



# Seminole Voice

**Interests > 5**  
This girl started a charity reviving dead musical instruments for free.



**Athletics > 9**  
Knights try to build momentum before facing a grudge match.



**Family Calendar > 6**  
Food Truck Wars returns to Oviedo with more food and fun.



www.SeminoleVoice.com

March 22 - March 28, 2013

Free!

## Winter Springs grabs land, gasses up

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

Winter Springs got a little bit bigger and gained a new gas station and convenience store in the deal when the City Commission voted unanimously to annex 1.66 acres of property from Seminole County on March 11.

The move is a step forward toward Mayor Charles Lacey's goal to increase business activity in the city to help balance the tax base.

The three properties the city will absorb in the land grab have stood empty for nearly half a decade following the closing of the Hess gas station and convenience store at the northwestern most point of the city. The property at the south corner of the intersection of State Road 419 and U.S. Highway 17-92 will also be rezoned from mixed use to commercial. A sprawling RaceTrac gas station and convenience store complex will soon occupy the spot.

"We're excited about the opportunity to grow in the Winter Springs business community," RaceTrac representative Tom Sullivan said.

## Annex to cut deeper into where city meets country

**TIM FREED**  
The Voice

Development is on the horizon for land in northeast Oviedo – a reoccurring trend facing the city and its residents and, deemed by some, a potential threat to the rural character of the area.

The Oviedo City Council approved the annexation of 7.21 acres of land surrounding Lee Avenue during Monday night's city council meeting, a sign of the times as development continues to encroach on the area just before the rural boundary line.

The annexation was applied for by Standard Pacific Homes, a homebuilder based out of California that has plans for development within the annexed area, said Oviedo Mayor Dominic Persampiere.

"My best recollection is that it's a subdivision that they're looking at putting in," he said. "We don't have a full site develop-

■ Please see **ANNEX** on page 2



Just where Lee Avenue meets Allendale Drive, a housing development may spring up, something local residents are upset will encroach farther toward the forested greenbelt and farmland area just beyond Oviedo's grasp.

PHOTO BY **TIM FREED** — THE VOICE

## UCF baffled about thwarted rampage

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

A fire alarm blared as the last students flooded out of the front doors of the University of Central Florida's Tower 1 dormitory and onto the street just after midnight early Monday. Police officers pushed through the confusion, bound for the third floor. But the police weren't there for the fire. They were there for the man with the guns.



**James Seevakumaran**

What had started seeming

like an early morning prank had suddenly gotten far more serious when a student stepped out of his bedroom and said he saw an assault rifle pointed at his head. By the time police opened the door to his bedroom, the gunman, James Seevakumaran, was already dead.

"James was a loner," his family described him in a released statement. "... and did not have a history of violence."

### Last door on the left

The last door police opened in the apartment was the last place anyone had seen Seevakumaran alive.

"... He's there with some sort of, like, gun — like (a) large assault gun," roommate Arabo

Babakhani had said to the police dispatcher. It was 12:20 a.m. when he barricaded himself in his bedroom and called 911. Then he said he thought he heard Seevakumaran follow another roommate.

Ten minutes later the alarm still screamed, deafening the main hall in the apartment as police officers searched, guns drawn. The video released by UCF Police Tuesday night leads the viewer through the apartment with the barrel of a gun pointing straight ahead as police checked room by room, until the only one left belonged to the man with the guns.

Orlando Police officer Jim Strawn crouches, pistol clenched in his hands, as another officer

*"That was the best eye contact I ever had with him. He looked me dead in the eye and raised the gun."*  
— roommate Arabo Babakhani

reaches to turn the knob on the final door.

"Get down on the ground!" Strawn yells through a blast of confusion as the team floods into the room. Then they see the legs poking from behind the other end of the bed.

### The list

Seevakumaran's apartment

■ Please see **UCF** on page 4

USPS 008-093  
Publisher statement on page 2.

### What's goin' on?

Come take look back at rural history with a modern twist at the annual Founders' Day celebration at the Rural Heritage Center in Geneva.

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Opening this week:  
**'THE CROODS'**



A prehistoric family, forced to venture from its cave, discovers a wonderful, exotic world.



# THIS WEEK



## THIS WEEK in history

March 23, 1839 —

The initials "O.K." are first published in The Boston Morning Post. Meant as an abbreviation for "oll correct," a popular slang misspelling of "all correct" at the time, OK steadily made its way into the everyday speech of Americans.

### ANNEX | Housing developer requests annexation less than a mile from where a development was denied

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

opment plan though yet because the first step is annexation. Since we're done with that, now the next step will be for them to talk to the planning department and see what they're going to do with it."

Earlier this year, less than a mile northwest from the area surrounding Lee Avenue, 38.13 acres of land at the corner of Florida Avenue and Lake Charm Drive was denied rezoning by Seminole County. Developers Indev Inc. had plans to put in a subdivision of 20 homes that incidentally encroached on the rural boundary line.

With attempts at development continuing to spring up, some Oviedo residents are expressing concern about preserving the area's rural character.

"It seems to me that the people in Oviedo don't necessarily make the decisions or drive what goes on in the city," said Robert King, an Oviedo resident who lives in Black Hammock. "The city is going to do what the city wants to do. Quite frankly, whether it's for the good of the people or not is subjective, it's all in who you ask. The pro-development community believes there's no such thing as bad construction."

"Nowhere can you have construction without first having de-

*"The place that I was born to is quickly being chewed away at."* —  
**Oviedo resident  
Robert King**

struction."

Oviedo Councilmember Stephen Schenck assured that the city will do its part in looking after the rural character of the areas along the rural boundary.

"We've always respected the rural boundary, and as we get towards it, we usually try to keep the development as much to the south if it's right up against the rural boundary line," Schenck said. "I think we're cognizant of the rural boundary and always have been. We've worked well with those who are in the rural boundary to make it be the best for both sides."

That boundary line lies just north and east of the Oviedo border, where development stops.

