

THE SANFORD HERALD

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50¢

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WEEKEND

JUNE 20, 2004



Rats on top

Kyle Patrick had a big game with both the glove and the bat, including hitting the game-winning home run in the 10th as the Sanford River Rats moved back into first place in the FCSL with a 7-6 victory over the Winter Park Diamond Dawgs.

See Sports, Page 12A

Sanford Fire Department saves marina

Quick work by firefighters and the first use of a new fire-fighting unit may have saved a slew of boats docked at Hidden Harbour Marina from certain disaster.

A two-story houseboat that was reported as more than 50 feet long caught on fire Tuesday evening. As many as two Sanford Fire Department units responded, but had to connect more than 600 feet of hose before attempting to reach the blaze.

To the rescue was the fire department's Unit 31. The 22-foot center console "Boston Whaler Guardian" helped extinguish the fire with a deck-mounted nozzle.

Docked at Monroe Harbor Marina, when the fire department boat arrived at about 7:30 p.m. Sanford Fire Department Lt. Tony Faircloth said the houseboat was pretty much engulfed with a "giant column of smoke" rising near the St. Johns Veterans Memorial Bridge.

"The other units arrived first and did a good job protecting the other boats," said Sanford Lt. Tony Faircloth.

He said the newly acquired fire department boat was the key to eliminating the threat of danger to nearby crafts.

"If we didn't have that boat we probably would have watched it burn to the ground," he said. "I think it showed it was a wise investment the city made."

Although the houseboat did not sink, it was estimated to be a total loss.

Unit 31 can also be used for rescue emergencies such as patient loading and dive operations.

Seminole Smile



Emma Tavanyar — Daughter of Owner of Rose Cottage Tea Room

High school grades slip in Seminole

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Like a student expecting a bad grade, Seminole High School here was ready for the "D" grade it received from the state.

Four of the eight high schools in Seminole County dropped in grades released by the state this week.

"I had prepared the staff for this," said Walt Griffin,

Seminole High principal. "Unfortunately, I was not surprised."

Superintendent Bill Vogel said he was "very pleased overall" by the county's grading results.

He pointed out that the district's elementary schools received an "A" or "B" except for Midway Elementary, which just missed a "B" by four points. He added that Winter Springs High School advanced to an

"A" and Lyman High School missed earning a "B" by seven points.

Lake Mary and Oviedo high schools maintained their "A" grades.

In grading schools, the state looks at FCAT scores, but also the percentage of students tested and how the lowest 25 percent performed in reading.

If at least half of the lowest 25

Seminole County high school state grades

School	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Crooms	C	A	NA	NA
Lake Brantley	C	B	A	A
Lake Howell	C	B	B	C
Lake Mary	A	A	A	C
Lyman	C	C	B	C
Oviedo	A	A	A	A
Seminole	D	C	C	C
Winter Springs	A	B	A	A

See Grades, Page 2A

Citizens call for new cop building

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

SANFORD — A new Sanford police and fire headquarters would be in the near future if a group of citizens had their way.

First discussed when Mayor Bettye Smith was leading Sanford, the idea of a new public safety complex has drifted in and out of the public spotlight for nearly 10 years, but Police Chief Brian Tooley said the issue is finally coming to the forefront.

Coincidentally, in 1996 Sanford created the Citizen's Advisory Board to provide suggestions and recommendations to chief of police and City Commission regarding law enforcement needs and resources. At a monthly meeting of the board last week, members emphatically voiced their concerns about what is considered as a dilapidated police department facility.

"No matter what else goes on in this community if we don't have good public safety it's going to be hard for this

See Police, Page 2A

Sheriff's deputies look into double murder

From Staff Reports

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office has in custody, a person "of significant interest" relating to the deaths of two Altamonte Springs area women found dead in their manufactured home Thursday. The man has been identified as Clemente Javier Aguirre, 24.

The women were discovered dead Thursday at about 9 a.m. in their home at 121 Vagabond Way. The area, located off State 434, was formerly known as Mobile Manor.

The sheriff's office believes they were victims of foul play, but would not immediately divulge how they may have been killed or any details of their investigation.

