



# Seminole Voice

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Josh Garrick says TJ's Seafood Shack lives up to its acclaim



**Athletics > 14**

UCF baseball fights for the C-USA title this weekend



**Interests > 6**

Pop Up Pianos will be auctioned off for charity on June 3



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May 25 - June 7, 2012

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## Skeleton home gets clean slate

ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

An unfinished home that amassed \$338,000 in code enforcement fines may finally be completed after the Oviedo City Council struck a deal with SunTrust Mortgage to slash the amount owed to the city.

The result may be the end to a saga that Mayor Dominic Persampiere said has haunted an Oviedo street for the better part of a decade.

There's something resembling a home in the middle of Long Acres Lane in Oviedo, but not quite. The exposed block walls stretch for long expanses, broken up by worn plywood boards and insulating plastic, waiting to come together.

"This has been a nightmare from Day 1," Persampiere said of the house, which has changed hands between owners and fallen into foreclosure while construction stalled and code enforcement violations began piling up. SunTrust acquired the property in March.

At one point the property was being fined at the rate of \$500 per day, but code enforcement manager Shawn O'Rourke said that it

■ Please see **HOUSE** on page 3



## Cheering for Caitlin

PHOTO BY SARAH WILSON — THE VOICE

Oviedo's Caitlin Downing, 5, crossed paths on Tuesday with London Peoples, the 6-year-old Orlando boy who was diagnosed with the same rare brain cancer.

### Community shows support for two local kids fighting a grim brain cancer diagnosis

SARAH WILSON  
The Voice

In a rush to be out of the sterile doctor's office in favor of the vibrant leftover birthday fun that awaited her at home, 5-year-old Caitlin Downing of Oviedo nearly didn't notice the fleetingly familiar face of the young boy she passed in the Arnold Palmer Hospital hallway on May 22.

Neither did her mother, Denise. But when the boy's mother called out to them, the parallel realities the two families had been living for the past month instantly collided.

"Can I give you a hug?" asked Ginger Nader, the mother of London Peoples, the wide-eyed boy with the round, familiar face. "I feel like I know you so well, and we've never even met."

"Are you Caitlin?" London, 6, in his pirate

shirt, with his hair styled into a thinning-by-the-day Mohawk, asked the little girl. He was on his way into his next-to-last day of radiation treatment.

"London?" asked the spunky girl in the Hello Kitty dress, her head partially shaved to reveal a story-telling scar, realizing their connection. She was one step ahead, at the hospital for a post-operative check-up.

■ Please see **CAITLIN** on page 4

## The science guy

Oviedo High valedictorian takes science fair world by storm, sets his eyes on Harvard

SARAH WILSON  
The Voice

Oviedo High School senior Neel Patel can turn anything into a science experiment.

In sixth grade, when he wanted to test the amount and affect of

radiation given off by Bluetooth headsets, he found a way to do it testing plants and fruit flies.

In seventh grade, when he wanted to find a way to accumulate enough data to predict standardized test scoring, he figured it out

■ Please see **PATEL** on page 2



Look for a feature on the top 5 percent of graduating seniors from Winter Springs, Oviedo and Hagerty high schools in the Voice's June 8 issue.

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Neel Patel poses with one of the many trophies he won in his senior year.

### What's goin' on?

The Oviedo Mall will offer free children's activities, including balloon bending, storytelling and mime shows, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for nine weeks starting June 5.

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Opening this week: 'MEN IN BLACK III'



Agent J goes back in time and teams up with the young version of his partner, Agent K, to stop an alien invasion.



USPS 008-093  
Publisher statement on page 2.

# THIS WEEK



## THIS WEEK in history

May 31, 1859 —

The massive clock tower bell known as Big Ben, located at the top of the 320-foot-high St. Stephen's Tower, rings out over the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London, for the first time. Just two months later, however, the heavy striker cracked the bell.

## PATEL | The Oviedo senior didn't follow suit and shake hands with Obama — sharing a fist bump instead

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

with a positive success rate. And when he wanted to use those data harvesting skills to move into mass data analysis in high school, he did it — and won or placed in nearly every science fair he entered.

So when he tells you he's developed a scientific method for the ordering and eating of a Chipotle burrito bowl, you believe him.

"I have what I order down to a science," he said.

His tricks are ordering a chicken burrito bowl with extra rice, and a tortilla on the side. He shakes up the bowl, eats half in the tortilla and the other half with a spoon. He's come to the scientific conclusion that this way, you not only get more food, but eating it with the spoon allows you to scoop up all the sauces, and ensures, he says, "a better, overall more flavorful experience."

With less than a week before Oviedo High School's graduation on May 30, and after finishing out his final science fair season with a second place finish at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Pittsburgh on

May 18, this valedictorian from Geneva has burritos on the brain, and is putting this Chipotle experiment to test with the masses for his valedictorian speech.

"The theme I'm supposed to be writing my speech on is 'Special People' and right now I'm working on relating that to the perfect construction of a Chipotle burrito bowl," he said.

The rice, he explains, is the foundation of family, the meat is the substance of the core people you build your successes around, and the sour cream, salsa and toppings are the people that season your life — and in his case, keep him grounded when he's off winning national and international science awards, planning for his future studying computer science at Harvard University in the fall, and turning down offers from Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I've kind of adopted 'Work hard, play hard,' as my life motto," he said, "It's important to keep the balance between my research and my time with friends."

In his senior year he won second place at ISEF out of 1,500 high school students from 70 countries.

He placed sixth in the national Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, D.C., in March where he got to fist-bump President Barack Obama. He earned valedictorian and was named to prom court. He did this all while dual enrolling in college-level classes at the University of Central Florida and Seminole State College of Florida — it looks like he's done a pretty good job balancing his work and play.

"In 10 years, no one is going to ask or care about what place I got, but I will be able to tell people 'fist-bump with the president,'" Patel said with a laugh. "...And I'd say the most unexpected honor this year was being named to prom court, that was pretty cool."

Oviedo High School biology teacher P.J. Krehling said she's not at all surprised by Patel's success.

"He's probably one of the most gracious overall kids I've ever met," she said. "He's really one of the nicest kids and a very neat individual. I'm so grateful to have met him."

Her favorite "Neel moment" this year came when he was called on stage as the winner of the state science competition for

his research on representing large amounts of data through the use of sonifications, or non-speech based sounds.

"All these other kids were winning and doing these sorts of hand signs to represent their area codes, I think, when they got on stage," she said, remembering with a laugh and mimicked gesture, "and Neel got up there and he straight up Tebow'd (got down on a knee and start praying aka Tim Tebow after a touchdown). It was so unexpected coming from him, but it was great."

Neel's father, Sanjay Patel, who also works in mass data analysis, said beneath all the science awards and honors, he's always seen Neel as an everyday high school kid.

"To us he's just a normal kid, so to see him place in an international competition the way he did, it's somewhat humbling for him and us," he said.

He's a normal kid whose plans for the summer include writing a book to inspire middle school students to get into science, working on getting two start-up companies off the ground, and spending three weeks in Italy for a fellowship in which he'll be studying other innovative ways of presenting and interacting with data sets.

"My research is all about thinking about data in new ways and in new places," he said. "One day I want to start a company and be able to change the world around me and actually make a difference through science."

His more immediate goal for the next week is to go to as many graduation parties as possible, and to mention as few clichés as possible in his valedictorian speech. He has a few other tricks up his grad gown sleeve for the big day, he says, but that experiment is top secret, and maybe a little spicy.

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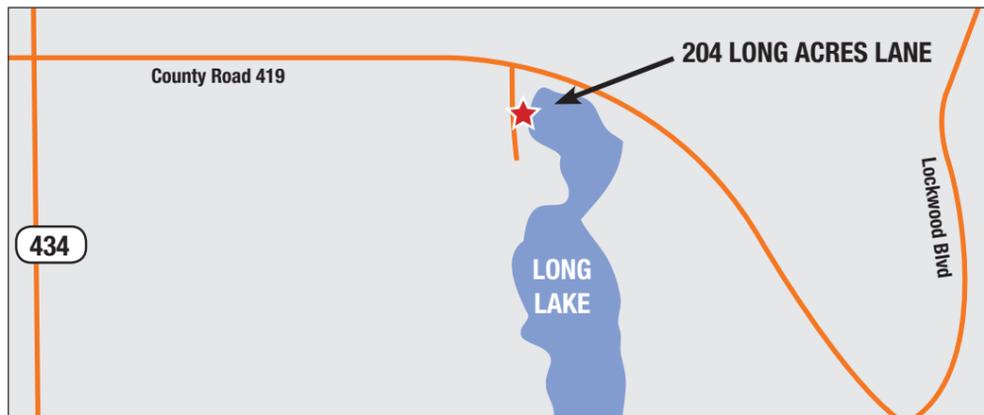
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## HOUSE | More than \$300K in fines went down to \$7,500

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

was time for the fines to stop and be paid. That meant a meeting with the city's code enforcement board and the City Council to try to find a way to pare down the fines that were worth more than the property value and accumulated over the course of years.

By the time SunTrust Vice President Barry Dunleavy was standing in front of the City Council, that number had ballooned to the six-figure number. Were the combined bill to stay as massive as it was, Persampiere said, there was a risk of the mortgage owner simply walking away from the house.

