

# THE SEMINOLE HERALD

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Sanford, Florida

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MIDWEEK

DECEMBER 31, 2003



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Wayne Ivey of Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Sanford Police Investigator Sean Arthur (right) detail Jeffrey G. Rothschild's arrest during a press conference.

## Police solve infant slaying

By Christopher Patton  
Managing Editor

SANFORD — Two down and about two dozen to go.

The Sanford police cold case homicide squad, in partnership with Florida Department of Law Enforcement, announced Monday it had scratched another unsolved murder off its list of 27 cold cases with the arrest of Jeffrey G. Rothschild. It is the second cold homicide case the squad has made arrests in since

its inception this year.

Rothschild, 35, was arrested this past weekend by officers of the West Springfield Police Department in Massachusetts for the July 30, 1997, Sanford murder of five-week-old Jessie Laker. A warrant issued by the Seminole-Brevard State Attorney's Office charged Rothschild with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse of his twin child.

Sanford police responded to 1905-A Park Ave., Sanford,

when the death of Jessie was reported as suspicious. The medical examiner's office ruled he had died as the result of severe head trauma that included cerebral hemorrhage, optic nerve hemorrhage and skull fracture. According to authorities, Jessie was suffering from colic — an acute abdominal pain that can cause frequent crying.

"Anytime you have a baby case it's usually just two people

See Murder, Page 18

## Tournament Tough

Seminole County high school basketball teams having been doing very well against top-flight competition in tournaments over the past week.

See Sports, Page 8



The Herald's annual listing of top stories in 2003 and pictures in review in time for the New Year

See Pages 7-10

## Holiday Happenings

With the end of December, comes the close of all the Santa sightings and yuletide parties. Meals on Wheels volunteers (top and bottom right) celebrated the holiday season with a gathering in Longwood. Kiwanis Club of Sanford members (right) Walt Smith, James Wilkes and H.A. Allen (not pictured) helped provide gifts to Hamilton Elementary Head Start students. Head Start students at Pinecrest Elementary also received gifts from staff (below) at Masters Chiropractic in Lake Mary.



## Seminole firefighters help save buried man

By Christopher Patton  
Managing Editor

If there is someone trapped in a heap of dirt and sand somewhere in Central Florida expect Seminole County firefighters to be on the scene.

For the second time in less than four months, the Seminole County Special Hazards and Operations Team has rescued a man from being buried alive.

Joel Testerman, 21, of Clermont could thank all his rescuers — including about 15 Seminole County firefighters — when he was pulled from a 12-foot tunnel he dug in soft sugar sand at about 8 p.m. in Lake County Monday. The team of experienced Seminole County firefighters also helped rescue city of Sanford public works employee Kelly Gibson from a collapsing hole on Aug. 5.

"We've had a whole lot of experience and classes with it," explained Chris Johnson, Seminole County Fire Department operations chief. "We've been on sinkholes to trenches, but this actually was a tunnel. They're all very similar and the more you do, you can pick up on things that make it easier to do."

The Seminole County team of firefighters responded to the Minnsola's Trailhead Park in southeast Lake County at about 4 p.m. The rescue took nearly four hours, said Johnson, who was operations chief for the rescue.

Clermont and Lake County fire departments requested Seminole County's assistance, Johnson said, because of their expertise and the

See Trapped, Page 16

## Pack of dogs kill zoo animals

On Sunday, Dec. 28, just before sunrise, a pack of four to six dogs attacked and killed three domestic goats and six chickens at the Central Florida Zoological Park.

The dogs galloped across through the perimeter fence surrounding the zoo and chewed a bottom section of wood fence to reach the goats and chickens. Security was able to chase the dogs away, preventing further incident.

According to zoo officials, this is the first time in the zoo's 28-year history that this has occurred.

To prevent future occurrences, the zoo has increased the number of patrols security makes and is working with Seminole County Animal Services to capture the dogs.

## Seminole Smile



Rich Besser — Activity Director at Heritage Woods in Lake Mary

## Iraqi Diary: Christmas Eve brings return flight to Iraq

Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Charlie C. Carlson III, son of Sanford historian Charlie C. Carlson II, is deployed in Baghdad as part of the 549th Military Police Company. He is providing the Herald with a journal of his experiences.

27 Dec. 2003 I made it to Kuwait, and I'm stuck here until I can get a hop on a C-130 heading up to Baghdad.

Things are pretty bad in Iraq right now. With the flights supporting the earthquake relief efforts in Iran, there is limited passenger space on aircraft going into Baghdad.

Kuwait is safe and I managed to use a computer in one of their computer cafes at this base, so I hope this gets to you. The living conditions in Kuwait for the troops are real nice and there's no threat factor here. I wish I could stay in Kuwait.

I heard from a sergeant from the 2nd Cav who was on leave here, that my unit in Baghdad spent Christmas

day very busy because of increased action in Baghdad, but that is all I know about them until I can get up there. Even Southern Iraq has been hit hard by insurgents. It seems weird that only a week ago I was in Sanford talking with folks about my soldiers and thanking them for the care packages. Now I'm on the other side of the world in a totally different situation.

I left Savannah at 1610 hrs Christmas Eve. It was hard to look back at my wife and two little boys waving at me. You should try that some time. It ain't easy to do. It is as hard to do as putting up with combat. I kept reminding myself that it all goes right. I should be out of Iraq by March, unless Donald Rumsfeld changes our redeployment date for the ninth time.



Carlson

As we came into Baltimore, I looked down at Washington, D.C. and wondered how it felt to be a politician down there at home with their families enjoying a safe Christmas and attending parties and all that. I tried not to dwell on

that because it only infuriated me. Besides, I am doing something that none of them ever had the guts to do. It's amazing how so few can mess up the lives of so many.

I made it up to Baltimore airport about 1845 hrs and signed in off leave before going to the USO club in the airport. I wasn't the only soldier there. They were coming in from all over the country for their return flight to the Middle East. Three did not show up for the return trip, which is an ongoing

See Diary, Page 4

## Tech Bridge presents awards to students

By Marva Hawkins  
Herald Correspondent

Tech Bridge is preparing America's youth for the world. A celebration of achievements was observed recently in honor of the students attending Sanford's Tech Bridge.

Project Manager Gwen Young extended words of welcome to the guests, parents and well wishers. She gave the occasion for which we were all in attendance to witness.

Ron Gross, Southeastern region manager, acknowledged the staff and Ron Graham, Rob Davidson and Shawn Ellison.

Tanisha Mitchell Crawford of the 2002 class of Tech Bridge gave a brief testimony of the success by attending and graduating from Tech Bridge.

Sheryl Washington presented the keynote speaker of the evening, Kenneth Moore, a graduate of Bethune-Cookman

College, with great experience in the work world, as a radio announcer at WORL, WOKB, Orlando, and Channel 35 Fox Television in Lake Mary. He is currently employed as supervisor of event technology. Moore encouraged the graduates to be



winner, be the best of whatever they can be, always work toward whatever you aspire to become. He congratulated the achievers on the opportunity and success they are celebrating.

The awards of recognition were presented by the staff.

Sammie Edwards presented the Progress, Computer Assembly, Windows 98 awards. Sheryl Jones presented the Work Readiness Award and the Completion of Program Award.

The 2003 award achievers were Tonya Morales, Reggie Mitchell, Willie Stringer, Laura

See Tech Bridges, Page 3

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# SEMINOLE SUMMARY

A GLANCE AROUND OUR COUNTY

## Relay for Life comes to Geneva

It seems as though as I've gone out shopping this past month, I have made more than the usual stops at the sympathy card section of the stores. These deaths among those we know and love have come to pass within the month of December — far too many for one holiday season. And while each of these situations and individuals was uniquely different from the others, they all had one thing in common: each died of cancer. I'm guessing that everyone who reads this column knows someone affected by this disease as well, so I thought that perhaps this would be a good week to share information about an upcoming event in the Geneva area that will help to make a difference in the ongoing battle many face with cancer and its ravaging effects.



Darla Kinney Scoles

Beginning at 6 p.m. on April 17 the Geneva Relay For Life will kick off and continue until 1 p.m. the next day, with teams participating continuously throughout the entire event, which will take place at the Geneva Elementary School.

A recent letter from the school administration to parents and community friends reads:

"Geneva Elementary School has the honor of being selected as the site host for The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Relay For Life is a unique and rewarding event that allows participants from all walks of life an opportunity to join together in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life reminds us that progress has been made in the fight against cancer, and that everyone who participates is making a difference. There are two important components that make up Relay For Life. First, it is an opportunity for the community to raise money for cancer research and education — two of our greatest weapons against the disease. Second, it is a chance to tell the community about the numerous programs and services the American Cancer Society provides locally to cancer patients and their families. Relay For Life will transform our campus atmosphere to an overnight celebration of joy and remembrance.

Relay For Life is a family-oriented team event where participants can walk or run on a track relay-style for 18-24 hours. The teams consist of individuals representing corporations, clubs, organizations, neighborhoods, and families. Team members seek sponsors to fund their participation in this event. Participants camp out around the track, and when they aren't taking their turn walking, they take part in other fun activities. It is a time to celebrate cancer survivors and remember those that have lost their battle to cancer.

The Geneva Elementary School 'family' invites and encourages our student families, business partners, district office, area clubs, local churches, and neighbors to be a part of this community event. The statistics are the reality behind Relay For Life. One in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Sooner or later, everyone is affected by this disease in one form or another. Today, more than half of cancer patients survive. Relay For Life gives everyone the opportunity to fight back... to make a difference in the battle against cancer.

Please consider joining Geneva Elementary School in taking part in this exciting team relay event. The Geneva Relay For Life will be held April 16 and 17, 2004. There are team captain meetings to learn more about the event and help teams become better organized. For more information, please contact Nicole Zipse at The American Cancer Society at 407-843-8680 (ext. 525).

