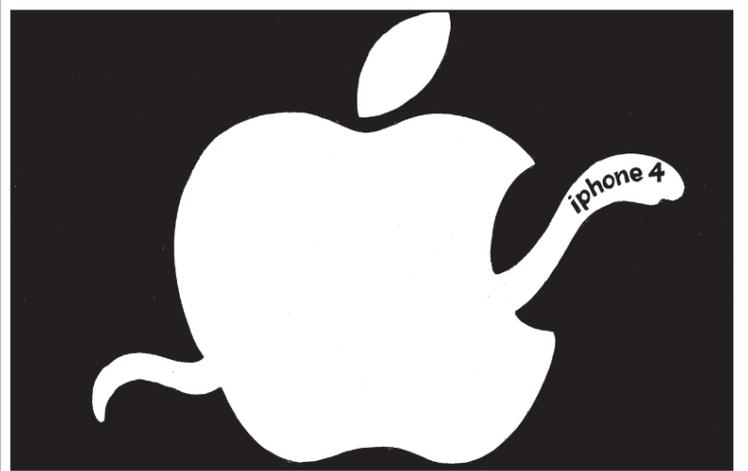
Why does our city need a charter school when we have the best public schools in the area?

Why must the city give up a chunk of land that is currently paying taxes, even if small, for the sake of allowing a tax-exempt institution to settle in the Town Center as a tax-exempt organization?

Aren't you, our elected officials, sufficiently intelligent enough to realize that traffic is going to be a mess since the hours of operation of our beautiful high school and those scheduled by this so-called institution of learning will run almost concurrently. Isn't the backup created by the high school traffic today enough to create a concern in your minds? You could draw an imaginary picture in your minds as to the chaos created by all the additional vehicles emptying unto State Road 434, and if my assumption is correct, they will be heading in a westerly direction.

Have you even bothered to learn if the 586 students registered, not to mention

Editorial Cartoon



the waiting list mentioned by the applicants, are children from Winter Springs or are they being brought in as part of the student body being replanted to our city.

Only one commissioner had the insight to bring up the fact that this project will not add one iota to the business community in Winter Springs.

Have you considered the effect on the city budget because the city will have to provide services to this institution without any income in the form of taxes?

I am in favor of education and have always urged young people to pursue education because once

you are educated, a brighter world opens up for you, but this project is wrong at the location in question, besides the fact that we already have great schools in our city.

There are more less compelling issues to deny the applicant, and I realize that coming from me this is taken not as constructive criticism but as an effort to make some people look bad. However, it behooves you at a time of financial crisis when our city is contemplating cuts in services and other areas to reconsider the future possible approval of this application at this time.

—Edward Martinez Jr.
Winter Springs

Young Voices

Here's what children at Seminole County National Night Out are looking forward to about going back to school.



I'm looking forward to being a senior at Oviedo High, graduating and volleyball season. We're raising money and having bake sales to buy new uniforms.

—Charlotte R.
17 years old



I'll be a junior at Oviedo High and I'm looking forward to spending time with my teammates playing volleyball.

—Kayla J.
16 years old



I'll be in 4th grade at Rainbow Elementary. I'm looking forward to seeing my friends and learning new things like long division in math. People at our school are close; it is a fun school.

—Brooke H.
10 years old



I'll be in fifth grade at Geneva Elementary. I'm looking forward to going to different rooms and changing classes. Geneva Elementary is my favorite school, it is a nice, good school with great teachers.

—Brock B.
10 years old



I'll be in second grade at Geneva Elementary. I'm looking forward to the field trips! I'm looking forward to making new friends and to study science, like rocks. We had a good summer vacation — we went to the beach.

—Catherine B.
7 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.

The Marketplace

professional services

Mobile Art Show

Ms. Charlie Sandry Wilson (a Mary Sandry original) is a "Story-Artist" who travels to homes, businesses, elsewhere since 1988, exhibiting "live" art. Mother was a painter and I am the canvas; a real work of art! I portray SageBrush: A Painter of Words. 321-279-1089

Charlie Wilson
321-279-1089

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407-491-2656
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Ernest Ohlmeyer
540-775-5089
Oldmax92@msn.com

real estate for rent

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real estate offices for rent

Winter Park: Goldenrod/University doctor's office

5 exam rooms + extra features. Other office units from 800 to 1800 sq ft. Nice building. Great Prices. Call (407) 293-1934

Ann Polasek
407-293-1934

SeminoleVoice.com

real estate for sale

Beautiful 2-acre house lot in Maine on secluded road.

