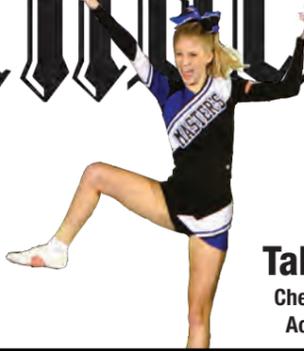




Seminole Voice



Live! action > 6
Five Seminole women have the time of their lives in NYC



Taking it all > 7
Cheer squad wins Master's Academy's first state title



Online extra
The Love Your Shorts Film Festival comes to town

www.SeminoleVoice.com

Feb. 10 - Feb. 23, 2012

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Center raises questions

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

Oviedo may finally have a dedicated community center after the City Council voted 3-2 on Jan. 23, but some Council members are crying foul, saying the deal wasn't transparent enough.

The center, which will transform the city's abandoned former post office on Geneva Drive into a sprawling, renovated community gathering place, will cost the city about \$230,000. Stretching out from the building, a courtyard could open up to retention ponds abutting the building and a portion of the Seminole County Trail system.

Mayor Dominic Persampiere said it's a good deal for the city.

"It's a great building to have it in," Persampiere said. "It's just a big rectangle. We can do anything we want with it."

But how that building was purchased from former owner, the Evans family, represented at the Jan. 23 meeting by Arthur Evans, is under question by two Council members who dissented in the narrow vote to buy the building.

■ Please see **COMMUNITY** on page 2

USPS 008-093
Publisher statement on page 2

New lease on life

UCF breathes new life into Student Museum, shelters facility from devastating budget cuts



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

The Seminole County Student Museum began life as the Sanford High School in 1902. More than one hundred years later, the building is transforming again.

ALLISON OLCSVAY
The Voice

Adam Mahl fidgets, eyes glued to the volunteer teacher at the Seminole County Student Museum, as if his body is electrified by the information he's taking in. She's discussing pioneer life, a subject he and his fourth-grade classmates have just finished studying back at Goldsboro Elementary.

When she calls for an answer, Adam and his friends shoot their hands skyward, eager to impress with their growing knowledge of pioneer history. They seem to know almost as much about Florida settlers as the museum volunteers.

This is Adam's first trip to the museum and he can barely contain himself when the volunteer turns the kids loose to explore the exhibit that features a kid-sized replica of a frontier cabin.

"I like this place," Adam said. "The garden outside was my favorite. Did you know they used to use rosemary for headaches? I think that is so cool."

The light bulbs going off in

the kids' heads are almost blinding.

"They're connecting what they are learning in the classroom and seeing an actual representation of the history," said Goldsboro Elementary teacher Roni Ross. "They are starting to understand rather than just hearing it from me or reading it."

A building's legacy

There is something about walking into an actual piece of Florida history that seems to spark the kids' imagination.

The two-story brick building began life as Sanford High School when it opened in 1902. In 1911, the high school moved to a larger facility and the little school on Seventh Avenue became Sanford Grammar School.

At that time Seminole County was still part of Orange County, women did not yet have the right to vote, and with the help of the assembly line, cars were an affordable \$400, about half the average annual salary.

By 1984, the grammar school had earned its retirement after seeing generations of Sanford's children safely through its halls.

Unlike other public buildings that slide quietly into disrepair and are eventually torn down, the former grammar school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as one of the oldest continuously operating schools in Florida and found new life as the Seminole County Student Museum and Center for Social Studies.

UCF steps in

Despite hosting more than 3,000 students last year, though, this charming example of turn-of-the-century school architecture and history was in danger of closing as early as August due to budget cuts.

The staff at the museum first learned of the budget shortfall in April 2011 and immediately began working on a plan to save their program. They did everything they could from selling T-shirts and tote bags to arranging their first ever summer camp to raise funds.

Coincidentally, it was around this time that the University of Central Florida began looking for a place to establish their Center for Public History.

Learn more

The Seminole County Student Museum is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week. From 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. they host field trips, and from 1:30 - 3 p.m. on those days, they are open to the public.

At the suggestion of Christine Dalton, the historic preservation officer of Sanford, UCF considered the Student Museum, among other buildings in the area.

They decided the museum's existing facility and educational programs fit nicely with their desire to work with the community in their goal of "doing history," UCF Director of Public History Rosalind Beiler said.

"For us it's about collaborative, interdisciplinary education," Beiler said. "Our goal is to offer resources for the community to learn about what public history is and how to do it."

With the new lease that was approved Jan. 24 by the Seminole County School Board, UCF

■ Please see **MUSEUM** on page 2

What's goin' on?

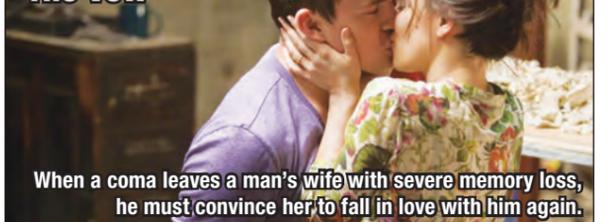
A dozen gourmet food trucks will roll into the Oviedo Mall parking lot for the Truck Crazy event on Sunday, Feb. 19. The event is free, but the food is not. It's held rain or shine.

Calendar > 8

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Opening this week: 'The Vow'



When a coma leaves a man's wife with severe memory loss, he must convince her to fall in love with him again.



