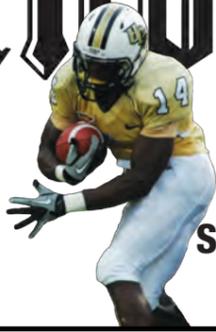




Seminole Voice



Mud support > 6
Studies Center needs \$133K to stay open next school year

Saving season > 13
Knights are looking for a strong finish to the season

Fun for all > 5
New Winter Springs venue says it caters to every age

www.SeminoleVoice.com

Nov. 4 - Nov. 17, 2011

Free!

Mixed feelings on flyover

SARAH WILSON
The Voice

After over a decade of drafting, planning and adapting, construction began last month to help ease traffic at the intersection of State Road 436 and Red Bug Lake Road.

Following years of traffic congestion, confusion and rollercoaster-worthy bumps to drive over, principal project engineer Shad Smith said the widening, resurfacing and addition of a flyover to take southbound commuters on 436 — looking to turn east on Red Bug Lake Road — up and over the intersection will finally make the intersection flow more smoothly.

“We’ve been researching and drafting plans for this for years,” Smith said. “We finally decided this was the way to go.”

Some local business owners, however, fear the impact of the two-year construction effort — which began Oct. 17 — possibly limiting the visibility of their operations.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, curious local residents, business owners and commuters gathered for an informational open house about the project at Metrolife Church, just a few feet away from where construction has begun. With plans blown

■ Please see 436 Page 2

USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 2.



Shop country-style

KRISTY VICKERY
The Voice

The temperature is dropping, leaves are changing and Oviedo is gearing up for another big fall event.

The 38th annual Great Day in the Country arts and crafts festival is Saturday, Nov. 12, and it will feature more than 350 exhibitors displaying and selling their arts and crafts to raise thousands of dollars for local charities, schools and scholarships that will have many benefits for the community.

“I think people like Great Day because of its affordability,” festival Chairwoman Angela Iversen said. “A lot of people like to do their Christmas shopping ... and we have a lot of variety.”

The event will award \$3,000 in prize money to several different art categories. The GFCW Oviedo Woman’s Club will also award \$1,500 in art scholarships at the Student Art Fest sponsored by Commissioner Bob Dallari, and each school participating in the Student Art Fest will receive \$50, provided by Oviedo Mayor Dominic Persampiere.

■ Please see GREAT DAY Page 3



New Stenstrom club builds brains with Legos

KRISTY VICKERY
The Voice

One-hundred six elementary kids sit quietly building, playing, imagining and working together to create ships, buildings, creatures, space shuttles. Whatever their minds think of, they make it with Legos.

These Stenstrom Elementary School students are participating in an after-school program called Brick Buddies, a nonprofit program that promotes learning outside the classroom in a fun, noncompetitive way.

“They are totally engaged and having fun,” said Betsy Jewell, a Stenstrom Elementary PTA member and coordinator of Brick Buddies. “You would think there would be chaos with that many kids in a room for an hour and a half, but there’s no chaos because they all just want to be there. They are so excited about it.”

With many recent budget cuts to school programs, Brick Buddies is among one of the

many after-school programs reaching out to further education to kids at a young age.

Jewell said her son had a program similar to Brick Buddies at a previous school, and she decided to propose the idea to Stenstrom’s principal after her son kept suggesting it.

The after-school program now meets twice a month to encourage learning through playing. Every meeting has a different theme, coordinated with what is going on in the school throughout the year, such as space, things that go or nature.

“It’s really neat what they (the kids) come up with in a matter of minutes, with no building instructions, completely their own imagination,” Jewell said. “They’re all so passionate about it.”

Stenstrom Elementary School principal Sharon Tanner said the

program creates a deeper level of their intelligence, and builds on the education they get in the classroom.

“I really like what these ladies are doing with the Legos They have integrated their opportunity to build with dialogue and reflection, and that’s what gives kids a deeper understanding,” Tanner said. “Any time you have children engaged in any kind of tactile or kinesthetic opportunity it’s going to deepen their understanding of learning.”

According to a study by Yale University, play is crucially important to children’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. Play is the work of childhood, providing children with the opportunity to maximize their attention spans, master number concepts, prepare for reading, learn to get along with peers, cultivate their creativity, and work through their emotions. In today’s fast-paced society, research indicates that children’s playtime is shrinking, down from

■ Please see LEGO Page 3



What’s goin’ on?

Seminole State Planetarium will host its first Fall Star Party on Friday, Nov. 11, with telescopes set up to view the moon, Jupiter, distant galaxies and star clusters.

Calendar > 7

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Opening this week: ‘Tower Heist’



A group of blue-collar workers plan to rob a wealthy man’s home after they fall victim to his Ponzi scheme.

THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

Nov. 11, 1921 —

Three years after the end of World War I, the Tomb of the Unknowns is dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia when an unknown American soldier is buried. A 2-inch layer of soil brought from France was placed below the coffin so that the soldier might rest forever atop the earth on which he died.

436 | Area store owners say construction will likely affect customer traffic

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

up to poster board size and pamphlets printed, project managers, engineers and planners gathered to give the low-down on the impact and final vision of this \$24.5 million project.

As with any large-scale road construction project, Smith said some disruption to drivers is unavoidable, but that the Department of Transportation has done the best it can to minimize its affects.

"For the most part, the better part of the construction will be done at night," he said. "They're not going to be closing any lanes during the better part of the day."

Instead, he said the estimated 65,000 daily drivers entering the intersections from State Road 436 and other 37,000 from Red Bug Lake Road should be on the lookout for lane shifts as construction builds up.

For the rest of 2011, the construction will be focused on digging retention ponds and undergrounding some water and utility services. Megan Olivera, the public information officer with the Department of Transportation, said the construction of the actual bridge will likely begin in January, which is when the public can anticipate the most impact.

Some business owners in the plazas surrounding the intersection say this impact will be worse on them than the drivers themselves.

Jennifer Krupienski, owner of the Feelin' Groomy Pet Salon located at 1036 E. Semoran Blvd., said she fears visibility and access to her business will be limited due to the construction.

"The shopping center we're in already is so dead, we're losing businesses left and right," she said. "Now this?"

Saheed Sarraf, owner and manager of Wingstop located at 1050 State Road 436, said that if he could, he would relocate his business elsewhere due to poor visibility and accessibility of his plaza, however doing so is too costly. "We're stuck here at the mercy of what's going on."

The owner of Illusions Hair Salon and Spa said though she feels construction is likely to slow business, it will hopefully help traffic in the area.

"We'll see," she said. "It's all very iffy for us."



Road project

- Construction of a four-span steel flyover bridge for southbound vehicles on S.R. 436 turning onto eastbound Red Bug Lake Road
- Widening of S.R. 436 from 6 to 8 lanes
- Widening of Red Bug Lake Road from 4 to 6 lanes
- Widening of Winter Park Drive to four lanes

For more details on the construction project, visit www.redbuglakeinterchange.com



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PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Kids at Stenstrom Elementary's Brick Buddies program use Legos to build brain power and imagination.

LEGO | 'Education doesn't have to taste bad to be good'

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT

40 percent in 1981 to 25 percent in 1997.

UCF early childhood and education instructor and coordinator Deirdre Englehart said play learning can enhance children at a young age, and lets them naturally interact with others.

"Play allows children to explore so many areas," Englehart said. "It's a natural way for them explore many ideas and many concepts ... and is an important way to help them learn how to address future issues."

Longtime teacher Cathy McLarnon is also trying to give kids the chance to explore learning outside of the classroom with her book club R.E.A.D.

"Kids need to be enriched elsewhere, because of budget cuts," McLarnon said. "There's not a whole lot out there for kids."

She said she's hoping to give kids the opportunity to build on their reading skills, while having fun.

The program will read one book per month and meet once a week at her home for an hour and half session to interact and review what

they've read.

"Being in the school system, I realized you just don't have a lot of time to do the reading you would like to do with the kids," she said. "This program will not only improve their reading skills, it will improve their thinking skills, their vocabulary and their social skills."

Building on the skills that are already there is what many of these after-school programs are about. They hope to equip children with the tools that they need for the future fast approaching.