A view from above shows land north and east of Oviedo City Limits covered in trees and open land. South and west of the border, housing developments and strip malls fill the map.

After living just outside the rural boundary in Oviedo for more than 50 years, King said he doesn't think the city respects the rural area. The quiet area that he grew up in and continues to live at to this day has over time become urbanized with businesses and homes. An area that's felt like home to King since he was a child now feels unfamiliar, and he is now considering selling his home to move to another rural area.

"I really actually belong here and every day I feel less and less like I belong here as this stuff goes on," King said. "The place that I was born to is quickly being chewed away at."

King also gave his thoughts on the future of the Lee Avenue area. "The area around Lee Avenue

is absolutely beautiful and it's absolutely something that's precious to the people that live there. But I really can't see that the city would find it any more significant or worth saving ... than possibly the old downtown," said Robert King. "It's in the way."

The land surrounding Lee Avenue will still need to go through a rezoning process before any kind of development can continue. A representative of Standard Pacific Homes present at Monday's meeting refused to comment.

King said he hopes residents eventually try to halt development before all the available land is sold and bulldozed.

"I'm almost 55 years old and the one thing I've learned is that everything is for sale," King said. "The question is whether people are willing to put enough money into making a change. When it gets to the point where there's enough money in it, the pressure is going to grow."



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# Seminole Voice

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# Notes

## Boy Scouts go batty

On Sunday, March 24, members of the Boy Scouts of America Troop #837 began the construction and installation of a "bat house" in the immediate area of Seminole County Fire Station 42 in Geneva. A colony of bats has taken up residency in the attic of the fire station. The scouts have been researching about bats, bat habitats and bat house construction and plan to finish the project by the end of March.

## SCPS Employee of the Year

In a celebration held at Winter Springs High School on March 14, **Ivette Garcia** was named the 2013 School-Related Employee of the Year for Seminole County Public Schools. Mrs. Garcia has worked in

the district for 17 years, the past seven as an executive secretary within the Department of Exceptional Student Support Services. Superintendent of Schools Walt Griffin made the surprise announcement during Thursday's program, which also recognized 69 employees selected by their schools/sites.

## A look at the law

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the next class of its **Community Law Enforcement Academy**. The 14-week educational academy gives residents a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office. The class will begin on April 24 and will take place every Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office

main building located at 100 Bush Blvd. in Sanford. Graduation will be held on July 24. There is no cost to attend. To apply, visit [seminolesheriff.org](http://seminolesheriff.org). Applications should be submitted by April 3 to ensure a seat in the class.

## Researcher of the Year

**Mary Lou Sole**, coordinator of UCF's Clinical Nurse Specialist master's and doctoral tracks, recently earned the Researcher of the Year Award from the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. The award for work that has significantly contributed to advancing the nursing profession was presented in San Antonio at the association's annual conference.

## Reveal the Deal

Local, state and federal law enforcement officials and prosecutors announced the charging of 57 individuals for their roles in an organized \$300 million conspiracy orchestrated by Allied Veterans of the World. Operation "Reveal the Deal" uncovered a sophisticated **racketeering and money-laundering scheme** stemming from 49 illegal gambling centers operating under the guise of "internet cafes." The organization falsely claimed to be a charitable veterans' organization, but instead deceived the public and government while lining the pockets of its operators.

## Magic sponsored scholarship

The **Orlando Magic** is teaming up with Seminole State College of Florida to offer a full scholarship worth **\$3,000 per year** to one graduating senior in Seminole, Orange or Osceola county enrolling in Seminole State this fall. The Orlando Magic Youth Foundation will award the two-year scholarship to a degree-seeking student with demonstrated financial need who is dedicated to excellence inside and out of the classroom. Applicants should have an unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 and test scores of at least 880 on the SAT or 18 on the ACT. The completed scholarship application is due April 1. Visit [tinyurl.com/MagicScholarship](http://tinyurl.com/MagicScholarship) for more information.

## Dream big

The Foundation for Seminole State College's 29th annual **Dream Gala** - the College's biggest fundraiser - raised \$270,000 for college support. The sold-out, black tie affair took place on Feb. 16 at the Orlando Marriot Lake Mary and was attended by more than 350 people, including prominent community leaders.

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

# DON'T MISS OUT

on the  
*2013 Summer Fun & Entertainment Guide!*

**The Summer Fun & Entertainment Guide will be printed and inserted into the Winter Park-Maitland Observer on April 11, and the Seminole Voice on April 12. This comprehensive directory will not only serve as an invaluable resource, but will allow you to showcase your business or service directly to local contacts. Parents will be looking at a variety of activities for their children in addition to preparing them for a new school year.**

**Call and reserve your space today!**

Deborah Sheehy / 407-563-7009 / [DSheehy@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:DSheehy@turnstilemediagroup.com)

# Helpful Hands

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Helpful Hands, Inc. is a local charity with a mission to enhance the quality of life of children, individuals and families from our community who are in crisis.

Last year, our Second Annual Golf Tournament was successful beyond what we dared hope. Keeping to our mission, with the monies raised we initiated many of our programs: 'Celebration Parties' honoring milestones for children affected by cancer; sports programs; 4 - H camp; and our 'Haircuts for a Cause' program which offers 10 free haircuts a month to children who cannot afford them are just some of our success stories.

We also have a fine arts program that offers talented children identified through the Seminole County Public Schools, the opportunity for piano lessons and a piano by partnering with the Steinway Piano Bank as well as children with a gift for the dramatic an opportunity participate in the Wayne Densch Theater Performing Arts Center camp.

There is more to be done, and this year with your support of our Third Annual Golf Tournament we will expand these programs and implement others. Thank you for your support of our community.



## Tournament Information

**Monday, April 8, 2013**

**The Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes**

11:30 a.m. Registration

12:30 p.m. Shotgun

Lunch/Dinner provided

Silent Auction

Door Prizes



## Players

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# One Senior Place ...