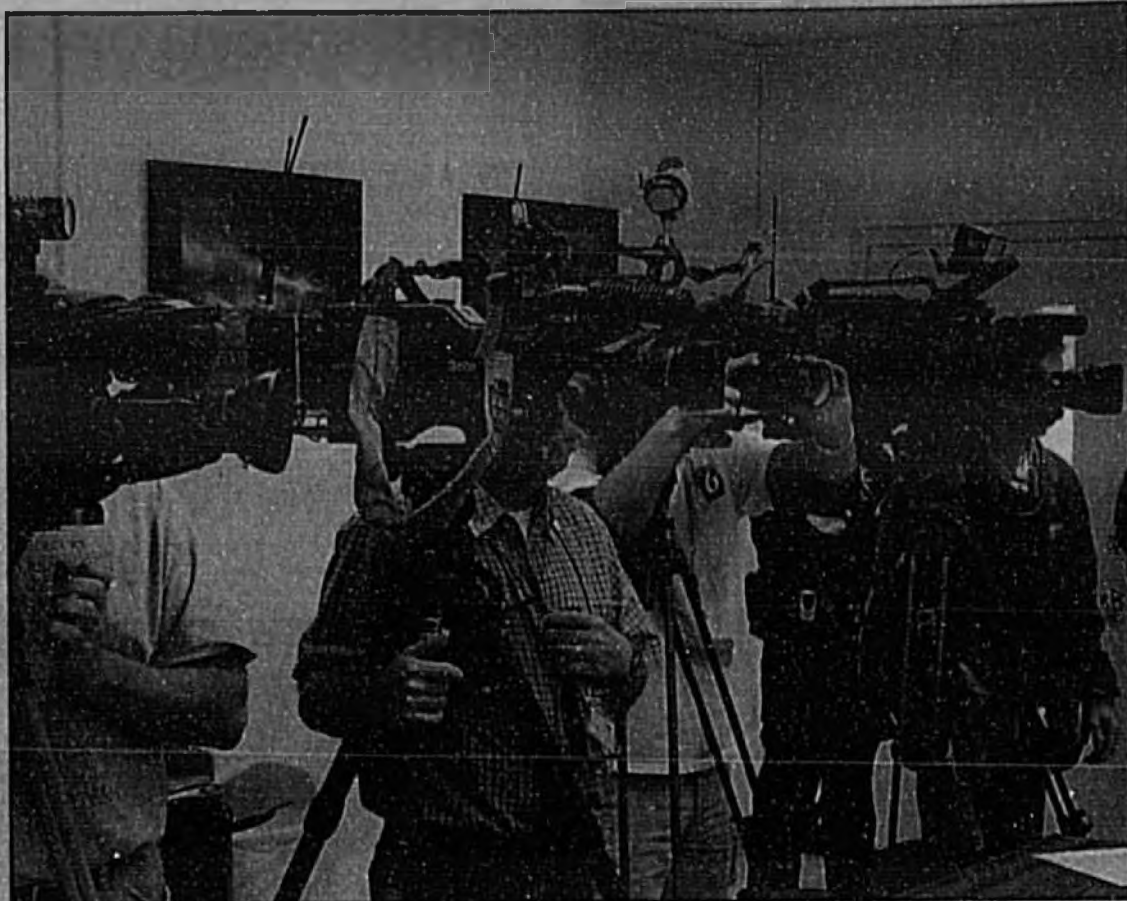
## Public servant spotlight

Name: Jane McLaughlin  
Professional title: Police Officer

Department: Sanford Police Department  
Years on the job: four  
Born: Jacksonville  
Resident of: Sanford  
Schools attended: University of Central Florida  
Degrees earned: Bachelor's degree  
Training: School

resource officer, DARE  
Hobbies: Computer games  
Why did you choose your current profession: I wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

## Lights, camera, action



These news photographers are ready for 'lights, camera and action' as they prepare to capture images for local news casts. This photograph was taken at the Sanford Police Department during a recent news conference.

### Attempted robbery

Anthony O'Neil Dixon, 19 of Hartwell Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Thursday at a retail store in the 1900 block of French Avenue. He reportedly attempted to conduct a robbery. He was arrested on charges of attempted robbery with a firearm, committing a second degree felony wearing a mask, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and carrying a concealed weapon (firearm).

### Battery cases

• Anthony Dornell Charles, 21, and Victoria Lora Perry, 19, both of West 15th Street, Sanford, were arrested by Sanford police Thursday at their residence, following an altercation between the two during which police said they battered each other with a stick. Each was arrested on a charge of battery-touch or strike (domestic).

• Leroy Williams, 75, of West Third Street, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Thursday at a residence on West 13th Street, where he was reportedly involved in an altercation with a female. He was charged with battery-causing bodily harm (domestic violence).

• Evonda Dortija Johnson, 33, of Georgia Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at her residence Thursday where she is said to have been involved in a dispute with a male. She was charged with battery-causing bodily harm (domestic violence).

• Jacques Lamarr Oliver, 30, of Wyndham Crest Boulevard, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence Friday. He was said to have been involved in an altercation with a female. He was charged with aggravated battery-causing bodily harm (domestic), and giving a false identification to a law enforcement officer.

• Tonja Hunt, 32, of Groveswood Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Saturday at her residence. She was said to have been involved in a fight with a male. She was arrested on a charge of battery-causing bodily harm (domestic violence).

• Jeff Richard Simons, 37, of Northlake Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police at his residence last Wednesday as the result of a dispute with a female. He was



arrested on a charge of simple assault-with an intent to do violence (domestic).

• Ricky A. Johnson, 44, of Valencia Street, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police last Tuesday at his residence following a dispute with his sister. He was arrested on a charge of battery-touch or strike (domestic violence).

• John Robert Powell, 36, of Mellonville Avenue, Sanford, was arrested at his residence by Sanford police Thursday. He reportedly was involved in an altercation with his wife. He was charged with battery-touch or strike (domestic).

• Lorry L. Gonzalez, 30, of the Bronx, N.Y., was arrested by Sanford police last Wednesday on Towne Center Circle in Sanford. She was said to have been involved in a dispute with another woman in a retail establishment. She was arrested on a charge of battery-touch or strike.

• Luis Antonio-Rivera Alejandro, 34, of Douglas Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Friday at his residence. Police said he attempted to remove a wallet from the pocket of a sleeping man. He was arrested on a charge of simple battery-touch or strike, and petty larceny.

• Melkis Almetica, 28, of Hidden Lake Drive, Sanford, was arrested at her residence by Sanford police Friday following a struggle with a man. She was charged with battery-touch or strike.

• Shauna Jura, 26, of Palmetto Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at her residence following a dispute with a man. She was charged with battery-touch or strike, domestic.

• Fabian Rivera, 18, of Hartwell Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by police Sunday as the result of an altercation on East Airport Boulevard. He was charged with battery-touch or strike, domestic.

• Timeja Latanya Davis-Collins, 25, of Oleander Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Sunday at her residence. Police said she attacked a man with a knife. She was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and battery-causing bodily harm (domestic).

### Thefts

• James Edward Bennett, 22, of Rollins Street, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Friday on Airline Avenue. The vehicle had reportedly been stolen from a dealership, but had the tires flattened when he drove out of the lot over security spikes. He was charged with vehicle theft, driving with a suspended license, and property damage-criminal mischief of \$1,000 or more.

• Rosa Shante Harkness, 27, of Petunia Terrace, Sanford, was arrested by police last Wednesday at a retail store in the 3600 block of Orlando Drive. Officers said she attempted to take two items of clothing from a store without paying. She was charged with petty shoplifting from a merchant.

Jecara Renee Lane, 20, of Church Street, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police last Wednesday at a store in the 300 block of Towne Center Circle. She reportedly removed \$270 in merchandise from a store without paying. She was charged with petty shoplifting from a merchant.

• Mary Francis Gooden, 46, of DeLand, was arrested by Sanford police at a store in the 3600 block of Orlando Drive last Wednesday. She was said to have taken \$13 in merchandise from a store without paying. She was charged with petty shoplifting from a merchant.

• Michael William Cull, 31, of Wilson Place Drive, Sanford, was arrested by police at a store in the 3700 block of Orlando Drive on Friday. Officers said he took a \$90 drill from the store without paying. He was charged with petty shoplifting from a merchant and resisting property recovery from a merchant.

### Traffic stops

Raymond L. Williams, 33, of Wyndham Crest Drive, Sanford, was stopped by Sanford police last Tuesday in the 2500 block of French Avenue. He was charged with driving while his license was suspended.

## OUT & ABOUT

### TUES 30

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Florida Trail Association friends at the Doe Lake Campground located on Forest Road 573 in the Ocala National Forest in the 20th Annual Central Florida Chapter New Year's Eve campout. Arrive anytime on Tuesday, Dec. 30, and leave on Thursday, Jan. 1. Hiking, biking and canoeing activities are planned, including a Silver River or Juniper Springs canoe trip on New Year's Day. The group will have Stone Soup on Tuesday and a New Year's Eve potluck dinner on Wednesday. They will see in the New Year with a campfire and a traditional canoe cushion count-down. Maps and details available on the PTA Web site at [www.florida-trail.org](http://www.florida-trail.org).

### MON 5

Starting the week of Jan. 5, winter term art classes begin at the Maitland Art Center for adults and children. Adult classes meet once a week for nine weeks. Children's classes meet once a week for six weeks. Classes are in various art disciplines for beginner through advanced. For more information, call 407-539-2181.

The Sanford Woman's Club will hold its monthly board meeting at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse.

### WED 7

The Community Methodist Church, located on South U.S. Highway 17-92 in Casselberry, is offering classes for the general public. "Along the Virtuous Way," a parenting class, will meet weekly on Wednesdays for 18 weeks beginning Jan. 7. "Parenting Your Parent" will meet weekly on Wednesdays from Jan. 7 to Feb. 18. "Golden Years," a program for people age 55 and older, will consist of a luncheon and speaker on Jan. 21. A women's retreat will be held on Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beth Moore Women's Bible Study, "A Heart Like His," will meet on Mondays beginning Jan. 12 and going until March 22. For more information, call 407-831-3777.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Community Law Enforcement Academy 14-week course begins. Openings are still available for the program that is designed to educate citizens about the inner workings of the sheriff's office. Participants meet once a week, usually on Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Items covered during the course include neighborhood policing, patrol and special operations, Internet strategies, Felon registration and sex offender/sexual predator tracking, major crimes investigations, undercover narcotics operations, domestic security and much more.

The course also includes a hands-on demonstration at the firing range, a ride-along with a deputy sheriff and a ride on one of the many lakes or rivers in a sheriff's office airboat.

To be eligible participants must live or work in Seminole County, be at least 19 years old, have a valid Florida driver's license, never have been convicted of a felony and file an application with the sheriff's office.

For more information or to register, call Pete Robinson at 407-665-6741 or register online at [www.seminolasheriff.org](http://www.seminolasheriff.org).

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**Tech Bridge**

Continued from Page 1



Herald photo by Marva Hawkins

Award winners of Sanford's Tech Bridge program received a computer they were taught to build.

Mitchell, Robert Drizan, Jason Cox, Erick Cox, Shawn Harris, Erick Jackson. These students met the goals required to prepare them for a job. Each youth received the computer they were taught to build. The contractors of the Tech Bridge program in Seminole and Osceola are Henkels and McCoy, Inc., with the program funded in whole by Workforce Central Florida. Other programs are located in DeLand, Kissimmee and Bartow. The Sanford Tech Bridge classes are held at First Shiloh Baptist Church.

**Cemetery board for 2003 meets**

By Marva Hawkins  
Herald Correspondent

The Altamonte and Fern Park Community Cemetery, Inc. Executive Board hosted their fifth annual community meeting for the 2003 board recently.

Altamonte and Fern Park have put forth a great community effort of improvement to the cemetery of historic African-American origin.

The meeting was attended by community residents who received information regarding the many improvements that have been made under the direction of the new board members. The project will continue with various phases following in a priority order.

Highlighting the annual meeting were words of history and information on the site of the African-American burial ground.

Altamonte native hometown, Congressman Alcee Hastings shared the words of wisdom about the community's history on how the cemetery was obtained. Hastings pledged his financial

and whatever support is needed to give as much dignity to the burial grounds of the family members.

