



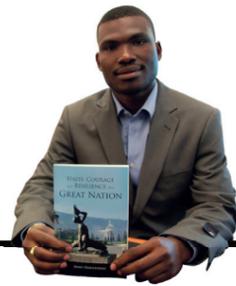
# Seminole Voice



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Tom Carey teaches locals how to raise their own chickens



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UCF football readies to defend its C-USA crown



**Honoring Haiti > 5**  
Seminole State author wins award for his book

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Aug. 26 - Sept. 8, 2011

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## Retail rebound

**CARMEN CARROQUINO**  
The Voice

Retail centers such as the Oviedo Mall and Winter Springs Town Center are battling the economic slump by connecting with their communities. And officials say it's working.

Cory Skeates, executive director of the Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce, said chamber members who are active in the community seem to be doing better than those hunkering down and focusing only on their businesses.

"We think it's the time that people need to be out in the community," he said. "They need to be out there promoting themselves. It's necessary to survive the storm."

Even though its merchants association recently disbanded, the Oviedo Mall is stronger than it has been in recent history thanks to new initiatives and a new name, management officials said. The marketplace-turned-mall added four tenants in recent months and reported 497,300 visitors in July.

For the Winter Springs Town Center, business is picking up as the mixed-use community development adds new tenants, a banquet hall and parking spaces. There's also a new charter school

■ Please see **RETAIL** Page 4

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

It's 6:30 on a Saturday evening as Vickie Johnson reclines on a brown suede couch in her dimly lit living room. It's her favorite place to relax on the weekend at her tiny Altamonte Springs home. She sleeps on it too, ever since October of last year. She does that, she said, because she's guarding the front door.

Though she lives in a relatively poor neighborhood along State Road 436 where Altamonte Springs addresses start blending into Casselberry, it isn't a fear of burglars that keeps her up at night. Seemingly everyone knows her here. They wave hello as they turn the corner to pass by her house.

But Bank of America doesn't know Vickie Johnson. And she's worried about what the bank is going to do with her home.

"I'm just waiting for the day they come to take my house away," Johnson said of the bank that issued her mortgage and is now trying to foreclose on it. "I've heard the horror stories where they show up out of nowhere to kick you out. I don't want my children to be the ones to answer the door."

### Always a fighter

Johnson doesn't seem like the type of person who would be waiting to lose her home. Despite her situation, there is no pleading in her eyes. Her go-getter personality jumps out at you as soon as she shakes your hand.

Though she grew up in a



## Losing the American dream

**Battling foreclosures, many are finding little outside help**

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Vickie Johnson stands in front of her Altamonte Springs home that she's trying to save from foreclosure.

broken home, had her first child at 15 and tangled with the law as a teenager, the 39-year-old mother of four fought her way into adulthood.

She battled to graduate high school. Then, while she was working for Hughes Supply as a product database administrator, she paid her way through college to get an associate's degree in health information technology.

Now working as a medical billing and coding specialist, she's putting herself through college again, this time working toward a bachelor's degree in computer information systems.

She's worked as an advocate for teens in the juvenile justice system. She's the secretary of

her homeowners association. She volunteers for the neighborhood watch program.

But none of that seems to have much bearing on the mess of financial trouble that fills the huge handbag she carries with her everywhere. It's bursting with foreclosure notices and years of legal paperwork.

It's been almost two years to the day since her problems started. On Aug. 10, 2009, she was laid off from her job of 13 1/2 years. That's when the struggle to pay her mortgage began. She kept fighting and landed another job. But a year after starting a new career at Raytheon, a government military contractor, she was laid off again, and her problems got much worse.

Her mortgage came second to feeding her kids, she said. But when she got jobs and tried to catch up on bills, she said her mortgage lender stopped communicating, sending her sporadic bills and then forgetting about her completely. But the foreclosure process continued anyway.

In the past three months, she said, she's felt like the bank has done more to exacerbate the situation than to help her.

"I've done everything to try to work through this," she said. "I've paid the forbearance payments. I've tried talking to them. But it hasn't been enough. Nobody's listened."

■ Please see **FORECLOSURE** Page 2

## Goodwill reaches out

**KRISTY VICKERY**  
The Voice

Brad Hays casts just a silhouette as he sifts through a bin of clothes in a dimly lit sorting room while another bag comes through the back door. At the Goodwill Thrift Store along the bumpy bricks of Sanford's Third Street, the donations keep coming all day. And by the time he's sorted through 24 pounds of donations, somebody in need will have a new job, according to Goodwill's new ad campaign.

It's a long journey between when a donated bag of old

clothes turns into a job for someone looking for work, but at the instant Hays takes the bag by the hand, he's the beginning and the end of a success story.

Stepping inside the door to make her first donation, Melanie Queen unknowingly sets off a long chain of events that gives a person like Hays a job. For her, it was just a gift to a stranger.

"I think it's a good thing to do when you're not using them (clothes), and you can give them to someone who can use them," Queen said.

Bill Oakley, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of

Central Florida, said donations are Goodwill's backbone.

"In turbulent times, when people see their neighbors struggling, they tend to be more generous," Oakley said.

### Job resources

Coleen Heyligar knows what it's like to have to seek out a helping hand in hard times. She called Goodwill after she was laid off and she had to move into a shelter with her 13-year-old son.

"It's been a real stepping stone in getting where I would

like to be and getting me and my son back on our feet again," she said.

Heyligar started going to Goodwill's Self-Sufficiency Job Center to use their resources, such as their three-day job course, and quickly found the resources she needed.

"I was getting interviews, but I wasn't getting the jobs, and I wanted to know what I was doing wrong," she said. "It brought me a new light and gave me a fresh perspective .... It reshaped me and how I would

■ Please see **GOODWILL** Page 2

USPS 008-093  
Publisher statement on page 2

### What's goin' on?

Freedom Ride's 11th annual fundraiser hosted at Arabian Nights, 3081 Arabian Nights Blvd., Kissimmee, is at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28.

**Calendar > 7**

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### Opening this week: 'Our Idiot Brother'

Three sisters take in their eternally optimistic brother Ned after he's fired from his job on an organic farm.



# THIS WEEK



## THIS WEEK in history

Sept. 3, 1939 — Britain and France declare war on Germany. The first casualty of that declaration was the British ocean liner Athenia, which was sunk that evening by a German submarine.

### GOODWILL | Constantly hiring

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

like to be seen.” Goodwill’s Self-Sufficiency Job Center is a nonprofit organization that offers job-training services for the underemployed and unemployed.

“In 2010, we had 1,916 job seekers come through the center and 179 were successful in that year for finding employment with 128 different employers,” Oakley said.

Goodwill employee Danny Butler is more than grateful for the paycheck he now receives every two weeks after struggling with unemployment for two years.

“This is the only place I know that’s consistently hiring,” Butler said of Goodwill. “And they’re the ones who help people with all kinds of situations.”

#### Finance savvy

The program will begin offering classes in September and is designed to address aspects of personal finance, such as creating a spending plan, banking and credit, and building assets. It’s all designed to help students become more financially stable by having better control of their money and their lives.

“We would like to see more people taking advantage of the services that we have so that we can help them on the road

to employment,” said Belinda Newkirk, a coordinator with Goodwill’s job center.

Helping others attain their goals and live a better life is the mission of both the center and the people who use their services.

“Life is what you make it,” Heyligar said. “I had a goal in mind, and I knew where I wanted to go.”