"Education is not like medicine, it doesn't have to taste bad to be good," Tanner said.

"Education can be fun, stimulating, exciting and motivating."



Learn more

For more information on Brick Buddies or to learn how to donate or sponsor the non-profit program call Stenstrom Elementary at 407-320-2475 or for information on R.E.A.D. call 407-342-0483.

GREAT DAY | Vendors ready their wares

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

There will also have live entertainment in two areas, food, drinks, a country store that sells homemade baked goods by OWC women, children's activities, the Woman's Club's famous bean soup, as well as many longtime art and craft vendors.

Eighty-year-old Ann Robinson has been showcasing her pottery skills at Great Day in the Country for more than 30 years and said she has always enjoyed taking part.

"I'm amazed at how many people come out," Robinson said. "I've had a lot of good experiences with it."

She said she's always had an interest in crafts but knew she'd found her real passion when she found clay. She eventually opened her own studio in Oviedo that she's had for 27 years, and she enjoys sharing her talent with the community every year.

Lynne Seigler has also been a longtime vendor at the festival and said it has always been a very positive experience for her.

"I enjoy working with the ladies," Seigler said. "And I like the fact that it's a one-day show."

Seigler has been displaying her embroidery skills at the event for more than 10 years and said she embroidering has helped her through surviving breast cancer.

After being diagnosed in 2005, she never gave up. She continued embroidery and taking part in Great Day in the Country through it all.

"I continued to do craft shows at that time and just wore a wig or a scarf," she said. "And that aspect of it was very a positive experience, be-

cause people would say you can do it. I did it."

She now finds joy in counseling those who are going through the same experience she once did, and sharing what she calls "her little hobby" with others at Great Day in the Country.

"It's a little hobby that went crazy," Seigler said. "And I expect Great Day to be another great day this year."

Owners of Frederickson Apiaries Bill Frederickson and his wife, Marion, are also looking forward to another year at Great Day in the Country, and a chance to share their natural honey and the importance of honeybees with the community they love.

"Oviedo is a neat place where all the organizations work with the community," Bill said. "It doesn't matter what's put out in Oviedo ..., it's got more of a family-orientated atmosphere, and everyone is welcome, and everybody always walks away with a smile ... and we are pretty blessed to be a part of it."



Learn more

The 38th annual Great Day in the Country arts and crafts festival will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12th at Lawton Elementary School located at Lake Jessup Avenue and Broadway in Oviedo. Admission and parking are free, and a free shuttle service will be available to and from the parking area at Oviedo High School. For more information on the event call the GFWC Oviedo Woman's Club at 407-365-9420 or visit www.greatdayoviedo.org

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Get a jumpstart on your fall yard

Between the CELERY Stalks *By Janet Foley*

Now that it is fall, or at least my calendar says so, I have been playing in the yard, working on that annoying old foliage to try to spruce up the yard. I looked down my street last Friday (Oct. 28) and thought: I am doing well in the long run. But for right now, last weekend (Halloween), everybody's yard was filled with monsters, ghosts, pumpkins and other creepy objects. I think it was well worth my efforts as the monsters are now gone, and I am ahead of my neighbors. I truly enjoyed though the fascinating little ones coming to my door for treats on Oct. 31.

Clocks go back

Remember to set your clocks back this weekend as daylight saving time ends.

Farmer's Market

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the Oviedo Historical Society will be present-

ing its Farmer's Market to the community from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. This market has become a social event for our citizens, and I have heard many say that our farmer's market is wonderful as "we do not have to drive over to Winter Park, and I meet all my Oviedo friends at the Lawton House." Do come; we are located 200 W. Broadway Ave. in front of the Lawton House, and while you are visiting and buying goodies, stop inside to the Lawton House and learn a little history of our town.

Great Day

Did you mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lawton Elementary School and the Lawton House, 200 W. Broadway Ave., for the town's biggest event? This is the 38th annual Great Day in the Country, an arts and crafts show presented by the Oviedo Woman's Club. These ladies

have been working all year long on the event. Admission is free, and we have something for all — entertainment, drinks, children's activities (now located in Friendship Park), and the club's famous bean soup. And don't forget the country store for jams, jellies, pies, cakes and more. If you need more information, visit www.GreatDayOviedo.org. Proceeds fund scholarships and community projects. See you there.

State of the county

Seminole County Commissioner John Horan will be speaking in Geneva on Monday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center, 161 First St., on the latest two issues: 1. Are your taxes too low? 2. If you think so, would you like to pay another mill extra on your school taxes? These are the latest important topics to be discussed at the regular meeting of the Geneva Citizens Association. Horan will give updates on the current state of the county and will be available to answer your questions. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

Honoring vets

The UCF Community Veterans History Project intends to cel-

brate Veterans Day with a week of honor and remembrance. Visit their website <http://riches.cah.ucf.edu/veterans/>

to learn about all the events each day of the week to remember and honor our veterans.

Life of a judge

Judge Lisa Davidson will be the guest speaker to address the Newcomers' Group general meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 11:30 a.m. She will discuss how she manages to balance her legal career and personal life. Davidson is a graduate of Duke University School of Law, and she is now assigned to juvenile delinquency cases in Seminole and Brevard counties. The meeting will be held at Le Coq Au Vin restaurant, 4800 S. Orange Ave., Orlando. Advanced reservations are required and the luncheon tickets are priced at \$23. If you need more information, call Tina at 407-359-1497 or email Parish401@bellsouth.net

St. Stephen's fair

You have to check out the craft fair from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 18-19 and Nov. 20 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 575 Tuskawilla Road, Winter Springs. The event will feature handmade holiday

decorations, floral arrangements, paintings, baby items, garden décor, pet items and more. Proceeds benefit the outreach program at St Stephen's.

Mall's foliage

Have you been in the Oviedo Mall lately? I hope so. And did you take a gander of the new plantings around the large gray poles in the mall? I was totally enamored with the different species or family members of philodendron. I love the philodendron, as they are easy to grow and multiply like crazy — no mess no fuss. I asked one of the ladies who cares for the plants, and she gave us some specifics. Also now there are a few new stores opening, and I noticed that they are refurbishing the entrance signs. The mall is getting there.

A thought

"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in." —Mark Twain

TALK TO JANET

Send word to Janet Foley about events and let her know what's going on around town by emailing celerystalks@att.net

Geneva mourns her matriarch

STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips

She loved family, tradition and history, and the Village of Geneva surely loved her back. Lorraine Yarborough Whiting has been described as a lioness, and few would disagree. She was graceful and petite in stature, but her spirit was powerful and proud, a true matriarch who exemplified and fiercely protected the history of her beloved Geneva. What an incredible role model she was. Mrs. Whiting passed away at the age of 95 on Oct. 16, and our condolences go out to her beautiful family and loved ones who treasure her memories and bear the intensity of her loss.

November has arrived with lovely weather and a packed

cornucopia of activities all month long with priceless opportunities to support the needs within your community.

Farmers market & historical cemetery tour

The first Saturday in the month offers the chance to support our local vendors at the monthly Oviedo farmers market. Held Saturday, Nov. 5, you'll enjoy steaming coffee, tasty baked goods, honey from our local apiaries and locally grown plants and produce. Stop by between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. in front of the Lawton House on Broadway in Oviedo.

Later, also that Saturday, extend your Halloween spirit with

an evening tour of the Geneva Cemetery with live actors and a leader, lantern in hand. You will learn about the colorful characters of Geneva's past during a tour of our historical and properly spooky graveyard.

The hour-long tour called "Colorful Characters under a Crescent Moon" begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring a flashlight to light the way back to your car.

Food pantries expand in Geneva

Thanksgiving is synonymous with November, and we associate this time of year with food, thankfulness and plenty. Unfortunately the past year has been difficult, and many families continue to struggle even for basics. Kids depend on the free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches provided at school, and many appreciate the caring food backpacks that assist them with food on the weekend. Three solid meals a day is a distant memory for many among us.