Want to secure a spot to travel to and/or build on in vacationland? Lot has 250 ft. frontage with utility power at road. Conveniently midway between Portland and Lewiston, Maine. Financing available/ terms & price negotiable.

Please call Dennis at 207-685-8003.

I'm selling my loving mother's home, it's on the water with afternoon breeze blowing into a very large screened porch. Lots of trees with a 2 car garage, new roof and new paint inside and outside. This house needs nothing to be done. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, seller will pay closing cost. It's in the nice town of Cocoa, Florida. \$345,000. Have a nice life.

John
256.829.0676



Voice Homes



1707 Sunset Drive Winter Park, FL
Beautiful home in immaculate condition on a brick street in the Vias area of Winter Park. Situated on a tree lined corner lot in front of a small park. Walking distance to YMCA, Phelps Park, and Lakemont Elementary. Many upgrades since 2008. \$749,000

Mike Schmidt
407-622-1462
mjschmidt@aol.com



Voice Open Houses

Saturday, August 14, 1-4 p.m.
1103 Executive Center Drive, Orlando. 4BD/2BA, 2,308SF. New flooring in main rooms & bathrooms. 4th bedroom is large & can be used as bonus. \$289,900

Sunday, August 15, 1-4 p.m.
2204 Hand Blvd, Orlando
Newer roof, a/c, plumbing & brand new flooring throughout! Well cared for & meticulously maintained 2 story home. \$154,500

vacation rentals

Vacation chalet in Little Switzerland, NC
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Contact 407-678-9383
sommer@mail.ucf.edu

help wanted

Skilled Residential Bobcat Operator
Must have.... 1)Exp building pads, cutting driveways & final grades. 2)Reliable transportation & have a clean license with NO POINTS. 3)Exp driving a truck & trailer, and be willing to drive and work around the central Florida area. Fax resume (407)349-3973

katy
4073495563

workforce job listings

Seminole County

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

Merchandise Associate

Job Description: Responsible for assisting in the daily operations of the store. Works in the areas of merchandise presentation, processing, mark downs, fitting room, cashier, customer service, and lay-away and greets, interacts with, and thanks customers daily. Work days and hours may vary.
Pay Rate: \$7.25-\$8.00 per hour
Job Order Number: 9482661

Cinema

'Eat Pray Love' — Opens Friday



Photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

Liz has a house, a successful career, and a husband. But she soon finds herself divorced and she embarks on a journey of self-discovery. She learns the power of prayer in India, the pleasure of eating in Italy and true love in Bali.

PG-13 - 2 hours 13 minutes

Also opening: 'The Expendables'

Mercenaries embark on a routine mission to overthrow a dictator of a small South American country. When their true enemy (an ex-CIA operative) takes a hostage, the men must fight to save the innocent woman's life.



Photo courtesy Lionsgate

(R) - 1 hour 43 minutes

DRIVERS: FREIGHT HAS INCREASED!

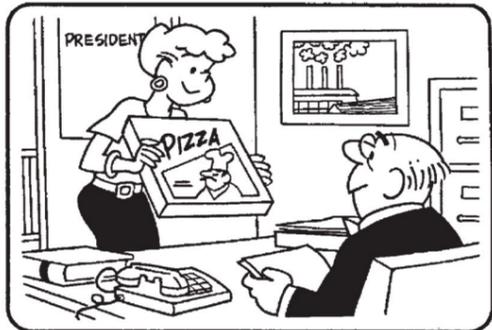
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Fun&Games