## Calendar of Events March 2013

**MONDAY, MARCH 25**

Every Monday 10am - 1pm

Senor Club

Sponsored by Family Physicians

Group

March 25 - Casino Day

**MONDAY, MARCH 25**

Medicare Educational Workshop

3pm - 4:30pm

Presented by Medicare Plan Options

RSVP 407-949-6723

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

Elder Law Workshop

9:30am - 12:30pm

Presented by The Law Offices of

Hoyt & Bryan

RSVP 407-977-8080

Estate Planning Workshop

2pm - 4pm

Presented by The Law Offices of

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RSVP 407-977-8080

Why do hearing aids cost so much?

3pm - 4:30pm

Presented by Harmony Hearing

Centers of America

RSVP 407-545-4098

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

The Real Estate Specialists are IN

9am - 3pm

Presented by Exit Real Estate

Results

Zumba Gold Exercise Class

11:30am - 12:30pm

By Orlando Family Physicians



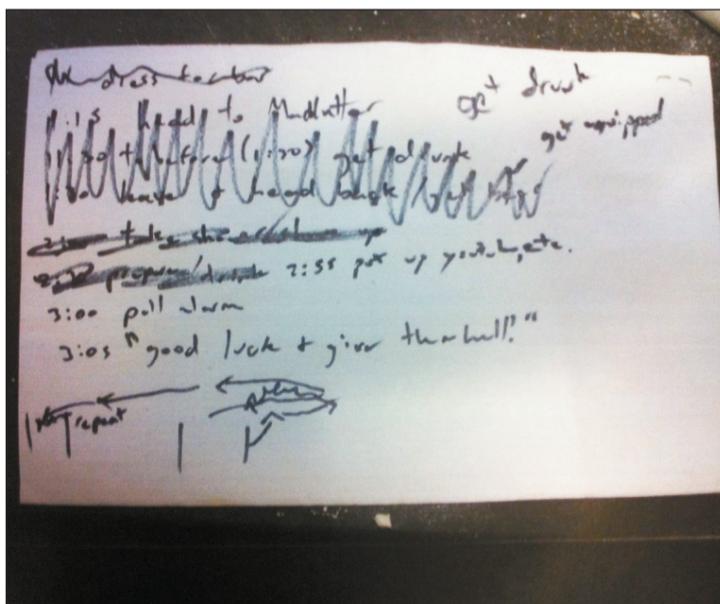
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M-F 8:30am - 5pm

# UCF | Plan scribbled on piece of paper outlined night out followed by a chilling final item: ‘...Give them hell!’



■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

bedroom looked like any college student's: Dimly lit by the glow of a television left on. Crumpled bed sheets. Clothes on the floor. But then there were the two guns laying on the ground: an American-Tech tactical .22 caliber rifle and a High Point .45 caliber handgun. Both had high capacity magazines. Then there was the backpack filled with hundreds of rounds of ammunition and improvised explosives. They found a drum magazine, like the one used in the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colo., eight months ago. Then there was the list.

The plan for the apparent killing spree was simple, hastily scrawled in sharpie on a random sheet of printer paper. Half of it read like a night on the town, starting at 11 p.m. Sunday: Dress for bar. Head to Mad Hatter. Get drunk. Have to head back. Take a shower. Shave up. But then the list takes a turn for the sinister, just as the sharpie stopped crossing

things off. There were three things left to do.

- 2:55 a.m. – put up youtube (video)
- 3:00 a.m. – pull alarm
- 3:05 a.m. – “good luck + and give them hell!”

Police don't know exactly what Seevakumaran planned next. The hell the former student was about to give to the school that was evicting him exists only in theory, though police say he appeared to be deep into preparing a rampage on campus. But that night the plan suddenly changed. Just before crossing off the last items on his list, he picked up the .45, cocked it, and pulled the trigger.

### Unraveling

Seevakumaran was already in the process of being forced out of his apartment at UCF. It had been months since the former business major had been in a classroom, and weeks since he'd paid his rent. It had only been days since he started buying guns and explosives, some at an Orlando gun

store, some online.

All of those compounding trouble signs seemed to be accelerating toward the night that the despondent 30-year-old wrote his list. Some of the weapons hadn't even arrived yet when he pulled the fire alarm and picked up his new rifle.

It all happened faster than anyone could see coming, at least on record. Seevakumaran had never sought counseling, never been reported for unusual behavior, UCF spokesman Grant Heston said. His parents said he was never violent. But he was “a loner,” they said. He was “distant.”

“For the most part if you said anything to him he would ignore you, he would stare off in the distance and pretend like you didn't exist,” Babakhani told ABC news when asked about his roommate's demeanor. “But he made eye contact with me when he pulled the gun on me. That was the best eye contact I ever had with him. He looked me dead in the eye and raised the gun.”

What happened in those final minutes after Babakhani called 911 and when Seevakumaran took his own life still baffles authorities. Babakhani said he thought Seevakumaran ran after another roommate, and then he heard a gunshot.

The shooting has already been called a suicide by police. UCF Police Chief Richard Beary said the gunman killed himself before he could kill anybody else. The rampage ended just as it was about to begin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCF POLICE DEPARTMENT  
A partially scratched out list planning the night UCF police say James Seevakumaran planned an attack on fellow students, starting in his dorm building.

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# INTERESTS



## THIS WEEK in human history

March 22, 1908 —

Louis L'Amour, the author of scores of bestselling Western novels, is born in Jamestown, N.D. After returning from World War II, L'Amour began writing short stories and novels. His big break came when a novel he wrote at the age of 46 became the basis for the popular John Wayne movie "Hondo."



# Instrumental repair

Erica Chemtob started String Together, a nonprofit that gets broken string instruments repaired and supports her music enrichment program

**BRITTNI JOHNSON**  
The Voice

During one of Erica Chemtob's many visits to Muni Strings — with walls covered in smooth, cherry wood violins and perfect, distinguished cellos — she noticed a few instruments lying there, broken.