No man, woman, child or family should go hungry in our community. Within the past year the Community Church of God created a food pantry that the community has supported with donations and fundraisers. If

you're looking for something less scary Saturday night, Nov. 5, head over to the Rural Heritage Center at 6 p.m. and enjoy live music from Brother Leonard and the New Wine Pickers and other

Unfortunately the past year has been difficult, and many families continue to struggle even for basics.

bands to support the restocking of this food pantry. Admission is a minimum \$5 donation, and you can help families in your community. The pantry is open noon to 1 p.m. on Sunday, 9 a.m.-10 a.m. on Wednesday and 8 a.m.-10 a.m. on Friday. Call the church at 407-461-7066 for more information.

We are happy to share that the Geneva First United Methodist Church has also started a food pantry open on Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Come to the side door of the church hall and spread the word.

Geneva citizens meeting, county news

Next week, don't miss the Geneva Citizens Association meeting at the Geneva Community Center on Monday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. Hear updates on the happenings in Seminole County from District 2 Commissioner John Horan and find out how local government and issues affect your family.

PTA Basket Bonanza, festival & movie

Start your holiday shopping by supporting Geneva Elementary PTA night Friday, Nov. 11, featuring a fabulous fall festival and Basket Bonanza. Bring cash for food, games and vendors plus enjoy an outdoor movie featuring "Cars 2." Don't miss the themed baskets from Lego, Barbie, UCF, Gators, Summer Fun, Meals in Minutes and more! Seriously, they rival anything you'll find at the mall!

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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7 a.m. - Event-day registration opens
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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Nov. 8, 1847 —

Bram Stoker, author of the horror novel "Dracula," is born in Clontarf, Dublin, Ireland. Stoker's villainous, blood-sucking creation, the vampire Count Dracula, became a pop culture icon and has been featured in hundreds of movies, books and plays.

Keewee caters to all ages

KRISTY VICKERY
The Voice

Lights flash, balls bounce, machines buzz and kids yell for joy grasping their winnings, all while adults enjoy dinner and drinks next door.

New to Winter Springs, the Kee Wee Entertainment District offers something for all ages, and many are excited about the idea of fun for everyone.

"This is one of the few options in the area," Kee Wee customer Adam Jacobson said. "It's a good family entertainment option, where you can have adult night and kid's night at the same time, and I think that's a good option to have for families in the area."

Kee Wee Entertainment District offers a variety of arcade games, roller ball, skee-ball and more. But it's not the average arcade.

Gourmet offerings

Kee Wee's Auckland City Bistro is a classy yet casual restaurant equipped with a chef, three banquet rooms, a stage featuring a

live band every Friday and Saturday night and a full bar, complete with four flat-screen TVs so adults can enjoy their own games.

Crab-crusted trout, spicy fried olives, baked goat cheese, lump crab cakes and blackened salmon are just a few items on the menu.

"We're a new concept," managing partner Diana Pienaar said. "We didn't just want hot dogs, burgers and pizza, we wanted really good food so that parents would enjoy themselves as well."

Owner Howard Keay Edwards thought up the concept of Kee Wee Entertainment District after he retired from a life in software and decided to open a business that would be fun for all ages.

"We wanted to do something the whole family could enjoy," he said.

Scouting locations

Edwards said he originally thought about bringing his concept to Baldwin Park but didn't feel like it was a convenient location. He considered the Winter Springs Town Center but didn't



Learn more

Keewee Entertainment District is located at 780 E. State Road 434, Winter Springs. Call 407-327-6346 or visit Kee Wee Entertainment District on Facebook for more information on games, dining or events.

think it was a good fit either. He eventually decided that the old Eckerd Pharmacy building, nestled in the corner of State Roads 434 and 419, would be perfect.

"The first thing we had to overcome was the bi-laws stating no entertainment," Edwards said. "The city really worked with us."

Winter Springs Community Development Director Randy Stevenson said the building had been vacant since the CVS/Eckerd's merger in 2004 and had to undergo a change to its use code.

"Our building department was instrumental in working with them to make sure certain walls could stay and certain walls could come down ... and their conversation met Florida building code,"



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

John Spies shows off a Kee Wee Mudslide at the new business, which caters to kids and adults with an arcade area that's connected to a gourmet restaurant and bar.

Stevenson said.

Stevenson said that adding to the commercial tax base is crucial to the city, which is 88 percent residential.

"... Anytime we can foster a new business in the commercial use in town it helps us along those lines," he said.

Edwards said he is grateful to the city for helping to make his dream of fun for all a reality.

"We think Winter Springs has a great demographic that we fit into," he said. "And we're looking forward to getting the word out about what we are, and meeting everyone in the area."

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2010	\$122,504	\$106,000	\$60,906
2011	\$131,079	\$112,360	\$66,997
2012	\$140,255	\$119,102	\$73,026
2013	\$150,073	\$126,248	\$80,256
2014	\$160,570	\$133,823	\$86,677
2015	\$171,818	\$133,823	\$96,817
2016	\$183,845	\$133,823	\$85,199
2017	\$196,715	\$136,365	\$69,628

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Family Calendar

“Living with Bears” is 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at Sylvan Lake Park. It’s free. Wildlife biologist Mike Orlando will discuss interactions between bears and people and how to ensure a positive and safe experience. Pre-registration is required. Call 407-349-0959.

The first **Superhero 5K Run Event** benefiting the Seminole County Guardian Ad Litem Program is Saturday, Nov. 5, at 8 a.m. This family fun event (you can walk or run) will take place on the UCF campus. Dress as your favorite superhero. Visit www.thetagalsuperhero5krun.com.

The new **Geneva Cemetery Tour**, “Colorful Characters Under A Crescent Moon,” is 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Follow your lantern leader to the final resting places of some of Geneva’s long-departed citizens. Admission is free but a donation to the Geneva Historical Society is always appreciated. The cemetery is at the end of Cemetery Road off First Street.

It’s Oviedo’s largest festival of the year. **The 38th annual Great Day in the Country** arts and crafts festival runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Lawton House in downtown Oviedo. Admission, parking and shuttle are all free. Visit www.greatdayoviedo.org for more information.

Story time at the zoo is every Wednesday in November (Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30) from 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Rainforest Pavilion at Central Florida Zoo. Programs are presented by the Orange County Library System Storytellers. Call 407-323-4450 extension 123 for information.

Join Seminole County Natural Lands Program for **guided hikes and programs throughout the county**. Come learn about habitats and the wonderful and sometimes mysterious creatures that live there. For information about any of the hikes or programs, call 407-349-0959. It’s \$3 per person. Please register in advance. October guided hikes:

- Friday, Nov. 4: Nocturnal Animals, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Econ River Wilderness Area
- Saturday, Nov. 5: *Swamp Walk, 8 a.m.-10 a.m., Spring Hammock Wilderness Area
- Friday, Nov. 18: Owl Prowl, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Geneva Wilderness Area

The Simon Scholars School Reward Program allows shoppers to earn points for a school each time they visit Seminole Towne Center and purchase items through Nov. 30. Each receipt can be taken to the Simon guest service booth. Participating schools include Highlands Elementary (Winter Springs), Indian Trails Middle (Winter Springs) and Partin Elementary (Oviedo). Call 407-323-1843.

Email calendar submissions to editor@observernewspapers.com



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE

Otus the owl may need a new home if the Environmental Studies Center can’t raise \$133,000.

Still struggling to survive

Seminole County’s Environmental Studies Center is still fighting to keep its doors, and Mud Walk, open for the next school year

BRITNI JOHNSON
The Voice

Generations of Seminole County nature lovers gathered to help save a tradition that’s captured the imaginations and memories of every fifth-grader to experience it.

The Environmental Studies Center is in jeopardy of closing for the fourth year in a row, and an organization created to save it, Friends of the Seminole County Environmental Studies Center, is working on fundraising events to save the beloved Mud Walk.

The two-day program for all fifth-graders takes the students on an adventure through Florida’s unique habitats in Seminole County. One fundraiser included a fun run and walk, where everyone from teenagers, parents and kids were found fighting to keep it alive.

“I can remember almost everything about it,” said Damaris Shea, 38. “It was such a big deal.”

Shea, who was at the fundraiser with her second-grader and fifth-grader, recalled being up to her chest in mud, and loving every minute of it. It’s something all the elementary school kids look forward to, her daughters Emily and Maddie Shea said.