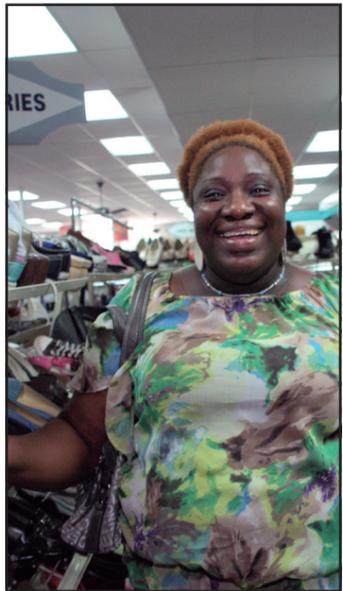


PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — VOICE  
Coleen Heyligar got a job thanks to Goodwill’s employment classes.

### FORECLOSURE | Fund shuts out disabled, sick workers

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Florida’s ‘albatross’

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, a calmly confident man in nondescript slacks and checkered button-down shirt steps up to a podium in an auditorium at Winter Park’s St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. David Westcott has driven more than 250 miles from Tallahassee to tell 100 homeowners how he can help them save their homes.

He’s been in the industry long enough to see what happens when homeowners get behind on bills. The clock is ticking away for homeowners who have already fallen behind on payments, he said. The longer they wait, the worse it gets.

“There are a number of different options for folks, but if people don’t admit that ‘Hey, I have a problem and I need it solved,’ then the road gets narrower and narrower down toward foreclosure,” Westcott said.

That’s where Westcott comes in. Three months ago, his organization, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, got the official go ahead to help disburse the \$1 billion federal Hardest Hit Fund, which gives money to homeowners who have fallen behind on payments and are in danger of losing their home.

But with Florida’s record number of foreclosures, coupled with strict rules for qualifying for assistance, getting the money to those who need it has been harder than originally hoped.

The numbers have been daunting. In Florida, 22,377 homeowners filed for foreclosure in July 2011, second only to California, the most populous state.

“Florida has consistently ranked among the states hardest hit by foreclosures, falling housing prices and unemployment,” foreclosure relief advocate Joan Flewelling said. “1.7 million Floridians have been affected by foreclosure filing. That’s almost 10 percent of the population.”

It’s a problem that will only grow if Florida’s homeowners can’t get relief on their mortgages, said Florida Rep. Darren Soto (D-Orlando), who handles foreclosure cases as an attorney.

“If we don’t do this, we will have a generation of Floridians who are scorned with bankruptcy,” Soto said. “Foreclosures are our albatross. We need to get ag-

gressive with this issue now.”

#### Helping the hardest hit

That’s just what the Hardest Hit Fund was designed to address. With an initial projection of giving homeowners up to \$12,000 each to help satisfy payments, the program was expected to keep the average homeowner afloat for six months.

But there are hitches in that plan that will prevent many homeowners from keeping their homes, Westcott said. It stops paying at six months; nationwide, the average time a laid-off worker remains unemployed is nearly 10 months, economist and *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman said. It also only applies to those who are unemployed or underemployed. Death, divorce and disability aren’t considered with the Hardest Hit Fund, Westcott said.

For many homeowners, those restrictions have been the nail in the coffin for their homes.

#### Three times the hurt

As Westcott sits down on the podium at St. Margaret Mary, a skinny 50-something woman in a light blue denim skirt, blue blouse and thin-rimmed glasses hobbles up on an injured foot, reaches for the microphone and launches into a tirade.

Two years ago, Mary Blady’s husband, Howard, who works in construction, was laid off when the housing market collapsed in the wake of the recession and lending crisis. Then, when they couldn’t pay their mortgage on time, the bank foreclosed on their Winter Park home where they had lived for 10 years.

Howard recently got a full-time job again, making the same money as he had before, but the bank has refused to set up a payment plan to stave off foreclosure, Mary said.

“The banks caused this, then we helped them with a huge bailout, and now they’re foreclosing on our homes,” she said. “How crazy is that?”

When she found out that the Hardest Hit Fund might be able to save her house, she said she discovered that despite their recent struggles with unemployment and underemployment, they didn’t qualify for assis-

tance. That kind of frustration has made her wonder why an assistance fund was set up at all.

“Why don’t you just hand over that billion dollars to the banks now and save a few trees?” she said. “You can even give ‘em our house keys.”

#### Fixing a broken system

The Bladys’ situation is the type of problem Westcott said he’s trying to address. Getting community activists together will only improve that voice, he said.

Now, he said, they’re considering redrawing the line between who qualifies for the funds and who doesn’t. But there are limits to how many people the Hardest Hit Fund can help and how much it can give them, he said.

“Wherever you draw the line, unfortunately there’s going to be somebody on the other side of that line,” he said.

#### Fighting back

For now, the tiny yellow-and-white blockhouse at the corner of Teakwood Lane is still Vickie Johnson’s home. Still talking on the couch Saturday evening, she’s casually watching TV as pastor Timothy Clark bellows out a sermon into the airwaves.

“The woman respected herself...,” he said in the background.

She still smiles when she talks about her house, even if she’s been battling foreclosure for two years. Even as she’s still on the other side of that line.

“It was something to call mine,” she said, recalling the joy of buying her home 14 years ago. “I had a home, a yard, a swing set. It was home. It was ours. It was the American dream.”

She’s smiling a little more today. Tired of waiting for her bank to respond to her requests, she used the money from the last forbearance check she’d sent — which she said the bank claimed never arrived — to hire a lawyer to try to save her home. Once again, the woman who never gave up is battling back.

“I’ll tell you one thing,” she said, looking around her living room filled with photographs of her children and more than a decade of memories. “It’s not worth much, but it’s worth the fight.”

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<p><b>PUBLISHER</b> Kyle Taylor, 407-563-7009 kyle@observernewspapers.com</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATE EDITOR</b> Isaac Babcock, 407-563-7023 isaacb@observernewspapers.com</p> <p><b>MANAGING EDITOR</b> Jenny Andreasson, 407-563-7026 editor@observernewspapers.com</p>	<p><b>DESIGNER</b> Jonathan Gallagher, 407-563-7054 jgallagher@observernewspapers.com</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER</b> Tracy Craft, 407-515-2605 tcraft@observernewspapers.com</p> <p><b>CLASSIFIEDS LISTINGS</b> classifieds@observernewspapers.com</p>	<p><b>REPORTER</b> Karen McEnany-Phillips kphillips@observernewspapers.com</p> <p><b>SUBSCRIPTIONS/CIRCULATION</b> Amanda Rayno 407-563-7073 arayno@golfweek.com</p> <p><b>COPY EDITOR</b> Padrick Brewer</p> <p><b>COLUMNISTS</b> Janet Foley of Oviedo 407-365-6859 celerystalks@att.net</p>
		<p><b>Sandi Vidal</b> of Casselberry sandi@christianhelp.org</p> <p><b>Tom Carey</b> of Oviedo sundewgardens@gmail.com</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING SALES</b> Jessica McCord, 843-870-7650 jmccord@observernewspapers.com</p>
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# DR. RAJENDRA PATEL VASCULAR SURGEON HE CHANGED MY LIFE

– Juan Rivera, Pain free and on the move

Read more about this story and others at [orlandohealth.com/stories](http://orlandohealth.com/stories)



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# The fun of getting hacked

## Between the CELERY Stalks

By Janet Foley

What a mess when one gets their computer hacked. Apparently I am not alone. Half of my friends and family have had the same problem. Well, one good thing: people call to ask how you are that you normally don't talk to because you just email them. The personal touch is always more rewarding. Getting back to normal and catching up is another chore. Electronics in the modern age apparently is great for the younger set, but for the middle-aged and older, it is a little harder. Or is it that our kids are smarter than we are at times?