She learned that they were from schools, and that owner Daniel Muni was donating his time to repair them because the schools couldn't afford to. Her own school, Trinity Preparatory School in Winter Park, had the same problem. Then she wondered: If her own private school,

with all its resources, had this problem, what must it be like for all the public schools out there?

"There are often instruments that go unused because of lack of funds," Muni said. "I find that very tragic because music is such a gift."

Erica couldn't imagine that, either. Her life has been music — she has played the violin since she was 3 years old, spends summers at music camp and has played at Carnegie Hall.

"Being a violinist is integral to her whole identity," her mom Candace Chemtob said. "It's so much a part of her life."

■ Please see **STRING** on page 6

# ARF! WOOF! WOOF!



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# Family Calendar

## MARCH 22

On Friday, March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. UCF's Public History Center is hosting an **African American Culture Festival**. The daylong festival will include hands on activities for every age level. The cost is \$13 for kids and \$7 for adults. For more information or a registration form, call Ashley Wilt at 407-936-1679 or email [publichistorycenter@ucf.edu](mailto:publichistorycenter@ucf.edu)

Looking for something fun for your kids to do over spring break? If so, then look no further. The city of Casselberry has planned a fun-filled **Spring Break Kids' Camp** and Art Academy to keep even the busiest of kids entertained for days. The Spring Break Kids' Camp is open Friday, March 22, to Friday, March 29, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Wirz Park, 806 Mark David Blvd. in Casselberry. Register online at [casselberry.org](http://casselberry.org) or call 407-262-7700, ext. 1576.

## MARCH 23

**Food Truck Wars** will be at the Oviedo Mall, 1700 Oviedo Marketplace Blvd., on Saturday, March 23, from noon to 6 p.m. Please visit [foodtruckwars.com](http://foodtruckwars.com) for more information, or email [info@foodtruckwars.com](mailto:info@foodtruckwars.com)

Saturday, March 23, is the **Annual Founders Day** at the Rural Heritage Center, 101 E. Main St. in Geneva, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Founders Day is an exciting event for the entire family, and a great way to spend your Saturday in the country while experiencing local history with a modern spin. Call 407-792-0758 or email [RuralHeritageCenter@gmail.com](mailto:RuralHeritageCenter@gmail.com) for more information.

Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is **Kids' Fun Day** at the Lake Mary Historical Museum. Kids can create Easter cards and crafts for only \$2. Reservations are needed. Call 407-585-1481 or email [info@lake-maryhistory.org](mailto:info@lake-maryhistory.org)

On Saturday, March 23, there is an **Owl Class** at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center on County Road 426 in Geneva from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per person. Join the Seminole County Natural Lands Program to learn about owls, the silent hunters of the night! Dissect your own owl pellet and hike to listen for owls. The event is open to ages 7 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required by calling 407-349-0959.

## MARCH 27

A **Shrinky Dinks** craft program for middle-school and high-school students will help teens turn their favorite super hero into a charm for key chains, jewelry and more. The class is free, but registration is required. Event begins on Wednesday, March 27, at 3 p.m. at the Central Branch Library, 215 N. Oxford Road in Casselberry. For more information and to register, call 407-665-1500.

## ONGOING

In celebration of Seminole County's 100th Birthday, Historic Seminole is issuing a **passport to history!** Pick up your passport and visit Historic Seminole spots on Centennial Saturdays, running through April 13. For general questions about Centennial Saturdays, contact Ashley Wilt at 407-936-1679 or email [ashley.wilt@ucf.edu](mailto:ashley.wilt@ucf.edu). For more information, visit [historicseminole.org](http://historicseminole.org)

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

# STRING | Broken instruments had been going to waste, so she started fixing them

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Erica knew she had to find a way to help bring music to more children who wanted it.

## String Together

So Erica started String Together, a non-profit that raises funds to repair string instruments for schools in Central Florida, which Muni Strings does for her at a very low cost to keep it free for the school. The non-profit, which the Trinity Prep junior started when she was in ninth grade, also supports her music enrichment program at Jones High School in Orlando, where she teaches violin classes for an hour almost every Friday afternoon and pays for the teacher to attend. She was recently named a distinguished finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a national contest for community service, for her work with String Together.

Erica has raised more than \$4,000 for String Together, and has repaired more than a dozen instruments and donated four in-

struments and many accessories. She's received heartwarming letters from the schools she helped, saying that without her, a student wouldn't have been able to play in a special concert coming up, or at all. At many schools, funds are used to buy the students the instruments because they can't, but there are no funds to ever keep them up or repair them, Muni said. Some children are playing on steel violin and cello strings from the 1990s, which can be pretty painful if they're breaking. But they do it because they love music.

"Kids want to play instruments, but they don't have the resources," Erica said. "They want to learn."

For Muni, this is personal, too.

When he was learning to play violin at age 10, his instrument wasn't set up correctly, and he nearly quit from all the problems it gave him. A simple switch with his teacher and he was playing like nothing

*"I want to share with people who haven't been able to get the experiences that I've gotten," Erica said. "I'm always the student, so it's fun to be able to share what you know with the students."*

— Erica Chemtob

could hold him back. He knows the importance of a good instrument, and without that moment his life would've been totally different. That's why it's essential to him to give back, regardless of the cost.

"We're into helping out people and

bridging the gap between desire and means," Muni said.

## Jones program

While Erica loves working with Muni and hearing about how the new instruments make music programs better, what she loves most about String Together is her music enrichment program at Jones High School. She works on the students' scales and music from their class and a little on technique about once a week.

"I want to share with people who haven't been able to get the experiences that I've gotten," Erica said. "I'm always the student, so it's fun to be able to share what you know with the students."

And Erica has learned a lot from interacting with the Jones students. She discovered that regardless of life experience, music still feels the same.

"Music really transcends people's culture, people's background," Candace said.



PHOTO BY BRITTON JOHNSON — THE VOICE

They're eager to learn, but it's not always easy for every student to come. Sometimes the whole class of 10 to 12 will show up, sometimes it's just three or four. But there's a certain three or four who always come, because they can't wait to take advantage of the opportunity, and to fulfill their love for music.