The members of the board and community were hon-

ored for their dedication and community service to all individuals who have contributed greatly to the mission, said Board Chairman Alton Williams.



Herald photo by Marva Hawkins

The Altamonte and Fern Park Community Cemetery, Inc. Executive Board (left to right) are Cora Snead, Bertha Smith, Congressman Alcee Hastings and board chairman Alton Williams.

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**Happy New Year Seminole County**  
from **The Seminole Herald**

Diary

Continued from Page 1

problem, but I can't really blame them. Maybe they are smarter than the rest of us. The choices are not pleasant: either return to face the risk of being shot or blown up in combat, or stay home and face court martial and jail time. I'll take my chances with the war, but I don't have to agree with it. Besides I need to be with my soldiers until I can get them all back home in one piece.

It was a long, tiring delay in Baltimore waiting to load the plane for overseas. I talked with one young 18-year-old private while waiting in Baltimore. He had been on leave following basic training and was headed for his first assignment with the 101st Airborne Division. He had a lot of questions to ask me about Iraq and combat. I could tell he was hiding his fear and uncertainty about what was ahead for him. I could tell it by the questions he asked. This was not only his first war but the first time he had ever been out of the country.

He had an 11B MOS (military occupational specialty for an infantryman) which is certainly not the safest job, but I didn't tell him that because I figured he already knew. I tried to give him a little encouragement and told him not to pay any attention to the TV news, just make his own judgment when he got there and that he would adjust to things pretty quick. He told me about his family back in Kentucky. They live near the Mammoth Cave National Park and we talked about that. He wasn't even sure about where Iraq was located. He thought it was next to Egypt. That really is not unusual. I have run across many young troops who are not sure where Iraq is on the world map or even why we are there, except for what they've been told or heard on the news.

I met another soldier returning to Iraq. He was 21, a PFC (private 1st class) from the 4th Infantry Division. He had been home on emergency leave because his

mother passed away. I think he was from Lawrence, Ind. He said he thought seriously of just staying home but knew he would get in trouble.

There was a big difference in the spirits of these returning soldiers compared to when we all first arrived. When we arrived from overseas for leave, everybody was happy, feeling good, and talking. This time we were very quiet, mostly talking among themselves, watching the news on the television to see if our units were involved in the latest attacks on U. S. forces. The faces were blank, almost like zombies. Some were going back to face another six months of the war.

One female SPC (Specialist) I had remembered seeing on our flight to the states. She is a supply clerk with the 101st and had spent her leave at home in Kansas. She had to leave her 2-year-old daughter behind with her mother. I told her

that I had two boys and one of them was 2 years old, too. She said that she has had enough of Bush's war. I told her welcome to the club because she's got plenty of company and to just hang in there. I told her how there are people who support the troops but not necessarily the war. I told her how people in Sanford had donated 38 boxes of stuff in support of my troops. She thought that was very nice and said that nothing like that had happened in her unit.

28 Dec. 2003 It is Sunday here and we heard that a patrol from the 2nd Cav was attacked in East Baghdad this morning with one soldier killed and six wounded. That is pretty much a squad size element. This is my squad's area of operation, but we are not the only ones from the 2nd Cavalry who patrol that area. I don't know if it was my squad or one of the others because all I got so far is that it was a patrol from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. There

are about four patrols in that area including my squad. It might be selfish of me, but I hope to God it wasn't my troops.

It sounds like the war has renewed itself in Iraq. Baghdad is really getting hit pretty bad. So much for capturing Saddam. Like I said previously, I never did think he was controlling these attacks. He was too busy hiding out.

I don't know when we will get out of Kuwait, but we should be at Baghdad airport within a day or so. I will e-mail as soon as I can get to Camp Marlbou, providing it is still there, and let you know how things are going there.

Next Issue: Sanford boxes boost morale.

## AUCTION

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## ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTIVE WATER USE

The St. Johns River Water Management District has received an application for Consumptive Water Use from:

City of Casselberry, 95 Triplet Lake Dr, Casselberry, FL 32707, application #8284. The applicant proposes to withdraw 7.021 million gallons per day of groundwater to supply an estimated population of 50,152 people with water for household, commercial/Industrial, irrigation, water utility and unaccounted water (utility losses) uses and a maximum daily allocation of 21.8 million gallons per day for essential (fire protection) use in the year 2020. The withdrawals used by this proposed project will consist of groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer via 9 active wells and 2 proposed wells in Seminole County, located in Sections 8, 21, 34, Township 21 South, Range 30 East, known as City of Casselberry.

The file(s) containing each of the above-listed application(s) are available for inspection Monday through Friday except for legal holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the St. Johns River Water Management District Headquarters or the appropriate service center. Written objections to the application may be made, but should be filed with (received by) the District Clerk, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida 32177-1429, no later than 14 days from the date of publication. Written objections should identify the objector by name and address, and fully describe the objection to the application. Filing a written objection does not entitle you to a Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Administrative Hearing. Only those persons whose substantial interests are affected by the application and who file a petition meeting the requirements of Sections 120.596 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, may obtain an Administrative hearing. All timely filed written objections will be presented to the Board for consideration in its deliberations on application prior to the Board taking action on the application.

Gloria Lewis, Director, Division of Permit Data Services  
St. Johns River Water Management District

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# Obituaries

### INA LOUISE JOHNSTON BATEMAN

Ina Louise Johnston Bateman, 82, of Longwood, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2003, in Altamonte Springs. Born in Johnson City, Tenn., she moved to Central Florida in 1949. She was a nurse and a Protestant.

Survivors include son, Roger Johnson; daughters, Patsy Dreibelbis and Barbara Fockler; sons, John Johnston, III and Harvey Johnston. Funeral services will be Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10 a.m., at the Oaklawn Chapel, Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

### RALPH EUGENE DORN

Ralph Eugene Dorn, 75, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2003. He was born June 27, 1928, in Greenwood, S.C. He moved to Sanford in 1976 and opened Taylor Rental Center. He was also an engineer at NASA. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force.

Survivors include wife, Ruth Welch Dorn, Sanford; daughter, Geni-Deck Jones, of Germany; four grandchildren; one great granddaughter. Memorial services were held Sunday at Safeharbor Christian Church, Upsala Road, Sanford.

Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

### ALBERT F. DUVAL

Albert F. Duval, 68, of Poplar Avenue, Sanford, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, at Central Florida Regional Hospital. He was born March 22, 1935, in Monticello, Fla. He was in construction.

Survivors include wife, Geneva Duval, Sanford; son, Hervon Duval, Sanford; brothers Mitchell and Julius, both of Rochester, N.Y.; sisters, Tracy King and Louise Scott, both of Sanford.

Viewing will be Friday, Jan. 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Wilson-Eichelberger's Mortuary, 1110 Pine Ave. Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 3, at 11 a.m. at Wilson Eichelberger's Memorial Chapel.

Wilson-Eichelberger Mortuary, Inc., Sanford, in charge of arrangements.

### JOHN GLIVENS

John Glivens, 72, Lake Avenue, Maitland, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, at his residence.



Glivens

Born Aug. 30, 1931, in Orangeburg, S.C., he moved to Central Florida over 40 years ago. He was a grocery bagger for Winn Dixie and worked for the city of Sanford for many years. He was a member of Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ in Sanford.

Survivors include wife, Susan, Maitland; sons, Kelvin Roberts, Pompano Beach, LaDarius Shorter, Lauderdale; daughters, Shella Glivens, Fort Walton Beach and Davette English, Maitland; three grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ, West 15th Street, Sanford. Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 3, at 11 a.m. at Full Gospel Church of God in Christ, 1826 Jerry Ave., Sanford.

Sunrise Funeral Home, Sanford, in charge of arrangements.

### GUSTAV HEIDINGER

Gustav Heidinger, 92, of Lake Mary, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, in Sanford. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was a longshoreman and a member of Nativity Catholic Church.

Survivors include daughters, Joan Breslin and Linda Papoutsakis; brother, Frank; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 30, at Nativity Catholic Church, Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

### LORRANE SYLVIA HENDERSON

Lorraine Sylvia Henderson, 52, of Dellona, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2003.

Survivors include husband, Clyde; sons, Richard and Edward; two grandsons. Funeral services were held

Tuesday at Oaklawn Chapel of Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home.

Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford/Lake Mary, in charge of arrangements.

### MARGARET ELIZABETH BRYANT HOWARD

Margaret Elizabeth Bryant Howard, 83, of Gulfport, Miss., died Sunday, Dec. 28, in Gulfport. She was born in Houston. She was a retired secretary and an artist. She also was a Catholic.

Survivors include sisters, Mary McIlrath, Gulfport, Miss., and Kathleen Hill, Davies, Fla. Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at Brisson Funeral Home in Sanford. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, in the funeral home chapel.

Memorials may be made to St. James School Endowment Fund, 336 Cowan Road, Gulfport, Miss. 39507.

Riemann Funeral Homes, Gulfport, Miss., in charge of arrangements.

### RICHARD G. PRYOR, JR.

Richard G. Pryor, Jr., 70, of Casselberry, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2003, at his residence. He was born in Elizabeth, N.J. He was a retired railroad engineer and a Catholic. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp. and a member of the Jack Ivy Marine Corp. League.

Survivors include wife, Florence A. Pryor; daughters Diane L. Varri, Melody R. Pryor and Amy Shields; sons, Stephen R., Richard G. III, and Brian; 10 grandchildren. A funeral mass will be cele-

brated Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10 a.m., at the chapel of St. Stephen Catholic Church with Father George Dunne as celebrant.

Banfield Funeral Home, Winter Springs, in charge of arrangements.

### THERESA C. ROBEY

Theresa C. Robey, 70, of Sanford, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003, at her residence. Born Oct. 10, 1933, in Washington, D.C., she moved to Sanford in 1970. She worked in administration for AT&T Telephone for 20 years and was a founding member of the Creative Icing Artists of Central Florida.

Survivors include daughters, Diana, Sanford, and Margaret, Bowie, Md.; sons, Wayne, Sanford and Norman, Lotham, Md.; brothers, Edward Stockstill, Newark, N.J., Dick Stockstill, Alexandria Va., Robert Stockstill, Charleston, W.Va., Joe Stockstill, Bettsville, Md. and Demie Stockstill, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Gramkow Funeral Home, Sanford, in charge of arrangements.

### JOSH B. WATSON

Josh B. Watson, 65, Silk Circle, Sanford, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, in Longwood. He moved to Central Florida three years ago from San

Diego. He was an aircraft electrician for the U.S. government and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He was a former member of Greater Friendship Baptist Church.

Survivors include wife, Yvonne E., Sanford; sons, Darrell, Ronald, both of San Diego, and Michael, Huntsville, Ala.; daughter, Jacqueline Byrd, Sanford; sisters, Evelyn Gillis, Daytona Beach, Betty Smith and Wilhelmina Williams, both of San Diego, and Margaret Black, Colorado; 10 grandchildren.