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

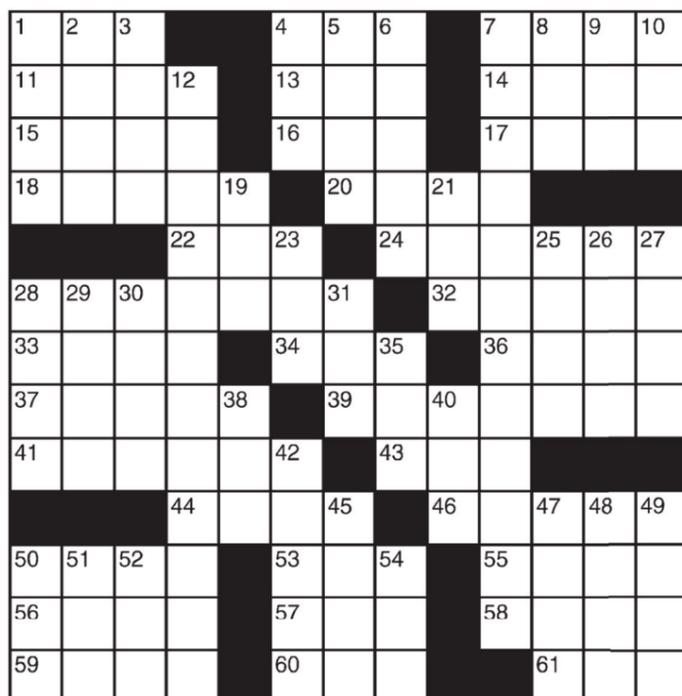


Differences: 1. Chef's hat is black. 2. Title on door is gone. 3. Phone cord is missing. 4. Glasses are gone. 5. Earring is gone. 6. Picture on wall is different.

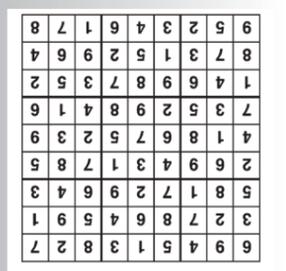
King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Trophy room, maybe
- 4 Recede
- 7 Bloke
- 11 Oil cartel
- 13 The Red or the Black
- 14 Inauguration recitation
- 15 "Arrivederci"
- 16 Faux —
- 17 Secondhand
- 18 Wash the pots
- 20 Potter's oven
- 22 Pinch
- 24 Its capital is Riga
- 28 Twisted treat
- 32 Existence
- 33 Ireland
- 34 Talk on and on
- 36 Get up
- 37 Blazing
- 39 Round pegs in square
- 41 "Am I my brother's —?"
- 43 Sock part
- 44 Related (to)
- 46 Shrivel
- 50 Unite
- 53 Gripe repeatedly
- 55 Frat party garb
- 56 Reed instrument
- 57 Hot tub
- 58 Break suddenly
- 59 Traps
- 60 Conger, for one
- 61 Mag. staffers
- 1 Medics
- 2 Grand tale
- 3 In the vicinity
- 4 Kreskin's claim
- 5 Duck's prominence
- 6 Pesto ingredient
- 7 Makes money?
- 8 Owns
- 9 Noshed
- 10 Third degree?
- 12 Bedspreads
- 19 Occupation, for short
- 21 Science room
- 23 Mrs. Al Bundy
- 25 Henry —
- 26 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 27 Quite some time
- 28 Pinnacle
- 29 Widespread
- 30 Ontario neighbor
- 31 Flee from a crime scene
- 35 Morsel
- 38 "A mouse!"
- 40 Boar's mate
- 42 Clean the suds off
- 45 Back of the neck
- 47 Region
- 48 "Zounds!"
- 49 Siestas
- 50 Trot
- 51 Japanese sash
- 52 Charged particle
- 54 8 pts.



Answers

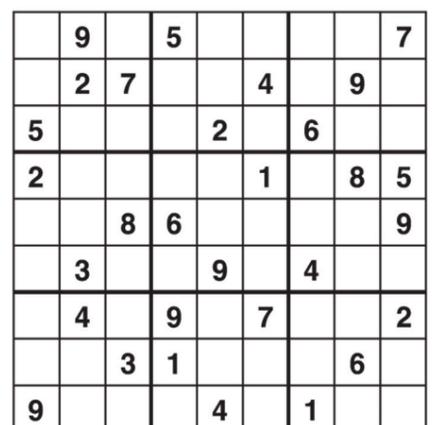


King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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SENIOR VOICE



THRIVE @ 55 AND BEYOND!

Giving scouts wings since 1953

Dick LaVanture, who may be the oldest scout in Central Florida, will be honored in Hall of Leadership

KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS
THE VOICE

Dick LaVanture may be the oldest Boy Scout in Central Florida, and he certainly is one of the busiest.