It wouldn't be easy finishing the job of constructing the home, Persampiere said. The mayor warned the would-be buyer of the home, Jeff White, to make sure he'd done all his research to be sure the home was what he wanted.

The mayor had a unique perspective on the issue of developing a neglected project home. He'd experienced it himself.

"The home that I bought here had the same provisions on, and was in the same condition yours was," Persampiere said. "It was a termite buffet."

Then the mayor asked White pointedly if he knew what he was getting into.

"Are you aware of all of the issues over

there?" he asked. "I don't want anybody to come back into here because there wasn't proper due diligence done."

White assured the mayor that he wanted to finish the project, including finishing rather than demolishing the skeleton of a home that had lingered for years.

"I already have a number of subcontractors lined up. It's not the plan that I would have drawn up for the property but we're going to move it forward and get this problem off the city's back," White said.

Over the course of more than an hour, the Council negotiated with Dunleavy for a final figure, settling on \$7,500, or a nearly 98 percent reduction in fine. The catch? If the house doesn't show construction progress by 60 days, it will trigger a fine of \$101,000.

"I don't think it's hard to hit that definition of making progress," Councilman Stephen Schenck said. "The threshold is pretty low."

That's something White promised would happen soon, noting that he's already in the planning stages with contractors. If it's completed, Persampiere said, it would end a long chapter in the story of the neglected home.

"I believe the neighbors may erect a statue for you," Persampiere said. "They may rename the lake there Lake White."

# A good ending



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINTER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL  
 Winter Springs High School Principal Mike Blasewitz congratulates a student at the school's awards night on Wednesday, May 2. Neal Romberg was named "Senior of the Year."



Based on the current debt situation in the United States, many pre- and post-retirees have become concerned about their Social Security benefit. Receiving that continuous income stream is the foundation of a retirement income plan. To make sure that you maximize your Social Security benefit, it is important to know the answers to these questions.

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## CAITLIN | Events for London and Caitlin are being held all over Central Florida and even the country

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The pair, having only previously seen each other in photographs, are two of the estimated 200 children in the U.S. to be diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) — a rare, inoperable and incurable form of brain cancer — this year. They live less than 20 miles away from each other, Caitlin in Oviedo and London in southeast Orlando. They were diagnosed three months apart, Caitlin in January and London in April.

### Dual diagnosis

On Sunday, Jan. 8, Caitlin was complaining of feeling cross-eyed and was turning her head sideways to read things her teacher at StarChild Academy in Oviedo was writing on the board.

And by the following Friday, Jan. 13, she was telling her mother, Denise Downing, that she was dizzy and couldn't see the walls around her.

"It took five days and my child couldn't walk," Denise said.

On Friday, April 6, London went to kindergarten at Conway Elementary, giggling, running and playing as usual, and on Saturday, April 7, his mother Ginger Nader says he was walking into walls, falling out of chairs and having problems operating the right side of his body.

"London's never sick, he's never been sick, and all the sudden my beautiful, healthy little boy was falling out of chairs and could barely walk," Nader said. "It was just that quick."

Both children were found to have cancerous tumors on the pons of the brain stem, and were diagnosed with DIPG, which can go undetectable until the tumor grows to a point where it pushes on things it shouldn't, causing the abrupt, debilitating symptoms seen by both children.

London and Caitlin's oncologist, MD Anderson Cancer Center's Dr. Amy Smith, said a DIPG diagnosis comes with an average eight- to 15-month survival rate with radiation, calling it a "uniformly fatal disease."

Caitlin finished radiation in February, while London will be done with his first 30 days of treatment on May 23.

After the radiation Denise said she and her husband Jeff were handed a stack of 31 different clinical trials on the market to research each one's effect on DIPG. They chose a phase-one trial out of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York — or "You Nork" as Caitlin calls it — to inject a radioactively tagged antibody into the tumor, trying to kill it from the inside out. Due to its placement, removing it surgically is impossible.

Caitlin says she just wants to do anything to get the "stinky bump" out of her head.

May 1 was the first day the trial surgery could be offered following approval from the FDA in January, and on May 1, Caitlin was there to be the first subject.

"I have to look at it with a little bit of faith that it lined up so perfectly," Caitlin's dad, Jeff Downing, said.

Denise said the clinical trial's only goal is to check for any toxic side effects from the procedure, not to treat or cure. But that doesn't mean both the Caitlin and London's families won't be holding out hope that it could.

"As a parent desperate for a treatment for my child, I can only hope that this'll hit a grand-slam and my daughter will be cured, but I have to know that's not the goal with this," Downing said.

London's mom said she'll be watching Caitlin's case closely, as the girl continues to go to weekly check ups, first back and forth to "You Nork" for the first month, and then trips to see Dr. Smith lo-

cally at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children to keep tabs on the tumor in coming months.

"We're really hoping that this will be something new that works," Nader said.

But in the meantime, both families are feeding off of expansive support systems their situations have presented for them in and beyond their Orlando-area communities.

### Spreading love and cheer

Caitlin's dreams are to go to big girl school — kindergarten at Partin Elementary — and become a cheerleader like her older sister Courtney.

In August those dreams can come true with age. But to fulfill all the other needs, wants and dreams of both Caitlin and her family in the meantime, the Oviedo community came together to form the fundraising support group "Cheering for Caitlin."

"You can't talk about Caitlin without talking about the impact she's had on the community," Denise said.

Just three weeks after Caitlin was diagnosed, the cheer was starting to spread. Sharon Browning, co-owner of StarChild Academy in Oviedo, and the StarChild staff formed a team in the Cheering for Caitlin name for the Miles for Hope brain tumor awareness and fundraising walk in Baldwin Park.

By the Feb. 11 walk, Caitlin's team grew to 470 registered walkers — more than a third of the total 1,422 participants — and raised more than \$35,000 for the cause and research.

Soon the cheers for Caitlin were bouncing off the buildings of Oviedo and spreading far and wide. Within a month they'd sold enough gray Cheering for Caitlin car ribbon magnets — spread throughout the country — to get a picture of one on a car next to a

license plate from all 50 states.

"When we drive around and she sees one on a car, she'll press her nose right up against the glass like this and she'll squeal," her mom says, mimicking the girl's smushed, smiling face. "She just gets so excited to see them."

And from a local little league season and team dedicated in her name, to multiple fundraising dinners a week, Caitlin's cheer is taking over the town. It's been an unexpected outpouring of support from friends, neighbors and strangers that Denise says a million thank yous can never repay.

"She's taught me to be kinder and she's taught us how to accept help.... I was questioning why us, why was the community all coming together for us, and someone told me," she said, "Because your family could be any of our families, and your child could be any of our children."

For Caitlin's fifth birthday on May 17, the entire community came together for a celebration the size of a county fair. Pony rides, petting zoos, face painting, a rock-climbing wall, the Orlando Magic Cheerleaders, and even a plane flying overhead towing a banner that read, "Happy B-Day Caitlin! CheeringforCaitlin.com" took to the grounds, and sky, at Double Down Athletics in Oviedo for the celebration on Saturday, May 19.

Every piece was donated or paid for by Cheering for Caitlin donations. Even the man hired to mow the field outside the gym to prep for the party, without being asked, offered his services for free after hearing Caitlin's story.

"No matter how this all turns out," Sharon Browning from StarChild said, "no one who has been close to Caitlin and her family through this will ever be the same again.... She puts a perspective on what's really important in life."

To learn more about Cheering for Caitlin and for blog updates from her mom, visit [cheeringforcaitlin.com](http://cheeringforcaitlin.com). To find out more about how you can donate or get involved with Driving for the Downings — Rainbow Classic golf tournament and benefit for Caitlin's family on June 10, visit [starchildoviedo.com](http://starchildoviedo.com)

For more information about Love for London events and updates, visit their Facebook page, or [loveforlondon.org](http://loveforlondon.org)

### Love for London

Across town, in April, a similar support group came together for London Peoples, called "Love for London," before anyone in London's family ever knew about the existence of Cheering for Caitlin, or Caitlin herself. From Orlando to Winter Park, Lakeland and Sarasota, his story and fundraisers in his name are starting to span the state.

"We really love our kids and always only want to do what's best for them," London's mom said. "... But I wouldn't have been able to cope with all of this if I didn't have all these great people to back me up."

On May 22, Brain Tumor Awareness Day, according to the non-profit Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure, Caitlin and London's footsteps happened to cross for the first time, though their paths to get there had paralleled many times before.

London asked to hug Caitlin and told her how pretty she was in her pink tulle skirt. Caitlin came out from hiding behind her mom's legs to greet the boy she'd heard about with the same "stinky bump" in his brain.

London pulled on his mom's arm, and she leaned down so he could whisper something in her ear:

"Does she know that I'm going to marry her one day?"