THIS WEEK



THIS WEEK in history

Feb. 14, 1929 —

Sir Alexander Fleming, a bacteriologist, discovers penicillin. Having left a plate of staphylococcus bacteria uncovered, Fleming noticed that a mold, similar to the kind found on bread, had fallen on the culture and had killed many of the bacteria.

COMMUNITY | Impact fees were used to seal the deal on the \$430K purchase

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Of the about \$430,000 the city agreed to pay for the building, \$200,000 was donated back to the city in the form of environmental impact fee credits that the city had in effect refunded to the Evans family.

But that impact fee credit was supposed to be an incentive for new construction in the city, Councilmen Steve Henken and Stephen Schenck said. That construction never happened, they said.

"Arthur didn't give us \$200,000 cash," Henken said. "He had impact fee credits on the books. In this deal he walked out with \$200,000 cash. We've never let somebody walk out with impact fee credits before.



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE
Mayor Dominic Persampiere poses in front of the old post office building that the city bought.

You need to build things for those credits, which he didn't."

Schenck said that after consulting with city staff, he was alarmed at how much those impact fee credits were worth.

"It was something like 380 single family homes worth," Schenck said.

Persampiere said that the money would have been paid to the Evans' anyway, and that if they ever develop any of their other land in the city, they'll have to pay the city impact fees in return.

"Anytime somebody wants to give us 50 percent of the impact fee credits back, I'm all for it," Persampiere said.

Persampiere said that the building may help the city save some pain in the long run. Schenck agreed that the building was bought inexpensively, and could be renovated for between \$400,000-\$600,000.

That leaves the city available to build a dedicated amphitheater in the new downtown project, called Oviedo on the Park, rather than trying to integrate a community center with the amphitheater.

In the meantime, the city will be looking into a public/private partnership to raise funds to transform the post office, Persampiere said.

"The building is going to be developed into a first class event center," he said.

MUSEUM |

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

will cover the facility's operating costs until June 2014, when the lease becomes renewable.

This two-year lease will give them time to explore how to make the partnership work best for the community.

UCF plans to offer academic programs for its students at the facility, improve the museum's existing programs by installing digital displays, and in the future hopes to operate innovative research projects such as an oral history studio there.

As part of the lease agreement, UCF will continue the beloved fourth-grade field trip program.

"We are not taking over," Beiler said. "We rely on the community and look forward to the joint creation and preservation of history with this new partnership."

This news is a relief to parents like Jill Metz of Oviedo, who is a regular visitor to the museum.

"I absolutely have always loved this place," said Metz. "Preserving it is important — it's such a gift."

ES24

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at Central Florida Regional Hospital
Presented by William David, M.D.
The Cardiovascular Center, P.A.

Wednesday, February 29, 5:30 p.m.
at John Knox Village,
901 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Orange City
Presented by Ratan Ahuja, M.D.
Florida Cardiopulmonary Center, LLC

An A-Fib Affair – FREE seminar and tour of our new EP Lab. Learn more about the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation (A-Fib) with Dr. Jorge O. Diaz, electrophysiologist. Includes a heart-healthy meal and cardiac rhythm screening.

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From my GARDEN to yours

Tom Carey

dinner.”
 Us gardeners are a creative lot, always looking for new projects. “I’m trying to integrate more permaculture into my annual bio-intensive vegetable garden,” she said. “I’ll do that with sweet potatoes along the fence line of my vegetable garden. Other perennials I’ve planted along the fence line are garlic chives and pineapples. I’m planning a native plant restoration on top of my septic tank mound. I’ll plant all native grasses, like wooly grass and purple love grass. And we have a little bat house, but I want a bat mansion to collect the bat guano.”

Think gardening is a relaxed way of life? Not for Tia! “My life is very complicated from all the different hats I wear,” she said. “I’m a volunteer with Simple Living and I’m the president. With my own business I do garden consulting. I’m getting known as the community garden expert for a lot of the projects at churches and schools. One of the other projects I’m most excited about is the Winter Park urban farm.”

When I asked Tia for some quick tips, she responded with the elegance of simplicity, “Compost is the answer to everything!”

WHO IS CAREY

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

tree. I’ve always had a love for being outside with nature, watching things grow. That’s a connection a lot of people have lost growing up in condos and apartments or suburban houses.”

The productivity of Tia’s garden is worthy of any gar-

The productivity of Tia’s garden is worthy of any gardener’s envy.

dener’s envy. “Our Econ Farm is mainly a self-sustainable project where most of the stuff we grow is for me and Terry to eat or share with family and friends,” she said. “We eat out of the garden every day. We’re harvesting lots of carrots and cabbage and greens right now. The tomatoes in pots never froze this year. We make a different salad every day for

A visit with Tia Meer

Tia Meer, compatriot gardener and president of the Simple Living Institute, found a few spare moments to stop by my garden for a chat. Tia, along with her husband, Terry, grow their garden on the shores of the Econlockhatchee River at their Econ Farm east of Orlando. Simple Living Institute is the nonprofit organization sponsoring so many of our Central Florida community gardening projects. With a mission to “create opportunities for sustainability in our community,” how can we go wrong with neighbors like these?

Like many of us living in Central Florida, Tia has had the roots of her experience transplanted here. “When I grew up in Pennsylvania, my grandma was a farmer,” she said. “Growing up as a kid on grandma’s farm, I’d pull up carrots and dig up potatoes — treasure hunting for food — raid the raspberry patch and pick strawberries, climb the cherry

Between the CELERY Stalks By Janet Foley

Marker unveiled

Did you go to the Farmer’s Market on Saturday, Feb. 4? The market was packed with some 28 vendors and the Oviedo Historical Society’s Historic Marker dedication was a very well-attended event. Both the Oviedo Rotary and Oviedo Woman’s Club were in attendance. Each group donated \$1,000 toward the marker. The City Council and other Seminole County representatives were also present and all had a very good time. Do drop by the marker. Now we (the community) have another piece of history to display.