"There's power behind the music," Erica said. "They're just starting to learn that ... maybe music has something behind it other than the notes that you play."

For more information about the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, visit [spirit.prudential.com](http://spirit.prudential.com)

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# Calendar

## MARCH 22

On the fourth Friday of each month, March 22 this month, multiple venues in Sanford's downtown historic district showcase local talent along with opportunities to meet visiting artists for the **Sanford Art Walk**. The event is free and runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Visit [sanfordartwalk.com](http://sanfordartwalk.com)

The SSC Planetarium presents **"Who's Who? Women in Astronomy"** from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 22. The show features the study of stellar spectra, the science of measuring the luminosity of stars, and the modern cataloging of the night sky, all of which were pioneered by female astronomers. "Who's Who? Women in Astronomy" explores the contributions and discoveries of Caroline Herschel, Dorrit Hoffleit, Antonia Maury and Henrietta Swan Leavitt. For more information and a schedule, please visit [seminolestate.edu/planet](http://seminolestate.edu/planet), or call 407-708-2360.

## MARCH 23

The second annual **English Symposium: Consuming Objects** conference will be held Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in UCF's Colbourn Hall Graduate Student Center, Suite 146. The event is free and open to the public. Visit [cah.ucf.edu/events.php](http://cah.ucf.edu/events.php)

## MARCH 25

The **Artistic Hand** is featuring new classes for adults starting the week of March 25 in **Silver Clay, Glass & Tile Mosaics**.

## MARCH 26

Seminole State College of Florida's Tuesday Voices, an **open-mic poetry reading series**, continues its season on Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus Multipurpose Room (building C). This event is free and open to the public, and everyone in attendance is invited to read an original poem or a favorite poem by another author. Tuesday Voices is sponsored by the Seminole State College English Department and the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Association of Florida Inc. For more information, please contact Webb C. Harris Jr. at 407-708-2691 or by email at [harrisw@seminolestate.edu](mailto:harrisw@seminolestate.edu)

## MARCH 27

The UCF Health Services Administration Alumni Chapter is hosting the ninth annual **State of Health Care** in Central Florida Symposium on Wednesday, March 27, from 5:50 to 8 p.m. at the UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center. This year's event will concentrate on the changing needs of hospitals and practices due to new health care regulations resulting from the Affordable Care Act. Advance registration is required and guests can register at [ucfknightnetwork.com/symposium](http://ucfknightnetwork.com/symposium). For more information, please call 407-823-3525 or email [healthservices@ucfalumni.com](mailto:healthservices@ucfalumni.com)

## MARCH 29

Community Education & Resource Affiliation (CERA) is holding its annual **Senior Expo** at the city of Casseberry Recreation Center on Friday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited to attend this free event. Come visit the vendors and learn about programs and services available to seniors. For more information, contact Betty Teagle at [bteagle@casseberry.org](mailto:bteagle@casseberry.org) or 407-262-7700, ext. 1575.

## ONGOING

**Farmers Market** at Oviedo YMCA is every Wednesday at the Oviedo YMCA, 7900 Red Bug Lake Road, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until all the vegetables, fruits and other great items are gone. For more information contact Kim Lett at [klett@cfymca.org](mailto:klett@cfymca.org)

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

Tijuana Flats offers **live entertainment** on the patio at three neighborhood locations (Winter Springs, Avalon Park and Oviedo) from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday nights. Visit the locations on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

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

# TASTE OF OVIEDO



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE  
Oviedo gave visitors their fill at the 19th annual Taste of Oviedo on March 9. Megan Katarina, left, performs for the crowd.

## Put Your Tax Refund to Work

Not everyone gets one, but it's always a welcome sight — a tax refund. If you receive a refund this year, how can you best put it to work?

The answer depends, to a large extent, on the size of your refund. In 2012, the average tax refund was about \$3,000, according to the IRS. Let's look at a few possibilities for how you might use this amount:

- **Help fund your IRA** — In 2013, you can now put in up to \$5,500 per year (up from \$5,000 in 2012) to a traditional or Roth IRA. And if you're 50 or older, you can put in an additional \$1,000 per year above the new contribution limit. Consequently, your \$3,000 refund could cover more than half of your maximum IRA contributions, or slightly less than half if you're 50 or older. And if you don't think that \$3,000 would make much of a difference, consider this: If you invested the \$3,000 in an IRA that earned a hypothetical 7 percent annual return, and you never put in another dime, you'd end up with nearly \$23,000 after 30 years. And if you put in that same \$3,000 per year to your IRA — well below the maximum — every year for 30 years, earning that same 7 percent annual return, you'd accumulate more than \$303,000. (Keep in mind that you'd eventually be taxed on your traditional IRA earnings; Roth IRA earnings grow tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.)

- **Pay off some debts** — In the last few years, Americans have done a pretty good job of lowering their individual debt loads, according to the Federal Reserve. But if you still have some outstanding loans or a credit card balance that carries a high interest rate, you might want to consider applying your tax re-

fund to these debts. The lower your monthly debt payments, the better your cash flow — and the more money you'll have available to invest for your future.

- **Help build an emergency fund** — Life is full of unexpected events. If you need to purchase a new air conditioner or pay for an expensive car repair or incur a hospital bill, will you have the money available? If you don't, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other investments. This move could result in taxes and fees; more importantly, it will reduce the financial resources you're counting on to help meet your long-term goals. You can help avoid this problem by building an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your tax refund could give you a nice start to this fund.

- **Invest in a 529 plan** — If you have children (or grandchildren) whom you'd like to send to college, you may want to invest in a 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses. (Withdrawals for other purposes will result in taxes and possible penalties.) Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put in significant amounts each year — including a \$3,000 tax refund.

As you can see, you've got some attractive options for using your tax refund — so consider them carefully. If you can apply more resources to your various financial goals, you may find yourself in a better position in the future.

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

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Hurry, voting ends April 10!