## Between the CELERY Stalks

By Janet Foley

## Expedition Asheville

It is a great treat getting out of town for several days and that is just what I did. My university dorm suitemate from Springfield, Va., and I had been planning a getaway for several months and we met in Asheville, N.C., the beginning of last week. We toured the Biltmore Estate, the Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville, thinking we didn't miss a trick. Our taxi cab driver told us to try the Trolley Tour, particularly the Red Trolley. We did and were so glad we had that experience because it is a "hop on and hop off" type. See a spot to visit, hop off and then back on later. We learned all sorts of goodies that the normal tour guide doesn't give. The weather was in the 70s and we dodged the showers and otherwise had a marvelous time. Last time I was there we were in college in the '60s. My, the place has grown and certainly has a lot more things to offer. They say Asheville is the tourist spot for North Carolina, as Disney is to Florida.

### Greater Oviedo 5K Run

On Saturday, May 26, the First Baptist Church of Oviedo is hosting the 10th Annual Greater Oviedo 5K Run. The run starts at 7:30 a.m. following a prayer and

presentation of the colors. All proceeds from the race will benefit the Michael Callin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Visit [cityofoviedo.net](http://cityofoviedo.net)

### Night Nature Hike

Bring the kids out for a Night Nature Hike from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, through the Chuluota Wilderness Area, at 3895 Curryville Road in Chuluota. It's \$3. Call 407349-0959 to reserve a spot.

### Farmer's Market

Don't forget, coming up on Saturday, June 2, is the Oviedo Historical Society's Farmer's Market held on the Lawton House grounds from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Hope to see you there. Visit the Society's museum inside the Lawton House.

### A bit of history

From the Florida Times Union on May 30, 1888- The Oviedo Chronicle says: It begins to look more and more as if Lake Jesup will be the head of large steamboat navigation on the St. Johns River. It is now reported that the Florida Midland railway, which now has its northeastern terminus at Longwood, is seeking an outlet to the north via Lake Jesup, and this, with the Orlando and Lake Jesup railway, will furnish a large volume of business for the steamboats. The future for the Lake Jesup country was never brighter than it appears today.

## TALK TO JANET

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

# Southern peas

As summer growing conditions approach, black-eyed peas (not the hip-hop musical group), crowder peas, yard-long beans and cowpeas (*Vigna unguiculata*) can be grown in our gardens as a substitute for



Tom Carey  
From my garden  
to yours

green snap beans. Grown primarily for the mature seed in the pod, these peas are very nutritious, providing an excellent source of fiber, calcium, folate, and vitamin A to our diets.

Plant Southern peas using the same process as with any pole-bean or English pea. Space them 3 inches apart along the base of a trellis about 2 inches deep into loosened ground. Southern peas grow well in poor soil, especially the sandy infertile conditions found in unimproved land we struggle with in our Florida gardens. Nitrogen fixing bacteria attach to its roots, generating its own fertilizer from thin air, inoculating the seeds with these microbes. The seeds should germinate and sprout in a few days. As they climb the trellis, manage its tumultuous growth by thinning to avoid tangled areas that harbor leaf diseases or insect pests.

Flowers start making an appearance in six weeks. Many beneficial insects seek out the nectar and pollen from the prolific growth, so limit any use of toxic pesti-

cides. The only insect pests I have had to deal with are aphids. Since we are growing this crop in the summer, our expected heavy rains usually rinse away most of these small suckers. Once temperatures descend in autumn, I usually resort back to growing green snap beans, although these peas will grow until first frost.

Who has time to shell peas and beans these days? If you harvest early, the solid, young pea pods can be prepared like snap beans, shell and all. But this immature harvest must be judiciously timed, almost on a daily basis; otherwise the peas will form in the pods. At this point of the crop's life cycle, the pod becomes inedible and hours of shelling are then required. The idyllic picture of sitting on the porch, casually shelling peas while gossiping with compatriots has been relegated to a historical cliché. But don't worry; tabletop pea shelling appliances are affordably priced.

Blanch and freeze serving size portions to prepare for the traditional New Year's 'good luck' meal of peas and greens. The typical Southern menu of pork-flavored peas is best served with cornbread. Put some South in your mouth.

## WHO IS CAREY

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

# Page-turning summer awaits county's kids

Like a quick-moving tornado, the 2011-2012 school year has barreled by us. Parents are like Midwesterners emerging from the depths of a darkened underground shelter into the sunlight. They stumble and blink in the blinding rays of the sun trying to make sense of accelerated time. How did they get here so fast and what exactly will the summer hold? In just a few short days, school will be out for the summer and that odd phenomenon takes place in the space and time continuum. Kids for whom time has dragged over the past nine months, feel the minutes click by a little quicker as each summer day moves by faster and faster. Parents experience just the opposite. The pace of the school year was a blur, but as June arrives it starts to slow and each day stretches out like a lazy hammock until the school bells beckon again in August.



## STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips



### Book fairs transport whole family

A few weeks ago, I visited the Geneva Elementary book fair and was reminded of the fantastic frenzy that reigns when a youngster leads a parent into their transformed Media Center. Graphics, bright colors, funny phrases, stuffed characters and exciting posters surround the family units at every turn. For a few moments, adults step across the threshold into the

child's world of endless possibilities, puzzles and secret passages. For a brief slice of an hour there are no cellphones, no televisions, no 'i' anything. The excitement is palpable as each child asks for the key to endless travel, adventure and knowledge. It's super heroes, silly stories and cooking lessons. Captain Underpants, Frogs in Space and Jell-O. Soccer, solar systems and Sunshine State books. Pirates, horses and airplanes. Quirky kids and the fairy tales they dream of. It's comfort, connection, courage and comedy with a dragon thrown in for good measure. "Can we get this one? How many pages is it? I want to show you! I want all of them!" And in that slice of time the parent or grandparent, who might have been concerned about fitting this into the family budget, remembers their own childhood and the summer adventures of Nancy Drew, Clara Barton, fighter airplanes and the Green Hornet. Kids are not the only ones who find themselves transported to magical places.

off the page and seep into our pores, the constructs become part of us. "Part of our DNA," as the popular phrase goes. Kids who read will write better. Kids who write will read better. Encourage your kids to make the connection this summer. Make it a page-turner. And don't forget your own books. Setting the example to read with or in front of your child is an amazing gift. They don't have to know that it's a juicy beach read or the latest spy thriller. Let your children see you reading. Whether it's on your iPad, Kindle or cradled in your hands. Let's read, Seminole — all of us!

### Enjoy 'Alice, The Musical'

Top off the final days of May with a magical journey featuring intimate musical theater at the Rural Heritage Center. We have been so fortunate to have Spotlight Theater perform right here in Geneva. This weekend, "Alice, The Musical" will be featured Friday-Sunday, May 25-27. Adult tickets are \$10 and students are \$8 for the three performances beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Come enjoy the music, dance and story featuring a few of our young Geneva thespians.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA'S WEEKENDER ENTERTAINMENT & EVENT GUIDE**

**Plan your weekend with The Weekender!**

This weekly newsletter keeps you up to date on events happening in Central Florida's cities, including Oviedo, Winter Springs, Winter Park, Maitland, Avalon Park and Waterford Lakes. Visit [seminolevoice.com](http://seminolevoice.com) and click "Subscribe to Newsletter"

### Enjoy Read Seminole this summer

Whatever we discover about the most current FCAT scores it is a proven concept that kids who read, read, read will be better writers. Writers know the more you read the stronger your writing skills will be. This is not always a conscious process. As the phrases, pace and plot twists lift

### TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at 407-221-7002, [kphillips@observernewspapers.com](mailto: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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**FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH FROM 6PM - 9PM**

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# INTERESTS



## THIS WEEK in human history

June 1, 1926 —

Norma Jeane Mortenson — who will become known as the glamorous actress and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe — is born in Los Angeles. During World War II, a photographer “discovered” the naturally photogenic Norma Jeane while she was working in a California munitions factory.

# Music pops up in Seminole County

Pianos will be auctioned off on June 3 to charities like the Steinway Society

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

James Navan sat down on a bench, placed his hands on an 88-key work of art, and filled the atrium of the Oviedo Mall with the sound of The Hollies’ “He Aint Heavy” as a small group looked on. This was no ordinary piano singing softly into the glass skylights above. It had bloomed into a kaleidoscopic canvas over the course of weeks for local artist Courtney Canova, as he covered worn wood with scenes of families together, of patriotism and guns of war.

A “Piano Idol” contest will rock the house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 3, at the Wayne Densch Theater in Sanford. Vote for your favorite piano or make a donation at [www.popuppiano.com](http://www.popuppiano.com)



PHOTOS BY **ISAAC BABCOCK** — THE VOICE  
**Winter Springs City Manager Kevin Smith, above,** plays a tune on the piano that the city donated to the Pop-Up Pianos program. At right is another one of Courtney Canova’s pieces.

On Sunday, June 3, all 14 of these vibrant “Pop-Up Pianos” dotting locations in Seminole County will be auctioned off for charity, helping the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center, the Seminole Cultural Arts Council and the Steinway Society. But until then, they just want to make music.

“This is something that’s very important to us,” said Kevin Smith, Winter Springs’ city manager. The pianos will spread music through impromptu performances at 11 locations in Seminole County, even the Townhouse Restaurant in Oviedo.

Signs reading “Play me” implore passersby to tickle the ivory keys of instruments still the profile of the iconic instrument of Bach and Rachmaninoff, but reborn in flowing color from the hands of local artists donating their inspiration for a cause.