Enroll in art classes

Yet another piece of history: The Artistic Hand Gallery and Studio enters into its 22nd year of giving to the community. Sorry to say that teen and adult classes have already started on Feb. 6, but late enrollment is still available. Now please mark your calendar for the week of Feb. 27, when children’s classes in painting and drawing, throwing on the potter’s wheel, claying hand building and sculpture start. The gallery, which displays the work of 100 local artists, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through

Saturday, and is closed on Sundays. Glass blowing is also available as a one-day session. Please call Del at 407-366-7882 for more information.

Food truck event

Food Truck Crazy is coming this Sunday, Feb. 12, to the Oviedo Mall in the parking lot between Chamberlin’s and the North Entrance. It’s free. The trucks will be there come rain or shine from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It’s a family event featuring gourmet food trucks. Visit www.myoviedomall.com

Pick some berries

Like picking your own strawberries? Pappy’s Patch is open on Florida Road in the Black Hammock. Please call 407-366-8512 for directions and days and times.

Walking tour

The Oviedo Preservation Project is calling all to attend its great Historic Oviedo Walking Tour and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the First United Methodist Church, 263 King St. in Oviedo. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10:45 a.m.

■ Please see **CELERY** on page 5

Emergency Services 24



What’s Your Emergency???

2012 has started with a bang for local Orlando based Emergency Services 24 (ES24). With expansion into South Florida and the Tampa region ES24 has been steadily assisting property owners in their time of need after suffering unexpected water damage or fire damages to their buildings.

This is the season for building fires but with the mild weather there has been a drop in house or commercial building fires. The cold weather usually creates more hazards to buildings as fireplaces, space heaters and other electric overloads create the potential for unexpected fires.

“We have been running around the clock” field supervisor Brian Honea states. The water losses to homes have been steady enough to keep all of trucks servicing properties 24/7. We can be at any property within 30 minutes in the metro area with crews to extract water, keep properties from further damage and get owners back to normal as quickly as possible.

ES24 has offices in Orlando, Boca Raton, and Tampa and is expanding into Naples/Fort Meyers and Jacksonville this year. ES24 also services the Atlanta metro area with offices in Atlanta, Athens and Macon along with Birmingham Alabama.

ES24 specializes in building loss recovery and stabilization due to any catastrophic event that can happen. Pipe Breaks, Floods, Fires or natural disasters never stop.

Our new motto of “What’s Your Emergency” says it all. We will handle any building crisis, quickly, professionally and get any property back to normal as efficiently as possible.

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CELERY | Take a walk

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and walking tours of the historic downtown area will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The event is free. Do come enjoy a great way to spend the morning and learn about Oviedo History. Questions? call 407-365-1433 or email www.OviedoTraditions.org

Janice Boston

February is Black History Month and in honor of the month, our guest speaker for the Oviedo Historical Society's general meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, will be Janice Boston, a member of the longtime Boston family. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Building on Central Avenue.

Tasting Luncheon

Looking ahead, the Annual Oviedo Woman's Club Tasting Luncheon will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, at the clubhouse located at 414 King St. in Oviedo (located between the high school and Methodist church). You might want to purchase your tickets for \$7 now before they are gone. You may purchase tickets from any club member, or call the clubhouse at 407-365-9420, ext. 3. Some tickets will be sold at the door and the woman's club will be selling their Tasting Luncheon Cookbook that day.

Happy Valentine's Day to all.

A thought

"True love begins when nothing is looked for in return." — Antoine De Saint-Exupery, "The Wisdom of the Sands"

TALK TO JANET

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



STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips



Abe Lincoln could teach today's pols a thing or two

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." — President Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.

Abraham Lincoln was long, lanky and largely self-educated. He was a young man who loved to read and disliked killing animals for food or sport. His mother died when he was nine and his family who was from modest means moved about from Kentucky to Indiana to Illinois. As a store clerk, surveyor, log-splitter and lawyer his common roots and tender heart enabled Lincoln to understand instinctively what his country needed before, during and after the American Civil War. He had no need of national polls, media advisors or Super PACs to set his course. His words were plain and eloquent, common and supremely unique, and his wisdom reached above the political fray.

Sadly in 2012 his birthday will pass

largely unnoticed. But we can learn much from our 16th president if only to read the Gettysburg Address that took him just more than two minutes to deliver, or his very short Second Inaugural Address given only a few weeks before his death. Lincoln's ability to embrace the two bleeding halves of his country and set a positive path forward for all was not concocted as a brilliant political ploy, but rather a covenant to a higher calling.

If it's been a few decades since you've visited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., make a point to visit with your kids or your grand-kids. The majesty and scope of its size and scale will humble you as you stand within its cool columns at the feet of his statue. There is no admission, just your journey up its steps. It's breathtaking at sunrise, midday and beyond majestic at night.

Geneva Bus Tour turns 12

Thanks to all who planned and participated in the 12th Annual Geneva Historical Bus Tour that carried enthusiasts from one end of Geneva to the other for a jam-packed two hour history lesson. The cadence of Mal Martin's Alabama accent shared anecdotes, newspaper snippets and local history as we imagined steamboats, tent-covered hills, wagon trails, soldiers, railways and entrepreneurs of sawmills, bottling, turpentine and mercantile. We began to see Geneva's future by appreciating and recognizing its past.