# ATHLETICS



**THIS WEEK** in sports history

March 23, 1992 —

The Florida Marlins begin selling season tickets to the general public. The team sold 10,000 tickets on the first day, a figure that has never been matched in subsequent years.

## Knights surging before C-USA play

**ISAAC BABCOCK**  
The Voice

A wild win for the Knights closed out a four-game series on the diamond with a bang against Columbia on Monday. The 5-1 win gave the Knights three of the four games, and the series catapulted their record up to 14-8.

And the Knights owe much of that to pitcher Eric Skoglund, who pitched eight shutout innings to keep the Lions (2-9) out of the scoring box.

Most of the Knights' runs came off of small ball plays and a combination of walks, wild pitches and errors on the part of the Lions. The Knights only needed three hits to score their five runs.

The win added to a big weekend for the Knights, who smashed Columbia by a total run margin of 25-10 in four games.

The Knights were looking to keep up that momentum Wednesday against Jacksonville, on the verge of starting a long streak of Conference USA games in their final season in the conference.

They take off for Birmingham this weekend to face UAB, part of an unusually strong C-USA lineup this season. The Blazers are near the bottom of the conference in overall record, at 9-11. None of the teams have played a conference foe yet.

The Knights will be looking for revenge in their first meeting with UAB since last year's C-USA championships, when UCF lost 15-1 in a mercy rule game that was cut short in the seventh inning. The losing pitcher in that game, Skoglund, may have a shot at redemption in this weekend's three game series, which starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

After that series the Knights will return home to battle old foe Southern Miss in a three game series starting at 6:30 p.m. March 28. The Golden Eagles are 8-11 so far this season. It's been nearly a year since their bizarre series against the Knights last season that opened with a 14-inning scoreless stalemate that the Knights would eventually lose with one swing of the bat. The next two games they throttled the Eagles by a combined score of 23-9.



PHOTO BY SARAH WILSON — THE VOICE

Eric Skoglund threw eight innings of shutout pitching to lead the Knights to a blowout over Columbia Monday.

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**S&P 500® Index**: \$100,000, \$89,861, \$78,141, \$59,882, \$75,679, \$82,486, \$84,961, \$96,532, \$61,477, \$99,939, \$75,896, \$85,597, \$85,595, \$97,069

\* Illustration period: 12-31-1999 through 12-31-2012

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# VOICES



## THIS WEEK in political history

March 24, 1603 —

After 44 years of rule, Queen Elizabeth I of England dies, and King James VI of Scotland ascends to the throne – uniting England and Scotland under a single British monarch. Queen Elizabeth I passed into history as one of England's greatest monarchs.

### EMPLOYMENT

Ask Sandi



## Counseling and your job hunt

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with several very professional women who have great resumes and experience. They each have great potential for any employer, and appear to have all of their ducks in a row.

The issue all of them are facing is depression. Each one of them has issues in their lives and job searches that are holding them back.

They are doing their best to have a positive attitude and move forward in their lives, but they don't seem to be able to do it alone.

One of the ladies has been to a counselor and seems to have a good grasp on her situation; the other ones really need to take the first step to seek professional help.

If you find that you are in a place where the world seems dark and just getting out of bed is difficult for you – if you are hiding from the pain instead of moving forward – it might be time to seek professional help.

Losing a job is a crisis in anyone's life, and you will find yourself going through the normal stages of grief:

Denial: "This can't be happening to me"

Anger: "I can't believe they would do this to me"

Bargaining: "I will do anything"

Depression: "I don't want to do this anymore"

Acceptance: "It will be OK"

If you are having problems moving forward through any of these stages, please reach out for help. There are many qualified counselors in Central Florida who can help you through this difficult time.

### 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. For questions, please call 407-834-4022 (fax 407-260-2949), sandi@christianhelp.org, or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707.



## STETSON'S CORNER

By Karen McEnany-Phillips



## Rodeos and resurrection

Her hands were puffy and a little sore, so she cradled the still warm hard-boiled eggs with care. The spill she had taken from her cutter horse earlier in the day bruised her left hip, so she rested against the kitchen counter to ease the ache.

Easter was a deep-rooted family holiday, and even the effects of that stubborn steer with a bad attitude weren't going to stop her from helping her little sister prepare for the big egg hunt tomorrow afternoon. Although her years of rodeo team sports often found a rope or reins in her hands, the prospect of holding a thin paintbrush topped with pretty pastel colors touched the center of her 15-year-old heart.

### Geneva ranch hosts rodeo

It isn't often we talk about decorating Easter eggs and decorating steers in the same sentence. But this year we do because in our rural area with ranches aplenty, we are blessed to have the third annual Junior Ranch Rodeo sponsored by the Seminole County Cattlemen's Association (SCCA) hosted again at The Yarborough Ranch off Snow Hill Road. This year the rodeo falls on Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter.

From 2 p.m. on, you and your family

will get to watch the young members of the Seminole County Junior Cattlemen's Association show off their skills by competing in events such as team sorting, steer decorating, steer penning, calf branding, steer riding and relay racing. It is truly

a family event, and one that many kids rarely get to see. You'll be close to the corral arena and will be able to admire these teen cowboys and cowgirls and their horses work seamlessly together.

Brig some canned goods for admission and your donation will benefit The Russell Home of Orlando. To learn more about the event, the SCCA and information about the steak dinner (limited tickets), the hot-dog meals and the schedule, go to [seminolecountycattlemen.com](http://seminolecountycattlemen.com)

### Easter in Geneva

Spring is one of the loveliest seasons in Geneva, and this Easter Sunday the community will once again gather before sunrise in the field next to the First Baptist Church to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Start a tradition, bring your family and lawn chairs to take part in this lovely morning with your neighbors.