Tough fight

Her daughter Emily, who is in fifth grade this year, is set to experience the mud early next

year — though she’s excited, she’s not so sure about the mud part — but her second-grade daughter, Maddie, may not get to. This school year the center was completely cut off from the Seminole County Public Schools budget. It was saved over the summer with a one-time \$120,000 grant from the Seminole County Commission.

For the next school year, the center’s friends know they still won’t be getting any money from the school board but don’t know exactly how they’re going to raise the \$133,000 it will take to keep the center’s doors open and Mud Walk field trip going.

As of Nov. 2, they’d raised almost \$40,000, including about \$4,500 at the fun run and walk. In January, the group will go in front of the School Board to see where it stands.

“I’d hate to see it not exist anymore,” said Bruce Pfeifle, an Oviedo resident and fundraiser participant who came with his teenage son.

“It’s so important to save the tradition,” said Francie Willow, an assistant at the center who leads Mud Walks.

General budget trouble

For those at the center working to keep it running, there isn’t hope of getting money from the board, which is struggling with deciding to cut more programs after budget shortfalls. While Seminole County is No. 1 in the state for

percentage of its budget spent in the classroom and “return on educational investment” by a national study, it’s also ranked 60th of 67 Florida school districts in total education funding. Items up for the cut for the next school year range from cutting teacher jobs and closing schools to eliminating arts and athletic programs, according to a SCPS report.

The value of hands-on learning

Despite the unknown future, the friends and community will continue to work to raise funds, said Pat Burkett, who works with the friends organization and was one of the founders of the Environmental Studies Center. The center, she said, is a place that gives students a learning experience they can’t get in a classroom.

“They’re different kids out there,” she said. “It’s hands-on, feet-in.”

And that learning from doing experience is what makes the Center so important. As soon as they step off the bus and their shoes crunch on that dirt and they smell the fresh air — and even find their first animal droppings — the excitement kicks in. And that’s how the information “sticks like glue,” said Carolyn Milhan, the teacher on assignment for the Center.

“If they actually go out and explore it, it has real meaning for them,” Milhan said.

“Science has shown that we learn more when we’re excited,” Burkett agreed.

Every step is a learning opportunity, they said. As they stumble over roots, the students can see and hear about their purpose. As they grab up a handful of sand — one of their first assignments — and inspect what’s among the little tan grains, they are thrilled at what they find, just because they’re looking a little more closely.

Loving nature

And through the students’ adventure Mud Walk, the teachers at the center hope they gain an appreciation for nature, and an experience that can’t be had in many suburban backyards.

“It opens up worlds,” Willow said. “Once they appreciate the outdoors, that affects them for the rest of their lives,” Milhan said. “You realize that there’s a whole world out there that’s so beautiful.”

And if it closes, Milhan is worried there won’t be another opportunity for them to leave their comfort zones, head outside and explore the world.

“You might lose the next generation loving and appreciating our environment.”

Learn more

For more information about the Environmental Studies Center, its fundraisers and to donate, visit www.environmentalstudiescenter.org

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Calendar

NOV. 5

Help with the **Lake Jesup Shoreline Restoration** from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Lake Jesup Park Boat Ramp, 5951 S. Sanford Ave., Sanford. Call 407-665-2457 or email serv@seminolecountyfl.gov.

Safari Soirée is 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Enjoy a silent auction, dinner, and dancing all to benefit the Central Florida Zoo. For tickets, call 407-323-4450 extension 136.

"Visions of Sugarplums" opens with a reception from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at Jeanine Taylor Folk Art, 211 E. 1st Street, Historic downtown Sanford. The show runs through Dec. 31.

NOV. 6

Seminole State College of Florida is hosting the **Raider Run 5K** on Sunday, Nov. 6. The family-friendly run/walk will begin at 8 a.m. A free kids' run will be held. Visit www.seminolestate.edu/athletics/5k.

Seminole Audubon Society offers four sessions of a **"Beginning Bird-Watching"** course on Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 6, 10, 15 and 17 at the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center. Cost is \$30. Call 407-977-4389 or email seminoleaudubon@gmail.com.

NOV. 8

You are invited to provide input on the selection of a new superintendent of schools for Seminole County at **Town**

Hall meetings held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

Nov. 8 – Oviedo High School – Media Center

Nov. 15 – Lyman High School – Media Center

Nov. 16 – Seminole High School – Media Center

Call 407-320-0030.

Healthy Party Hors d'Oeuvres is 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the Seminole County Extension, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford. Cost is \$10. Call 407-665-5560.

NOV. 10

Join Kids House of Seminole at the **Promise to Protect Breakfast**, from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Orlando/Lake Mary Marriott in Lake Mary. Visit www.kidshouse.org or call 407-324-3036.

Alive After Five Seafood Harvest is 5 p.m.-8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10. Explore the various wares of vendors and artists of Sanford. Tickets are \$7 per person. Call 407-302-2586.

The Fine Arts Gallery at Seminole State College of Florida will hold a reception on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 5 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the annual **Fine Arts Faculty Exhibit**, which runs through noon on Dec. 8. It's free.

NOV. 11

The Fine Arts Theatre at Seminole State College of Florida continues its 2011-12 season with **"The Laramie**

Project" starting on Friday, Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Subsequent shows on Nov. 12, 17, 18 and 19 begin at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees on Nov. 13 and 20 begin at 2 p.m. Call 407-708-2040.

Central Florida Regional Hospital will host the third annual **Iron Heart Cook-off** at 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at the Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North Hotel. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call 407-302-7363 or visit www.CentralFloridaRegional.com

The Seminole State College Planetarium will host its first **Fall Star Party** from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, with telescopes set up outside the planetarium to view the moon, Jupiter and its four moons, distant galaxies and star clusters.

NOV. 12

The **Elizabeth House golf tournament and silent auction** will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Deer Run Country Club in Casselberry to benefit Seminole County survivors of domestic violence. Entry fees are \$70/person or \$260/team. Contact Joan at 407-968-9922 or joan@elizabethhouseinc.com.

It's Oviedo's largest festival of the year! The 38th annual **Great Day in the Country** arts and crafts festival runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Lawton House in downtown Oviedo. Admission, parking and shuttle are all free. Visit www.greatdayoviedo.org.

The **Sanford Brew Ha Ha**, from 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, off of First Street is a charity event and beer competition that brings local home brewers, artists and beer lovers together in the historical downtown Sanford area. The tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the gate. Visit <http://www.cfhb.org/sunshine-challenge>.

Join the studio artists of **Gallery on First** from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, as they celebrate the season's finest colors in art. The show will feature original works by studio artists Stewart Jones, Cindy Sturla, Stan Surman, Nancy Chenet, Kim Brown, Robert Mier, Debe Abbott and Kevin Abbott. The event is free. Visit www.galleryonfirst.com.

Dinner & Movie Night at the Geneva Bijou starts at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. There's a \$5 donation per person (\$3 donation for kids younger than 16). Enjoy this night of old-fashioned fun at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main St., Geneva.

NOV. 13

From 2 p.m.-4 p.m. in Sunday, Nov. 13, the Seminole Audubon Society program will be on the endangered **"Red-cockaded Woodpecker"** at the Seminole County Library in Sanford (150 N. Palmetto Ave., Sanford). The program is free to the public. Call 407-977-4389 or go to www.seminoleaudubon.org.

NOV. 14

November Chapter Meeting Program of the **Florida Native Plant Society** is Monday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford. The topic is healing plants used by Native Americans. Call 407-302-7616.

NOV. 16

No matter how long it has been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there is hope. Join us for an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again. **St. Luke's** is sponsoring two sessions: on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. and one Friday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m. in Suite D. Call 407-365-3408.

NOV. 18

"Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage," a seminar hosted by pastor Mark Gungor, is Friday, Nov. 18, from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-noon at Metro Church, 1491 E. State Road 434 in Winter Springs. The cost is \$40 per person or \$79 per couple. Call 407-366-7714 or visit metrocc.org for more information.