Beyond saving our school

It is too soon to know for certain whether Geneva Elementary or any other school

will be closed this year. But what has been let loose in this journey is a fire-in-the-belly fight for credible facts and figures on how county taxpayer money is being spent. One key maxim in business is to "Inspect what you expect." It was surely like peeling back an onion as our laptop moms and PTA leaders started asking questions and under every rock a new discovery yielded more unanswered questions. What a great example they present to their children, and hopefully what a positive legacy they present to future generations. But it is not their fight alone. This battle belongs to all of us who pay taxes. We must challenge and hold all our government entities accountable. Let's not let our apathy allow our leaders to grow more complacent and continue without accountability.

Amy Lockhart seeking school board ballot

If you missed the Geneva Citizens Association meeting this past Monday, you missed a great mini farmers market. You also missed meeting Amy Lockhart, who is gathering signatures to qualify for the August primary ballot for District 4 for the Seminole County School Board. Amy has served as executive assistant to Commissioner Brenda Carey for the last several years and hopes to bring her extensive experience and innovative ideas to the Seminole County School Board.

Methodist Church showcases Geneva talent

Come join the Second Annual Talent Show & Pancake Supper at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the First United Methodist Church. Contact Sharry Daugherty at 407-349-9297 or email genevafumc@att.net for more information and to participate in the show.

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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INTERESTS



THIS WEEK in human history

Feb. 17, 1966 —

Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys rolls tape on the first take of "Good Vibrations." Six months, four studios and \$50,000 later, he finally completed his 3 minute, 39 second symphony, pieced together from more than 90 hours of tape recorded during literally hundreds of sessions.

Locals girls go 'Live!'

Five Seminole County friends get to meet Kelly Ripa, other celebs, as they take on New York City in style

SARAH WILSON
TheVoice

Decked out in coordinated black and pink outfits, Robyn Ungaro and her four best friends boarded an early morning flight from Orlando International to John F. Kennedy Airport last week.

A three hour flight, limo ride and champagne toast later, the girls were greeted in the Kardashian Suite of the Gansevoort Park Hotel with giggles, screams, cheers and more champagne, by the woman who was responsible for getting them there: Kelly Ripa.

"Is this for real?" Ungaro asked no one in particular and everyone at the same time. Ripa reached over and pinched her, as if to say "Yes." She wasn't dreaming.

Weeks earlier Ungaro, of Chuluota, had written a letter to Ripa as an entry in her Girls Night Out: New York edition competition as to why she and her four best friends — or the 'A-Team' or 'Angel Team' as she calls them — deserved a girls week in New York with Kelly.

Just eight months ago, in June 2011, Ungaro, 37, was diagnosed with stage four, triple negative breast cancer. In those months the cancer spread rapidly to her hips, thighs, lower back, bones and liver. Through the support of her family, friends, community and A-Team — composed of Christie Muzzone and Janet Miller of Winter Springs, Kim Kalinowski of Casselberry, and Kristen Denny of Oviedo — Ungaro says she has learned to 'fight like a girl' and continue through treatment.

But she says she wasn't writing Kelly as a sob story for herself, but instead as a story of hope and of thankfulness for her A-Team for sticking with her through all the highs and lows since her diagnosis.

"I can say that since June with everyone always around and supporting me, it's felt



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE

Chuluota resident Robyn Ungaro, center, poses with her A-team — Christie Muzzone and Janet Miller of Winter Springs, Kim Kalinowski of Casselberry, and Kristen Denny of Oviedo.

like my birthday every day," she said. "I wanted the girls, even for just a few days, to be able to see what that kind of support feels like."

Going Live!

In their customized matching rhinestone embellished "Fight Like a Girl" T-shirts, with "A-Team" embellished on the backs, the girls were ready to take on New York.

From a day at the spa with manicure, massages and cosmopolitans, and a spin-

ning workout class with Kelly, to a day of pranks pulled on them by TV host Howie Mandel, and clubbing and karaoke with Twilight star Peter Facinelli (Carlisle Cullen), the five-some stretched their girls night out into five days of New York fun.

"It was like having a fake life for a week," Miller said. "It was crazy!"

"It's definitely an experience none of us will ever forget," Ungaro added.

In addition to coming back with a week's

■ Please see **LIVE** on page 9

Learn more

To see clips of the girls' time in NYC hanging with Kelly Ripa, visit dadt.com/live.

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Friday, Feb. 17th
5 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Good Shepherd School Pride Night
\$15 all you can ride
• Talent Show - 6p.m. - 9p.m. on Center Stage

Saturday, Feb. 18th
12 p.m. — 11 p.m.
\$15 all you can ride (12 p.m. - 5 p.m.)
\$20 all you can ride (5 p.m. - 11 p.m.)
• Parade is at 2 p.m., Amber Rd. & Oleander Dr.
• Royal Court Party 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
• Captain's Raffle 50/50 - Drawing at 10:30 p.m.
• Live Entertainment - "The Leonard Brothers" Band

Sunday, Feb. 19th
12 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Armband price \$20 all you can ride.
• Raffle drawings begin at 5:30 p.m.