That’s why the city of Winter Springs donated its own piano to the cause, coming alive a few feet from the mall entrance with a verdant jungle color scheme mixed with scenes evoking war. Rumor has it that Winter Springs Commissioner Rick Brown and wife Brenda may have had a hand in that gift. His fingertips touching down on the keys, the commissioner swears he can’t

play. Then suddenly his fingers are dancing across the keyboard.

That’s the point of the Pop-Up Pianos program, inspired by the performing arts community to get people involved in music who otherwise may not have. They want new hands touching the keyboard, especially tiny ones.

That’s why Oviedo’s Boys Town Central Florida got involved. Standing at a podium at the Mall on the day of the unveiling, executive director Greg Zbylut said he’d seen kids blossom when given the chance to make music.

“When we were told about the opportunity to sponsor this, we jumped at the chance,” he said. As Navan brought the piano to life to the sound of The Hollies, jazz and a hint of ragtime, it flowed through the painted image of a mother holding a tiny child in a soft embrace of crimson paint.



“A lot of our kids haven’t had a lot of opportunities to do things like this,” Zbylut said. With the Pop-Up Pianos program, he said he hopes more disadvantaged children would have the chance to try their hand at music. He said that at Boys Town

they have eight keyboards to try out. But he recognized that for some young would-be Mozarts, this could be their first chance to make their own music.

“This gives kids a chance to sit down and decide if they like it,” he said.

# Derby dancing



PHOTO COURTESY OF **STUDIO K**

**Studio K** was selected to provide dance entertainment for two Orlando Psycho City Derby Girls matches featuring two styles — Burlesque and Hip Hop — at the Semoran Skateway in Casselberry.

# Patriotic side

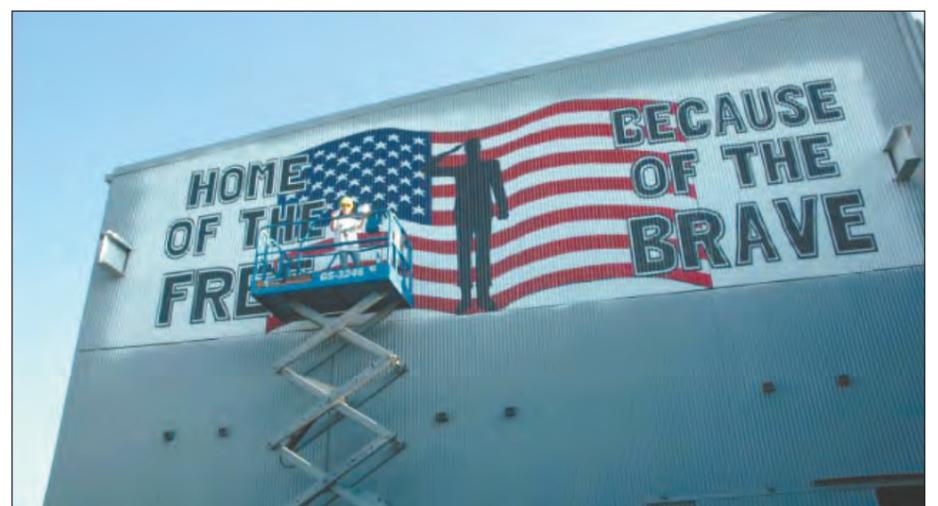


PHOTO COURTESY OF **BONNIE SMITH**

**Winter Springs High School graduate Chelsea Gaffney** stands with her patriotic mural on the Unlimited Welding Inc. building. Visit 235 Old Sanford Oviedo Road in Winter Springs to see it for yourself.

# Family Calendar

## MAY 25

Every third Friday (May 25 this month) from 6 to 10 p.m. is **Parents' Night Out** at SPARK! Family Enrichment Center, located at 5965 Red Bug Lake Road. The cost is \$25 for the first child with a \$5 sibling discount. Advance registration is required. Call 407-679-7775.

The **Planetarium at Seminole State College** will be closed May 25-26 for Memorial Day. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [seminolestate.edu/planet](http://seminolestate.edu/planet) or call 407-708-2360.

## MAY 28

**Artistic Hand Gallery and Studio's** summer classes start the week of May 28. Classes are offered for teens and adults in pottery, painting and drawing, stained glass, jewelry making and glassblowing. Children's classes in pottery and painting and drawing start the first week of June.

## MAY 30

**Seminole County schools' last day** of the year is Wednesday, May 30. The school year will resume Aug. 13.

Kick off the summer on the last day of school with a **Family Star Party** on Wednesday, May 30, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Central Branch Library in Casselberry. Enjoy star crafts and a galaxy of snacks! Learn how to observe the night sky and look through high-powered telescopes at Saturn's rings and the moon. The Central Florida Astronomical Society experts will be your night sky guides. Call your local branch library for details and how to pick up your free tickets.

## JUNE 2

In honor of Children's Awareness Month, Wynne Chiropractic & Physical Therapy will host its **Second Annual Family Fun Day** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 2. Come out for music, crafts, games, prizes, fun and even a photo booth. Twiggy the world famous skiing squirrel will perform too! Proceeds of the raffle will benefit Seminole County Public Schools' homeless students. Visit [lakemarychiropractors.com](http://lakemarychiropractors.com)

Join the **Seminole County Natural Lands Program** for guided hikes and programs. It's \$3 per person. Call 407-349-0959 to register. Herp Hike, featuring reptiles, will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, at Lake Proctor Wilderness Area.

## JUNE 5

Starting Tuesday, June 5, the Oviedo Mall will be offering **free children's activities** in the food court from noon to 2 p.m. every week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for nine weeks. The activities include balloon bending, storytelling, mime shows, magic shows, and more. The activities are geared toward younger children who are already at the mall enjoying Regal Cinemas Summer Film Festival, featuring G and PG movies for only \$1. The movies are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 407-977-2400 or visit [myoviedomall.com](http://myoviedomall.com)

## JUNE 6

Come to the **East Branch Book Club meeting** on the first Wednesday of each month (June 6 this month) at the East Branch Library, located at 310 Division St. in Oviedo. Join a lively discussion of the selected book from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 407-665-1560.

Email calendar submissions to [jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com)

# TJ's seems casual, but they do serious food

TJ's Seafood Shack is casual, inviting and fun, and I'm happy to report that the quality of the food is consistently amazing. When you



**Josh Garrick**  
From the  
Corner Table

arrive, there's a good chance you'll meet the sister/brother owners Mary and Tim, who opened their doors in 2008 and have been winning the Taste of Oviedo every year since.

Tim, a seasoned restaurateur, partnered with his business-minded sister Mary to bring this coastal-style seafood shack to Oviedo.

Their extensive menu reflects their motto — "Great Food, Fun Environment, Fair Prices." I'm here to tell you they deliver on all three, and considering how busy they were at a recent lunch, the word is definitely out to Oviedo locals.

Tin signs and wooden plaques on the walls, bare-wood tables and chairs, and upside-down tin buckets as lamp shades may give TJ's the look and feel of a casual seafood restaurant, but the owners are serious about their food. It always begins with fresh ingredients, and even a quick look at the menu says this is no "fry house."

We could easily make a full meal out of the array of appetizers, so I requested an appetizer sampler and loved the gator tail (the tail is the 'tender' part of the gator). Gator tail has its own distinct taste, and it does not taste like chicken. It's popular enough at TJ's that they sell about 150 pounds of gator each month!

Another mouth-treat is the customer-named 'most popular' smoked Mahi Mahi fish dip, which I suggest trying in a variety of ways — both with and without the hot sauce. Adding to the 'fun' part of the menu, the fried pickles — a first for me — tasted pretty much as I thought they would, and they were truly fun to eat. Try them, you'll see what I mean as they (sort of) melt in your mouth.

With my love of all things New Orleans, I'm thrilled to report that the gumbo held up to the best homemade gumbo I've ever had — another nod to the fresh ingredients so important to this restaurant. And then there were the sweet potato fries, a side order you can have — and should have — with any entrée. I could have munched on those perfectly seasoned little bites of heaven till the good angel on my shoulder made me stop.

And then I ordered the entrees. The crab-cake is always the test for me, and this crab-cake was all fresh crabmeat held together — without filler — by the grace of good taste. Yes, it comes highly recommended.

Since their Fish Tacos have won awards,



ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF TJ'S, RIGHT PHOTO BY JOSH GARRICK  
**Tim Shepardson, right**, owns TJ's Seafood Shack with his sister Mary Strickland in Oviedo. Above is the restaurant's Parmesan Tilapia. All menu items but one are less than \$10.

I tried the blackened Mahi Mahi wrapped in a soft taco and generously seasoned with a cilantro dressing. It is definitely worthy of awards and also comes highly recommended.

Finally, I had to taste the Lobster Roll, served New England style on crunchy French bread, and pronounced it amazing. All that wonderful lobster piled on to a 'sandwich' for less than \$10 exemplified the part of the motto that speaks to 'Fair Prices.' With only one item on the menu coming in at \$10.99 and everything else priced under \$10, these prices are more than fair.

All of their platters may be ordered blackened, grilled or fried and most of the seafood entrees may be ordered in a salad form. Kids meals, with choices of meat or fish, are available. While the seafood platters and fish tacos are the 'reason' to visit TJ's, your non-seafood-eating friends will be happy to know they also offer burgers, chicken sandwiches and salads as well.