### Founders, owls & 4th of July

Geneva's annual Founders Day is celebrat-

ing its third anniversary from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday March 23, at the Rural Heritage Center. Enjoy music, youth and adult performances, local produce, barbecue, baked goods, honey, and pie and poster contests. There are still a few booth spots available for arts and crafts (not yard sale items) for \$10. Call 407-792-0758 or email [ruralheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ruralheritagecenter@gmail.com)

Who cooks for you? Later on from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, there will be another Owl Class at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center on County Road 426. Your kids will love it, and they will learn some cool secrets about owl anatomy and behaviors. I have attended this class before and absolutely loved it – including dissecting the owl pellets and an evening hike. Call 407-349-0959 to pre-register. The cost is only \$5 per person.

The next planning meeting for the annual Geneva 4th of July Parade and Festival will be from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, at the Geneva Community Center. There are jobs both small and large for everyone – the more hands that help the less work and more enjoyment for everyone.

### Centennial Farm Tour

On Friday, April 5, celebrate our farming heritage with the 2013 Seminole County Centennial Farm Tour. It is a self-guided tour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. visiting U-pick groves, fruit and vegetable farms, a working cattle ranch, a foliage nursery and a hydroponic vegetable farm. Pre-registration is required by April 3. Call 407-665-5560 to register. See the event brochure online at [tinyurl.com/2013FarmTour](http://tinyurl.com/2013FarmTour)

### TALK TO KAREN

Please share your thoughts about Geneva at 407-221-7002, [karenmphilips@bellsouth.net](mailto:karenmphilips@bellsouth.net) 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.

# HAVE AN OPINION?

We want to hear it!

Send your thoughts (400 words or less) to Managing Editor Isaac Babcock at [ibabcock@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:ibabcock@turnstilemediagroup.com)

## Young Voices

Here's what kids at A Taste of Oviedo said about what they liked about the event, and their preferences between citrus and celery.



We went to some of the bouncy places and we went bungee jumping – it was fun! I'm a gymnast at Lawton Chiles Middle School. I don't really like celery, but I do like orange slices.

—Amanda G. 11 years old



I'm a gymnast and doing bungee jumping here at Taste of Oviedo helped me get better at my skills. They gave us instructions before we bungee jumped. I like orange juice and orange slices.

—Gatiene J. 11 years old



We spun the wheel for free stuff. It has been fun spending time with my family – we ate grilled cheese on cornbread. I like celery sticks with ranch dressing and also orange slices.

—Nikki Z. 11 years old



I've had fun walking around with my friends. I'm in third grade, and I'm coloring bears in a book I got here. Later I will go bungee jumping for the first time. I like celery sticks with peanut butter.

—Sami Z. 8 years old



We've been walking around today and we saw all the classic cars. I liked the Camaro. This blueberry ice is good. We might come back later for the fireworks tonight. I like plain celery sticks and also orange slices.

—Justin C. 12 years old

We would love to hear from your Young Voices!

Call 407-563-7023 or e-mail [ibabcock@turnstilemediagroup.com](mailto:ibabcock@turnstilemediagroup.com) to have The Voice visit your class or group.

# A winner at Trinity: Academy of St. Martin in the Fields

**LOUIS RONEY**  
Guest Writer

On March 16, London's Academy of St. Martin in the Fields performed the finale of the Bach Festival Guest Artist Series at the Trinity Preparatory School Performing Arts Center.

The outstanding oeuvre of the evening was Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1 featuring the world-class playing of cellist Alisa Weilerstein who possesses an awe-inspiring technique and immense passion. Every note of every run and trill was crystal clear in the virtuosic passages. As required of Haydn's style, the grace and beauty of Weilerstein's well-turned nuances was of consistent intensity. She is an artist of great intellect and musical intelligence.

Not to be outdone by Mme. Weilerstein's performance, pianist Inon Barnatan performed the Bach Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor BWV 1052 with the clean precision required of Bach's music. Barnatan delivered a stunning performance and his playing evermore pointed up the differences between the sounds of Bach and

Haydn. Also a prodigious artist, Barnatan is one I look forward to hearing on future programs (with Mme. Weilerstein?)

The orchestra of some 26 virtuoso players opened the activities of the evening with Benjamin Britten's "Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge" Op. 10 – a concoction of interesting musical contrasts. First violin, viola, and cello solo passages contain the opportunity to show individual virtuosity in appropriate realms. (No conductor was present during the entire proceedings.)

The finale was Haydn's Symphony No. 45 in F sharp minor, the "Farewell Symphony," a musical joke that always amuses, as players leave the stage until only two are left – a fitting end for the last Guest Artist Series for this season.

Please allow this commentator a special thank you to Trinity Preparatory School for the use of its acoustically excellent hall – what a lovely place to enjoy music! What a grand thing it is for the Central Florida public that the Bach Festival Guest Artist Series brings exquisite music performed by the world's best performers in well-nigh-perfect surroundings.

# Fiscal cliff health care policy fix: good for rural patients and taxpayers

**GRACE BOATRIGHT**  
Guest Writer

Rarely do federal lawmakers come upon a policy that can expand access to critical health care services and simultaneously save taxpayers money.

But according to a new report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a tweak in the way Medicare pays for certain kidney disease drugs could do just that – preserving the availability of crucial treatments to rural patients and saving the program billions.

At issue is Medicare's handling of a few "oral-only" dialysis medications designed for end-stage renal disease, the most severe version of chronic kidney disease.

In 2011, Medicare switched to a payment system that reimbursed for all dialysis-related treatments in one "bundled" rate. Instead of paying prevailing market prices, the government opted to compensate health care providers according to a formula.

But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the government agency that oversees the program – decided to exempt certain oral dialysis medications from the bundle through 2014. January's fiscal cliff deal extended the exemption through 2016.

Instead, those drugs will continue to be dispensed by local pharmacies through Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit.

That's the right call. Setting appropriate compensation is a particularly time-consuming and complicated task. It requires a remarkable volume of medical data. If officials had simply thrown the oral dialysis treatment into the price-control bundle, they almost certainly would have set compensation too low.

Indeed, the Government Accountability Office explicitly warned of "a potential underestimate of the total cost" and said that there were still "questions about payment adequacy beginning in 2014."