5900 Oleander Dr., Orlando, FL 32807

Family Calendar

Enjoy **Dinner & Movie night** at the Geneva Bijou Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main, Geneva. Tickets are a \$5 donation per person, \$3 donation for kids younger than 16. Contact GenevaHGS@aol.com

The **Luv 2 Run 5K** benefiting the Girl Scouts of Citrus begins 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Oviedo Mall. Registration is \$25 through Feb. 11 and \$30 on the day of the race (cash or check only). Youth ages 17 and younger are \$15 through Feb. 11, \$30 day of race. Sign-up at www.race-timesports.com/luv-2-run-5k/

The last opportunity to hear Superintendent Bill Vogel as he presents the **state of the public school system address** is Thursday, Feb. 16, at Seminole High School, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.

St. Luke's Lutheran School is hosting an open house at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17. If you cannot attend contact Sherry Abell, School Admissions Director, for a personalized tour of campus, at 407-365-3228 or sabell@stlukes-oviedo.org

Winter Springs Babe Ruth Opening Day is Saturday, Feb. 18, at Central Winds Park from 11 a.m. to noon.

Come for a free evening of old-time music at the **Geneva Jam** Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Geneva Community Center. This is toe-tapping acoustic music from bluegrass, old country to gospel for you to enjoy. The music starts around 6:30 p.m.

The First United Methodist Church Geneva is having their **Second Annual Talent Show & Pancake Supper** Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. Contact 407-349-9297 or genevafumc@att.net to participate.

The Spotlight Theatre is having children's auditions for their next performance "**Alice, the Musical**" at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main St., Geneva on Saturday, Feb. 18. It is a wonderfully retold story in song, dance and drama. Auditions for ages 5 -18 run from 3:30-5 p.m. Call 407-416-5239.

Oviedo Mall announces a **live butterfly experience** to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals now through Feb. 19. Admission is \$2 for all ages. Call 248-885-0447 or visit butterfliesinthesky.com for details.

"Follow That Rabbit... The Wonderland Story": Come and join Alice at Indian Trails Middle School in Winter Springs. Performance dates are Friday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at door. Call 407-320-4350.

Send submissions to editor@observernewspapers.com

Cheer squad captures first state title

LAURA DEERY AND
ISAAC BABCOCK
TheVoice

An Oviedo school has reason to cheer this week: its first state athletic championship ever. The Master's Academy's competitive cheerleading team brought home the gold on Feb. 3 from the FH-SAA state championships in Kissimmee after tumbling their way through two minutes and 30 seconds of mesmerizing acrobatics and cheering.

And in just that short time, they bested the rest of the state in the Class 1A Medium Varsity Competitive Cheer class to be the first Eagles team to win it all. And in doing so, they fulfilled a vision set forth by Head Coach Missy Mandato that played out over one short season.

It sounds like the plot of a Hollywood movie. The Master's Academy, a private Christian school in Oviedo, only has 900 students. Of that small student body, only 270 are high school-aged. Picking the best 20 from that tiny group, Mandato molded a state-beating squad on only a few months on the mat.

They were an odd bunch, led by a few older girls, but with the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MASTER'S ACADEMY

Master's Academy's cheer squad won the Class 1A Medium Varsity Competitive Cheer class to become the school's first sports team to capture a state title.

majority of the team much younger than the average squad.

"We had strong upper classmen set the tone; the heart of the team came from the 'super sophomores,' and the team could not have realized victory if not for the efforts of two 13-year-old teammates," Mandato said. "It was a collection of amazing young ladies."

Mandato hinted at pressure points during the season that were pivotal in the development

of the team.

Tribulation was part of the equation for the squad. In addition to losing two seniors on the competitive squad, others faced season-ending injuries, and new members arrived with limited exposure to tumbling. Then Mandato's own daughter faced an unexpected health scare mid-season.

"Watching my daughter fight to return to the team and seeing the support of this fabulous school and her teammates during

a scary time, I just knew that God was doing something special this year," Mandato said.

Sweet reward

But even a bigger surprise was what came next. Days later, two white limousines were waiting for them. It was party time.

"I'm a firm believer that you honor those who accomplish great things," school Superintendent Bill Harris said. "That's something we needed to do and wanted to do."

He knew the story as well as their head coach.

"Over the course of the year they went from being the new girls on the block to a state championship," Harris said. "It was a struggle to a peak and they just did a fantastic job."

When the doors closed on the limousines, they sped off to a lunch at the Cheesecake Factory. Then they were fitted for rings — state championship rings — courtesy of the school. It's a fitting tribute to a team that's done something no Master's team has done before, Harris said.

"They were thrilled," he said. "It's just great to honor the girls for a great accomplishment."

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Notes

Crossing guards recognized

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) named the Seminole County Sheriff's Office's School Crossing Guard Program the 2011 Program of the Year. The program has 131 guards at 35 elementary schools and 12 middle schools.

Adams running

Florida Rep. Sandy Adams has declared her candidacy for the new District 7, based in Seminole County and including parts of Orange and Volusia Counties. Visit www.sandyadams.com

Student honors

Katherine Wartella of Winter Springs, FL was named to Tufts University's Dean's List for the Fall 2011 semester.

Crochet for a cause

Angel Snugs needs volunteers and donations. "Snugs" are knitted and crocheted scarves and beanies, donated to children with cancer. Please contact Angi Farrugia at angi@angelsnugs.org

HOPE volunteers needed

Volunteers sort donations, price goods, stock the store and pantry, assist customers in the store and food pantry and work Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 2-3 hours at a time. Contact Karol at volunteer@hopehelps.org

Medical practices recognized

National Committee for Quality Assurance designated Family Physicians of Oviedo and Family Physicians of Casselberry Level 3 recognized practices, the highest level.