### New market time

The Oviedo Farmer's Market,

sponsored by the Oviedo Historical Society, has new opening hours for Saturday, Sept. 3. They are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., but everything else will remain the same. We are looking forward to a few new vendors this time around, and hopefully the weather will not be as hot and humid as the Aug. 6 event. Do come, shop, visit the inside of the Lawton house and get a taste of old Oviedo, and you may also see all your friends from the community. Seems this event is a gathering area.

### Hot concert

St. Luke's Concert Series is 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the St. Luke's

Lutheran Church, 2021 W. State Road 426 in Oviedo. It will feature The Brass Band of Central Florida playing "Brass en Fuego." Admission is free, and if you need more information, please call 407-365-3408.

### Taste of Sanford

Let's go to Sanford for the 2011 Taste of Sanford on Thursday, Sept. 1, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Sanford Civic Center, 401 E. Seminole Blvd. The Greater Sanford Regional Chamber of Commerce event will feature samplings of area restaurants' signature cuisines as well as wine tasting and entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund. Cost for admission to the event is \$25 person or \$45 per couple. If you need more information, call 407-322-2212.

### History lesson

This Sunday, Aug. 28, from 2-4 p.m., visit the Museum of Geneva History, located next door to the Community Center on First

Street. There is a special Civil War Exhibit going on at the museum this summer in memory of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. See what happened in the Geneva area during and after the war — escapes, veterans and the story of Lewis Thornton Powell (alias Payne) who was involved in the Lincoln Conspiracy and whose skull is buried in the cemetery. Come visit and admission is free. You may also check out Geneva's interesting history at [www.usgennet.org/usa/fl/county/Seminole/Geneva](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/fl/county/Seminole/Geneva)

### Vocal magic

Coming this Saturday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. is A-Cappella for the Kids. You are invited to an evening of music performed by the Orange Blossom Chorus, Double Trouble and introducing "Vocal Brew" for a night of vocal magic, with all proceeds going to Pathways to Home, which was recently featured on CBS' "60 Minutes". The musical evening will be held at the Winter Springs High School and

the cost is \$10 per person.

### 5K run

Autumn Rock n' Run 5K is 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 at Lake Concord Park, 95 Triplet Lake Drive in Casselberry. The race is presented by Florida Hospital and they will also have the kids' race at 8:45 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Prostate Cancer Foundation and Cultural Arts in Casselberry. Registration is required, and the cost of the event is \$24-\$35 depending on your registration date. Please call 407-896-1160.

### A thought

"It is easy to sit up and take notice. What is difficult is getting up and taking action." —Al Batt

## TALK TO JANET

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

## RETAIL | Merchants association disbands

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and housing developments under construction in the 148,000-square-foot, unfinished, Publix-anchored lifestyle center.

### A fresh start

The Oviedo Mall knows a thing or two about surviving a storm. General Growth Properties, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009, sold the property to CW Capital. With a new owner came a new management company: Chicago-based Urban Retail Properties LLC.

"We really wanted to get the message across that it isn't the same shopping center it's been for the last 13 years," said Brian Olivieri, general manager of the mall.

Jim Pridemore, former president of the mall's merchant association and owner of Ashton Photography, said he's always been a proponent of the mall being more in touch with the community and vice versa.

With the new management fulfilling their promises and getting out into the community to promote the mall, the merchants that made up the association felt it was time to step back and let management do its job, Pridemore said.

"The only reason there was a merchants association was because previous management wasn't doing enough to get the job done," Pridemore said. "But we are very happy with Urban Retail. We thought that the new management would be better to facilitate change, so we stepped back indefinitely."

### Getting out into the community

Although Pridemore is happy about the progress the mall's new management has made, he said there's still the matter of "spending Oviedo dollars in Oviedo" to support the mall.

"We need the community to step up and push their schools and youth organizations to spend money locally, where it counts," he said.

For Matt Armstrong, co-owner of Huey Magoo's at the Town Center, the complex has proven that "if businesses are willing to commit, the community will offer their support."

Armstrong said Huey Magoo's is committed to reaching out to the community and put a new emphasis on marketing with a bigger advertising budget, about 15 or 20 percent.

Huey Magoo's plans on reaching customers via sponsorships, radio campaigns for University of Central Florida football, being a part of booster clubs and city events, such as the Winter Springs Art Festival in October.

The Town Center is focused on the community, said Andrea Lopez, vice president of Transwestern Southeast Region, the Town Center's management group. A newsletter on the Town Center's website is offered to consumers that sign up to ensure residents establish a connection with the retail area, Lopez said.

Participating in community events such as the Festival of Arts and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Parade, the Town Center serves as a prime location for community involvement, Lopez said.

"Being located in a family-oriented community, repeat business by residents is how we grow," she said. "It's important for us to be involved with them, so they can be involved with us."

The Oviedo Mall has also been making strides in bringing a sense of community back to the mall by hosting numerous events, including monthly chamber meetings on the property, management said. The mall's Independence Day Celebration on July 4 in conjunction with the city of Oviedo brought in about 24,000 people.

Tentatively scheduled events at the mall include a UCF movie night in September, a breast cancer awareness event with the Susan G. Komen foundation in October, as well as Oviedo Food Truck Bazaars in the fall.

### New tenants

New tenants at town center include Thomas J. Pilacek & Associates law firm, Tutti Frutti Frozen Yogurt and Metro PCS.

New tenants in the mall include EyeShadow Salon, which offers beauty services, and Hands of Time, a watch and jewelry repair store.

New mall tenant, Ali Emsiz, owner of Embroidery World, offers embroidery and monogramming services.

"The Oviedo Mall is getting better," Emsiz said. "People will see the difference if they come."

## Goodbye Irene, we hope



## STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips



It's that time of year when we find ourselves in the sights of those intertwined multi-colored computer models as Irene sweeps by our peninsula. The yellow cone of probability seems to be sparing us, but she has quickly grown from a Category 1 to potentially a Category 4 hurricane. Although we continue to hope Irene will stay offshore to our east, her size indicates our coastal areas are going to feel some of her effects in wind and rain.

Preparedness is the key as we move into the heart of hurricane season, and lucky for us there are plenty of resources to inform and assist our communities. High on the list for families is a working generator and enough gas to keep it humming. Don't wait 'til the last minute to fill those red plastic containers. Gas becomes a precious and premium commodity when power is out. Speaking of containers, be sure you have plenty of fresh water on hand. This is something I stock up on during the summer. Whenever I go to the grocery store, I pick up a gallon or two so I'm not stranded during times of emergency. Supplies like batteries, a weather radio, tarps and even sleeping bags are also important items for your list. If it's been a while since you used your generator, pull it out of the garage corner and be sure it is working properly and ready for action. Be sure your pantry is stocked with canned goods, paper products and food for your pets.

This is a good time to fill your vehicles with gas and think about picking up large objects around the house and yard like grills, furniture and potted plants. Most tree-trimming companies are booked solid now, but it's still a good idea to assess what you need and get your work listed on a schedule. Be sure your gutters and downspouts are free of debris.