If policymakers had proceeded with bundling the oral dialysis medications, patients could have lost access to them.

Health care providers serving the Medicare population would have started losing money when dispensing these drugs. Many would have been forced to stop offering them – leaving patients in the lurch.

Patients suffering from end-stage renal failure are some of the most vulnerable in the entire Medicare population. They typically require at least three rounds of treatment every week. Even minor disruptions to their health care regimens can lead to serious deterioration of their already fragile condition.

Those in rural areas would have been hit particularly hard. Many communities outside urban centers depend on just one or two health clinics to meet their medical needs. A single clinic may serve patients coming from 50 miles away or more. These clinics typically run on very thin profit margins and depend heavily on Medicare payments to stay afloat.

Aware of the potential adverse consequences in rural communities, legislators responded by maintaining these oral medicines under the Part D prescription drug benefit. This move helped to maintain the viability of small clinics servicing rural communities.

This was good for patient access but, according to the government budget accountants, also good for the Medicare program and taxpayers because it saves money. The CBO projects that extending the exemption through 2018 would save taxpayers approximately \$1.3 billion.

Senators Max Baucus, D-Montana, and Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, played particularly important roles in marshaling support for the extension of the exemption through 2016, as part of the fiscal cliff deal earlier this year. They should be commended for championing the interests of rural Americans.

Because Congress acted in the best interests of rural patients, Medicare enrollees suffering from renal disease can now rest assured that they will retain access to treatments they need.

Grace Boatright is the legislative director for the National Grange, an organization that advocates for rural America.

# Preschool premise

**DANIEL WARD**  
Guest Writer

During last month's State of the Union address, the president made it very clear that he wanted to "work with states" to expand preschool across the nation:

*"I propose working with states to make high-quality preschool available to every child in America. Every dollar we invest in high-quality early education can save more than seven dollars later on by boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, even reducing violent crime."*

The president is proposing to work with Congress to provide all low- and moderate-income 4-year-old children with high-quality preschool, while expanding such programs to reach hundreds of thousands of middle-class children, and incentivizing full-day kindergarten policies. On the surface, such a proposal seems like a great idea, and there is plenty of research to support the premise that access to preschool leads to more successful educational outcomes – especially amongst lower-income groups where quality childcare may be lacking. Those likely to most benefit are children from homes in which languages other than English are spoken.

However, there is also considerable evidence suggesting that the style of preschool is of the utmost importance. Evidence from European studies suggests that lowering the age of school entrance to four years of age results in no tangible educational benefit and may even be detrimental to children's progress. So, we should be careful to ensure that preschool is not just an extension of regular school.

For many years, the U.K. has expected children to start school at an earlier age than other countries. Supporters of early school entry argue that young children are capable of learning the more formal skills inherent in the school curriculum, and that starting school early enables children to get a head start in learning. In addition, it is argued that an early start provides an opportunity for children from less-advantaged backgrounds to make up the

deficit in their academic skills (this is one of the most frequently-cited arguments for starting schooling early).

On the other hand, concerns have been raised about the appropriateness of a school environment for young children. Do teaching reading, writing, and math early result in any long-term advantage? Is there a danger that young children will miss out on other important experiences or even be damaged by an early start?

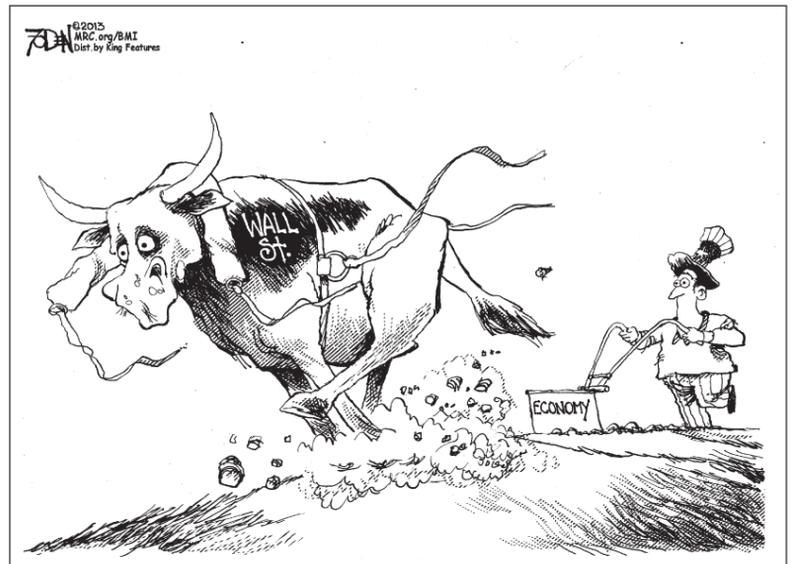
Worryingly, the White House released a blueprint after the speech that included the following justification for the plan, "Education and job training are critical to strengthening the middle class and preparing our kids to compete in the global economy. The president's plan provides high-quality preschool for every child and teaches high school graduates the real world skills they need to find a job today." With the current focus on educational standardization and measurement, preschool needs to retain its flexibility and not become part of the school production line.

There is a growing consensus among psychologists and neuroscientists that children learn best when allowed to explore their environments through play. However, preschools are increasingly turning away from play-based learning to lectures and testing. Placing such emphasis on academic achievement so early in life may not help young brains develop, and it might even impede successful learning later on.

Preschool should be based upon curiosity, play, and communication, which make it the ideal environment in which to introduce music, art and other languages. Absorption through listening is natural for young children, so there is no better time for them to acquire the cognitive and other benefits of a second language than at preschool. Pressure-free, subsidized, bilingual preschools would enable the next generation to better integrate, blossom and expand their horizons.

Daniel Ward is the editor of Language Magazine. Visit [languagemagazine.com](http://languagemagazine.com)

## EDITORIAL CARTOONS



"Appearing on three Sunday morning talk shows, Jeb Bush kicked off a nationwide tour to deny he's running for president..."