New associate

Cheryl Reiff joined RE/MAX Town & Country Realty in Winter Springs as real estate associate.

Valentine's Day Calendar

Daddy dance

The **Father / Daughter dance** is Friday, Feb. 10, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Winter Springs Senior Center. It's free. Visit winterspringsfl.org



FEB. 10

The Planetarium at Seminole State College presents **"Heavenly Love"** at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11, and again at 7 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, Feb. 14. Visit www.seminolestate.edu/planet or call 407-708-2360.

FEB. 11

The Orlando Science Center hosts its **"Bee My Valentine"** Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 11. It's \$25 per parent and child. Visit www.osc.org or call 407-514-2112.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, the Hilton Altamonte Springs will host the **All Saints MOPS**

Swinging time

The **Valentine Concert** featuring Michael Andrew & Swingerhead is 4-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Central Park stage, located at 151 N. Park Ave. in Winter Park. Admission is free. Call 407-644-8281 or visit tinyurl.com/valentine-concert



Sweetheart Ball and Reverse Draw at 6 p.m. It's \$150 per couple. Contact 407-808-2764 or Bernadette@mcginleylaw.com

Singing valentines will be performed by the Orlando chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Order online at orlandobarbershopchorus.com or call 407-831-6498.

FEB. 14

The **UCF Jazz Chamber Groups Concert** takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the UCF Rehearsal Hall. Visit music.cah.ucf.edu/events.php

Calendar

FEB. 10

The **Love Your Shorts Film Festival** runs Feb. 10-12 at the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in Sanford. Visit LoveYourShorts.com

Dr. Chatterley of Bright Smiles Dental is giving **free emergency dental treatment** on Friday, Feb. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in his office located at 1012 State Road 436, Casselberry. Visit tinyurl.com/casselberrydentist

FEB. 11

Seminole County Animal Services will celebrate the Fourth Annual Florida Week for the Animals with a **Meet Your Purr-fect Match adoption event** on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the SCAS shelter, 232 Bush Blvd. in Sanford. Call 407-665-5208, or visit www.seminolecountyadoptions.petfinder.com

The **Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming's** Lake Mary location opens at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1210 S. International Pkwy., Suite 118. Call 407-878-7884.

FEB. 12

On Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m. the Seminole Audubon Society program will be on **"Organic Gardening"** with Tia Meers at the Seminole County Library at 150 N. Palmetto Ave., Sanford. It's free. RSVP at 407-977-4389.

The grand opening of the **Safe Water Swim School** will be on Sunday, Feb. 12, in Casselberry at the new indoor pool, 180 Lyman Road, Suite 100. Call 407-466-8128 or email m.nutter@infantswim.com

FEB. 13

The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant

■ Please see **CALENDAR** on page 9

valentine concert in Central Park

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LIVE |

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

worth of unforgettable memories, the girls each came back with another permanent reminder of not only their trip, but what brought them there: pink breast cancer ribbon tattoos on each of their wrists.

"I think New York made us a little crazy," Kalinowski said with a laugh, eyeing her tattoo and black-jeweled finger nail polish.

"But a good crazy," Denny clarified.

Staying strong

Ungaro is still fighting, and getting treatments on and off weekly to keep the cancer at bay.

"I don't have an end stage," she said. "I'm still going through it all, still fighting... but I want people to know that when you're diagnosed, you're life isn't over."

It hasn't been easy — there's been anger, tears and frustration — but the group says they always try to manage to come out of whatever situation they're put in with a smile.

"We always say you never know what tomorrow is going to bring," Miller said, "but you don't realize how true that is until something like this happens. It's taught us all to live in and cherish every moment."

The group gives credit to Ungaro herself for keeping the A-Team's spirits up even in the toughest of circumstances.

"She just has the most amazing spirit," Muzzone said, "anywhere she goes she's like that — you would never even know she was sick."

Ungaro says it's not always easy to stay strong, but she tells herself there has to be a greater reason why she was given this cancer, and that she needs to make the best of the hand she's been dealt.

"Sometimes maybe I think I was given this because I could handle it, and I can use my experience to help other people get through it," she said.

As for the A-Team, they are the ones there to help make sure she does it through it, with one of them always by her side when she goes in for treatment, and another with a shoulder to cry on when reality becomes overwhelming, and yet another there with a silly song and dance to cheer her on.

"They make me better," Ungaro said. "I don't have a sister, so this is the closest I've ever had to a sisterhood."

CALENDAR | Krewe of Leaders kicks off its Mardi Gras celebration on Fat Tuesday

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Society's **February meeting** is at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive. It's free. Call 407-302-7616.

FEB. 14

Attend the **Seminole County School Board meeting** Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 1:30 p.m., (not 4:30 p.m. due to Valentine's Day) at the Educational Support Center, 400 E. Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford.

FEB. 17

Meet **Theresa Disney** and see the debut of her 2012 collection at a reception on Friday, Feb. 17, from 6-9 p.m. at the Jeanine Taylor Folk Art gallery in Sanford, 211 E. 1st St. It's free.