Watch for TJ's newest endeavor — a food truck, able to serve more than 400 meals at a stop, which joins that popular movement of "foodies" interested in food served on wheels.

Mention this review the next time you stop by TJ's and you'll receive a free "Honey Dipped Hushpuppy."

TJ's Seafood Shack is open daily except Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. TJ's is set back from the road in the Town Center Shoppes at 197 E. Mitchell Hammock Road in Oviedo. Call 407-365-3365 or visit [tjseafoodshack.com](http://tjseafoodshack.com)



TJ's Seafood Shack won third place in the favorite family dining experience category at the second annual Oventions Awards hosted on May 24 by the Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Seminole Voice. Visit [SeminoleVoice.com](http://SeminoleVoice.com) for the complete list of winners.



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# Calendar

## Greater Oviedo 5k Race

First Baptist Church of Oviedo at 45 W. Broadway St. will be hosting its 10th Annual Greater Oviedo 5k Race on Saturday, May 26, at 7:30 a.m. Afterward, they'll have booths for enjoyment and education, fun runs for younger children and a trophy presentation. Visit [fbcoviedo.org/5k](http://fbcoviedo.org/5k)



### MAY 25

Members of the Central Florida Plein Air Artists (CFPAA) will exhibit "Nature's Palette" at Gallery on First in downtown Sanford. A public reception with the artists will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 25. The show runs through May 29. Visit [cfpaartists.org](http://cfpaartists.org)

### MAY 26

An extension food preservation class in boiling water bath canning will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 26, at the Seminole County Extension Services kitchen, located at 250 W. County Home Road in Sanford. Pre-registration is required, as is a pre-payment of \$10. Register at [tinyurl.com/BoilingWaterBathCanning](http://tinyurl.com/BoilingWaterBathCanning)

### MAY 28

On Memorial Day, Orlando Jai-Alai & Race Book will celebrate its 50th anniversary by serving hot dogs and hamburgers

for \$1. Anyone showing a military ID or dressed in uniform receives a free burger and a beer. Orlando Jai Alai is at 6405 S. Highway 17-92 in Fern Park. Call 407-339-6221 or visit [OrlandoJaiAlai.com](http://OrlandoJaiAlai.com)

### MAY 31

At 10 a.m. on May 31, there will be a ceremony renaming the portion of 13th Street, from U.S. 17-92 to Dixie Way, as Historic Goldsboro Boulevard at the Goldsboro Westside Historical Museum located at 1211 W. 13th St.

### JUNE 5

Come to the Central Branch Book Club meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (June 5 this month) at the Central Branch Library, located at 215 N. Oxford Road in Casselberry. Call 407-665-1545.

### JUNE 6

Come practice your English at Talk to

## Food Truck Crazy

Join Food Truck Crazy at Oviedo Mall in the northwest parking lot from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, for dinner from one of Central Florida's food trucks. The free event will be held every second Sunday of the month in July and August (July 8 and Aug. 12). Visit [foodtruckcrazy.com](http://foodtruckcrazy.com)



Learn! Conversational English Class (ESOL) each Wednesday at the Central Branch Library Meeting Room, located at 215 N. Oxford Road in Casselberry, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The free event does not require registration. Call 407-422-1540.

### JUNE 7

An extension food preservation class on freezing foods will be held on Thursday, June 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Seminole County Extension Services kitchen, located at 250 W. County Home Road in Sanford. Each class requires pre-registration and a pre-payment of \$10. Register at [tinyurl.com/FreezingFoods](http://tinyurl.com/FreezingFoods)

### JUNE 13

Come practice your English at Talk to Learn! Conversational English Class

(ESOL) each Wednesday in the Central Branch Library Meeting Room at 215 N. Oxford Road in Casselberry, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The free event does not require registration. Call 407-422-1540.

### JUNE 13

Join in the Lunchtime Food Preparation Webinar called "Chicken: 3 Ways for 3 Meals" on Wednesday, June 13, from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Participate from your office, home or web-enabled device. Register at <http://bit.ly/HhP713>

### JUNE 16

Come to the How to Build a Rain Barrel Workshop and construct a rain barrel from a recycled food grade quality 55-gallon drum. The workshop will be held on Saturday, June 16, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 250 W. County Home Road in Sanford. Pre-registration and a materials fee are required. Call 407-665-5575 or email [fn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

### JUNE 19

On Tuesday, June 19, from 6 to 8 p.m., learn to prepare for a storm and prepare healthy meals for your family when you have no power. Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. Call 407-665-5560 or visit [tinyurl.com/StormGour](http://tinyurl.com/StormGour)

## Sanford Art Walk

This month's Sanford Art Walk will have several stops that feature live music in addition to original art on display every fourth Friday of each month (May 25 this month). The free event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Pictured is Johanna Drummond's "All Tied Up" sculpture. Visit [sanfordartwalk.com](http://sanfordartwalk.com)



metMeals to register. Each class is \$10, payable in advance, and will be held at 250 W. County Home Road in Sanford.

### JUNE 21

An extension food preservation class on dry foods will be held on Thursday, June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, June 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Seminole County Extension Services kitchen, located at 250 W. County Home Road in Sanford. Each class requires pre-registration and a pre-payment of \$10. Register at [tinyurl.com/DryFoods](http://tinyurl.com/DryFoods)

### JUNE 26

Come to the East Side Regional Hob Nob at Bright House Networks Stadium on Tuesday, June 26, from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Register at [ESRHobNob.com](http://ESRHobNob.com)

Visit [www.seminolevoice.com/events/search](http://www.seminolevoice.com/events/search) for more details. Send submissions to [jandrea@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:jandrea@turnstilemediagroup.com)

# Memorial Day Service

## 11:00 AM

## Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

---

Glen Haven Memorial Park  
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Winter Springs High School Army JROTC  
Boy Scout Troop 613



### HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING IN ORLANDO

DATES . . . . . Friday, June 22 and June 29  
TIME . . . . . 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
LOCATION . . . . . Cornerstone Hospice Office  
8009 So. Orange Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32809

Lunch and snacks will be provided  
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Melissa Cruz (407)256-2033  
Lisa Gray (352)742-6806 (Manager)

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# Notes

## TOYs honored as heroes

Valeria Brown and Tesfa Wondemagegnehu are heroes to hundreds of Central Florida students, using creativity and persistence in their classrooms at Jackson Heights Middle School and Freedom High School. These outstanding teachers, who recently were named Orange County Teacher of the Year and Seminole County Teacher of the Year respectively, now have another honor to add to their roll: Holler Driver's Mart Hero. Brown teaches language arts at Jackson Heights, frequently using supplemental materials such as movies and video games to engage students in stories. Wondemagegnehu is a chorus instructor at Freedom High, where he has built an award-winning music program in just four years. Holler Driver's Mart honored the teachers at a recent Orlando Predators game.

## Seminole State president goes to Russia

Dr. E. Ann McGee, president of Seminole State College of Florida, recently returned from three weeks in Russia. From April 4-18, McGee took part in the Fulbright Program Community College Administrator Seminar, which focuses on the role of community colleges in higher education and in the local community.

## Gliders do well in Spring Track Classic

With the newly resurfaced Lake Brantley High School track as its venue, the Central Florida Gliders Spring Track Classic celebrated its 20th year, drawing about 700 athletes from as far away as the United Kingdom, St. Croix, Germany and Nigeria and including several athletes who have competed at world championship level.

From the Central Florida Gliders, the following athletes placed first in their respective USATF age groups:

- Alexander Boucher, 1-mile run, Youth boys
- Devin Boyle, 800-meter run and 1-mile run, Midget boys
- Carlos Guillermo, discus throw, Open men
- David Manning, 400-meter dash, Bantam boys
- Juan Moscoso, 1500-meter racewalk, Midget boys
- Raleigh Powers, 80-meter hurdles and high jump, Midget girls
- Jenna Terry, 1500-meter racewalk, Midget girls

The complete list of results is posted at [gunlaprunning.com](http://gunlaprunning.com)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Seminole's national qualifiers

A delegation of Seminole County High School and Middle School students competed at the 2012 Florida History Fair — part of National History Day. Three Seminole County schools will be represented at the National History Day competition in College Park, Md., in June. Seminole

## Orlando Magic surprises Oviedo High School student Courtney Wright with a scholarship

In surprise presentations at their high schools on Monday, April 30, Oviedo High School student Courtney Wright (pictured), Seminole High School student Jesimar Matos and Edgewater High School student David Mercedes were awarded full scholarships to Seminole State College of Florida through the Orlando Magic Youth Fund (OMYF). Magic Community Ambassador Bo Outlaw, Magic mascot Stuff and the Magic's scholarship committee traveled to each winner's high school to surprise the students with news of their scholarships. Each student received a two-year scholarship of \$6,000. Courtney plans to study biology at Seminole State on her way to becoming a surgeon. Jesimar wants to become a doctor, and David will study finance, working toward an eventual M.B.A.