The website [www.prepareseminole.com](http://www.prepareseminole.com) has lots of information on plans and preparation for your family, kids, pets and home. Be sure you have a way to video or photograph potential damage to your property. Talk with your family about how to stay in touch if you become separated and designate an out-of-town contact in case local communication is cut.

Now is as good a time as any to stock up on supplies you may need. Don't overlook local sources like our own Focal Point Landscaping that often helps with sand for sandbags in times of emergency. One of the most helpful sections of the Prepare Seminole site is the "Get a Kit" chapter. It has simple but important details regarding your pets, sleeping arrangements, medications, safeguarding documents, and necessities like cash, bleach, duct tape, garbage bags and flashlights. Catch up on the nearest evacuation routes and pet-friendly shelters. Check out websites like [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).

Remember a big part of surviving this season is preparation.

If you missed the Civil War Reenactment last weekend you can still visit the Geneva Museum this Sunday August 28th from 2-4 p.m. and see the special Civil War exhibit in observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Opportunities are popping up for Geneva Elementary as the school year begins. The PTA Boosterthon Fun Run is Wednesday August 31st-you can support the school and sponsor a student. If you are interested in being a mentor Geneva Elementary consider attending the Dividends orientation at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday September 13th. You don't have to have a child attend the school to be a Dividend volunteer.

Don't forget the Geneva United Methodist Church is again hosting the Wednesday night suppers at the community hall from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. It's a great way to enjoy home cooked food with your Geneva neighbors.

## TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at [407-221-7002.kphillips@observernewspapers.com](mailto: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.

# INTERESTS



## THIS WEEK in human history

Sept. 7, 1813 —

The United States gets its nickname when a New York newspaper refers to "Uncle Sam." The name is linked to meat packer Samuel Wilson, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's."

**SARAH WILSON**  
The Voice

The statue of the Unknown Maroon sits in front of the presidential palace in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The concrete man is perched on one knee with his lips pursed to a conch shell.

The statue is regarded as symbol of the resistance of the Haitian people. This former slave — called a maroon — is said to be using the conch shell to call the people of Haiti together to fight for the independence and future of their nation.

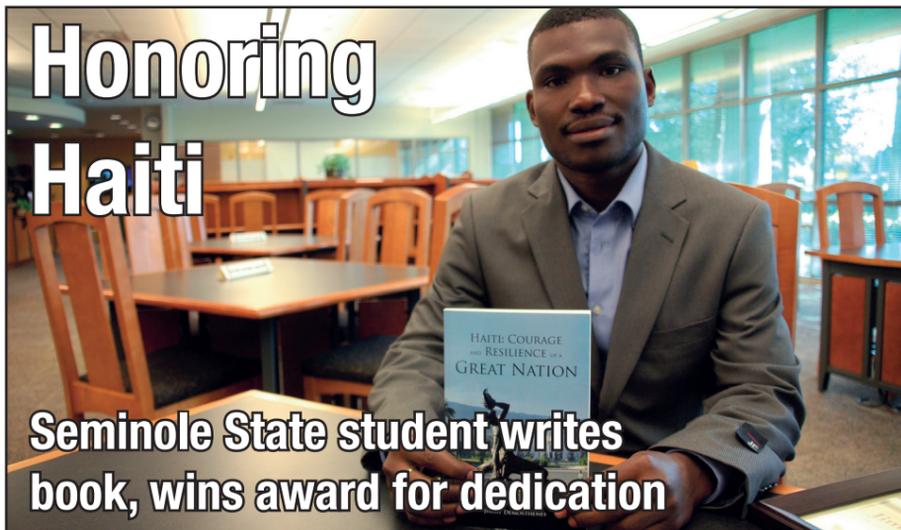
Jimmy Demosthenes, a student at Seminole State College, chose a photo of this statue for the cover of his first book, which he self-published earlier this year: "Haiti: Courage and Resilience of a Great Nation".

"The statue stands for the resilience of the Haitian people," said Demosthenes, who grew up in Haiti. His family relocated to Central Florida in 2009.

### Finding inspiration

Learning the history of his country through stories from his father, and himself living through political upheavals, devastating natural disasters and social crises, Demosthenes experienced firsthand the strength and courage of the Haitian people. But when he arrived in the United States, he realized the history of his nation was poorly retold.

"I went to libraries and I asked where



## Honoring Haiti

### Seminole State student writes book, wins award for dedication

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Jimmy Demosthenes displays his book, "Haiti: Courage and Resilience of a Great Nation", at Seminole State College. The book can be purchased on Amazon.com

the Haitian history section was, and most times they told me there wasn't one, or wasn't much," he said. "That inspired me to start my book."

Using his own memories, the testimony of his father, who had recorded tapes recalling the tribulations of Haiti in the 1980s, and others who lived through the trials of Haiti, he began to compile his book in his native French. With some help and direction from his advisers at Seminole State, the 25-year-old was able

to translate it to English and self-publish his book.

For his efforts, and excellence as a student, Demosthenes, who plans to graduate in December and continue at the University of Central Florida to become a dentist, was honored with the "We Change Lives" award from Seminole State on July 18.

"The award is given monthly to honor a student who has shown excellence and perseverance in their education at Semi-

nole State," said Donna Varette, who advised Demosthenes. "Jimmy definitely personifies that idea."

### Weathering the storm

In one chapter of his book, Demosthenes recalls standing on the second floor of his family's home in Gonaives, praying as water the color of cream-laden coffee rose to the height of their chests.

In September 2008, Hurricane Hanna had crashed ashore Haiti, dumping tens of inches of rain quicker than the island nation's ground could absorb it.

"Thirty people had come to the second floor of our home to be safe from the water, but the water came up to my chest," he said. "We had to stand on each others shoulders as my uncle used part of a window to break through a hole in our tin roof to climb through."

He said he remembers sitting on his roof watching and listening as the houses, people and animals of his town washed by. He lost everything in the flood, except the papers and notes from his father that he had wrapped in plastic and stored in his pocket.

It is stories like his, and the others recounted in the book, he said, that needed to be recounted to the world.

"People in Haiti suffer a lot. I can see the suffering especially in the little kids," he said. "It is my goal to study and make money here and go back to Haiti and help to spend it on education there."

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## Tee Time

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### The Course

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◉ SOUTH SEMINOLE HOSPITAL
◉ SOUTH LAKE HOSPITAL
◉ PHYSICIAN PARTNERS

# Family Calendar

Path2d1 Inc. will hold its **Central Florida High School Sports Seminar & Expo** on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Edgewater High School, 3100 Edgewater Drive, Orlando. Confirmed panelists include Doc Rivers, head coach of the Boston Celtics. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/cflhighschoolsports](http://tinyurl.com/cflhighschoolsports)

Between clothes, pencils, notebooks and other school supplies, going back to school can be an expensive time for families. Solantic Walk-In Urgent Care is hoping to help ease that burden in Central Florida with a special **\$20 school physical** through Sept. 1. Two of the nine Solantic centers are in Seminole County: Winter Springs, 5355 Red Bug Lake Road and Lake Mary, 136 Parliament Loop (just west of Lake Mary Elementary School)

The **Second Florida International Piano Competition** is Sept. 5-11. Twenty-two world-class pianists from around the world (18-32 year-olds) vie for cash prizes (totaling \$40,000) and performance engagements as the competition begins with solo performance rounds Sept. 5-8 at Trinity Preparatory School, culminating in the Finals on Sept. 10 at Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre. For more information, please visit [www.FloridaPiano.org](http://www.FloridaPiano.org) or call 407-645-2525.