FEB. 18

The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's **February field trip** is Saturday, Feb. 18, at 9 a.m. in the Lake Jesup Wilderness Area, 5951 S. Sanford Ave. It's free. Call 407-302-7616.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church presents "**Musica Nuova da Paesi Antichi**" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2021 W. State Road 426, Oviedo. Call 407-365-3408 or visit www.stlukes-oviedo.org

The **Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club** will host a walk on Saturday, Feb. 18. Participants should register at Lawton Elementary, 151 Graham Ave., Oviedo, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Visit www.midfloridamilers.org

Practice **yeast bread making** Satur-

day, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seminole County Extension Services kitchen, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford. Call 407-665-5560 to register. Each class is \$10.

Seminole Towne Center will host the **WKMG Local 6 Health and Lifestyle Expo** on Saturday, Feb. 18, from noon-8 p.m. It's free. Call 407-323-2262.

The **Seminole Audubon Society** is planning a field trip for 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, to Gemini Springs, 37 Dirksen Dr., DeBary. It's free. RSVP required. Please contact Joy at joy-

Zaudubon@aol.com or Shirley at 407-977-4389.

FEB. 19

Food Truck Crazy is Sunday, Feb. 19, from 5-9 p.m. at the Oviedo Mall. The event is free. Visit www.my-oviedomall.com

FEB. 21

The **Krewe of Leaders Fat Tuesday Celebration** is Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Senor Tequila's Mexican Grill in Winter Springs. It's free for members, non-members \$10. Email info@kreweof-leaders.com or 407-484-5461.

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ATHLETICS



THIS WEEK in sports history

Feb. 21, 1948 —

The National Association for Stock Car Racing — or NASCAR, as it will come to be widely known — is officially incorporated. NASCAR racing will go on to become one of America's most popular spectator sports, as well as a multi-billion-dollar industry.



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

The Bears wrestling team enter the postseason with a match against Orange City for the Class 3A Region 1 championship trophy. That runs Feb. 10-11.

Bears win district

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The Winter Springs Bears wrestling team has become a broken record of broken records, setting a string of team firsts after a second straight week of postseason dominance.

Just like their performance at the Seminole Athletic Conference championships, the Bears trounced their district competition en route to a fourth straight district title. In the process they set multiple school records.

Those records include most individual championships with six, most finalists with nine, most place winners with 14, and most team points in any tournament in school history with 267.5.

Carrying on from their SAC championships, Taevin Stoney, Patrick Cobb, Eric O'Neill, Joe Davila, Brandon Rod and Scott Accomando all won district titles.



Johnny Morgan, who had won the SAC championship at 113 pounds, fell only in the final round.

Abrun Nereim repeated his SAC performance with a runner up in districts. Chad Siegmundt, who had been bumped out of the SAC tournament, made a comeback at districts and finished second in the tough 132-pound class. Austin Day, who won a SAC title, finished third at 106 pounds. Bry-

an Shell repeated at third place at 160 pounds. David Moodie, who lost in the finals at the SAC championship, placed third at 182 pounds. Corey Lapotaire finished fourth at 145 pounds, and Kevin Barahona repeated at fourth place in the 195-pound class.

This weekend, the Bears travel to Orange City for the Class 3A Region 1 championship tournament running from Feb. 10-11.

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High school teams in playoffs

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

It's playoff time for some local boys basketball teams hoping for a shot at the title after tough regular seasons. For the Hagerty Huskies (18-7, 8-4), a strong record could help propel them through the playoffs, but it all hinges on a first and second round performance carrying them to the finals.

The same goes for Oviedo (15-10, 3-3), Winter Springs (6-19, 1-6) and Lake Howell (8-15, 2-4), who are all hoping for a shot at regional action.

For all four of those teams, the first round tipped off Wednesday night at press time, with Winter Springs facing top-ranked Evans, while Oviedo squared off with Lake Howell in the Class 7A, District 4 tournament. The winners of those games will hit the court for the championship at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at Lake Howell.

In a much more packed Class 8A, District 2 fight, Hagerty will have to battle through two preliminary rounds to make it to the finals. The first round tipped off Wednesday night at press time, with the Huskies playing an overmatched Spruce Creek (13-12, 3-9), whom they had trounced in two regular season games. With a likely win in that game, the Huskies will face the winner of Seminole versus DeLand in the semifinal round at 6 p.m. Friday. The winner of that game will head to the finals at 7 p.m. Saturday. Visit SeminoleVoice.com for updates.

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VOICES



THIS WEEK in political history

Feb. 15, 1933 —

President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escapes an assassination attempt. Deranged, unemployed bricklayer Giuseppe Zangara shouted, "Too many people starving!" and opened fire with six rounds. Zangara's extreme action reflected the anger and frustration felt among many Americans during the Great Depression.

EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



Identify your weaknesses

One of the benefits I have in helping people with their job search is that I come from a recruiting background. Fifteen plus years of recruiting and hiring gives me a solid background of the industry that I am able to pass on to job seekers.

I recently interviewed Jonathan Ciampi, President of Preptel.com. His background prior to founding the company was working with applicant tracking systems, so he also has industry experience. He now concentrates on helping job seekers optimize their resumes for applicant tracking systems.

The services at Preptel are for a fee, but there is a free "Resumeter", which will help you to see weaknesses in your resume with a 30-day trial period.

Preptel has done quite a bit of due diligence and testing of their systems. Jonathan told me that more than 40 percent of resumes never get seen and that this is an acceptable amount for companies since they receive so many resumes.

We also talked quite a bit about the way computers read resumes. He said in 2007 the systems switched from a recruiter putting in the keywords they were looking for, to the computers picking up key phrases and looking for rare words that are unique to that job description. Don't just look for key words — look for key phrases as well.