## Winter Springs, Oviedo and Hagerty high schools rank in top 4 percent of nation

U.S. News and World Report magazine ranked Winter Springs High School No. 44 in the state out of 990 high schools, and No. 747 in the country out of 22,000 high schools. That places WSHS in the top 4 percent in both categories. "By any metric used, WSHS is ranked as a top school. It seems that no matter who is doing the ranking, we end up at or near the top," Principal Mike Blasewitz wrote. Seven of Seminole County's nine high schools were explicitly ranked under the U.S. News and World Report analysis. Oviedo High School was ranked No. 33 and Hagerty High School was ranked No. 31. All U.S. high schools were included in this analysis including public schools, private schools, magnet schools and charter schools.



## Students, alumni help heal oyster reefs

On Saturday, May 12, nearly 25 volunteers from the UCF Alumni Association's Community Volunteer Alumni Chapter and Space Coast Alumni Chapter along with UCF undergraduate and graduate students joined on an oyster restoration project at Canaveral National Seashore in Volusia County. The project was in conjunction with the Brevard Zoo and The Nature Conservancy's ongoing efforts to help restore oyster reefs in both the Indian River Lagoon and Canaveral National Seashore ecosystems. If you're a UCF alumnus interested in giving back to your community by volunteering on projects like this, please visit [ucfalumni.com/communityvolunteers](http://ucfalumni.com/communityvolunteers)



County's national-qualifying projects include:

- Lawton Chiles Middle School student Michael Saturno, under the direction of teacher Joan Ilemsky, earned first place in the Junior Individual Documentary category and will be attending the national competition. His project, titled "Poland's Revolution of Conscience: A Stepping Stone to Political Reform in Eastern Europe," involved personal interviews and a thorough analysis of Poland's solidarity movement.
- Tuskawilla Middle School students Stephen Lawrence and Christopher Scanlon, under the direction of teacher Lawrence Teller, placed second in the Junior Group Exhibit category and qualified for the National History Day competition this summer. Their project, "Nicolas Copernicus: A Revolutionary Who Changed Our View of the Universe," explored revolution and reaction to the radical idea of a sun-centric universe.

### Tops at collecting pop-tops

Geneva Elementary is the top school in Seminole County for the fifth year in a row, after collecting the most pop-tops to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. The school collected 459 pounds of pop-tops. Way to go Geneva kids and community who saved all those tops! The school gets an award and \$500.

### Local student achievements

- David Matthew Smith of Oviedo graduated with a bachelor of science degree

in criminal justice administration from Campbellsville University.

- Diana Carrillo of Oviedo was awarded a doctor of dental surgery degree during Creighton University's winter commencement ceremony on May 12 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb.
- David Margolies of Winter Springs, a member of the class of 2012 at Washington and Lee University, has earned dean's list status for the winter 2012 term.

### Middle school students earn state honors

The SCPS Pre-Engineering and Pre-Internation Baccalaureate program at Milwee Middle School earned state and national recognition through the outstanding achievement of seven students as announced by officials at the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Milwee students Alison Davis, Andrew Gaedele, Brett Hartman, Vaishnav Swaminathan, Taylor Tiedge and Joseph Wales all earned state recognition by scoring at or above the national average of recent high school graduates on at least one part of the ACT or the SAT. One student, Jordan Franks, scored high enough to qualify for grand recognition.

### Adult high school student awarded college scholarship

Erin Fletcher, of Geneva, received the District Board of Trustees Scholarship during the Seminole State College of Florida School of Academic Foundation Graduation on Thursday, April 26. Fletcher will start classes this fall toward her Associate in Arts degree. Her long-term goal is to become a doctor. Seminole State's year-round high school program, which is

free for those who qualify, allows students to earn a high school diploma in a non-traditional setting. For more information, please call 407-708-2153.

## BIZ NEWS

### Bizzaro Pizza setting up shop in Oviedo

NAI Realvest recently negotiated a new long-term lease agreement for 1,450 square feet in the Boardwalk Plaza at 3100 Alafaya Trail in Oviedo. The tenant, Palm Bay-based Paaram Enterprises in Florida, will open a Bizzaro Pizza providing takeout and delivery services plus seating for 15. The regional franchise operates 12 restaurants in Brevard County, and this will be its first location outside of Brevard.

### Beauty shop moves to bigger space

Merle Norman Cosmetics & Boutique and Urban Retail LLC inked a deal to relocate the store from their overcrowded 972-square-foot space to a spacious 1500-square-foot space within Oviedo Mall. It is directly across from Barnes & Noble Booksellers, sandwiched between Charlotte Russe and Embroidery World. A larger space has been needed for this extremely popular boutique for quite some time. With more space, the store will be able to better serve their customers, provide even more products and attract new customers. "I am so honored to have the opportunity to expand our specialty boutique into a larger space to offer additional products to our clients, especially in the present economy," owner Candi Neuweiler said. "We look forward to our continued service to our community."

### New king in town

Joe Hornstein, king of Oviedo-Winter Springs-based organization Krewe of Leaders (KOL), recently announced his decision to step down from his leadership position due to relocation. KOL member Amir Ladan will replace Hornstein in the coming weeks. Hornstein is moving out of the Oviedo-Winter Springs area, making him ineligible to serve the organization from his new location. Ladan, founding partner of Orlando law firm Carsten & Ladan and Channel 6 legal analyst, will conduct all future kingly duties, including representing the leadership organization in signature parades.

Send submissions to [jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com)

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# SENIOR VOICE



THRIVE @ 55 AND BEYOND!

## Saving the sages

ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

Peter Schreyer grabbed onto the microphone, stared out into a sea of weathered faces and celebrated a lifetime of memories rescued from the grave on Friday, May 11. On the steps of the Winter Park Community Center, he introduced the "The Sage Project: Hannibal Square Elders Tell Their Stories," an exhibit designed to capture the recollections of black residents who had lived through more than a century of the city's history.

"We live in society where we treasure elders," Schreyer, the director of Crealde School of Art, said. But he laid bare regrets that we at times fail to preserve their memories.

It had been a rush to interview the 18 members of the Sage Project, all of them 85 years old or older, before it was too late. Between the moment the project started in April 2011 and the official unveiling, four of the interviewees died of old age.

Just days before the grand opening event, Katherine Ford, who was born before Winter Park's 25th anniversary and had lived until two months before its 125th, died at age 106. The day after the Sage Project told a small part of her story, she was memorialized just down the street.

"These are stories worth telling," Hannibal Square Heritage Center historian Fairolyn Livingston said. She had spent the better part of the last year gathering them, with the help of Mary Daniels and Center volunteers.

It had been a hundred years of chaos and change as the area grappled repeatedly with issues of poverty and inequality, while celebrating gifts of progress — of Highwaymen artists

"The Sage Project: Hannibal Square Elders Tell Their Stories" is at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, 642 New England Ave., through Saturday, Sept. 1, in partnership with the Winter Park Historical Association. Call 407-539-2680 or visit [www.hannibalsquareheritagecenter.org](http://www.hannibalsquareheritagecenter.org) for more information.

and music inspired by gospel and delta blues. And Winter Park had played a small part in all of it, chronicled on pasteboards dotting the insides of the Hannibal Square Heritage Center's new exhibit. Photographs taken by Schreyer gave, in many cases, a final last-

*"It's hard to raise money for projects with the elderly. I can't tell you how many organizations we've asked for funding who've said no ..."*

ing glimpse at the eyes of native Winter Parkers who had seen a century in color that we only remember in black and white.

But it hadn't come easily. Funding for the project, which has spanned a year, has been tough to come by, Schreyer said.

"It's hard to raise money for projects with the elderly," he said. "I can't tell you how many organizations we've asked for funding



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE  
Honoree Bessie Davenport, top left, talks with Katrene Bentley at the unveiling of "The Sage Project" at the Winter Park Community Center on May 11. Above, Center for Contemporary Dance members perform a tribute to the 18 honorees.

who've said no, including some of the most respected in Winter Park."

But piece-by-piece the project came together, in printed quotes and photographs on the ivory walls of the Heritage Center. Funds from Orange County, Bank of America, Winter Park Historical Association and others helped the project ink its way into history. And then on May 11 some of

the Hannibal Square area's eldest statesmen and women had their day in the spotlight. Holding his award plaque, flanked by more than a dozen of his contemporaries, Winter Park native and Tuskegee airman Richard Hall Jr. smiled and waved to the crowd.

Then the families of those Sages recently passed lit candles, symbolically relighting the flame of memory while dozens looked

on. Staring from out in the crowd, a smile crept across Winter Park Commissioner Tom McMacken's face. "This is why we're all here," McMacken said. "This is community."

As the presentation ended and gave way to a night of visitors exploring the new exhibit just next door, Ken Wright, a bit of gray speckling his beard and hair, clutched a plaque in his hands and headed home. The sun sank behind him as he walked east from the back steps of the Community Center. But ahead of him it still lit a tiny white house with green shutters across Pennsylvania Avenue.

The plaque was for his aunt, Evelyn "Lena" Vivian Wright Mann, who had lived to be 101 years old. The tiny house just a few feet ahead was hers too, from the day she was born until the day she died. Just around the corner, along a wall at the Heritage Center, a spotlight keeps the sage's lifetime of memories aglow.

"This was her home," Wright said. "She never left."



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# Running at your age

**JACK GALLAGHER**  
Guest Writer

I am soon to be 78-year-old man who has been a runner for more than 30 years. That said, I am an unlikely candidate to be writing this column. My father died instantly of a heart attack at age 54, and my brother at age 62. I carry the additional baggage of a high cholesterol level.