At 77 years-old, who could blame this father of four and grandfather of six if he chose a more leisurely lifestyle? But anyone who knows LaVanture understands his need to stay involved, take on challenges and mentor young people.

He became a scout master in 1953, retired from a 45-year career in electronics manufacturing in 1996 and survived bypass surgery 10 years later. He has been called outspoken and admits to having made and lost friends by being completely honest.

"I believe in stating fact, sometimes people don't like it, but I tell it like it is, and let the chips fall," said the Pennsylvania native.

Scouting has been a pivotal part of his life since he joined as an 11-year-old boy in Progress, Pa. Ten years later, he achieved the highest rank of Eagle scout, became a scout master and helped four other boys achieve the first Eagle rankings in the troop.

He celebrated his 65th year in Boy Scouts of America last year and received the Veterans Award for his service. As if that wasn't enough, this year he was nominated for the prestigious BSA 100th Anniversary National Hall of Leadership. LaVanture is one of 12 finalists from

the Central Florida Council selected from a field of over 80 nominations submitted from its 12 districts.

Each of the 300 Councils across the country will select one member to represent them in the National Hall of Leadership—a unique honor to celebrate the BSA centennial. One member from each of the four national regions will be honored in the National Hall of Leadership in Washington D.C.

Earning an Eagle rank is a prestigious milestone — only 2 percent of all scouts achieve it. Each scout must present a final Eagle Scout project idea before a board of review and have it approved by both district and council as a final test. According to LaVanture, Eagle projects are designed to test and develop leadership skills. Each scout plans his project and gets help from troop members and adults in addition to securing help and donations from the community.

"I am proud to be an Eagle Scout. I am sorry that there aren't more that have become Eagles, because it opens doors in the military, for college placement and for job interviews," LaVanture said.

This veteran scout has mentored over 50 young men to achieve their Eagle award and is working with four others in Troop 219 who are currently working on their Eagle badge in this centennial year.

Thomas Calvert, 16, is lucky to have LaVanture as his mentor. For his Eagle project, Calvert will be installing a 40-foot flagpole and brick base at United Global Outreach in Bithlo because the organization is both a church and a school and has been without a



PHOTO BY KAREN McENANY-PHILLIPS — THE VOICE

Eagle scout and mentor Dick LaVanture admires the new 100th year anniversary shoulder patch on his uniform. He hopes to sell 2,010 by year's end.

flagpole. Calvert is learning financing, planning, processes and building skills from LaVanture and hopes to complete his project by the end of June.

Tom Calvert, father of Thomas Calvert, is an Eagle Scout himself and appreciates the knowledge, good values and morals that LaVanture instills.

When he discovered that a local boy scout designed a commemorative shoulder patch in honor of the BSA 100th anniversary, LaVanture sensed an opportunity. The Council ordered 500 patches and LaVanture asked to sell 100 of them. The Council asked why he ordered so many and LaVanture asked why the Council didn't order more. He felt that his troop could sell 2,010 patches during the centennial year and true to his word they sold the first 100 during a three-day event. As of mid May over 1,300 patches have been

sold as LaVanture encourages scouts to replace their current patch with the new one.

Sherise Nelson recognized his vision and leadership as he helped boys in Troop 219 reach their goals including her son. Nelson knew that LaVanture was a prime candidate for the National Hall of Leadership.

Through his work in scouting, his church and the Bahia Shrine he has touched the lives of over 5,000 young people and has been recognized with many community awards and recognitions in Pennsylvania and Florida.

Evelyn LaVanture, his wife of 23 years, describes Dick as 'meticulous'. "He's one of the neatest men I have ever known and he loves to do things for people, especially children," she said.

LaVanture may seem tough on the outside but he

has also been a Bahia Shrine clown for 26 years. It takes about an hour for him to apply the grease paint make up for his Emmett Kelly-style clown face. He has been in make up 1,200 times and has participated in competitions, visited hospitals, performed at conventions, parades, and won numerous awards. He has 13 different clown costumes hanging in his closet and loves making kids smile, especially those in hospitals.

LaVanture continues to be inspired by the BSA experience.

"When a boy gets into scouting, he is taught the principles and the requirements. Earning merit badges sometimes leads boys to discover their life's work. It teaches them to be self-sustaining, learn self-reliance and is the only youth organization in the world that teaches the importance of God, country and self."