Winter Springs Police Explorer Annual Charity Golf Tournament, which benefits the Shop with a Cop Program, is 8:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, at Twin Rivers Golf Club, 2100 Ekana Drive, Oviedo. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Tickets \$65/person or \$260/foursome. Call 407-327-1000 ext. 574 or email at kchaulk@winterspringsfl.org.

St. Stephen Catholic Church's annual craft fair is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 18-19 and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 20 at 575 Tuskawilla Road, Winter



Nov. 10 Faculty Exhibit

Springs. It's a huge craft fair featuring holiday decorations, floral arrangements, paintings, baby items, garden decor, pet items and more. Call 407-767-5069.

NOV. 19

On Saturday, Nov. 19, the Seminole Audubon Society has a **two-part Volusia County field trip** outing. It begins at 8:30 a.m. at Palm Bluff Conservation Area, a 3,321-acre conservation area located within the Deep Creek basin. RSVP is required; please contact Joy at joy7audubon@aol.com

The first **Seminole County South Rotary Club** art, craft and wine festival at Crane's Roost in Altamonte Springs is Nov. 19-20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's \$30 per person. Visit www.srotary.com or contact Paul Crouch at 407-774-5905.

St. Luke's Concert Series presents the UCF Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven's "Symphony No. 8" and "Leonore Overture" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. Admission to the concert is free. It's at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2021 W. State Road 426, Oviedo.

The **Florida Native Plant Society** invites Geneva residents to join them at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, on a Black Hammock Walk. It's free. Call 407-302-7616 for more information.

ONGOING

The **Winter Springs Farmers Market** is every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Winter Springs Town Center. Visit WinterSpringsFarmersMarket.com.

The **Oviedo Farmers Market** is the first Saturday of every month (Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7) from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 200 W. Broadway St. Visit OviedoHS.com.

Oviedo Mall and Food Truck Crazy present **food truck events** on the second Sunday of the month from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dates include Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

TheDailyCity.com **Food Truck Bazaar** is Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 at Oviedo Lowe's Home Improvement, 1155 Vidina Place, Oviedo. Visit TheDailyCity.com.

The **Planetarium at Seminole State College of Florida** will host the following: "Central Florida Nights" will be presented from 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4 and Nov. 18. "Sounds of the Universe" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Concert Hall on the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus on Nov. 8. "The Extraterrestrial Files" will be presented from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Nov. 5, Nov. 12 and Nov. 19. Visit seminolestate.edu/planet or call 407-708-2360 for additional information.

FLORIDA RECEIVES "D" ON 2011 MARCH OF DIMES PREMATURE BIRTH REPORT CARD

November 17 is First-Ever World Prematurity Day

Florida received a "D" on the March of Dimes 2011 Premature Birth Report Card, but the biggest news is the three-year, improving trend in its preterm birth rate.

"Our state's preterm birth rate has improved this year. We're proud of this achievement and what we accomplished by working together with our partners for stronger, healthier babies," said Julie Samples, ARNP, MSN, March of Dimes Florida Chapter Program Services Committee Chair. "We are determined to continue to find and implement solutions to improve the health of babies, such as improving access to health care coverage, helping women quit smoking, and preventing unnecessary early c-sections, so more babies can get a healthy start in life."

Factors that contribute to preterm birth improved in Florida. It earned a star for:

- Reducing the percentage of women of childbearing age who smoke
- Lowering the late preterm birth rate

Since 2006, Florida's preterm birth rate has dropped to 13.5 percent. The rate of late preterm births is 9.6 percent; the rate of women smoking is 17.3 percent, and the rate of uninsured women is 28.5 percent.

Quality improvement programs are key to lowering preterm birth rates, according to the March of Dimes.

In Florida, March of Dimes supports programs that provide information and support to families with babies in a neonatal intensive care unit. We have grant-funded programs in Hillsborough and Duval Counties that provide education and support to women who have had a stillbirth, infant death, or who have had a baby in a NICU, to help them reduce their risks for future pregnancies. And we have the "Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait" campaign, which is working to prevent non-medically indicated deliveries before 39 weeks of pregnancy. A normal pregnancy lasts 40 weeks, but in recent years it has become more common to schedule deliveries early at 37 or 38 weeks.

The United States received a "C" on the March of Dimes Report Card. Grades are based on comparing the state and the nation's 2009 preliminary preterm birth rates with the March of Dimes 2020 goal of 9.6 percent of all live births. The U.S. preterm birth rate is 12.2 percent down nearly 5 percent from the peak of 12.8 percent in 2006.

Preterm birth, birth before 37 weeks completed gestation, is a serious health problem that costs the United States more than \$26 billion annually, according to the Institute of Medicine. It is the leading cause of newborn death, and babies who survive an early birth often face the risk of lifetime health challenges, such as breathing problems, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities and others. Even babies born just a few weeks early have higher rates of hospitalization and illness than full-term infants. At least 39 weeks of pregnancy are critical to a baby's health because many important organs, including the brain, are not completely developed until then.

The March of Dimes says its 2020 preterm birth goal can be achieved by a combination of activities: giving all women of childbearing age access to health care coverage, fully implementing proven interventions to reduce the risk of an early birth, such as not smoking during pregnancy, getting preconception and early prenatal care, progesterone treatments for women who are medically eligible, avoiding multiples from fertility treatments, avoiding elective c-sections and inductions before 39 weeks of pregnancy, and by funding new research on prevention of preterm birth.

This year, for the first time, a World Prematurity Day will be observed on November 17 by the March of Dimes along with organizations in Africa, Europe, and Australia. An estimated 13 million babies are born preterm and of those one million die as a result of their early birth, according to an October 2009 March of Dimes report on the global toll of preterm birth. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/worldprematurityday.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com/florida or nacersano.org. Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



Haunting at Riverside



SCAN HERE
Use your smartphone's QR code reader app to view more photos or visit seminolevoice.com/photos/galleries

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE

Ghouls filled Oviedo's Halloween Carnival of Screams Oct. 28 at Riverside Park. Visit seminolevoice.com for more photos.

Notes

Seminole Elections receives national advocacy award

Campaigns and Elections named Seminole County Supervisor of Elections Michael Ertel as part of its inaugural class of 10 political technology innovators. Ertel was the only elections administrator selected to receive the magazine's CampaignTech Innovator Award, which recognizes the use of technology in the political and government areas. Ertel was selected to receive the Advocacy Award for his work to drive voter registration and turnout as one of the first elections supervisors to engage in social media, as well as his first-in-the-nation mapping of polling locations through the social networking site Foursquare.

"For the 2012 election cycle, Seminole County will again provide new voter outreach methods and combine them with classic measures of ensuring everyone knows of their opportunity to register to vote and cast a ballot in an efficient, trustworthy fashion," Ertel said.

In September, the office unveiled

a QR code for general voter outreach, and at last week's Central Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Latin Food and Wine Festival debuted another QR code leading directly to the office's Spanish-language website, VotoSeminole.org. Later in the fall the office will present a new, improved web presence on its Internet platform.

Lyman wins at art fest

Art students from Lyman High School participated in the recent 35th annual Maitland Rotary Art Festival held on the grounds surrounding Lake Lily in Maitland from Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Lyman High students earned several top awards, as follows:

- Brian Orendian: 1st place Drawing
- Hayley Byfield: 1st place Sculpture and 2nd place Sculpture
- Kristen Marhee: 2nd place Painting
- Cara Rose Clifton: 1st place Painting and Merit Award Painting, Best in Show Painting

Bake sale nets \$700 for cancer treatment

Students of the Art & Phyllis Grindle Honors Institute raised \$705 at a bake sale held Oct. 4 at Seminole State College of Florida's Oviedo Campus. The money was donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, a nonprofit institution that specializes in cancer treatment for children. The honors students surpassed their goal of \$200. The students were recognized on Local 6's "Making a Difference" segment for their fundraising success. Visit www.seminolestate.edu/honors

Hope Hike at South Seminole Hospital

On Oct. 7, South Seminole Hospital team members, government officials, community leaders, breast cancer survivors and others from the community gathered for the hospital's first Hope Hike to proclaim October as "Pink October" to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. The walk began after a ceremony at the city of Longwood Community Building and ended at the hospital's Women's Imaging Center for a reception.