Against this backdrop, I likely value the gift of life a tad more than most people. My odds did not look that great as I turned to a running regimen in my early 40s, and this decision is very likely the reason I am here to tell my story.

I have come to face the fact that everyone is aging and that there is a danger that older people who have put years into staying fit may become discouraged as they slow down. So I came up with the idea of sharing my experiences and encouraging runners to hang in there as they age. Also, I see this as a way to give younger runners (and at my age most of them are younger) a heads-up and positive attitude about the inevitable decline in performance we all face. The message can be summed up with a saying I recently came upon:

"Life is not about waiting for the rain to stop; it's about dancing in the rain."

Mother Nature quietly and inexorably sneaks up on us and provides mathematical certitude that we lose ground as we age. Running literature doesn't do much to help the average runner like me. We are beset in the press with the superhuman performance of aged runners achieving astounding results. While I applaud their achievements, I know that I am growing slower and slower. Not only that, I am at the age where the decline accelerates.

With 30,000 plus miles and 280 races now under my belt, I bless the day I made the decision to pursue a running regimen. Over the past 30 years, I have run in more than 30 countries on four continents and have built a treasure trove of memories. Runners have to run where they find themselves, and my career as a corporate finance guy took me to five continents.

Aging runners are already in a very good place. Most are in the 30-percent category of the U.S. population who are not overweight. They also are statistically in a very good place health-wise. Even though the majority of runners may never have heard of the Stanford University School of Medicine's 20-plus-year study of runners then 50 years old (now more than 70 years old), they are destined to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Twenty years later the study found that runners are 50 percent less likely to die early deaths and that initial disabilities occurred six years later in runners, and they had fewer deaths from other diseases. Furthermore, running is not harmful to the legs.

Another valuable study was done by the Furman Institute on the physiology of aging and the appropriate responses to what happens as we age. Yes, we will get older and slower. What is great about the Furman study is that it describes what is happening as we age and what we can do about it. The heart grows weaker, connective tissues deteriorate and energy declines. So we runners lose speed, stride length grows shorter and we lose stamina. The Furman study provides advice on how to minimize the effects and to adjust our goals. In short, it provides a blueprint to hang in there and live a realistic and happy



running life for a long time.

I think most runners are like me and need a reality check that the merry-go-round slows down long before it stops, and that this process starts in our 40s and accelerates until the final curtain comes down. Luckily, I have a strong belief in the possibility of eternal happiness.

You are invited to attend a presentation on running by Jack Gallagher on Thursday, May 31, at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Parish Center on Park Avenue. Admission is free, but those wishing to make a donation are requested to make checks payable to "Saint Margaret Mary/ Haiti Ministry". RSVP to Jack at [gallagher.consulting@earthlink.net](mailto:gallagher.consulting@earthlink.net)

## Senior Center Calendar

Visit the **Winter Springs Senior Center** at 400 N. Edgemon Ave., Winter Springs, to experience all that we have to offer. We can be contacted at 407-327-6554 Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or via e-mail at [scoffman@winterspringsfl.org](mailto:scoffman@winterspringsfl.org) or [ldomenech@winterspringsfl.org](mailto:ldomenech@winterspringsfl.org). You may also want to visit our website at [www.winterspringsfl.org](http://www.winterspringsfl.org) to see an overall of our calendars, day trips and of course our Therapy Pool.

The therapy pool offers fitness classes from **Basic Arthritis to Aerobics**. You can also enjoy open swim each day, relaxing in the Jacuzzi and rejuvenating those tired muscles in 94-96 degree water. Contact Dell Walker at 407-327-6477 for more information. Annual membership required, annual fee \$45.

Activities at the Senior Center offer a variety for everyone. If you enjoy working out we offer **Jazzercise** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; **Tai Chi** on Monday; **Line Dancing** on Monday and Thursday and **Chair Yoga** on Friday.

You want to learn more about the computer? **Computer Classes** are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Bridge plays Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with a Bridge Class Tuesday morning. Join us for a **catered lunch** every Wednesday for only \$5; please RSVP by Tuesday afternoon. After lunch stay for an afternoon of Bingo. We also offer Bingo on Friday afternoon where you can sit and chat over a hot dog lunch with all the fixings prior to Bingo, only \$1.25.

For those who like the craftier side we have **Ceramics** on Monday and to make it easy on you we provide all supplies. Price of any piece is based on a completed piece. This saves you from unnecessary purchases and toting you project back and forth. Another craft we offer is **Scrapbooking**. We meet on Tuesdays, you provide your materials we provide companionship and inspirations.

Now that you have read all we offer, imagine it for only \$25 a year.

In addition to everything mentioned we offer a day trip once a month. July 14 we will be traveling west on Interstate 4 to the **Seminole Hard Rock Casino**. Cost is \$30 and when you arrive at the casino you will receive \$25 in machine play and a \$5 voucher for lunch in any of the wonderful eateries.

Send submissions to [jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com)

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**Q: What is One Senior Place, anyway?**

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**Q: How old do I have to be to visit One Senior Place?**

**A:** There's no age requirement. One Senior Place focuses on seniors, but everyone is welcome to use our facility and benefit from its resources.

**Q: Is One Senior Place a senior center?**

**A:** We are not a senior center in the conventional sense. But we have many activities and events. We also offer an array of services that address every aspect of a senior's life.

**Q: Does it cost any money to come to One Senior Place?**

**A:** It's free to visit One Senior Place and take advantage of many of our activities, seminars and programs. We also offer a free consultation to anyone who has a question or concern about a senior-related issue and can help find the right solution for your individual needs.

**Q: Can I live at One Senior Place?**

**A:** One Senior Place is not a residential facility, but we can help you understand the many senior living options that are available, and then

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assist you with your search for the individual community that is right for you. Our Living Options Showroom is a great resource center that helps educate you to the variety of senior living communities. And, you can take advantage of a free consultation with our Elder Care Manager to understand the best option for your individual needs.

**Q: Do I need an appointment?**

**A:** Appointments are suggested but not required. We are open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm.

**Q: I read that you have an Elder Care manager at One Senior Place. What is that?**

**A:** An Elder Care Manager is a health and human services professional with a specialized focus on issues related to aging and elder care. At One Senior Place, visitors are invited to meet with a Care Manager for a preliminary consultation. There is no charge to meet with us and family members are encouraged to attend.

**Q: How do I get started? What do I do when I get there?**

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# Calendar of Events

## June 2012

### Senior Club Sponsored by Family Physicians Group

10 am – 1 pm

June 4 – BINGO

June 11 – Movie Day

June 18 – Casino Day

June 25 – June Birthday Party

### Medicare Educational Seminar

Wednesday, June 1st

10 am -12 noon

Presented by Medicare Plan Options

RSVP 407.949.6723

### Quit Smoking Now – Tobacco Cessation Class

June 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

2 – 3 pm

RSVP to 877.252.6094

### Tai Chi Class

Tuesdays, June 5th, 12th & 19th

2 – 3 pm

Sponsored by Orlando

Family Physicians

### Women's Day Extravaganza!

Thursday, June 7th

9 am - 1 pm – FREE Valet Parking

Hosted by One Senior Place

### Long Term Care

Friday, June 8th

10:30 am -12 noon

Presented by Genworth

Financial Agency

RSVP 407.949.6722

### Zumba Fitness Class

Wednesday, June 8th, 20th & 27th

1 – 2 pm

Sponsored by Orlando

Family Physicians

### Family Love Letter

Tuesday, June 12th

10 - 11:30 am

Presented by The Law Offices of Hoyt

& Bryan and Price Financial Services

RSVP to 407.977.8080

### Truth about Estate Planning

Wednesday, June 13th

9:30 - 11:30 am

### Truth about Medicaid Planning

Wednesday, June 13th

1 – 4 pm

Presented by The Law Offices of

Hoyt & Bryan

RSVP to 407.977.8080

### Social Security, Medicare & Long Term Care Workshop

Thursday, June 14th

10 – 11:30 am

Presented by Price Financial Services

RSVP 407.949.6732

### Hearing Test & Free Telephones

Wednesday, June 20th

9:30 am -12:30 pm

Sponsored by Bonnie Hearing

### Senior Survival Workshop

Thursday, June 21st

2 – 4 pm

Presented by the Law Office of

Kathleen Flammia

RSVP to 407.478.8700

### Caregiver's Workshop

Friday, June 22nd

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Presented by Alzheimer's &

Dementia Resource Center

RSVP 407.843.1910

### SHINE Program – Welcome to

Medicare! Birthday Party

Tuesday, June 26th

2 – 4 pm

Hosted by SHINE Program

RSVP 407.949.6733

### Seminar: Pathways to Health and Well Being

Thursday, June 28th

10 am – 2 pm

Presented by VITAS Innovative

Hospice Care

RSVP to 407.949.6733



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

**407.949.6733**

# ATHLETICS



## THIS WEEK in sports history

May 30, 1911 —

The inaugural Indianapolis 500 is run at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indiana. With the exception of a break in 1917 and 1918 for World War I and from 1942 to 1945 for World War II, the 200-lap, 2.5-mile race has been run every year since.