Learn more

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Senior Community Bulletin

The Newcomers Club of Central Florida is hosting a luncheon and general meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19, at McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant at the Mall at Millenia. Advance reservations are required. If you're new to the area, newly retired, or just ready to make new friends, this is the women's

club for you. For more information, call Tina Parrish at 407-359-1497, e-mail parrish407@bellsouth.net or visit www.newcomerscfl.org.

Excerpts from the Orange County Commission on Aging Newsletter August 2010:

Counsel for Caregivers Seminar – Elder law attorney Carolyn Sawyer is the August speaker and will focus on Medicaid planning and other legal concerns at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19, at the downtown Orange County Library, 3rd Floor, Albertson Room; 101 E. Central Blvd. The event is free and lunch is provided to the first 50 who RSVP to 407-836-7446 or officeonaging@ocfl.net.

Orange TV – You can now watch many of Orange TV's video clips at any time on the web. Visit www.orangetvfl.net and click on "vital living-seniors".

RSVP – The Orange County RSVP Office has a new website: www.rsvporlando.org. Visit to learn more about volunteering in Orange County.

Orlando@50+ – The National AARP conference is in Orlando this year at the Orange County Convention Center from Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Visit www.aarp.org/events to register and see why this event attracts more than 25,000 people every year!

Cool website - www.partnershipsforolderadults.org looks at how to establish community partnerships to develop innovative solutions and options that meet the needs of seniors.

Alzheimer's - The Social Security Administration has added early-onset to the list of conditions under its Compassionate Allowance Initiative, giving those with the disease expedited access to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability/adult.htm for more details.

Fraud Protection – The Investor Protection Trust has a new "clinician's pocket guide" that identifies common warning signs and techniques to gauge a person's financial capacity. Visit www.investorprotection.org/ for more information.

End-of-Life - A new study found that nursing home patients who participate in a program that enables them to record their wishes for end-of-life treatment are less likely to receive unwanted hospitalization and invention. For more information, visit www.americangeriatrics.org/press/id:999/.

Caregiving – You can create your own private website to help family and friends stay in touch and updated during someone's illness. Visit www.caringbridge.org to learn more.

Medicare Advantage Program – This Kaiser Family brief explains how the health care reform law affects the Medicare Advantage program, visit www.kff.org/healthreform/8071.cfm for details.

Positive Ager: The SRA "50+ Lifestyle Guide" features a positive ager in its bi-monthly magazine. Visit www.sraflorida.org to learn more about this issue's positive ager: Rita Bornstein.

Did You Know... Alzheimer's Disease is the 7th leading cause of death. On average, African-Americans waited six years; American Indians, five years; and Caucasians, two years from the time they recognized symptoms of dementia to the time they sought a diagnosis. Source: Alzheimer Association.

Recommended Reading ... "The Longevity Prescription: The 8 Proven Keys to a Long,

Healthy Life" by Robert Butler

Senior Trip – Those 55 and older are invited to join the Recreation and Parks Department as they travel to Tampa to spend the day at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino on Tuesday, Oct. 12. Try your luck at the 145,000-square-foot casino, with over 2,500 of the hottest Vegas-style game machines on the planet! The cost is \$25 per person before Oct. 1 or \$30 before the registration deadline on Oct. 8. Round trip bus service will be provided by JB Bus. To register for the trip, visit Riverside Bank at 1600 Lockwood Blvd, or call 407-971-5575 for more information.

The Winter Park Health Foundation (WPHF) has approved an \$8,000 grant to the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce to create a leadership program for older adults in Winter Park. It will be patterned after the Chamber's successful Leadership Winter Park program which has been offered for 20 years. This program offers a behind-the-scenes look at issues and challenges facing Winter Park. The Chamber also offers a Youth Leaders program twice each summer for local high school students. The pilot program for older adults will be tested twice, once in the fall and once in the spring. Feedback gathered from participants will help shape the content and format for future sessions. For more information, contact Lynn Carolan at 407-644-2300, ext. 234, or lcarolan@wphf.org.

Walk, run, stroll: all of these options are available at the Jewish Pavilion's "A Walk in the Park" on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Crane's Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. The festivities will include free food, entertainment, a health fair with flu shots and health screenings, a Baby Boomers and Seniors Expo, T-shirts for walk registrants, give-a-ways and more. Vendor tables are available for only \$100. Over 700 people are expected to participate. For more information or to register for the walk, visit www.jewishpavilion.org.