Wednesday, Sept. 7, is the **University of Central Florida's annual Grad Fair** from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Pegasus Ballroom in the Student Union. The Grad Fair is an open-house style event where the public can learn more about the university's nearly 200 graduate programs. Visit [www.graduate.ucf.edu/GradFair](http://www.graduate.ucf.edu/GradFair)

The **Simon Scholars School Reward Program** allows shoppers to earn points for a school each time they visit Seminole Towne Center and purchase items. Each receipt can be taken to the Simon Guest Service Booth, located in center court on the mall's lower level, where each dollar spent will equal one point. Participating schools include Highlands Elementary (Winter Springs), Indian Trails Middle (Winter Springs) and Partin Elementary (Oviedo). Call 407-323-1843.

The Orlando Repertory Theatre presents **"Sideways Stories from Wayside School"** from Sept. 8 to Oct. 9. At this school, strange encounters and skewed adventures are on the lesson plan. Call the box office at 407-896-7365 ext. 1 or visit [www.orlandorep.com](http://www.orlandorep.com)

**"The Games People Play: The Evolution of Video Games"** exhibit at the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando has been extended through Sept. 25, due to its popularity. "Games People Play" examines how electronic games have evolved. Call 407-836-8500 or visit [www.thehistorycenter.org](http://www.thehistorycenter.org)

# Cooking for a cure

**NIKKI NAMDAR AND JENNY ANDREASSON**  
The Voice

At the end of a rocky trail, a little blue building stands amid miles of highway, grass and alligator-invested waters.

It's the Jolly Gator Fish Camp, and it's more than just a place to sample homemade baked beans. For the last three years, the Geneva restaurant has hosted fundraisers fighting diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

At the helm of the events is restaurant manager and philanthropist Mary Consolato.

Consolato, in jean shorts and a T-shirt, stared out at the wetlands from the restaurant's porch recently as she recounted the distress that inspired her to help others.

### Dealing with disease

The Geneva resident said she's watched so many loved ones die from cancer that she's lost track. Her friend and fellow darts

player "Neon" was diagnosed with lung cancer and given six months to live. He died two weeks later.

"That was probably one of the hardest ones I had to deal with," she said. "We were so close, and it was so unexpected. He was an awesome guy, and all of a sudden he was there and then the next minute, he's just gone."

Diabetes has also touched her family. Her son and her nephew suffer from the disease.

She began participating in the American Diabetes Association in 1996, and Relay for Life in 2009, moving her way up to leader on her diabetes team, co-leader on the cancer team. For the past two years, her annual chili cook-offs at the Jolly Gator have raised \$1,500 each for cancer research. Her Relay for Life team raised \$5,000 last year and more than \$6,000 this year.

### Positive outlook

Half an hour before the Jolly Gator's doors open, a couple rode

in on a motorcycle and asked if they could come in early. Without hesitation, Consolato hopped up from the wooden bench, opened the kitchen, got the music going and served them drinks.

Consolato said she's a helpful, supportive person who seldom gets angry. She did not get upset when her son was diagnosed with diabetes. She went right into combat mode. It's her job to keep everyone together and to offer guidance.

"It's life," she said. "The reason why I do the diabetes walks — it's for all the research to hopefully find a better way to make it easier for them."

and fellow volunteer, said Consolato is an inspiration.

"She's very giving," Worske said. "The woman never tires. She gives and gives and gives ... I guarantee you're going to find something every day that she's doing to help somebody."

Consolato said she keeps a mental list of the things she's thankful for — her "gratitude list" — and says serenity prayers daily. God inspired her to give back, and that doesn't stop at just diabetes and cancer. Her next opponent: heart disease.

"We're not guaranteed this second," she said. "I'm not guaranteed this second in life."

### Expanding her mission

Suzie Worske, a 12-year friend



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE  
Mary Consolato hosts a recent cookoff at the Jolly Gator Fish Camp to raise money for cancer research.




**ECLECTIC KNIGHTS III**  
09.01.2011



This UCF Visual Arts and Design Alumni Chapter annual event features selected works created by UCF Alumni and Faculty in a variety of media.

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Admission is free for OMA members and \$10 for non-members. Complimentary Parking is available in Orlando Loch Haven Park.

For additional information go to [UCFAlumni.com/Art](http://UCFAlumni.com/Art)

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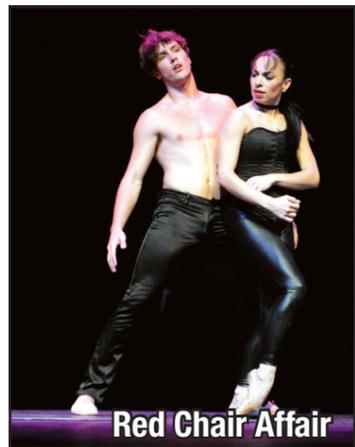
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# Calendar

## AUG. 26

The Oviedo Police Department will join 10,000 other law enforcement agencies nationwide in support of an intensive crackdown on impaired driving through Monday, Sept. 5, known as **"Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over."**

**"Success That Matters Men's Event"** is Friday, Aug. 26, from 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The speaker



Red Chair Affair

is Pete Alwinson from Man in the Mirror (a recognized leader in men's ministry). It is \$25 if paid in advance and \$30 at the door. Register at [ucumc.net/events](http://ucumc.net/events)

**"Wild Florida"** will have an opening reception from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, at Gallery on First, Studio #5, 211 E. 1st St., Sanford. The show features Robert Mier's realistic acrylic scenes of wildlife and wetlands. The show runs through Thursday, Sept. 22.

## AUG. 27

Auditions for the 2011 fall season of Florida's original folk life play **"Touch and Go"** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28, from 2-6 p.m. at the Princess Theater, 115 W. First St., Historic Downtown Sanford. Please contact Laura at [Ld71160@gmail.com](mailto:Ld71160@gmail.com) for more information.

The Second Annual Florida State-wide **Drug Take Back Program** is 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 27. Oviedo Drug Drop locations are Walgreens at 85 E. Mitchell Hammock Road and

Walgreens at 785 Lockwood Blvd. For drug drop off locations outside of Oviedo visit [www.projectdrugdrop.org](http://www.projectdrugdrop.org)

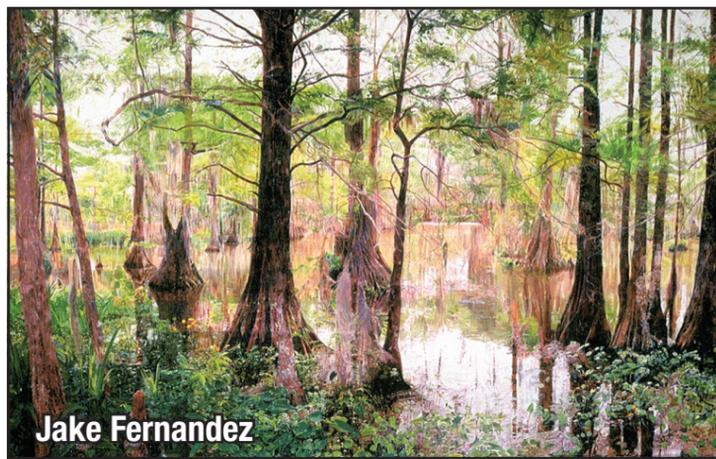
The **Red Chair Affair** is 8 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre, 401 W. Livingston St., Orlando. It's \$22 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. VIP tickets are \$225 each. Corporate packages are available. Visit [www.RedChairProject.com](http://www.RedChairProject.com) for tickets.