I would encourage you to give Preptel's 7-day free trial a run. If your resume is not getting you interviews, this may be a great tool to help in the process. The site will also look at your LinkedIn profile as well.

TALK TO SANDI

Sandi Vidal is the executive director for Christian HELP and the Central Florida Employment Council, with more than 10 years of recruiting and human resources experience. Please send questions about employment by fax 407-260-2949, sandi@christianhelp.org, or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707.

Letters to the editor

Redistricting do over

Orlando Sentinel columnist Scott Maxwell hit the nail on the head in calling out the Florida Legislature for its terrible redistricting maps.

The Republican-led state has carved up our Central Florida area to protect incumbents and make sure none of us will see a competitive election. Minorities are packed

into as few districts as possible to ensure the balance of power cannot change in our state.

This is how it has always gone in Florida, but it was supposed to be different this time. Sixty-three percent of us voted for the Fair Districts Amendment in 2010 to prevent exactly these types of maps from being drawn. The Legislature didn't listen and the Senate Reappor-

tionment Committee shut out dissenting voices when they were drafting their maps.

Other groups have come up with better maps that would be fair to Central Florida and the rest of the state. Hopefully the courts will provide a measure of sanity, and will respect what the Fair Districts Amendment calls for. Our Legislature so far has not.

The state Senate and House should go back to the drawing board and come up with a new plan for both the legislative and congressional maps. Because of population growth, we will need a new congressional seat here. We want a real choice in that race and all others this November.

— Joan Robinson Sanford

Pass protective laws for all citizens

JACK LORD
Guest Writer

As a labor and employment attorney who provides legal advice to employers and corporations, I regularly review anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies. I am often surprised when I discover local companies that do not include the protected categories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) employees in their policies and handbooks.



Jack Lord

Beyond just the benefits of avoiding legal costs by maintaining anti-discrimination policies, employers are well advised to make sure they have competitive

policies in place with respect to benefits. In doing so, many national, as well as purely local, employers project an image of being a warm and fostering place to work for not only their LGBT staff, but also for employees who are not. When employers offer domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples who could not otherwise obtain health care and related benefits; when they agree to gross-up to cover the negative tax consequences caused by discriminatory federal law such as the Defense of Marriage Act; and when they establish employee resource groups, such as LGBT and ally affinity groups, the employers make clear to their workforce that they are a welcoming place that respects the well-being of all employees. Such positive imaging for an employer will attract LGBT as well as straight talent,

because the benefits of inclusive policies are felt by all.

Not only do employers compete for talent, so do cities, counties and regions of the state and country. If a particular geographic area is not known to be welcoming — be it to gay people, racial minorities or the transgendered — not only will they lose out on talented members of the workforce, they will also lose out on sought-after employers or companies

Political leaders in Seminole County need to pass protective laws for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

who may be looking to relocate or build a new work site. Top corporate executives and human resources personnel at a large corporation will indeed judge an area by its protective laws and policies — or lack thereof. Those corporate leaders will not as readily relocate to a region where their current employees would not feel comfortable and where they will have a difficult time finding a talented workforce. Anti-discrimination laws and policies matter by helping employers attract the "creative class" of educated individuals who can contribute significantly to a region's economic engine.

In this regard, the cities of Orlando and Kissimmee, and Orange and Volusia counties have done a good job in recent years of passing anti-discrimination and

inclusive laws, to protect LGBT citizens and give them fair and equal benefits. Domestic partner registries also highlight how forward-thinking a particular area is, especially when state law, like Florida's, has not yet advanced to a level of full equality for all. To truly advance our region, other local governments need to catch up. Seminole County is a prime example of an area that takes great steps to try to create an environment that is welcoming for businesses, including in the high-tech field. Political leaders there need to pass protective laws for their LGBT citizens and to take advantage of the positive buzz that comes when an area is viewed as inclusive, not exclusionary, for all.

Other less urban parts of Central Florida could also greatly benefit from such advances. Brevard, Lake and Osceola counties are all in need of economic development. They all have environmental and other natural resources that are a big draw for such development. By catching up in the area of inclusion and equality, they can help promote their areas as ones that are truly attractive for the types of employers, and employee talent, that will make great economic contributions.

Employers need to ensure they can attract and retain the best talent possible. Any employers in Central Florida that do not have pro-LGBT policies and benefits are losing out. Likewise, local governments and their elected leaders need to make sure they are placing their regions in the best position to attract new and relocating businesses.

Simply put, fairness, equality and inclusion are just good business.

Jack Lord is a partner at the law firm of Foley & Lardner in Orlando and is a member of the firm's Labor & Employment practice.

Young Voices

Here's what kids had to say about Dr. King at the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Oviedo.



I learned about Dr. King at Partin Elementary. He led marches and gave a famous speech called, "I have a dream" in Washington, D.C. He won the Nobel Peace Prize.

—Cade R.
8 years old



Dr. King was a very important man. In VPK I learned how he changed the rules for water fountains, restaurants and school classes. He wanted everyone to love each other.

—Addison R.
5 years old



We learned about Dr. King in school. He was born in 1929 and he died in 1968. He made a speech for black and white people to get along. He wanted all of us to get along.

—Alex R.
8 years old



Dr. King made us free so that black and white people could be together and people weren't slaves any more. He helped us get along more so that we would have more friends.

—Deepika K.
7 years old



Dr. King made us equal no matter the color of our skin. ... He helped the future of our country because back then I couldn't be friends with someone with darker skin.

—Allison H.
8 years old

We would love to hear from your Young Voices!

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