Seminole softball tops in academics

The Seminole State College of Florida softball team had one of the best academic records in the country during the 2010-11 school year, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) recently announced. The Raiders, who boasted an overall team GPA of 3.25, ranked 14th in the junior college category on the association's annual academic awards list.

Several student-athletes also earned individual recognition as NFCA All-America Scholar Athletes for maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher. Tara Turner, of Lake Mary, was named an Athlete of Distinction by the National Junior College Athletic Association. The Lake Mary High School graduate earned Superior Academic Achievement honors for finishing the year with a 3.8 GPA. Turner now plays for Rollins College. For more information, please visit www.seminolestate.edu/athletics/softball

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SENIOR VOICE



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Photographic memories

Seniors with dementia flex their mental muscles in a Rollins College photograph-as-language class

BRITNI JOHNSON
The Voice

As the man looks at the photo of the young woman on the screen, he thinks nothing. He doesn't know her.

Some students say, "that's your daughter," up there, but he resists, quietly uncertain. They point to the printout of the very same photo in his hands, telling him again.

Recognition maybe, but memories certainly, come to him. That's her, he remembers, he knows her name and little things about her.

This man has dementia, and he's one of Winter Park's Brain Fitness Club members. He and a dozen others with Alzheimer's or some type of dementia gather at the First United Methodist Church in Winter Park two days a week to

exercise their minds and bodies. Director Peggy Bargmann, a registered nurse who has specialized in dementia for 25 years, partnered with the University of Central Florida communicative sciences and disorders masters program to form the Club in 2007. They offer brain building, physical exercise, friendship and speech therapy.

Prompting conversation

Now, for the first time, once a week, they meet with Rollins College freshman students for a photography class. The students and Brain members each have an assignment to complete, and then they discuss their photos in class.

"We're trying to make that connection," Rollins student David Cottrell said. "When you look at a photo, it brings you back to that

moment."

For the members with dementia, that moment might not be exactly what's in the photo they discuss with the students that week. Sometimes they don't remember taking the picture, but the photo almost always sparks some memory or conversation.

"Creative and critical thinking will help anyone in terms of their brain activity," said Dawn Roe, professor of the photograph-as-language course.

Talent revealed

The Brain Fitness members and students work in small and large groups, discussing what they see in the photos, the feelings they bring up and what they hope others might think or wonder. Then they all come together to talk about a few featured photos. There is one of a book on a table, and they muse about where it might have been taken, at what angle, and how pretty the light hits the items sitting there.

Another featured is one of the members taking a photo of himself in a mirror. They discuss contrast, light and dark. While some of the young students' attentions wander, the members are completely engaged. These sophisticated trains of thought and talk take focus and attention, and



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

A Rollins student and a Brain Fitness Club member reflect on photos he took.

that's a great brain workout, Bargmann said.

"A lot of [the photos] are remarkable ... there is clarity and thought at the moment they take the photo," Roe said.

Restoring worth

Many members take photos they're very proud of. One member shows pictures of a beautiful sunset he's taken in his backyard, which faces a lake. The colors, pink and yellow, gleam off the water. He shows them to everyone each week. The member who took a photo of himself in the mirror takes the assignments very seriously, and has a lot of talent, Bargmann said.

"He is a man living with dementia, living with so many losses, and now, here's a new skill he has," she said. "You want a sense of worth and this certainly does that."

The students have learned to

see that, too, with seniors struggling against losing abilities.

"It's very frustrating for them," Cottrell said. "Something that was so easy all of a sudden is out the window."

Learning from each other

And it wasn't easy for the students at first, either. Many were surprised to hear they would be working with the Brain Fitness Club. In the beginning, members didn't remember them; now they know their names. While the room was once quiet, now it whispers with friendly talk. Student Brad Baker said he's learned so much from the members, not just about the disease itself, but about history and life, too. It's a place for them to feel safe and accepted.

"I feel like that's mostly what we're here for, to listen to what they have to say," Baker said.

And even though this class is no miracle cure, the students said they have a strong feeling that it is helping, somehow.

"I feel like our time here isn't really wasted ... whether it's big or small it's still making an impact," Cottrell said.

Bargmann hears it — after the class, the members tell her that going there two days a week makes a difference in their lives; they say it's important to them, that they can focus just a little bit better.

"Whether we can measure that or not, it's the feeling," Bargmann said. "They feel hope."



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For more information about the Brain Fitness Club, contact Peggy Bargmann at 407-927-4380 or email BrainFitness@cfl.rr.com. The Club is done on a semester basis, with the photography class possibly coming back next fall. The cost of a 14-week semester is \$1,000, but there are scholarship opportunities.

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For Central Florida seniors, their families and caregivers, finding products, services and resources that cater to their specific needs is about to be much easier – thanks to One Senior Place expansion to Orlando.

Building on 6 years of award-winning success in Brevard County, One Senior Place is about to open its second location to serve the Greater Orlando area – February 2012! One Senior Place is a business community that incorporates a wide range of senior-focused providers, a Senior Resource Library, Living Options Showroom, auditorium and conference center, and access to elder care management services. The center is located at 715 Douglas Avenue in Altamonte Springs and is built on the concept that combines business and service providers in a unique mall-like environment with the most thorough information, comprehensive

resources and unbiased advice – all in a friendly, helpful environment. The concept integrates access to businesses, social and service organizations, non-profit resources, activities, events and care solutions – all dedicated to seniors, and all in one place.



866-751-6771

www.OneSeniorPlace.com

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Monday – Friday
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In short, One Senior Place is the first step in navigating the maze of elder care. Never before have seniors or their families been able to call or visit one place and talk with experienced professionals in the senior services network who have access to all the senior resources available in the community. Seniors and their family members will be able to use the “one-stop” resource for answers on everything from health care, legal, financial concerns, in-home care, to educational seminars and events designed for the active senior to remain engaged and informed. One Senior Place Orlando will also offer a Living Options Showroom and on-site Senior Resource Library that lets visitors gather information and learn about products or services particular to seniors.

But it's not all about care or support. Active seniors will find classes, seminars and an Active Senior Club to join and enjoy. Mark your calendar now for February 1, 2012 when One Senior Place will officially open in Orlando. You will be invited to see firsthand how One Senior Place is revolutionizing how America shops for elder care and services. Grand opening events are being planned now, so watch for details in coming months. We're not a senior center, a healthcare facility, a nursing home, or a place to live. We're the “personal assistant” you need who has done the research to put you in touch with whatever you need. Soon, you will be able to find what you need, all in one place. No more unanswered questions, no more wondering where to begin.

To find out more, call us at 866-751-6771 or visit us on the web at www.OneSeniorPlace.com

Calendar of Events

February 2012

February 1st One Senior Place Orlando opens its doors!

February 23rd Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 10 am

Join One Senior Place, community leaders and Chamber Members as we celebrate the Grand Opening of One Senior Place!

March 2012

March 22nd Community Open House 10 am – 4 pm Come meet all of our Resident Businesses that are here to serve YOU! Stop by to see what we are all about!

April 2012

April 19th 9 am – 1 pm One Senior Place presents Senior Living Options Day. One Senior Place is putting the Options in Senior Living! Join us to meet the elder care experts who will help you understand all the different opportunities for senior living here in Orlando. Learn what living options are available and what is right for you, legal considerations, tips strategies and straight answers.

And beyond

June 7th - Women's Day Extravaganza 9am - 1pm Ladies don't miss our best day of the year! This inspiring event is specially designed to help women celebrate who they are, enjoy the fellowship of other women and continue life's learning experience. Hear informative and inspiring presenters. Don't miss this event!



See our full Calendar of Events
at www.OneSeniorPlace.com

866-751-6771

Senior Bulletin

NOV. 5

The Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center will host its **18th Annual Caregiver Conference**, on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Winter Park Towers from 8:30-4 p.m. To register, contact 407-843-1910 ext. 301 or cindi@ADRCcares.org

7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Beardall Center on Gore Street and Orange Avenue. Admission is \$4. Call 407-246-2637.