Viewing will be Friday, from 4 to 9 p.m. at the R.J. Gainous Funeral Home, Inc., and at Greater Friendship from 9 a.m. until service time on Saturday. Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 3, at Greater Friendship Baptist Church with Dr. Eddie J. Rivers, Jr., pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Sanford, officiating. Burial will be at Volusia Memorial Park, Ormond Beach.

R.J. Gainous Funeral Home, Inc., Daytona Beach, in charge of arrangements.

### MARGARET R. YOYMAN

Margaret R. Yohman, 85, of Altamonte Springs, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2003, in Altamonte Springs. She was born March 14, 1918, in Toledo, Ohio. She was a homemaker and a member of the Square Dance Association of Florida.

Survivors include husband, Melvin J. Yohman; sons, Frank R. Coleman, James Yohman; daughters, Margaret C. Lazarus and Kathleen C. Lowenthal; brother, Patrick McManus; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at Banfield Funeral Home, 420 W. State Road 434, Winter Springs. Funeral services will be held 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at Annunciation Catholic Church, Banfield Funeral Home, Winter Springs, in charge of arrangements.

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## NOTICE TAX IMPACT OF VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

COUNTY OF Seminole TAX YEAR 2003  
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Honorable <u>Grant Maloy</u>                        | Honorable <u>Dick Van Der Welde</u>                 |
| Board of County Commissioners-District No. <u>1</u> | Board of County Commissioners-District No. <u>3</u> |
| Honorable <u>Carlton Henley</u>                     | Honorable <u>DeDe Schaffner</u>                     |
| Board of County Commissioners-District No. <u>4</u> | School Board  |
| Honorable <u>Diane Bauer</u>                        | School Board  |

The Value Adjustment Board meets each year to hear petitions and render decisions relating to ad valorem tax assessments, exemptions, tax deferrals and classifications.

### THE FOLLOWING TABLE SUMMARIZES THIS YEAR'S ACTION BY THE BOARD

Type of Property	Number of Exemption Requests Granted by the Board	Total Number of Exemptions Requests	Number of Assessments Reduced by The Board	Total Number of Requests for Assessment Reductions	Reduction in Taxable Value Due to Board Action	Shift in Tax Dollars
RESIDENTIAL (01)	0	0	1	29	108,000	2,211.47
COMMERCIAL (02)	0	0	24	185	16,894,859	313,610.71
INDUSTRIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS (03)	0	0	4	31	274,611	4,955.77
AGRICULTURAL OR CLASSIFIED USE (04)	0	0	0	12	0	0.00
BUSINESS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (05)	0	0	0	73	0	0.00
VACANT LOTS AND ACREAGE (06)	0	0	5	22	1,390,496	23,873.04
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>18,665,966</b>	<b>344,650.99</b>

ALL TAX PAYERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BOARD ACTIONS WHICH REDUCE TAXABLE VALUE CAUSE TAX RATES APPLICABLE TO ALL PROPERTY TO BE PROPORTIONALLY HIGHER

Questions concerning the actions taken by the Board may be addressed to the chairperson or clerk at the following telephone numbers:

CHAIRPERSON GRANT MALOY 407-665-7215  
CLERK MARYANNE MORSE 407-665-7662

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# Sports

## Briefs

### BOWL PARKING

ClickandPark.com has announced its collaboration with Florida Citrus Sports that will reduce headaches and alleviate excessive traffic congestion for the 2004 Capital One Bowl being held January 1.

ClickandPark.com, an online parking and traffic management system, allows event attendees to choose a parking lot, get direct routing to their parking space, and have a permit for their location before they arrive at the game.

ClickandPark.com also evenly distributes the flow of traffic to and from the game, helping to reduce the logjam and congestion that usually accompanies Orlando's two college football bowl games.

Spectators planning on attending the games can purchase their parking space by ordering on line through [www.fcabowls.com](http://www.fcabowls.com), the official website of the game, or directly visiting the ClickandPark website at [www.ClickandPark.com](http://www.ClickandPark.com).

For additional information about ClickandPark.com and our services please contact (866) 330-PARK or email at [info@clickand-park.com](mailto:info@clickand-park.com).

### CASSELBERRY ADDS NEW PROGRAMS

The City of Casselberry Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce two new members of the Casselberry programs family. They are T.E.A.M.S. (Tutoring/Mentoring Elementary and Middle Schoolers) and S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco). Both begin in January 2004. Local teens in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in both of these fun and free programs.

T.E.A.M.S. will be offering free tutoring for elementary and middle school children at the Casselberry Senior Center, 200 N. Triplet Lake Drive, beginning January 12, 2004. The sessions will be Mondays through Thursdays, 3 p.m.-to-5 p.m.

Computers with monitored internet access will be available for use. The children will be paired with S.E.R.V.E. (Students Engaged in Recreation and Volunteer Efforts) members as tutors and mentors. S.E.R.V.E. is made up of high school students who are volunteering in their community. All S.E.R.V.E. members have gone through an application and recommendation process.

S.W.A.T. is a Florida based, youth created, volunteer grassroots and advocacy group, working to create a tobacco-free generation. All students in middle school and high school are eligible to participate. This will be an active group that participates in events and programs throughout the area. This program is co-sponsored by the Seminole County Health Department.

The Casselberry Parks and Recreation Department provides quality recreation, cultural activities and facilities that respond to the changing needs of all residents, and protects and expands our natural resources.

For more information about the T.E.A.M.S. or S.W.A.T. programs, please visit [www.casselberry.org](http://www.casselberry.org), email [See Briefs, Page 11](mailto:See Briefs, Page 11)



Herald photo by Jim Wentz  
Lake Mary's Holly Peltzer (No. 21, black) was one of only three Seminole County players named to the All-Tournament team at the Michelle Akers Soccer Classic at Lake Mary last week.

## Outsiders dominate Akers

### No Seminole teams finish in top five

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

Let's hope this is not a glimpse of things to come.

For years the Michelle Akers Classic, under various names, has been a showcase for local girls soccer teams to display their talents for the rest of the state.

But this year it was the 'outsiders' that put a hurting on the Seminole Athletic Conference.

The Satellite Scorpions (13-0), ranked No. 2 in the National Soccer Coaches Association's poll, won their 32nd consecutive game, scoring two goals in the first half and cruised by the No. 4 nationally-ranked Winter Park Wildcats (13-2) 3-1 in the championship game at Don T. Reynolds Stadium last Tuesday night.

In the third-place game, St. Augustine-Nease avenged an early season loss to district foe Seabreeze by defeating the Sandcrabs 3-0, and in the Fifth Place Game, a goal by Cara Dokey lifted DeLand over Winter Springs 1-0.

The tournament opened with only host Lake Mary and Lyman squeaking by with wins, both by 1-0 scores in shootouts, the Rams topping Spruce Creek and the Greyhounds

edging DeLand.

In the other games, Satellite thumped Lake Brantley, 6-0, Clearwater Countryside nipped Lake Howell, 2-1, Winter Park blanked Oviedo, 3-0, Edgewater topped Winter Springs in a shootout, 2-1, Seabreeze waltzed past Orangewood Christian, 3-1, and in the only non-county matchup, Nease took down Boca Raton, 4-1.

The highlight of day two found the finalists from 2002, unbeaten Lake Mary and Seabreeze, squaring off in the quarterfinals.

But the outcome was different this time as Sandcrabs star Lindsay Brauer scored both goals as they downed the Rams, 2-1.

The Scorpions also advanced with See Soccer, Page 11

## Boys teams on a roll

### Locals making marks in tourneys

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

While most of the ink so far this season has gone to Orlando area schools, and not without some merit, Seminole County boys basketball teams are showing that they should not be taken lightly either.

Winter Springs won its 10th game of the season Monday with a 59-40 victory over Miami-Champagnat in the semifinals of the Cypress Bay Holiday Tournament near Ft. Lauderdale, while Lake Howell, Lake Mary and Seminole also posted impressive victories.

Junior star Darryl Merthle showed why he is considered one of the top underclassmen in the country as he scored a season-high 41 points as the host Rams edged Miami-Palmetto, 76-75, in the opening round of the Lake Mary Holiday Classic.

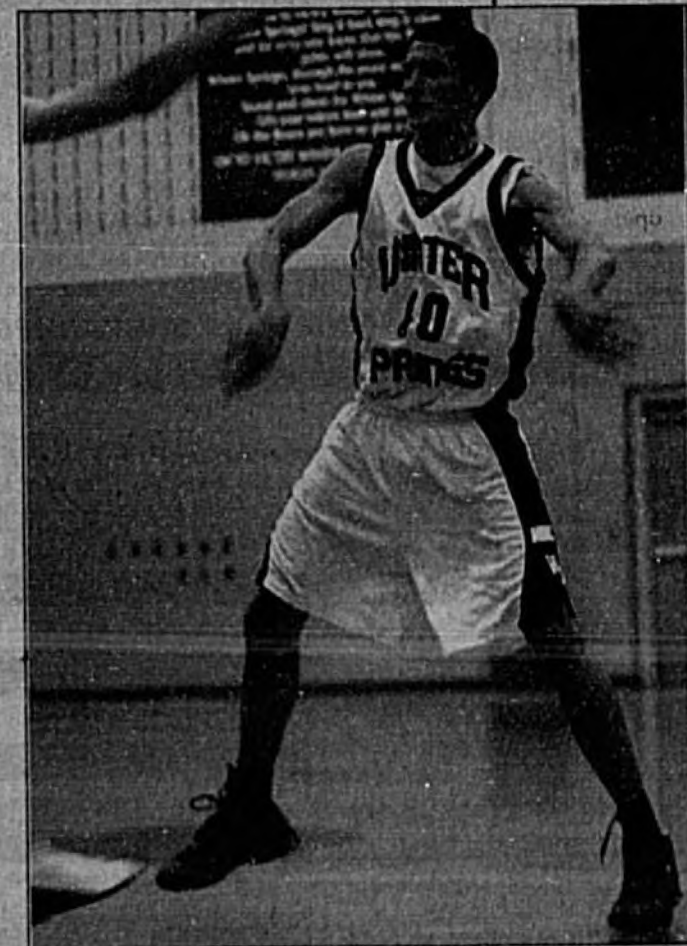
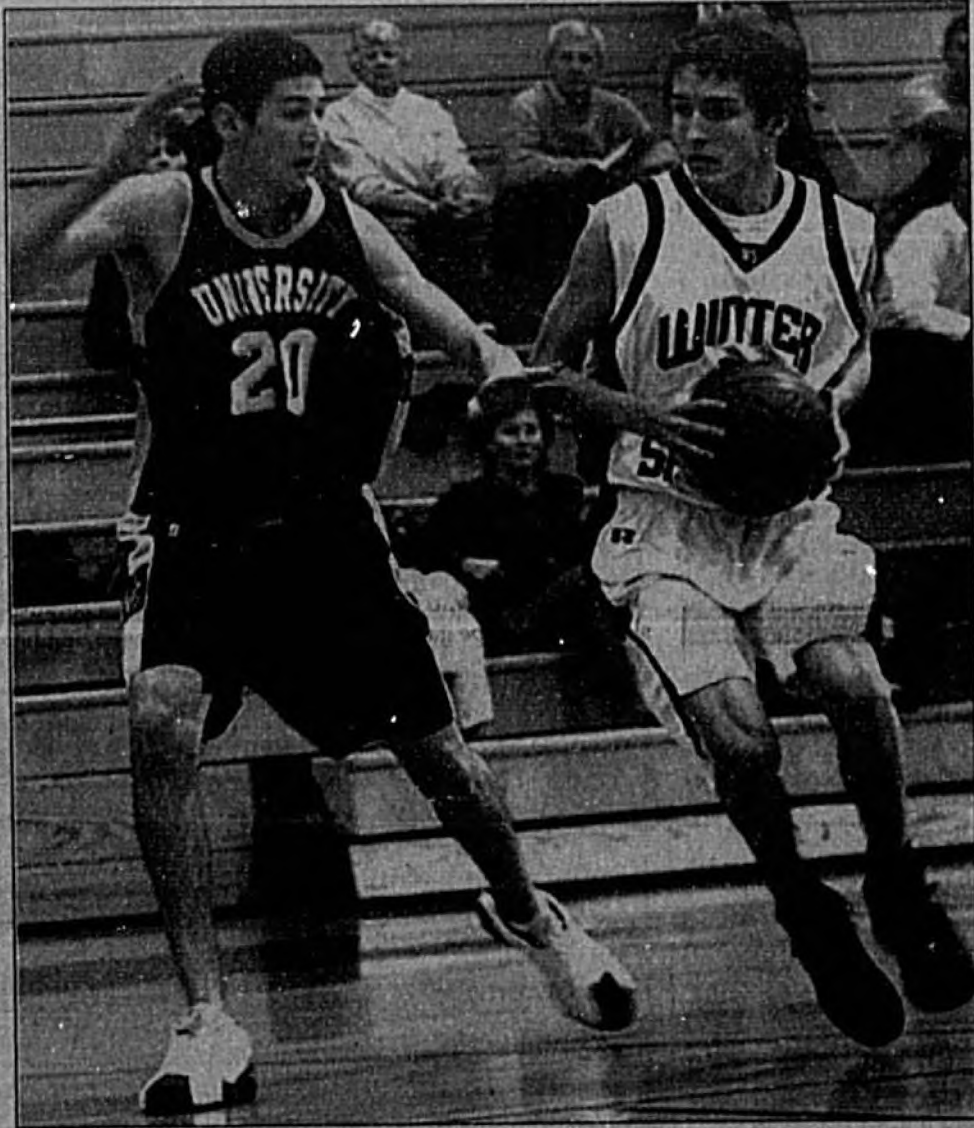
That victory set up an interesting semifinal game as the Rams were to have taken on neighborhood rival Seminole on Tuesday.