"Were not releasing many specifics about this case," said Steve Olson, sheriff's office spokesman. "It may seem like a technicality, but when we

See Murders, Page 3A

'Bear'ly a week old

New Seminole County Environmental Studies Center opens to fanfare

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

LONGWOOD — The red rat snake coils around a clutch of eggs. A tank awaits a new alligator from Gatorland Zoo in Orlando, and the bees busily construct a new hive.

Work continues on the new \$1.1 million building at the Seminole County Environmental Studies Center dedicated June 15.

First and fifth graders will use the 6,100-square-foot building during the school year, said Pat Burkett, the center's director.

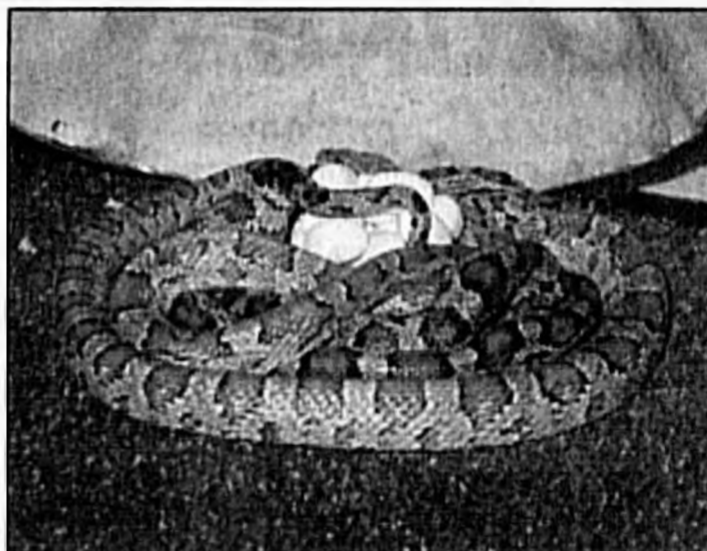
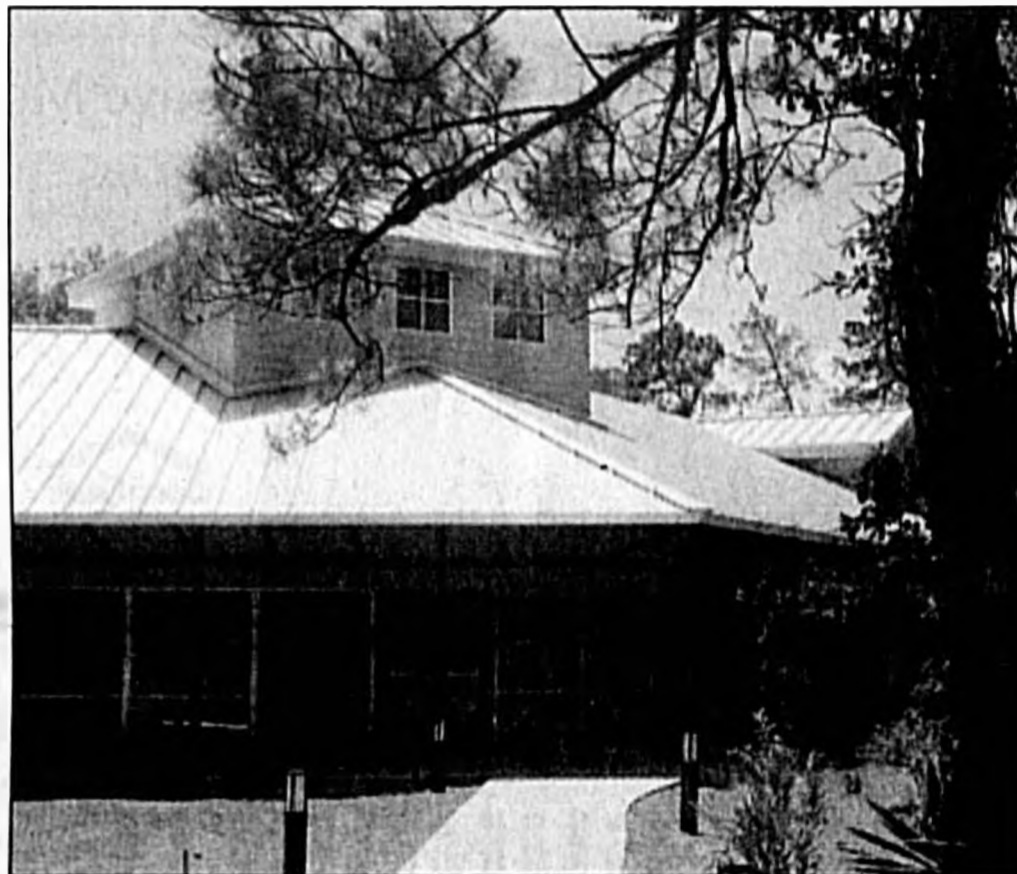
Part of the curriculum for first graders is a one-day study of Florida wildlife at the center. Fifth graders in Seminole County know the famous mud walk they get to experience during two days of study at the center.