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Paid-off mortgage draws scammers

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

It's hard enough to work hard to pay off our homes so that we won't have that payment at retirement, but now there's a scam targeting some seniors who've done just that.

Here's how it works: When you have a mortgage, the Deed of Trust pa-

perwork is recorded with the local county recorder. When a mortgage is paid off, a reconveyance deed is filed (by the trustee or title company) with that same recorder's office and the original is sent to you within 30 or 60 days. The paperwork says you've paid off your mortgage. Except for property taxes (and maybe condo fees) you don't owe anybody anything on your home.

That reconveyance deed is extremely important.

Without it, you can't prove that you own your home. Knowing that, here come the scammers. A number of seniors have received in the mail official-looking documents saying that their reconveyance deed is not on file. For a "small" fee, of course, they can fix the situation and ensure that a copy is filed.

Nowadays it's easy to get information online, and that's likely where the scammers are getting it. No doubt they're looking at the

exact reconveyance deed online when they note your name and address and send you mail saying that deed is missing.

If you receive official-looking mail saying that your reconveyance deed is not filed, do not send any money to have someone else take care of it for you. Hunt up your own original and call the county recorder's office. Ask someone there to verify that your deed is copied or noted in the files.

I remember when people use to have deed-burning parties. The paid-off deed was incinerated in the barbecue grill in the backyard and a good time was had by all. It probably was never a good idea to do that.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into her column whenever possible.

Write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Bronze medallions for veterans' graves

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

When a veteran is buried in a national or state veterans cemetery, the grave has a government-issued marble or granite headstone or a marker. But the graves of veterans who are buried in private cemeteries without the government headstone

often don't indicate that the deceased was a veteran. This easily can be rectified now. The Department of Veterans Affairs has bronze medallions that can be affixed to privately purchased headstones or markers of those veterans.

Eligibility is for veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, are buried in a private cemetery and who did not receive a government-issued headstone or marker.

The bronze medallions come in three sizes: 5 inch-

es, 3 inches and 1-1/2 inches in width and include a kit (hardware, adhesive) used to attach the medallion to an existing headstone or grave marker. It is also suitable for a mausoleum or columbarium niche cover. Each includes the word "veteran" and the branch of service.

There's no specific application yet (one is being created), so for now use VA Form 40-1330 Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker.

(Leave block 11 blank. Use block 27 to describe the medallion being requested, for example "Medallion 3 inch").

Only next of kin can apply, but the next of kin list goes by lineage: surviving spouse, children by age, parents (biological, adoptive, step, foster), brothers/sisters (half, step),

grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts and others down the family tree. Additionally, a person authorized in writing by the

next of kin or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent also can order the marker.

For more instructions on getting a medallion, go to www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp or call Memorial Programs Service 1-800-697-6947.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Social Security makes a difference

The average payment for a retired person is about \$1,200 a month, 40 percent of their average income

Social Security reaches almost every family in the U.S., and at some point touches the lives of nearly all Americans. It not only helps older Americans, but also workers who become disabled and

families in which a spouse or parent dies. Today, about 159 million people work and pay Social Security taxes. More than 53 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits. In

2009 alone, those benefits came to about \$675 billion.

In addition to the national impact Social Security has on the U.S. economy, there's no denying the difference it makes in communities all across America. In neighborhoods around the nation, the benefits paid help more than just individual beneficiaries. These people spend their benefit

payments at the local grocery store, the local clothing store, department stores, and mom-and-pop shops. Benefits are used to pay for goods and services that sustain the local economy, keep local farmers farming, local retailers retailing, and local contractors contracting. In some counties, as much as 30 percent of the population receives benefits and

those benefits make up as much as 20 percent of the local economy.

Both at the national and local level, Social Security makes a difference. The average payment for a retired individual is \$1,169 a month, which represents 40 percent of income for an average retired person. The

> turn to **INCOME** on **NEXT PAGE**

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INCOME | Small payments can help keep retired seniors afloat in lean times

< continued from previous page

monthly payment for a disabled person averages \$1,065. For the widow or widower of a working family member, the average payment is

\$1,104. These are real numbers that help many individuals make ends meet.