Arrow Force XII, which is looking for its second tournament title of the young season, got 17 points from Cy Wynn in a 71-60 whipping of Miami Springs.

In the other half of the draw, Matt Dobbins scored 14 points and Marquis Johnson collected 12 rebounds, but it wasn't enough as Lake Brantley fell 54-53 to Hollywood-McArthur, and Jeremiah Rivers, the sophomore son of former Magic coach Doc Rivers, scored 21 points as Winter Park, coached by former Lake Howell standout Josh Kohn, toppled Hallandale, 50-37.

The tournament is scheduled to wrap up today (Wednesday) with four games beginning at 11 a.m. and concluding with the Championship Game, with either Seminole or Lake Mary guaranteed to be in, at 4:15 p.m.

Lake Howell moved See Boys, Page 11



Herald photos by Jim Wentz  
Junior Mike Kuhl (above) and senior Jon Alwinson (left) combined to score more points (37) than their opponents as Winter Springs crushed Whitman-Hanson from Massachusetts, 66-34, in the opening round of the Cypress Bay Holiday Tournament in Weston. Kuhl scored a game-high 22 points and hit five three-pointers while Alwinson added 15 points and three 'treys' as the pair made almost as many three-pointers, eight, as Whitman-Hanson had field goals, nine. The usual stars for the Bears, Brett Hodges and Jared Benton, stepped up on Monday, combining for 36 points, with Kuhl chipping in with 11, as the locals won their 10th game of the season, 59-40, over Miami-Champagnat to advance to Tuesday night's Championship Game against host Cypress Bay, which upset No. 1 Class 6A ranked North Miami Beach in the semifinals.

## Trophy time for Tribe, Rams

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

The girls basketball teams from Lake Mary and Seminole were holding up the dignity of the county quite well this week as both squads were playing for trophies in tournaments on Tuesday.

Angie Pressey continued her outstanding play, scoring 22 points as the host Rams crushed Leesburg, 71-33, in the opening round of the Lake Mary Holiday Classic on Monday.

The finals on Tuesday were to be a battle of the Rams as well as unbeaten squads as in the other semifinal on Monday, Orange Park got 31 points from Willis in outscoring Titusville, 72-60.

Seminole, meanwhile, bounced back from an opening round loss to a team from Tennessee to thump host Port St. Lucie, 66-53, in the Treasure Coast Classic to advance to the Fifth Place Game on Tuesday.

Crystal Bradley scored 17 points and Tanjanika Wright and Evelyn Moore added 12 apiece to lead the Fighting Seminoles.

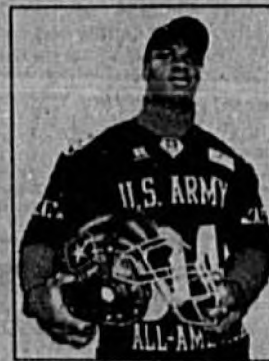
Justina Lujan hit four three-point goals and finished with a game-high 26 points for Port St. Lucie. Terrell Burden added 11 points.

Lake Howell (6-6) also moved into trophy consideration by edging past Colonial, 47-44, in the Bishop Moore/Jim Clark Holiday Classic in Orlando.

Matia Codrey led the Silver Hawks with 18 points and

See Girls, Page 11

## Rivers on the tube



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Lake Mary High School linebacker Keith Rivers will be playing in the 4th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl this Saturday (January 3, 2004) at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. The classic east vs. west match-up will be televised live on NBC (WEBB Channel 2 locally) at 1 p.m.

## Racing action returns to New Smyrna

Special to the Herald

New Smyrna Speedway will return to racing action this Saturday night with the Red Eye 100, the first race of the new year featuring some of the best Super Lates the state of Florida has to offer.

Last year's winner was Lake Mary's Mike Good followed by Daniel Keene, Bruce Lawrence, Aric Aimirula and Jim

"Hoot" Flynn. These drivers and many more are expected for Saturday night's action.

Along with the Super Late Models in their 100 lap event will be FASCAR Late Models, Open Wheel Modifieds, Sportsman, Super Stock, Mini Stock and Strictly Stock.

The Red Eye 100 is a stepping stone for the Super Lates for the first Team

FASCAR Sunbelt Super Late Model race on January 31, the Pete Orr Memorial Orange Blossom 125.

Pit gates will open at 2 p.m. Saturday with tech inspections starting at 2:30 p.m. The Super Lates will practice from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with all other division practice starting at 4:30 p.m.

Qualifying for the Red Eye 100 will See Racing, Page 11

# 2003: YEAR IN REVIEW

By Dan Ping  
Editor

**SANFORD** — Each year brings its share of stories, some noteworthy for their seriousness, others because they are just plain bizarre. Following are some of the top stories that made local headlines.

**1. Strong mayor fails** — 2003 started with a bang as Sanford Mayor Brady Lessard pushed for a city charter change that would have bestowed administrative powers to the mayor's office. Lessard contended that Sanford citizens wanted an elected official who had the power to make day-to-day decisions and provide hands-on leadership rather than investing such authority in an appointed city manager.

Lessard succeeded in putting the issue on the ballot for the March city election, and he gathered support from the business community. But many of Sanford's long-time citizens opposed the change. Three of the city's former mayors — Bettye Smith, Lee Moore and Joe Baker — actively campaigned against the charter change and formed the No Boss Mayor committee. Backed financially by billionaire businessman Jeno Paulucci, the No Bossers, easily defeated the ballot initiative by more than a 2-to-1 margin, with 2083 votes against the change to 894 in favor of the referendum.

In the end, however,

Lessard may have lost the battle but won the war before the first ballot was cast. City Manager Tony VanDerworp submitted his resignation on New Year's Eve 2002, about a week after Lessard convinced commissioners to formally approve putting the strong mayor question on the March 2003 ballot.

VanDerworp and Lessard never saw eye to eye but those differences remained under the radar until bid process for the long-awaited Riverwalk project was botched in July 2002. Harbco Inc. was the low bidder by almost \$2 million but the company proposed using an unlicensed, unbonded Mexican subcontractor to build the seawall, the major component of the project. On the night when commissioners rejected Harbco's bid in favor of Wharton Smith Inc., VanDerworp was absent from the meeting but still recommended the city award the contract to Harbco. Soon after, Lessard began floating trial balloons about changing the city charter to a strong mayor form of government.

Three months after the strong mayor referendum failed, the city's two top remaining administrators resigned. Roger Dixon, deputy city manager, and Jay Marder, director of engineering and planning both applied for VanDerworp's former position but did not make the preliminary short list.

Al Grieshaber was the



Long lines greeted those who tried to apply for or renew their driver's license at the Sanford offices. In November, the state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles announced they would move the license office into a larger facility in Winter Springs.

man chosen to fill the city's top spot in late June. A career military man who entered the U.S. Marine Corps as an enlisted man and retired as a lieutenant colonel, Grieshaber brought to the city manager's position a no-nonsense, get-the-job-done attitude that embodied many of the qualities Lessard hoped would result from a strong mayor form of government.

**2. Casino loses bet in Sanford** — The Joker's Palace was no joking matter to the city of Sanford or the region's other municipalities. Setting up shop next to the Helen Stairs Theatre, the Joker's Palace intended on serving free beer and wine to patrons who played slot-machine type games.

The proprietors of the business referred to it as an "adult arcade," but city officials called it a casino. Operating under a loophole in state law known as the "Chuck E. Cheese" rule, patrons of adult arcades attempt to match symbols on spinning wheels then redeem their winnings for gift cards, trips and prizes. Just hours before the Joker's Palace was to open, city officials discovered the business had failed to obtain needed permits. With no application on file, city commissioners approved a moratorium on gaming establishments during a rare emergency meeting.

As Volusia County officials tried to close similar operations that had already opened in Deltona and

Daytona, leaders in other Seminole County cities quickly followed Sanford's lead to ban the establishments.

**3. Back to its roots** — After months of tranquility, Longwood officials proved there is still some validity in changing the city's name to Wrongwood.

Incumbent commissioner Steve Miller battled two challengers for re-election and came in dead last. Presumably emboldened by his victory, Michael Holt took aim at Dan Anderson, Longwood's level-headed mayor who has tried to move the city away from its acrimonious past. Holt called for a no-confidence vote on Anderson's abilities because the mayor was as saying he worked well with Miller on a Miller campaign flyer. Never mind that Holt had yet to be formally sworn in or work as a colleague with Anderson.