NOV. 7

Fall Health and Wellness Clinic at Life Care Center Altamonte Springs, 989 Orienta Ave. is 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov 7. Call 407-831-3446.

The **Armand Marchesano Orchestra** will play music for dancing from

NOV. 8

Central Florida Guardianship's Chapter Meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Savannah Court, 1301 W. Maitland Blvd. RSVP to 407-645-3990 or email 5665mktg@hcr-manorcare.com

NOV. 12

The Center for Independent Living's **Stroll N' Roll** will be held Saturday, Nov. 12, at 9 a.m. at Harbor Park on Lake Baldwin. Register online at Cil-Orlando.org.kintera.org/StrollNRoll

NOV. 17

Counsel for Caregivers Seminar Series at the Orlando Public Library, Third Floor, Albertson Room, 101 E. Central Blvd, will be Nov. 17 from

12:10 to 12:50 p.m. RSVP to officeon-aging@ocfl.net or 407-836-7446.

NOV. 24

The **Turkey Trot**, a 5K run/power walk and Tot Trot to benefit Seniors First, is Thursday, Nov. 24, at 8 a.m. Register online at TrackShack.com

Orange County Commission On Aging Newsletter

Open Enrollment for Medicare/Medicaid is now. Call the Elder Helpline by dialing "2-1-1" or 407-839-HELP or visit Medicare.gov/open-enrollment. Open enrollment ends Dec. 7.

The annual **candle lighting ceremony** to remember loved ones who have passed away is scheduled for Nov. 6

from 4 - 5 p.m. at The Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. For info, contact Jean Balderson at 407-691-4548.

Veterans Day events

NOV. 10

The Central Florida Chapter of the First Marine Division Association invites you to a celebration of our Corps' 235th Birthday at a special **SOS breakfast** at the Best Western Mt. Vernon Inn, 110 S. Orlando Ave., on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 8:30 a.m.

NOV. 11

To mark Veterans Day, the Winter Park Memorial Post 112, will host an **"Open House,"** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 11 at 4490 N Goldenrod Rd. Call 407-671-6404 or visit WPFLPOST112.org

On Friday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., Winter Park will present its inaugural **Veterans Day Celebration** in honor of all of the veterans of Winter Park at the Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheatre, 721 W. New England Ave.

NOV. 12

Join Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer in honoring our local veterans during the city of **Orlando's 2011 Veteran's Day Parade** on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m. in downtown Orlando.

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Tales from the grave



PHOTO BY JENNY ANDREASSON — THE VOICE
Voice editor Isaac Babcock plays Lewis Powell at the Oviedo Cemetery Tour.

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ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

Nov. 13, 1979 —

Future Hall of Famer Willie Stargell won a share of the National League's MVP Award along with Keith Hernandez of the St. Louis Cardinals. The occasion marked the first time in Major League history that two players finished in a tie in the MVP balloting.

Knights need undefeated finish

After mid-season hiccups, UCF looks to finish flawlessly in conference play

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

After a game of all-out dominance followed by one of the toughest matchups all season, the Knights are looking for a strong finish to the season to have a shot at post-season play.

But that's something Head Coach George O'Leary admitted will require an undefeated end to the season.

"It's going to be tough," O'Leary said of his UCF team's schedule for the rest of the season.

Nov. 3 at press time, the Knights faced a Tulsa team (5-3, 4-0) that hadn't yet lost to a conference opponent. They were coming off a 41-0 shutdown of Memphis that erased some bad memories from tough losses.

Coming up Nov. 12, the Knights will face a Southern Miss team (7-1, 3-1) that as of Week

10 was ranked No. 25 in the BCS standings.

The Golden Eagles have dominated the Conference USA East standings since early in the season. After an early hiccup against Marshall that saw them lose their only matchup of the season, the Eagles went on a tear, ripping through six straight teams.

On Oct. 29, the Eagles smashed UTEP on the road, 31-13, wielding a balanced offense with 260 yards on the ground and 190 in the air. But their defense allowed UTEP to out-pass them, airing the ball out for 194 yards in the game. The air is where the Eagles allowed most of the Miners' first downs, with the secondary failing to stop some big plays.

Big passing plays could be where the Knights' Blake Bortles comes into the picture, having already shown himself capable of accurate shots downfield.

That's not to say fleet-footed



UCF wide receiver Quincy McDuffie bulldozes his way into the end zone in a 41-0 rout of Memphis on Oct. 29. PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Knights quarterback Jeff Godfrey won't be able to give Southern Miss trouble. When the Eagles played Navy on Oct. 8, they had a hard time against sneaky quarterback Kriss Proctor, who threw for

only 102 yards but ripped through the Southern Miss defense for 123 rushing yards. That option play gave Navy most of its 20 rushing first downs.

The Knights will have to take

their show on the road to keep their season alive. They'll kick off against Southern Miss at 8 p.m. Nov. 12, with the game hitting the airwaves on CBS Sports Network.



Jurell Green has led the Lions to a strong season, with a speedy offense. PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Lions near district clincher

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The Lions are closer to the playoffs after a thrilling 29-26 win over district rival Oak Ridge on Friday, Oct. 28. Now they take on a struggling local rival with a chance at clinching a playoff spot.

Oviedo (6-2, 2-0) didn't lead Oak Ridge (5-3, 1-2) until the fourth quarter of their recent matchup, after the Pioneers leapt out with two quick scores before the game stagnated offensively for both teams. But over the course of the second half, they slowly built a comeback, then watched the Pioneers trade touchdowns with

them until the final minutes of the game.

A long kickoff return by A.J. Coney got his team into Pioneer territory with less than two minutes to spare. Then quarterback Jurell Green took the ball 32 yards into the end zone to cap the comeback.

Coming up at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at home, the Lions host the rival Bears, who are mired in one of the worst seasons in Winter Springs history.

Winter Springs

The Lake Howell football team (3-6, 1-3) hadn't won two games in a row since 2007. On Oct. 28, Winter

Springs (1-7, 0-3) gave the school its first winning streak since the Silver Hawks' team captains were in middle school.

In that 35-28 shocker, the Bears actually led 21-7 at halftime. By the start of the fourth quarter, the Hawks had taken the lead. The Bears made an attempt at a comeback, tying up the game late in the quarter, but watched in horror as the final pass of the game was intercepted with five seconds on the clock and returned for a touchdown to end it.

They'll travel to Oviedo for a 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4 kickoff.

Hagerty

The Huskies recovered some morale with a 41-28 win over Seminole (2-6, 1-3) Oct. 28, lifting them to 4-4 overall and 2-2 in the district.

Closing out district play, the Huskies will travel to Lyman (3-6, 1-2) at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4.

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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

Nov. 5, 1940 —

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is re-elected for an unprecedented third term as president of the United States, with the promise of maintaining American neutrality in foreign wars. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt requested, and received, a declaration of war against Japan.

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



Practice your elevator speech

I love success stories. When a job seeker comes back and says they got the job, it makes my heart happy. I recently received an email from a job seeker who attended some classes on job search and interviewing and had put her newfound knowledge into practice. The big takeaway she had was what she learned about the 30-second intro or "elevator speech."

I know I have talked about this in the past, but first impressions are so important. Whether you meet someone at a networking event or on a phone or in-person interview, what you say when you are asked about yourself matters.

I always joke around when I teach the 30-second intro and say "My name is Sandi, I am married, have three children and I am a dog lover wannabe." This tells them nothing about who I really am and how I could help their company. The better response would be "I have 15 years of human resources and recruiting experience, and I have been working in non-profit for the past four years. My passion is connecting people with their next job." This gives a brief summary of experience and how I could be a fit.

Practice your 30 seconds on friends and family and then in networking situations.

The other very important note is to make sure you take some time to stop and listen to the other person. Don't leave the interviewer or person you are speaking to trying to figure out how to end the conversation. Instead tell stories that will keep them interested.

I would love to hear your 30 seconds. Please email me. Questions? Write me.

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.