## AUG. 28

**Freedom Ride's 11th annual fundraiser** hosted at Arabian Nights, 3081 Arabian Nights Blvd., Kissimmee, is at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28. The cost is \$25, and all proceeds benefit the therapeutic riding program. Tickets can be purchased by calling Arabian Nights at 407-239-9223. Ask for the "Freedom Ride discount."

## AUG. 31

Voight Foundation Inc. presents **"Young Professionals for Higher Education: College Scholarship**



Jake Fernandez

**Drive"** on Wednesday, Aug. 31, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Blue Martini at the Mall at Millenia, 4200 Conroy Road, Orlando. Attend the event and make a donation of any amount in the name of UCF or another college or university and receive a complimentary beverage from the Blue Martini.

## SEPT. 1

**Orlando's Magical Dining Month**, presented by Visit Orlando, show-

cases 60 top Orlando-area restaurants offering three-course prix-fixe dinners for \$30 during the month of September. A complete list of participating restaurants is available at [OrlandoMagicalDining.com](http://OrlandoMagicalDining.com)

The Fine Arts Gallery at Seminole State College of Florida will open its 2011-12 season with an exhibit of works by **Jake Fernandez** of Bradenton. The exhibit, which runs through noon on Thursday, Sept. 22, will open with a reception on Thursday, Sept. 1, at 5 p.m. in the Sanford/Lake Mary Fine Arts Gallery (building G). Visit [www.seminolestate.edu/arts](http://www.seminolestate.edu/arts).

## SEPT. 8

Oviedo Police's 12-hour **Rape Aggression Defense Class For Women** will be held Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 (all four classes required), from 6-9:30 p.m. at the Oviedo Police C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Mall. It's \$25 and is for women 14 and older. Pre-registration is required. Register at [rapeaggressiondefense@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:rapeaggressiondefense@cityofoviedo.net) or call 407-971-5706 (Lt. T. Velez).

## SEPT. 11

Orlando's inaugural **Travis Manion Foundation's 9/11 Heroes Run** — Inspired by Travis' visit to Rescue Team One in New York City before his final deployment to Iraq — is 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 at Central Winds Park, Winter Springs. Visit [www.911heroesrun.com](http://www.911heroesrun.com). Learn more about the foundation at [www.travis-manion.com](http://www.travis-manion.com)

## ONGOING

The **Winter Springs Farmers Market** is every Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on State Road 434 and Tuskawilla Road in the Winter Springs Town Center. Visit [WinterSpringsFarmersMarket.com](http://WinterSpringsFarmersMarket.com) for more information.

The **Oviedo Farmers Market** is the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the grounds of the Historic Lawton House, 200 W. Broadway St. Visit [OviedoHS.com](http://OviedoHS.com) for more information.

The **Planetarium at Seminole State College of Florida** will host the following: "Central Florida Nights," presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30. "Luna" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. "Stories of the Night Sky" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26. "Fire of Creation: The Maya" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Fridays, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23. "Terra" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sept. 10, Sept. 17 and Sept. 24. Visit [seminolestate.edu/planet](http://seminolestate.edu/planet) or call 407-708-2360.

Visit [seminolevoice.com/events](http://seminolevoice.com/events) for more details. Email [calendar\\_submissions\\_to\\_editor@observernewspapers.com](mailto:calendar_submissions_to_editor@observernewspapers.com)

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# Notes

Last week marked the second time an "Extreme Makeover" occurred in Seminole County. About 50 volunteers renovated a portable unit into a food pantry at **Casselberry Elementary School**. On Target Web Solutions Inc. closed their office doors for one day to volunteer. Visit [casselberrycommunitytaskforce.org](http://casselberrycommunitytaskforce.org) for more information.

and helpers to pull off another year at the **Annual Cemetery Tour**. The date will be Monday, Oct. 24 (a deviation from the day of the week when the tour has been traditionally held). Please e-mail [Info@OviedoTraditions.org](mailto:Info@OviedoTraditions.org) or call Gloria at 407-365-5001 if you can help with the tradition.

### School news

**James Biscardi** of Winter Springs recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Biscardi earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Photography.

The following local Kaplan University students were awarded degrees:

- **Emil Hakim** of Casselberry was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.
- **Sr Myers** of Casselberry was awarded a Master's degree in Business Administration.
- **Katina Marin** of Longwood was awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice.
- **James Stern** of Oviedo was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

The Oviedo Preservation Project is having its **7th Annual Photography Contest**. Winning photographs of historic Oviedo locations will receive not only a cash prize but also publication in the 2012 Preservation Calendar, which will be circulated to 20,000 people. Photos are due by Friday, Aug. 26, and this year's theme is "Porches of Greater Oviedo." All structures and landmarks in Oviedo, Chuluota, Geneva and surrounding areas that are at least 50 years old are eligible. Email submissions to [Contest@OviedoTraditions.org](mailto:Contest@OviedoTraditions.org). Include your name and the address of the picture in your message.

TOPP is in need of volunteer actors



**Pantry makeover**

• **Kim Zaján** of Oviedo was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

• **Phyllis Sanders** of Oviedo was awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Sciences.

• **Natasha Byrd-Gaylon** of Longwood was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Studies.

**Kaitlin Elizabeth Burlingame** of Longwood was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2011 semester at

Washington University in St. Louis. Burlingame is a graduate of Lake Brantley High School.

**Dr. Lynore Levenhagen**, teacher of Marketing Education and Business Education Department Chairperson at Lyman High School, was recently recognized by Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) as the International Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year.

A new doctoral degree track at the

University of Central Florida prepares nurses in a leadership role to succeed at the highest level of advanced practice by becoming "change leaders." The degree track, a post-master's **Executive Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**, is the most recent example of the College of Nursing's efforts at creating cutting-edge programs that give its graduates the ability to adapt and lead during challenging times in health care. Interested applicants may review additional program information and apply online at [www.nursing.ucf.edu/academics/Executive\\_MSN-DNP.asp](http://www.nursing.ucf.edu/academics/Executive_MSN-DNP.asp)

### Biz news

The **Westin Lake Mary**, Orlando North was ranked as the No. 1 Westin property in North America for the month of June in overall guest satisfaction.

On Friday, Aug. 26 at 10 a.m. Sanford Mayor Jeff Triplett will join **Evolution Auto** to open the new 24,000-square-foot facility at 1300 Rinehart Road set to make an estimated \$5.5 million impact on the economy. This business has committed to bring nearly 100 jobs to Sanford by end of the year and out of that more than 86 percent will be current Seminole County or Sanford residents. Mayor Triplett said, "The economic impact of Evolution will infuse our city's economy with jobs that pay an average salary of \$42,000 per year for full-time employees, which is much higher than the average in this area."

Email submissions to [editor@observernewspapers.com](mailto:editor@observernewspapers.com)

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# ATHLETICS



## THIS WEEK in sports history

Aug. 26, 1939 —

Television station W2XBS in New York City broadcasts a double-header between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds from Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. It was the first Major League Baseball game ever aired on television.

## Softball wins world series



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

The Oviedo Babe Ruth Softball 12U was honored by the Oviedo City Council on Monday.

ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

It was far from an ordinary end to the summer for 11 Oviedo girls standing on a softball field in Andalusia, Ala. They had just won the world series.

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, they decimated a team from Lodi, Calif., 7-0 to win the Babe Ruth Softball 12U World Championship after playing a grueling nine games in six days.

"It was a wonderful ride this summer," Coach Steve Miller said. "It was a tremendous accomplishment, really unexpected."

The final championship victory came as a double-elimination grudge match against the Lodi team that had beaten the previously undefeated Oviedo team in a 1-0 pitching duel. But the girls from Oviedo fought back to claim the title.

For the team, it was an effort years in the making, Miller said.

"These girls grew up in our league," he said. "They weren't just mercenaries. It was really gratifying as a coach."

At the Aug. 22 Oviedo City

Council meeting, the room was packed with fans of the 12U team and two Oviedo Babe Ruth baseball teams that had all just won state championships in the past few weeks.

The Oviedo Babe Ruth 13U baseball team went 5-1 in the double-elimination state tournament to emerge champions, repeating their performance from last year. The 12U boys' team went undefeated at the tournament, going 6-0 to win it all.

The Council congratulated the teams for adding more prestige to the city name. Parks and Recreation Director Dru Boulware said Oviedo Babe Ruth has collected 31 state championships, eight regional championships and seven World Series trips.

But the world championship was a first to be proud of, Mayor Dominic Persampiere said.

"We couldn't be prouder than when this is accomplished," he said. "I don't remember another world series team coming through here. It's incredible."

## UCF Knights ready to attack

ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

The Knights are storming toward the start of the season with some tough questions to answer and with some big expectations to fulfill after their first bowl victory over Georgia last season.

The Knights kick off their season at home against Charleston Southern at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3.

But it's already been a wild preseason in training. UCF football was thrown for a loop when backup quarterback and wide receiver Rob Calabrese snapped a ligament in his left knee for the second time in two seasons, possibly ending the 2011 season before it began.

Now a potential redshirt senior for the 2012 season, Calabrese will once again be stepping into his role calling plays from the sidelines for rising sophomore starting quarterback Jeff Godfrey, who proved a godsend last season.

As a freshman, Godfrey had stepped into a role rarely reserved for such an inexperienced player: starting quarterback. He quickly proved himself with a scrambling, option-player style that proved elusive to tackles. He also finally offered the ability to consistently gain yards through the air that the Knights had been looking for.

"I didn't expect to do that well," Godfrey said during UCF football media day on Aug. 5. He led the team to an 11-3 finish, including the benchmark 10-6 vic-



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Freshman defensive back Connor Price signs autographs for fans at UCF football's annual Fan Day on Aug. 20. They play their first game Sept. 3 at home.

tory over Georgia, last season.

It was a brilliant, storming drive led by Godfrey in the final quarter of the Liberty Bowl that marched the Knights 65 yards downfield to the game-winning touchdown.

At a press conference during media day, Head Coach George O'Leary said he was happy with the steps Godfrey has taken since his first game last season.

"When you look at last season and look at the film, the two things I spoke with him about his poise in the pocket and his decision making — he's gotten that done," O'Leary said. "He understands protection better, understands coverage better. I think he works at the game. If he can play 10, 12, 15 percent better than last year, I think we're gonna be a very strong offense."

### Young leader

Tight end Adam Nissley, who saw limited receptions last season but is expected to factor big in UCF's offense in 2011, said Godfrey learned quickly in his inaugural season.

"I thought it might take him longer to get used to the game," Nissley said. "The first game, he really surprised me."

Now even more weight may be on Godfrey's shoulders, as he's expected to emerge as a leader on the field at a young age. But O'Leary expressed confidence in his young quarterback at the Aug. 5 press conference.

"He's not a big talker, it's his actions," O'Leary said. "I think his leadership is improved, but he's still only a sophomore."

### Senior power

That focus on leadership and team unity carried over to O'Leary's assessment of his upperclassmen.

"I've never won unless I've had a senior class that leads and had good chemistry," O'Leary said. "I was looking for leadership, and I always look at the senior class on both sides of the ball. I think defensively it's still fairly young."

"It's a good sign that there's a major separation between the upperclassmen and the freshmen," O'Leary said. "Four years ago, I couldn't say that."

UCF ended last season ranked No. 21 in the AP Top 25 poll. This season, after losing eight defensive starters, they're ranked No. 33 leading up to Week One.

"I've never been a big believer in the Top 25," O'Leary said. "... It's more important where we are in December," he said.

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# VOICES



## THIS WEEK in political history

Aug. 28, 1917 —

President Woodrow Wilson is picketed by women's suffragists in front of the White House who demand that he support an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee women the right to vote. Wilson had a history of lukewarm support for women's suffrage even though he was a former teacher at a women's college and the father of two daughters.

# Check out Governor's Job Fair on Sept. 7

## EMPLOYMENT

### Ask Sandi



I received a note from Joe. He is a driver and received notice that he will be laid off next week as part of a "right-sizing" effort. He wanted to know how he should prepare.

We are hearing again of layoffs as companies are cutting back. Bank of America announced 3,500 layoffs coming by the end of September. The Kennedy

Space Center just laid off en masse. While I don't think panic is in order, it is good to be prepared.

First, look at your financial situation and figure out where you can make cut backs if you don't find a job right away. Getting advice from a financial adviser or nonprofit may be in order. The Urban League (everyone welcome) has programs educating people on foreclosure prevention. Second, make sure you have a professional email and resume. Apply for unemployment right away at <https://www2.myflorida.com/fluid/>.

If you have not had to search for a job in a while, be prepared to apply online. Finding real people is much more difficult these days, but it's not impossible.

You will most likely still need to do an online application unless it is a smaller business you are applying to.

Attend job fairs, look at online job boards, attend classes and seminars and get out and network. For some more entry-level jobs, timing can be everything. Keep checking back with companies you are interested in and update your resume as needed.

Job loss is a major event. You don't have to go it alone. Use every available resource for your search, including nonprofits like Goodwill and Christian HELP. Workforce Central Florida has several Job Vantage locations where you can get help as well.

If I can be of help, drop me a note and

let me know.

The Governor's Job Fair is Wednesday, Sept. 7, and you can recharge and re-energize your job search on Sept. 14. Details can be found at [www.cfec.org](http://www.cfec.org).

### 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](mailto:sandi@christianhelp.org), or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707.

# A Texas-sized mistake

Education is meant to increase students' knowledge and develop a more educated workforce. It's not a profit center. But don't tell that to Florida Gov. Rick Scott. He wants the state's higher education system to have a better balance sheet. He wants it to run like a business.

Drawing from controversial policies implemented in Texas by Gov. Rick Perry to cut down on expenses and increase revenue in state colleges, Scott has called for numerous changes to higher education that could have drastic effects on the current model of how the system works.

One of Texas' most contentious changes, and one that has already caused waves of bad publicity, is a pilot initiative at Texas A&M University that published a list ranking faculty members based on whether they cost the school more money than they made.

That list literally distilled the college professors' value to a line item. The teachers who made the school more money were ranked higher. Those who cost the school money were ranked lower.