It looked like a done deal since Holt and new commissioner Brian Sackett were supported during the campaign by sitting commissioner Butch Bundy. Apparently Bundy saw the heavy handedness in Holt's move — particularly since the mayor's position is more pomp and less power — and publicly denounced Holt's actions.

Lost in all of the fun and games was the retirement of Paul Lovestrand, a long-time commissioner and former mayor. Lovestrand, who helped create his fair share of controversy, refused

to attend his final meeting in which he was to be honored for his service because of Holt's actions.

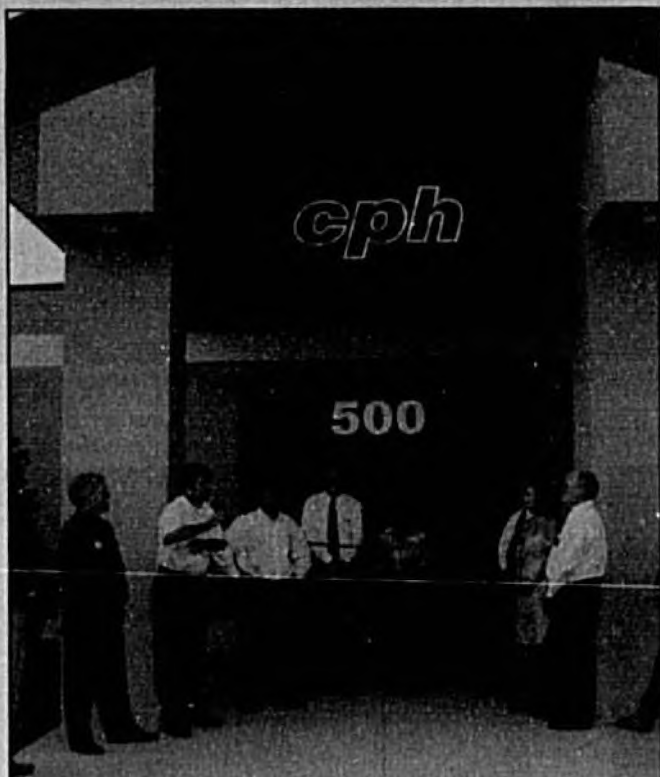
**4. Final panel** — Though the Sanford Riverwalk won't be finished until February 2004, the year brought an important milestone: the installation of the final seawall panel.

While the new amenities along Lake Monroe's waterfront are getting all of the

attention, the heart and soul of the project is the seawall replacement from Mellonville to French avenues. With the final panel installed in the fall, the redesigned Seminole Boulevard quickly began to take shape.

**5. Just beginning** — Like the Riverwalk, the renovation of 1st Street will not be

See Review, Page 8



CPH Engineers celebrated the expansion of its Sanford office with a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting.



Sandy Goard at the groundbreaking of the new Supervisor of Elections office. A few months later, Goard announced she was retiring.



Jerry Ransom, left, was named Sanford's new fire chief, while Craig Radazak was named the deputy chief.

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# 2003: THE YEAR IN PIC

Tommy Vincent, the Herald's intrepid photographer, had plenty of photo opportunities in 2003. As always, Seminole County offered its share of national headline stories, but perhaps Tommy's best work is in capturing everyday life in our county. Below are some of the pictures — some touching and some disturbing — that caught



A King Vulture peers from his new exhibit at the Central Florida Zoo.



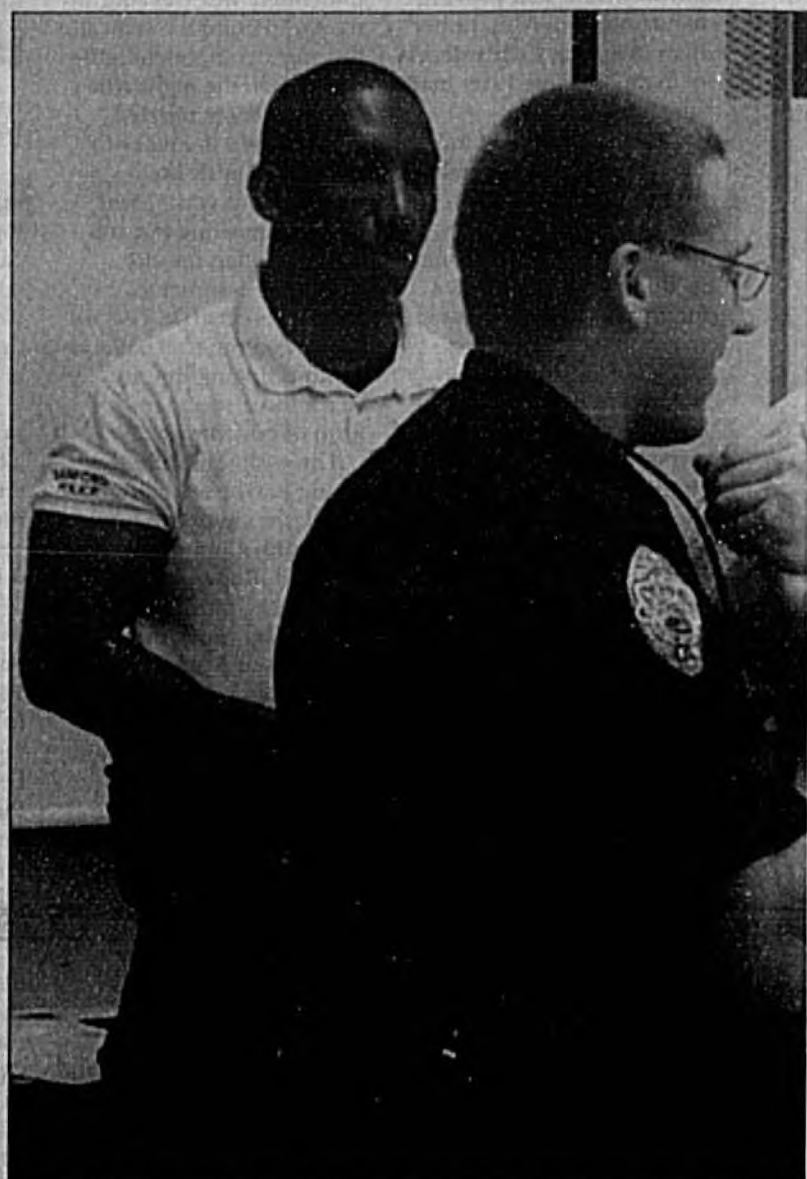
Tom Lindsey cleans his 1932 Confederate Chevy Coupe. Lindsey and dozens of other classic car enthusiasts stopped in Lake Mary before heading to Daytona for the completion of the "Great Race."



Rebecca Dollar gets a winter spring at the fair.



A stormwater drain collapsed in front of Victory Temple of Praise Church on Pine Avenue. The collapsed caused moderate damage to the church.



Sanford police officer Robert Shull yells out in pain after feeling the effects of a tax.

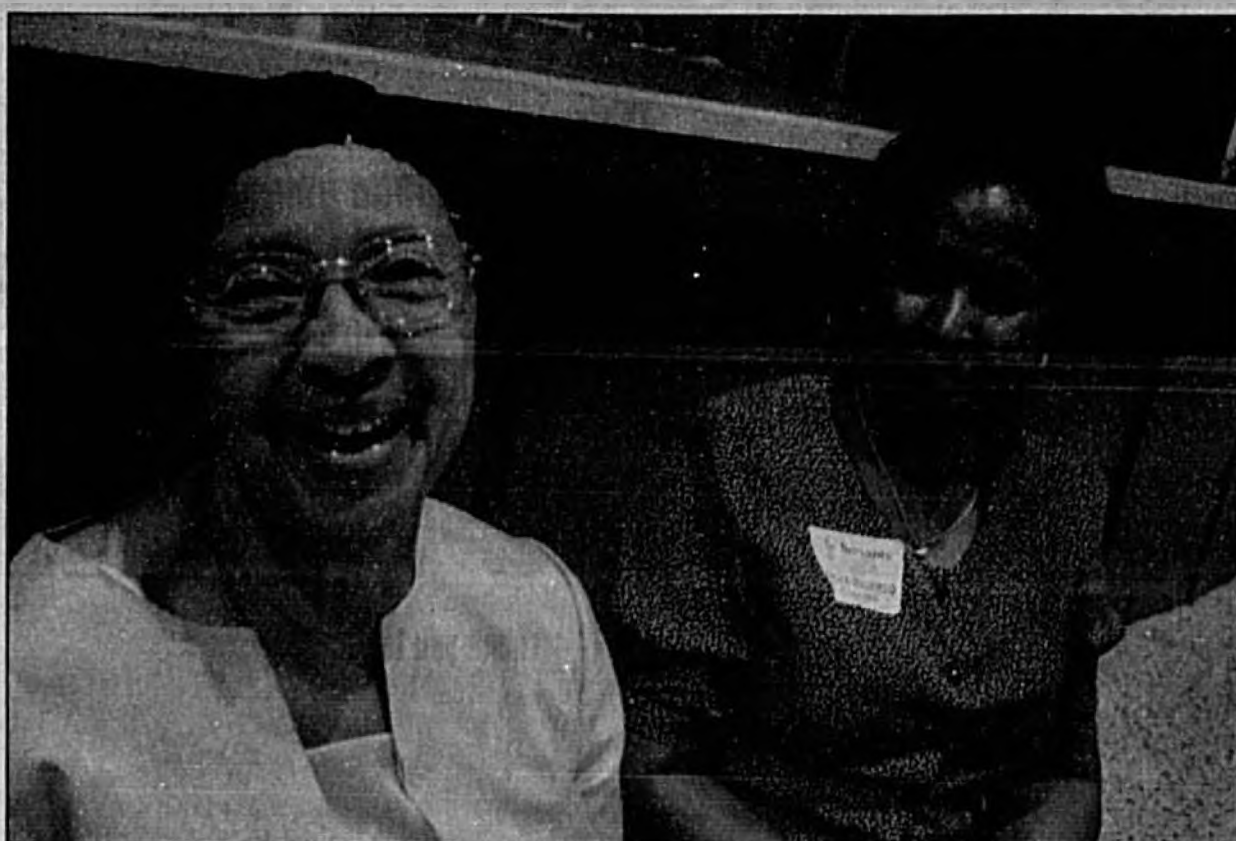


U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez, left, speaks with reports after the federal government took over the Sanford Housing Authority. Larry Knightner, right, was appointed as the housing authority's receiver.

Right: Sanford's own Hardy Rawls was chosen as Of Lonely, the spokesman for Maytag appliances. Left: Significant progress was made on the construction of the new Seminole County Justice Center. Located in the Five Points area of Sanford on U.S. Highway 17/92, the new courthouse is scheduled to be finished in September 2004.



Crews working on the Riverwalk discovered a 13-foot alligator. The monster gator had to be killed after it continued to chase the workers trying to install the seawall.