# Knights try for the title

ISAAC BABCOCK  
The Voice

Championship Saturday ended with slumped shoulders, but the University of Central Florida Knights still have a reason to hold their heads high: They nearly beat the No. 5 team in the nation to end the season with a championship. They came one game short.

But that game was one of continuing frustration for the Knights, who fought early to hold onto parity with a Rice team's hot bats that drilled UCF pitching early. After the first inning, the Knights struggled to find holes in the Owls' defense, to a stifling degree.

Only once did the Knights manage a hit while a runner was on base. They left a dozen stranded after innings started strongly. In two straight innings, trailing 4-1, the Knights put two runners on base with an out or less, only to watch the inning collapse instantly with quick

double plays.

That took the wind out of the Knights' sails in situations when they usually found a divine wind. D.J. Hicks still found a way through the Owls' brick wall defense, picking up both of his teams' two RBI. But it wouldn't be enough to stop the red hot Owls, who won 5-2.

The season isn't nearly over for the Knights, who enter the Conference USA Tournament with not only the best record in their pod, but a shot at revenge. If they can win their first three games, they'll take on the winner of the other pod in the C-USA tourney, likely Rice.

The Tournament started Thursday in Pearl, Miss. Game 1 was against UAB at press time. At 4 p.m. Friday they face East Carolina, then at noon Saturday against Tulane. The Knights have wins against all three of those teams this season.



PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE

Bryan Brown pitched 6 2/3 innings and gave up two runs, but it wasn't enough to stifle the Rice Owls, who won 5-2. The Knights head to the Conference USA Tournament this week, facing three conference foes.



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# VOICES



## THIS WEEK in political history

June 5, 1933 —

The United States goes off the gold standard, a monetary system in which currency is backed by gold. The Great Depression of the 1930s had frightened the public into hoarding gold. Roosevelt ordered all gold coins and gold certificates in denominations of more than \$100 turned in for other money.

### EMPLOYMENT

Ask  
Sandi



## It's not over yet

The unemployment rate is going down and more jobs are being advertised. Yeah, the recession is over and we can all rest easy. Well, not exactly. It is true the market seems to be opening up. Recently, at the Mayor's Job Fair, we saw more companies and more positions available. There were not only seasonal and hospitality positions, but longer-term opportunities with major companies like FedEx and Coca-Cola as well.

It is not time to let down your guard by any means. Competition is still tough. I recently posted five positions for AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers and the resumes I am seeing are amazing. I am so impressed with the talent still available in the market. (To see the positions go to CFEC.org) This tells me the market is still really tight.

The other thing I am seeing is very little slowdown at my office in the number of jobseekers coming in for assistance. We generally see about 40 or 50 people a day. The Tuesday before the job fair we saw more than 80 people.

The good news is we are seeing more people landing good jobs. We started a job skills boot camp about a year ago and we are seeing a high percentage of our "campers" get jobs. The next class will start June 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at my office in Casselberry. RSVPs and three to five years of computer skills are required, and space is limited. You can RSVP to me.

One last note — if you are on Facebook, Christian HELP was selected as a finalist for Toyota's 100 Cars for Good. You can vote for us on one day only— Tuesday, May 29, 2012. We would appreciate your support. The link is 100carsforgood.com

Thank you!

### 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.

## Small start-up firms lead recovery

DR. TOM O'NEAL  
Guest Writer

As America searches for solutions to its economic woes, one of the most innovative and productive job-creating engines is being overlooked. It's a case of not seeing the trees for the forest.

A recent national study came to a compelling conclusion nationwide, it's the young, small startup companies that are creating the most new jobs — about



Tom O'Neal

three million annually. And if you look deeper, you will see that it's a small number of small companies — usually young in their existence — creating these jobs.

Last year, the University of Central Florida's Business Incubation Program graduated more than 20 companies that are now succeeding with further assistance from the UCF programs, such as Grow-FL. And they are creating jobs.

Last year UCF accepted a record number of 64 new startup companies. Over the last 10 years, the UCF Business Incubation Program has helped more than 200 client companies that in 2011

accounted for more than 1,600 new jobs.

What kinds of businesses are these? A St. Cloud company helps Florida ranchers and farmers sell fresh, locally grown foods to Florida restaurants and hotels. A Daytona Beach graduate company is gearing up to mass-produce its patented wind turbines that outperform anything on the market. A client company in Kissimmee recently completed filming a feature length motion picture.

In Leesburg, a client company produces an award-winning video series on health care and is doing it so well that the National Business Incubation Association awarded them the title of 2012 Outstanding Incubator Client in the non-technology category. A client company in the Central Florida Research Park developed a GIS platform that helps disaster management agencies cope with tornadoes and hurricanes.

The UCF Business Incubation Program is one of thousands of similar programs nationwide. At UCF, client companies range from industry leaders in laser photonics, simulation technology, rapid prototyping, web development and alternative energy to a commercial delivery service for area restaurants.

America's greatness lies in our ability to adapt to new conditions with innovation and enthusiasm. That spirit of innovation, enthusiasm combined with

perseverance, and an entrepreneurial culture is what made America so prosperous for so long. It continues to be played out daily in small, young startup companies all across the country.

What can we really do? Increase the success rate of these companies and you create greater prosperity. A recent study reported that five-year survival rate of Florida establishments is 37 percent. That value places Florida dead last in the U.S. in that statistical category. That's right, 50th. Without even passing judgment on the good or bad thing, just think of the consequences of increasing that rate by 5 percent or 10 percent. Cultivation of fertile ground wherein companies can be successful benefits everyone.

Not all companies will survive, but we should create a nurturing environment where an entrepreneur's lack of experience can be mitigated and pure market forces can be the major determining factor in its survival rate. That's where you'll find the real wealth of our region and nation!

Dr. Tom O'Neal, associate vice president for Research and Commercialization at the University of Central Florida, is founder and executive director of the University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program and president of the Florida Business Incubation Association.



If you missed this story, scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit SeminoleVoice.com



Here's what a SeminoleVoice.com reader shared about the May 11 article "Salad days in Seminole," about Duda Farm donating eight salad bars to Seminole schools, including Oviedo and Hagerty high schools.

TALKING ABOUT TAKING A VISION OF HEALTHIER KIDS MAKE BETTER STUDENTS? THANK YOU, DUDA FARM FRESH FOODS, FOR HELPING LOOK OUT FOR OUR KIDS, BUT ALSO THANK YOU, SEMINOLE VOICE, FOR SHARING AND THANK YOU, SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING TO MAKE US THE BEST COUNTY, NOT JUST IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, BUT I WOULD BET NATIONWIDE.

—TINA HOLDEN

## Young Voices

Students at Wee the People Preschool in Sanford talked excitedly about their upcoming graduation activities.



I am getting a diploma for all of the hard work. We're going to ride in a limousine — that's a big car. We're going to wear a cap and gown at our graduation.

—James L.  
4 years old



This is the first time I'll ride in a limousine. I'm so excited because I'll see my new school Pine Crest Elementary. We all get to drive by our new schools when we're in the limo.

—Amy S.  
5 years old



I can't wait to go in the big white limo, but I'm also sad because I want to stay here at this school forever. I don't want to leave my teachers. I like going to class and playing with friends.

—Aryeana C.  
3 years old



... at our slumber party we're going to have a treasure hunt — we'll find treasures. The slumber party will be at nighttime and we'll have pizza and ice cream. I'll be in kindergarten next year.

—Dharma D.  
4 years old



We're going to ride in a limo — that is a really long car. I'm going to bring my toothbrush to the slumber party. We're going to play games like hide and seek ... This has been the best school ever!

—James S.  
5 years old

We would love to hear from your Young Voices!

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

# The Marketplace

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## King Crossword

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

**ACROSS**

1 Lose it

5 Bit of derring-do

9 Wager

12 Top-notch

13 Jason's ship

14 "Go, team!"

15 Fictional girl detective

17 Work with

18 Plumed military hats

19 Host

21 Type measure

22 Donny's sister

24 Brazen

27 Highland hat

28 Skirt feature, maybe

31 Shock and —

32 Catcher's place?

33 A billion years

34 Accomplishment

36 Dawn goddess

37 Penny

38 Marine from Mayberry

40 "Little Women" woman

41 Less improved

43 Mountain range

47 A Gershwin

48 Super Bowl XLIV MVP

51 Chaps

52 Tittle

53 Money

54 Cauldron

55 Vacationing

56 Art Deco pioneer

**DOWN**

1 Without

2 Ark captain

3 Faris or Paquin

4 Ate like a bird

5 Crazes

6 Blunder

7 Time of your life?

8 Pisa landmark

9 Martial-arts film star

10 Facility

11 Quaker's pronoun

16 Thither

20 Wrong (Pref.)

22 City head

23 Iowa city

24 Awful

25 Have debts

26 "Shampoo" Oscar winner

27 Genealogy chart

29 Charged bit

30 Stick with a kick

35 Two, in Tijuana

37 Strong-arm

39 TV, radio, etc.

40 Triangular sail

41 Weakling

42 Black-and-white cookie

43 Convince

44 Back

45 Leftovers

46 Arthur of tennis

49 Tier

50 Greek vowel month

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