That type of scrutiny into increased

profitability already has a model: for-profit universities. That industry has received plenty of publicity in the last few years — most of it bad — for maximizing profit while offering students quick, cheap degrees to fast track them to high-paying jobs. The only problem

with that model: It's not working. It's working so poorly that many states, including Florida, have begun cracking down on "degree mill" colleges and universities that at times literally offer degrees in exchange for money and leave students jobless at the end, stuck with tens of thousands of dollars in loan debt.

And even the more reputable for-profit colleges and universities have become cash cows by sucking money from the government that could

otherwise go to public universities.

The University of Phoenix, which has become the largest for-profit school in the country, pulls in 88 percent of its revenue from government funding and grants. Kaplan University gets 91.5 percent from the government, leveraging students as a means to a financial

end. Students need federal loans, grants and scholarships to afford high educational costs. That money comes from the government and goes straight into the universities' coffers.

And in the end, the students are left holding the bag.

The U.S. Department of Education released statistics in February that showed for-profit students tend to default on their loans at a far higher rate than public university students. In the U.S., only 11 percent of college students attend for-profit schools, yet 44 percent of all college loan defaults are from those students.

And the for-profit university model's weaknesses don't end there. Just as Wall Street CEO pay has garnered headlines for growing by leaps and bounds during a recession largely caused by the finance and mortgage industries, for-profit college CEO pay is on average 26 times that of public university presidents, according to the Department of Education.

Other changes to Texas' higher educa-

tion system seem innocuous on the surface but hide the potential for devastating effects nationwide. Perry has lobbied to have education and research funding split up on the budget, seemingly to increase transparency in how money is spent at universities. But in practice, the effects could be disastrous to educational research.

University research tends to be a consumer of funds, not a revenue generator. But it can also generate breakthroughs in technology and disease research that improve the quality of life for all Americans. Leaps forward in cancer research have come thanks to research funding which, if scrutinized merely as a red line item, could be the first to go when governors make the pitch to cut educational budgets beyond their already skeletal levels.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the end result of those policies: an education system that thinks more about a short-term balance sheet and less about how our future depends upon it.

**“ Scott has called for numerous changes to higher education that could have drastic effects on the current model of how the system works. ”**

## Have an opinion?

Send your thoughts (400 words or less) to Associate Editor Isaac Babcock at [isaacb@observernewspapers.com](mailto:isaacb@observernewspapers.com)

## Young Voices

We asked kids at Central Winds Sports Complex in Winter Springs about their summer and first week of school.



I'm in fifth grade at Crystal Lake Elementary. ... I went to Tennessee with my family this summer and saw the Smoky Mountains. We also saw a raccoon, a black bear and the Titanic Museum.

—Ariadna I. 10 years old



I'm in fifth grade at Red Bug Lake Elementary, and in my first week we did a lot of science experiments. ... This summer my family flew to Wyoming and we had fun and saw lots of wildlife.

—Emily P. 10 years old



I am in seventh grade at South Seminole Middle School. ... I am on yearbook staff on the design team. ... This summer we went rafting. The water was cold and we got stuck on a rock.

—Valeria I. 12 years old



I'm in eighth grade at Sanford Middle School, and I am happy that my best friend is also in my veterinarian class. ... During the summer, we visited my grandmother and went to Universal.

—Ashley J. 13 years old



I'm in 10th grade at Lake Mary High School ... I'm in honors classes and I love chemistry. My teacher makes it fun. ... During the summer I went to the beach and also went to dance camp at school.

—Andrea I. 15 years old

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

Call 407-563-7026 or e-mail [editor@observernewspapers.com](mailto:editor@observernewspapers.com) to have The Voice visit your class or group.

# From my GARDEN

to yours  
Tom Carey



## Backyard chicken flocks

This past weekend, we held a "Raising Chickens in Central Florida" workshop at my Sundew Gardens. The surprisingly large response had me worried we might have a Woodstock on our hands. Luckily, a Sunday morning timeslot generated a lot of no-shows on our RSVP list. Don't worry, we will hold a similar event in the

spring. Each municipality has its own zoning rules and regulations concerning residential flocks of poultry. From the extreme of Winter Park's zero tolerance (then what about all those noisy peacocks?) to Oviedo's downtown iconic herds of roosters, the body of laws seems

to be incoherent at best. No wonder there is such a grassroots level of citizen action to enlighten community lawmakers all across the county. The many efforts at changing these ordinances have met with a mix of results.

The basics include a predator-secure coop, a source of pullets (female chicks), food, water, manure management and egg collection. A flock consists of at least three hens. Classic varieties of egg-laying hens include: Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, Faverolles and Cochins. Each variety of chicken has its own personality and strengths. The docile ones have had a hard time fending for themselves in my free-range wilderness. The hardy varieties listed should produce well for most local backyard farmers.

The ability of a flock of hens to produce quality food while linking the various systems of the homestead is astounding. The price of chicken feed has doubled in the past year. Supplement high-protein feed and cheaper grain scratch with kitchen scraps, garden weeds and spoiled crops such as bug-bitten tomatoes. Scatter the manure around the lawn to create a neighbor-envious landscape. A "chicken tractor" is a move-

able coop, allowing an enclosed flock to engorge on a rotating buffet of fresh pasture or lawn.

Predators, not disease, are a flock's biggest threat. The coop should both keep the hens corralled and the marauders at bay. Raccoons, dogs, possums, bobcats, coyotes and hawks all consider chicken tasty prey.

My poultry efforts concern mainly egg production. Hens start laying several eggs each week when they reach 8 months old and then continue for several years. Roosters are not necessary for egg production, and they create their iconic noise and can upset the hens with their constant need of sexual gratification. But oh, those eggs. It's difficult for me to be critical of the fruit of my own labors, but my homegrown eggs are better than any store-bought hen-fruit you'll ever taste.

### WHO IS CAREY

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



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE

Tom Carey leads the "Raising Chickens in Central Florida" workshop on Sunday.



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 NYPD types
- 5 Scratch
- 8 Open somewhat
- 12 Oil cartel
- 13 Have bills
- 14 Diamond corner
- 15 Something one likes
- 17 Met melody
- 18 Classify
- 19 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"
- 21 D.C. figure
- 22 — gin fizz
- 23 English channel?
- 26 Jewel
- 28 Scoundrel
- 31 Wander
- 33 Fort —, N.J.
- 35 Tend texts
- 36 Sleep disorder
- 38 "Glee" actress Michele
- 40 Pouch
- 41 Commanded
- 43 Unburden
- 45 Carboic acid
- 47 Pizza toppings
- 51 Parliamentary title
- 52 Sports page grid
- 54 Shrek, for

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
21						22				
23	24	25		26		27	28		29	30
31			32		33	34	35			
36				37		38	39		40	
41				42		43	44			
45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

- 6 Shock and —
- 7 Harvests
- 8 Ornamental shell
- 9 Marines (Sl.)
- 10 Largest of the seven
- 11 Paper quantity
- 16 Kermit, e.g.
- 20 Wapiti
- 23 Shape shifter?
- 24 Conk
- 25 Australia's capital
- 27 Wire measure
- 29 By way of
- 30 List-ending abbr.
- 32 Gad about
- 34 Photocopies
- 37 Commotion
- 39 Has a bug
- 42 Knee counterpart
- 44 Cuts into cubes
- 45 Story line
- 46 Gluttons
- 48 Chevy hybrid
- 49 Great Lake
- 50 Fashion line?
- 53 — pro nobis

### DOWN

- 1 Caesar co-star
- 2 Piece of work
- 3 Energizes, with "up"
- 4 Cone contents
- 5 Having blotches

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