Mother Blanche Bell Weaver, founder of the Rescue Outreach Mission, and her daughter Sylvia Drake-Izquierdo were honored at the head table during the Servants of the People Luncheon. Though she still is involved with the Mission, Mother Weaver retired from full-time status this year.



Left: Patrick... year... throw... above... statue... interior



# PICTURES

and Tommy was there to cover them. Tommy's eye during the year.

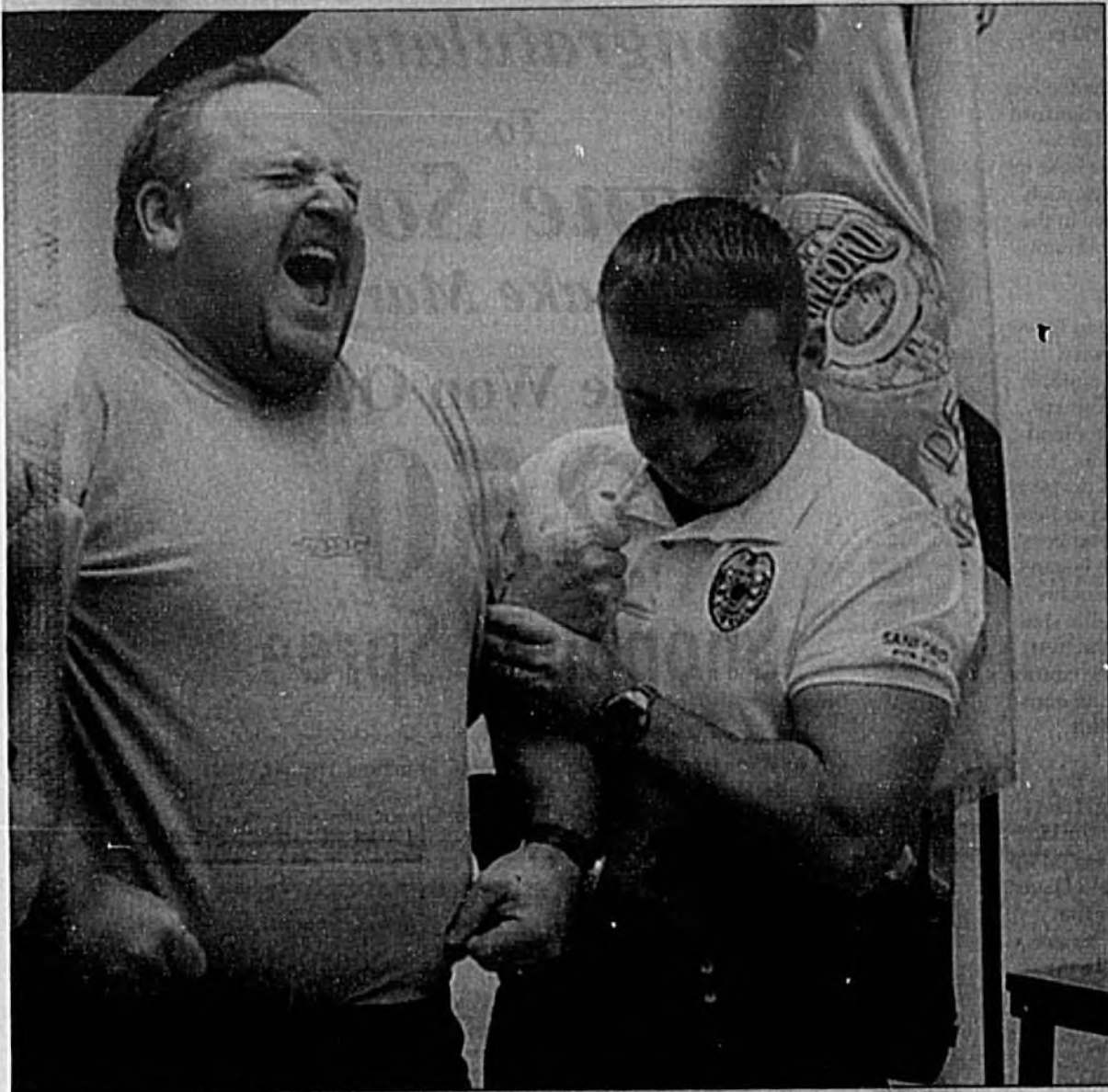


is a snapshot of her Graham and their friends from the Central Florida Zoo's Pumpkin Patch.

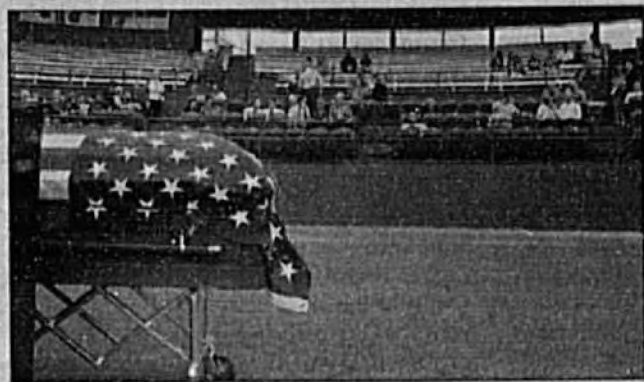


Lake Mary Police Chief Richard Beary answers questions from the media in the east-bound lane of Interstate 4 after a father committed suicide and killed his two young sons by driving head-on into a semi truck.

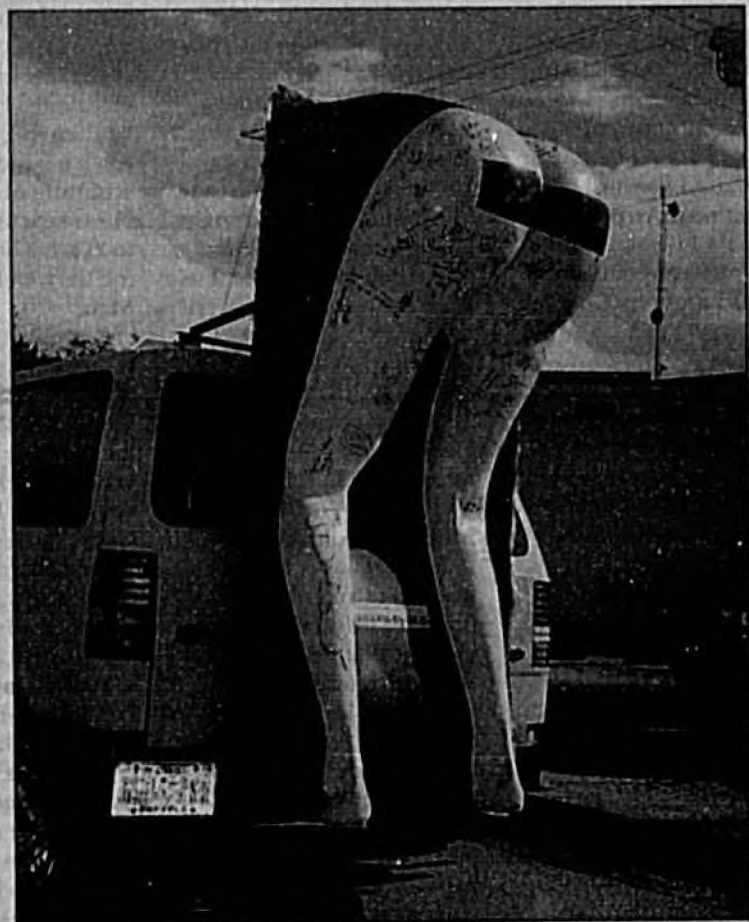
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er gun — now issued to all Sanford officers.



The flag-draped coffin of Sanford baseball legend buddy Lake rests at the Historic Sanford Memorial Stadium during a memorial service after Lake's death.



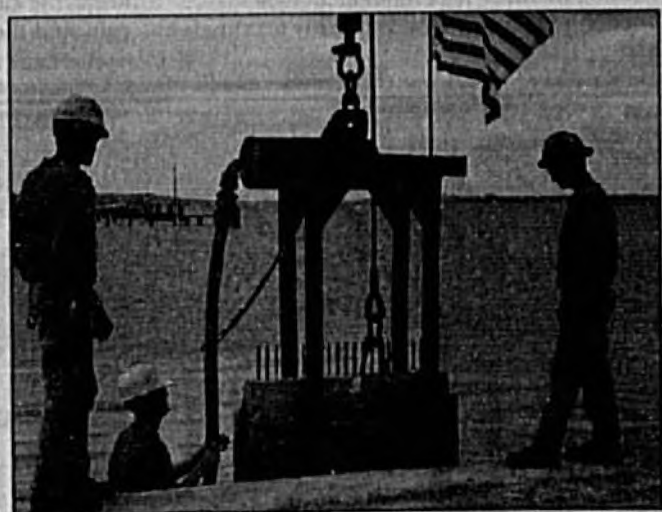
Junk man Alan Davis creates this "Butt" sculpture during legal battles with Seminole County regarding the junk piled up in his yard. He displayed it from the back of his truck while he was in court.



aign signs dot the lawn in front of the Sanford Civic Center during rong Mayor referendum in March.



Geraldine the Hippo gets a snack of fresh veggies from Mike Tanton. Geraldine, a favorite at the Central Florida Zoo, was relocated to Disney's Animal Kingdom.



Below: Crews set some of the first seawall panels on the Sanford Riverwalk near Mellonville Avenue. Above: The final seawall panel for the Riverwalk project is installed at Memorial Park.



Steve Richards and his grandson Dalton walk with a giant Frosty the Snowman. Each Richards decorates his neighborhood and is a Christmas Party for the community. Congressman John Mica talks with a constituent while walking across the newly opened Interstate 4 pedestrian bridge.



# Review

completed in 2003. In fact actual work won't begin until April or May of 2004.

However, the **Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)** made important strides to begin a much talked about project, not the least of which was a decision to actually do the renovations. The project will result in improved stormwater and electrical infrastructure, the reinstallation of brick streets and a much enhanced streetscape along 1st Street from Oak to Sanford avenues. Plans for the project are complete, and the CRA should finalize funding sources for the project in January.

**6. Retirement — Sandy Goard** has seen it all when it comes to elections. As Seminole County Supervisor of Elections since 1983, Goard has seen the county switch from the infamous punch ballots to optical scanners. And of course, there is the 2000 presidential election that saw the county's voting procedures challenged (though the punch cards were a distant memory for Seminole voters by 2000).

Goard, who is the only elected county official to receive more than 100,000 votes in a single election, surprised many with her announcement that she would retire Jan. 5, 2004. She has actively been involved in the construction of a new election office on land near the Orlando Sanford International Airport.

**Dennis Joyner**, Goard's deputy, was appointed the interim deputy by Gov. Jeb Bush.

**7. Gone but not forgotten —** As with each year, 2003 saw the passing of several notable community leaders. Among them was **Pete Knowles**, Sanford's long-time city manager.

Knowles joined the Sanford staff April 20, 1953, as city engineer and nine months later, on Feb. 1, 1954, became city manager, a position he held until he retired, April 30, 1985.