Four hopeful Knights charge ahead to aid Longwood teen

PAMELA RUBEN
Guest Writer

Meet Ariel Anaya, Kristine Ajapahyan, Tim Luebbert and Alyssa Tueros, four UCF business students and now accomplished philanthropists. This fall term the four undergraduates came together in the university Cornerstone course designed to enhance community service. The students all jumped on board with the Wishes for Kids program out of Fern Park. Wishes for Kids (part of New Hope for Kids in Maitland) grants wishes to seriously ill children in Central Florida, providing them with hope and an opportunity to share an extraordinary experience with their families.

The students received training in the classroom, as well as instruction from Rosie Wilder, executive director of the Wishes for Kids program. The students chose to help grant the wish of 16-year-old Jennifer Ruben of Longwood. Although the teen was recovering from a serious neurological illness, she had nevertheless made raising funds for other ill children a priority. Jenny's dream was to visit the set of the television show "Grey's Anatomy," which had enhanced her desire to become a doctor and had provided her with endless hours of entertainment during her



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMELA RUBEN

UCF students are helping Jennifer Ruben of Longwood, center, to see her wish come true.

long recovery.

The students ambitiously planned a large-scale fundraising event that took place in mid-October at Bar Louie in Dr. Phillips, where 15 percent of the tab went toward Jenny's wish and the New Hope organization. On Wednesday, Oct. 19, Bar Louie was decked out for the event, and each student helped by bringing guests.

The Ruben family assisted the students' efforts by adding items for the silent auction and contributing letters of support on behalf of their daughter's academic

achievement, fundraising and community involvement from Florida Senate Majority Leader Andrew Gardiner as well as Orlando Sentinel columnist Greg Dawson.

Larry, simply known as "the man at the bar" approached the students with a \$100 donation. The four students had laid the groundwork for Jenny's wish and brought new hope into the lives of the Rubens.

Visit www.newhopeforkids.org, click on donate, then enter Jennifer's name.

Pamela Ruben is an Orlando-area author, writing and PR consultant.

Staff opinion

Backing down the big banks

A funny thing has happened to how we define "redistribution" of wealth, at least in the past few weeks, as the mass outcry about America's wealth and income disparity has grown louder. More and more people have started to realize that redistribution isn't some harbinger of a dystopian future where the average family loses all its money to greedy homeless people living off government cheese.

Redistribution isn't some hobo-enriching peril to be prevented. It's already happened. And it's flowing in the opposite direction than where many at the top of America's economic food chain would lead us to believe.

It's why a story Tuesday morning in the Orlando Sentinel about \$5 bank fees disappearing wasn't just on the front page; it was the banner headline. Those check-

ing and debit card fees had been put in place by many of America's largest banks beginning five months ago, highlighting just how broad the gap between their economic fantasy and our reality really was. The banks, already making massive profits, wanted even more money. American consumers, still struggling to make ends meet in the wake of the Great Recession, had nothing left to give.

According to the economic books, our recession ended in July 2009. The banks quickly resumed raking in billions again.

But a year and a half later, most Americans are still waiting for the real recession to end, as official unemployment figures continue to hover around 10 percent, with unofficial estimates as high as 18 percent.

Before American consumers could get new jobs and get back on their feet again,

banks hit them while they were down, instituting new fees while they were already making huge profits. SunTrust, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Bank of America all jumped into the feeding frenzy. In Bank of America's case, the new fee announcement came just days after it reported a record \$4 billion quarterly profit.

The outcry was huge. Videos of protestors organizing and entering banks to close their accounts en masse soon hit the major networks. Bank Transfer Day — Saturday, Nov. 5 — was (and still is) set to see hordes of customers closing their bank accounts and taking their money to non-profit credit unions.

Suddenly the banks were scrambling to cancel the fees and refund money to their customers before they withdrew all their

■ Please see **OPINION** Page 15

Young Voices

We asked Geneva kids about Halloween at the Trunk or Treat event at Focal Point Landscaping & Nursery on Halloween Eve.



I'm a peacock princess with wings. I'm going trick-or-treating tonight and I'll get lots of candy. My favorite candy is Reese's with chocolate and peanut butter.

—Katylyn D.
4 years old



I'm dressed in a black robe like the scary guy in "Scream." Tonight we're going to visit the haunted house and do the hayride with a tractor, trailer and hay bales.

—Matthew W.
8 years old



I'm dressed like a vampire. See the blood on my chin and my cape? I'm in VPK at Geneva Elementary and we had a Halloween party at school.

—Chance C.
4 years old



I'm dressed like a vampire — my mom painted my face. ... I'm in 5th grade at Geneva Elementary and at our party I made a vampire pumpkin with a candle in it.

—Preston W.
10 years old



I'm wearing a black and pink dress with black boots — I'm a Valley girl! My favorite candy is pixie sticks and dip sticks. We had a big Halloween party after lunch....

—Lauryn D.
7 years old

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

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Solution time: 21 mins.
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King Crossword

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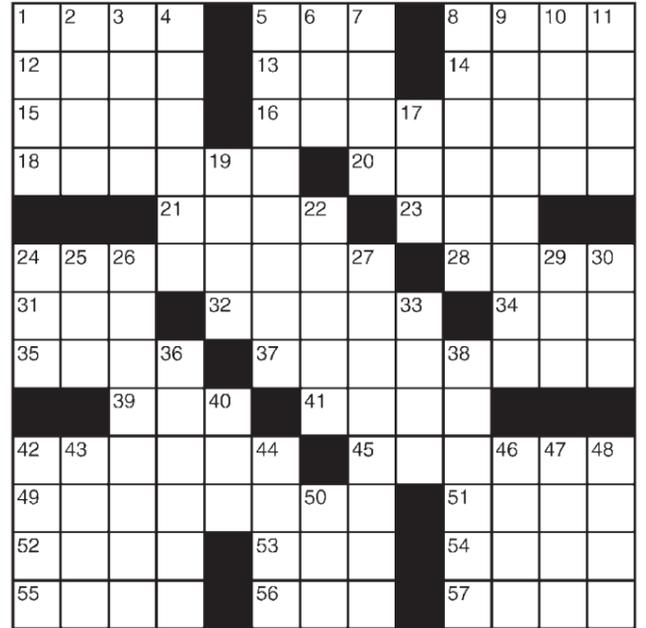
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Trudge
- 5 Serenade the moon
- 8 No-no for a vegan
- 12 Wash
- 13 One's years
- 14 Wheel bar
- 15 Satanic
- 16 "Location" for one in disfavor
- 18 Meanie
- 20 Wine glass
- 21 Three- sloth
- 23 Mr. Sajak
- 24 Bent over, as a page corner
- 28 Cook in the oven
- 31 "CSI" evidence
- 32 Reservation home
- 34 "To be or ..."
- 35 Examination
- 37 Doctrinaire
- 39 Trail behind
- 41 Donkey's pin-on
- 42 Expressed a feeling
- 45 Perfect place
- 49 Comical poetry
- 51 Quest
- 52 Reverberate



- 53 Every last bit
- 54 Saxophone range
- 55 Drunkards
- 56 "See ya"
- 57 Feed the hogs
- 9 Showing great joy
- 10 Otherwise
- 11 Yard components
- 17 Leap
- 19 Capricorn
- 22 Train station
- 24 Banned pesticide
- 25 Individual
- 26 Old lamp illuminant
- 27 French president throughout the '60s
- 29 Japanese pond carp
- 30 And so forth
- 33 Send forth
- 36 Ballroom dances
- 38 Hawaiian welcomes
- 40 "Golly!"
- 42 Praiseful verses
- 43 Somewhat, in music
- 44 Colorless
- 46 Yank
- 47 Division word
- 48 On
- 50 TV Tarzan portrayer

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OPINION | More angered over income gap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

deposits.
That's a big win for the Occupy Wall Street movement, which began protesting America's record income disparity and greedy banks — among other things — nearly two months ago. And as that movement has grown, its message has gained traction. According to a joint New York Times/CBS News poll released last week, two out of three Americans now believe the nation's wealth should be more evenly

distributed.
Maybe that's a response to the growing feeling that America's longstanding narrative of going from rags to riches through hard work has been replaced with the grim reality of an economic and political system that stacks the odds massively in favor of those who are already rich.
But there's a limit to that excess, and we may have just reached a breaking point. Just as wealthy banks were deciding that we should pay more, American consumers said it's time for some payback.

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