The payments made to beneficiaries help individuals and families to stay afloat. But the byproduct is that

these individuals are using their benefits to help keep the economy going.

It's clear that Social Security makes a difference on a national, local, and individual level.

To learn more about Social Security, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

—Paul D. Barnes
Social Security Regional
Commissioner in Atlanta

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John Horan for Seminole County Commission



We are in extremely difficult economic times. However, we can meet our challenges, if we elect leaders who are honest and competent—leaders who are not self-serving and who really care about making government more efficient and effective.

I will be that kind of Commissioner. I humbly ask for your support and your vote in the August 24, 2010, Republican Primary.

John Horan

Political advertisement paid for and approved by John Horan, Republican, for Seminole County Commission, District 2

WHEN CHOOSING YOUR COMMISSIONER...

CONSIDER JOHN HORAN'S BACKGROUND.

- ✓ Resident of Seminole County since 1983
- ✓ Married 32 years to Joette, a Seminole County public school teacher
- ✓ Father of 2 adult sons
- ✓ Bachelor's Degree *cum laude*— University of Notre Dame – 1974
- ✓ Law degree – Notre Dame – 1977
- ✓ Partner – Foley and Lardner LLP

CONSIDER JOHN HORAN'S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

- ✓ Represented more than 70 dependent children in over 40 cases at no charge over the past 25 years
- ✓ Seminole County Charter Review Commission.
- ✓ Seminole County Natural Lands Advisory Board.
- ✓ Winter Springs Municipal Planning and Zoning Board.
- ✓ Past President of Private Business Association of Seminole County

CONSIDER JOHN HORAN'S PRINCIPLES.

- ✓ Local government should promote private job creation.
- ✓ A commission seat belongs to the citizens, not to the Commissioner.
- ✓ Self-serving expenditures should not be tolerated.
- ✓ The lowest taxes should be levied to achieve an acceptable level of service.
- ✓ Special interests should not get special treatment.
- ✓ An incumbent who has lost the public's trust should be replaced.

IT'S TIME TO ACT!

In the August 24, 2010 Republican Primary.

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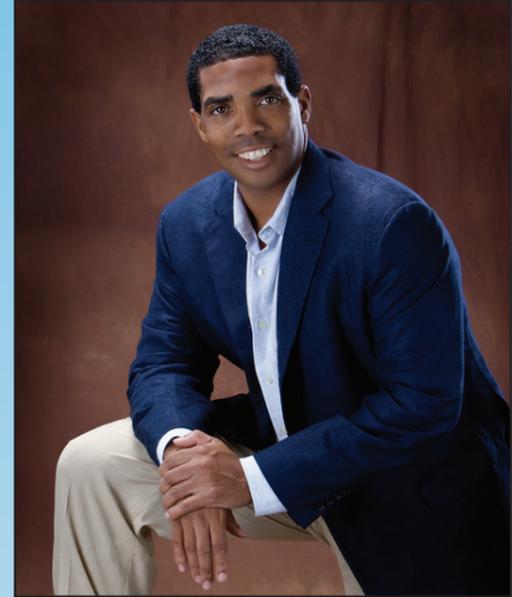
My name is Deon Long and I am running to represent Florida's 24th Congressional District in the 112th Congress of the United States.

The four (4) challenges that face the American economy and are responsible for the current state of the American economy are:

- An insidious, disincentivizing, progressive tax code;
- Inflationary monetary policy;
- Deficit spending; and
- Protectionist trade policies.

If I am sent to Washington to represent District 24, I intend to remedy these problems by championing:

- Passage of the FairTax;
- A return to the Gold Standard;
- Ratification of a balanced budget amendment; and
- Implementation of a free trade regime.



With passage of FairTax legislation I would advocate for a constitutional amendment negating the 16th Amendment. This amendment could be ratified temporarily with a balanced budget amendment. I also support tort reform and portions of Sarbanes-Oxley. The aforementioned agenda will provide a structural rebirth of the American economy and unleash the entrepreneurial talents of the American citizenry. This agenda will be a catalyst for the devolution of power from a centralized federal government to the fifty (50) states as intended by the Founding Fathers. I believe that we should follow the letter and the spirit of the Tenth and Seventeenth Amendments.

Thank you and God Bless America.
Ometrias Deon Long