No single public servant — either elected or appointed — can match the impact Knowles made in shaping the Sanford residents recognize today. During his tenure, Knowles oversaw numerous public works projects that changed the nature of city. Among them were the construction of the

**Civic Center, the Marina Island, moving the Sanford Zoo to its present location and relocating City Hall on the site of the old zoo.**

Knowles also played an integral role in convincing the U.S. Navy to transfer its airfield to the city of Sanford.

Other notable deaths included:

• **Joseph Jackson Sr.** — Jackson was Seminole County's first black fire chief, having organized the **Midway-Canaan Volunteer Fire Department** in the early 1960s. He held that position until 1974, when the county officially took over fire protection duties in the Midway community. In addition, he helped organize the **Midway-Canaan Water Users Association** and was a member of the **Midway Improvement Association**. Among his many community activities, Jackson may best be remembered as Midway's "town crier." He would attach loud speakers to the roof of his car and announce community meetings to residents.

• **Bud Layer** — Former Sanford City Commissioner **Whitey Eckstein** always refers to Layer as a "renaissance man." An astute historian, a record-sitting basketball coach, a respected educator and leader, are just a few of the ways to describe Layer's impact on the community.

He earned his masters degree in educational administration at Stetson University. In 1955, he came to Seminole County, taught biology and was the head basketball coach at Seminole High School. He was president of the Seminole Education Association before becoming an assistant principal at Lyman High School. He also served as principal of Milwee Middle, Teague Middle and Seminole High School.

In 1967, Layer led a teacher's strike, one of the few ever held in Seminole County, that resulted in better pay for teachers. Five years later, he was elected to the first of two terms as superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools.

• **Buck Metts** — Metts was a standout running back for Florida State University, sharing the spotlight with **Burt Reynolds**, the 1970s heartthrob of the silver screen, and quarterback **Lee Corso**, now a college football analyst for ESPN. While his teammates

achieved fame on the big and small screens, Metts made his mark as an educator and coach, first at Tampa Jefferson (baseball great **Steve Garvey** was one of his players), then later as a P.E. instructor at Lakeview Middle School.

• **Buddy Lake** — One of Sanford's early baseball heroes, Lake once pitched 19 scoreless innings then hit the winning homerun in the bottom of the 19th to beat DeLand. In a city teaming with baseball legends past and present, Lake may be among the best loved.

**8. Vigilant volunteers** — It took a lot of hard work, but the volunteers from the **Airport Memorial Committee** finished restoring the **RA-5C Vigilante** in time for a Memorial Day dedication ceremony, which attracted nearly 2,000 people.

The Vigilante was the last aircraft assigned to **Sanford Naval Air Station** before Congress closed the base in the late 1960s, and as such holds a special place in the hearts of local servicemen and civilians alike.

**9. Butt out** — **Alan Davis** continued his property rights battle with Seminole County code enforcement. Specifically Davis contended that he should be allowed to turn his property into a scrap yard regardless of the law or his neighbors' objections. He even began hauling in the back of his truck a larger-than-life size sculpture of a human butt, in essence telling the county to kiss his behind and earning the moniker "**Butt Man**."

But much like the **Roy Acuff**'s classic song, Davis fought the law and the law won. The county cleaned up his property and sold Davis' junk on the steps of the courthouse. Davis, meanwhile, earned time in the county jail, not exactly the place you want to be if you're the Butt Man.

**10. Raising taxes** — In Republican-heavy Seminole County, approving a property tax increase is about as likely as **Rush Limbaugh** showing up at a **Narcotics Anonymous** meeting.

But that's just what happened in Lake Mary, where city officials pride themselves on having the county's lowest millage rate. Not to worry, the increase still keeps the city's rate minuscule, and the revenue will

be used to improve services, specifically hiring more firefighters.

**11. Retirement II** — Four-term Sanford city commissioner **Whitey Eckstein** chose not to run for re-election. A long-time history teacher at **Seminole High School**, Eckstein was the link that bridged previous city commissions with the current group of "young guns."

Many a time, Eckstein would provide valuable insight into a previous commission's decision, be it a zoning question or a budget issue, that was germane to a

current issue. A tight-fisted fiscal conservative, Eckstein constantly preached the importance of spending tax revenues wisely, so much so that Mayor **Brady Lessard** would occasionally — and good naturedly — tease the fatherly Eckstein about the "recession of 1987."

Though Eckstein didn't run for re-election, the District 4 seat did not leave the neighborhood. **Kevin Hipes**, an energetic businessman who happens to be Eckstein's next door neighbor, was named commissioner by default when no one else chose to run.

**12. The challenger** — On the political front, the most intriguing story for 2003 (and 2004) is the race between Seminole County Tax Collector **Ray Valdes** and County Commissioner **Grant Maloy**.

Maloy, who vowed not to serve more than two terms on the commission, was rumored to be eyeing Valdes' seat for some time. He made it official in 2003, setting up what is sure to be a hotly contested race. In addition, Maloy's decision puts his **District 1** seat in play as a host of contenders are expected to jockey for the open seat.

**Congratulations**

To  
**Diane Sorel**  
of Lake Mary

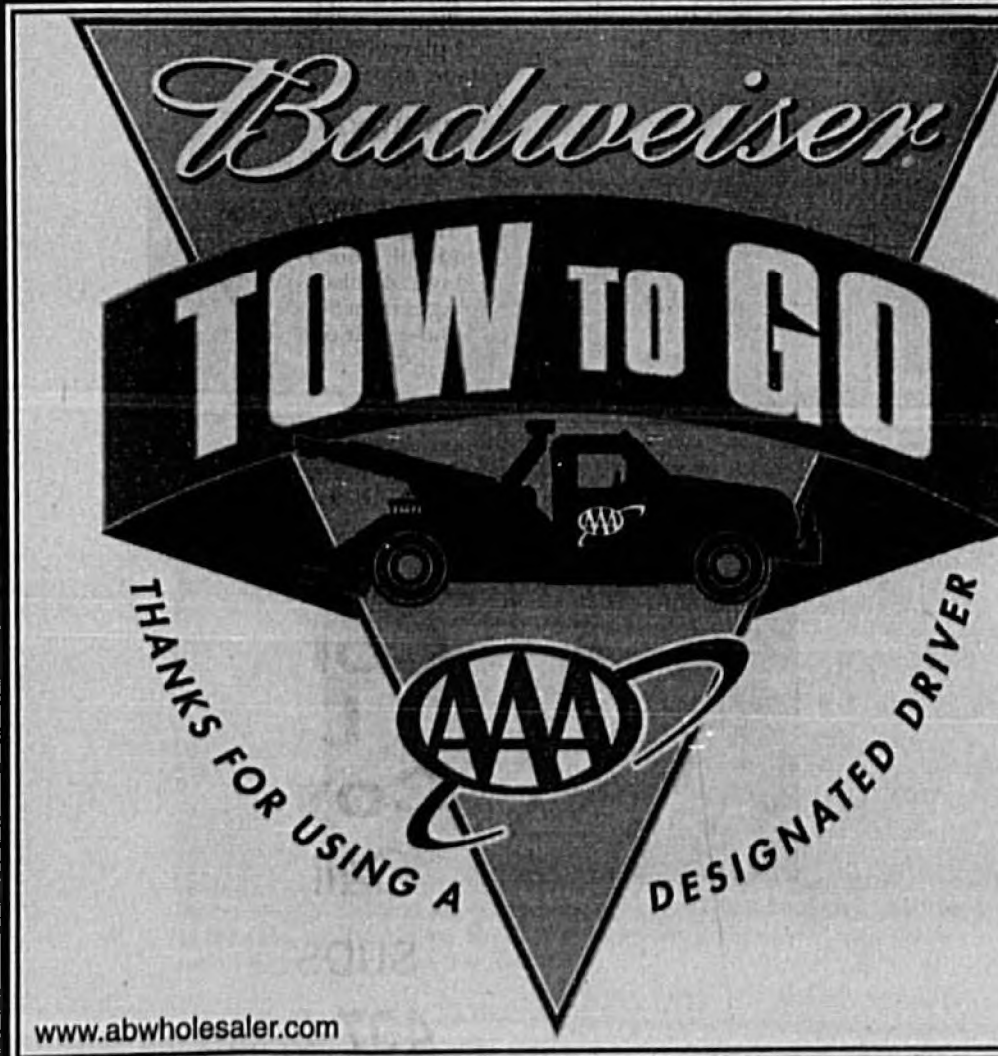
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Pictured left to right: Dan Ping, Seminole Herald Editor and Publisher, Angelia Gordon, President-CEO of the Chamber, Diane Sorel and Dan Sutton, Advertising Director of the Herald.




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Murder

Continued from Page 1

— a mother and a father — that are involved," said Sanford investigator Sean Arthur. "It's always difficult if they don't want to come off of what happened."

The case grew even staler as Rothschild and Laker moved to Massachusetts shortly after the infant's death. Locating Jessie's parents turned out to be one of the cold case squad's initial duties when it was started this year. But investigators didn't bust the 6-year-old case wide open until a couple weeks ago when Jessie's mother, Tina Laker, finally decided "to do the right thing," Arthur said.



Rothschild

"Actually the mother that was also in the house the night it happened sort of came through for us," he said. "We were talking to the grandmother and the grandmother was talking to the mother and finally she decided to come down here and give us a statement."

Laker was reportedly in fear of Rothschild and that is why she refused to provide an accurate account at the time of the incident, Arthur said. Laker was reportedly able to break free of Rothschild and with the urging from the grandmother, who now has custody of Jessie's twin sister, came to

Sanford to make a police statement.

"The grandmother was a big help to us as she wanted closure as well," Arthur said.

Rothschild is being held without bond in West Springfield awaiting extradition to Seminole County. The first arrest for the cold case squad was two Sanford men Sept. 26 for the October 2000 murder of Raphael Rodriguez. A Seminole grand jury indicted, Ricardo Luis Lugo, 32, of West 25th Street, and Nestor Edwin Rosado, 21, of West Fifth Street, for allegedly killing 26-year-old Rodriguez.

Trapped

Continued from Page 1

"trench trailer" that is fully equipped for such rescues.

The Lake County incident, however, was very different than the August rescue in Sanford, Johnson said.

The Sanford incident was a very wet hole and this one was a very dry, sugar sand," he said. "It was like both ends of the spectrum."

Testerman, originally from Tennessee where the soil is more compacted, reportedly said he dug the tunnel for fun along with other children from his family. Once the hole collapsed, a child ran to call 911.

Johnson said that because of the dry conditions and the

unsteady tunnel the operation was a higher risk incident than the one in Sanford. Rescuers worked through four different collapses before pulling Testerman out unharmed.

"The thing that made the difference was Lake County Fire

Department — prior to us getting there — were able to get inside there and put a breathing apparatus on him and also a rope around his chest. And the four times we had collapses and it buried him, we had time to dig him out," Johnson said.

Mommy, why do you punish me instead of helping me?



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