A sculpted tree with a stuffed baby black bear and owl sitting in its branches will greet visitors in the new building's foyer. To the right an exhibit hall features live and stuffed animals from the local area. Fossils show some of the county's natural past. The hall also houses a full manatee skeleton.

The new building includes a front porch as well as a covered learning area and pavilions on each end.

Burkett said she hopes to eventually have monthly public events. She added that she hopes to find

See Studies, Page 3A



Herald photos by Tommy Vincent

Pat Burkett (top), Seminole County Environmental Studies Center director, watches over a stuffed baby black bear that adorns the lobby to the center. The 6,100-square-foot building (above) is a resource for Seminole County elementary students to learn about Florida wildlife, such as a (left) red rat snake.



Clustered around their father are (left to right) Gloria, Debra and Sylvia, and in the back row are Sharon, Francis, Jeanette, Claudia, Gwendolyn and Emma.

Coleman raises 10 daughters

By Charles D. Jackson
Herald Correspondent

SANFORD — "Good families have a chief, or a heroine or a founder — someone around whom others cluster, who fosters achievement..." writes Jane Howard in a collection called, "Family, A Celebration."

That seems to describe 82-year-old Levi Coleman. His family is photographed in the 1995 edition of "Family, A Celebration."

He fathered 10 girls, making himself the founder, producer and author of responsibility for their success. Seems like he wrote a pretty good script. Not

See Dad, Page 3A

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Police

Continued from Page 1A

community to grow and I don't know how we are going to do that with a building that is deficient as the one we have," said board member Bill Gibson.

Throwing millions of dollars down for a new facility may not be that easy for any city to handle, but board members insisted that with the current fiscal climate the present time may be too good to pass up.

With low interest rates and a continually escalating cost of building materials the price tag for a public safety complex five years from could be atrocious, said board member Mark McCarty.

"If I was city leadership I would be nervous of losing this opportunity," said Tom Carpenter, chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Board.

The current Sanford Police Department, located at 815 S. French Ave, is about 13,000 square feet. Tooley said the department needs something about four times larger. City officials have identified a 7.9-acre parcel, located near the State Farmers' Market at the corner of 13th Street and U.S. Highway 17-92, as a potential site.

Tooley said the proposed location would be an asset for the Goldsboro community. With Crooms Academy of Information Technology on the west end of the community, a new public facility on the opposite side could make for two attractive bookends to Goldsboro.

"So hopefully with two anchors we could help redevelop (Goldsboro) from the outside in," he said.

The proposed property is owned by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and is considered contaminated because of two former gas stations that sat on the lot more than 30 years ago. While the city has been negotiating with state on how to remedy the potentially costly clean-up, the police department continues to outgrow its building.

"I don't know if there is time to delay," Gibson said. "A new facility is essential. It is absolutely essential that it happens."

While Citizen's Advisory Board members requested the city update them on the status of funding a new public safety complex, it may be the entire population of Sanford that has a voice on how the project is prioritized.

The city is in the process of mailing out surveys to all the residents of Sanford. City officials want the public to list five items they would like the city address. While Mayor Brady Lessard agrees "it's a big priority to have appropriate housing for the police and fire departments," citizens may not feel the same way.

"I don't know if that is something the public will think of," he said.

"I think the city could do it right now if they wanted to. They city's in real good financial shape right now and sometimes that doesn't get out there."

Lessard said one drawback to starting the project right now is an upswing of building in Central Florida is driving contractor bids skyward, as no one is hurting for work. He said the project would be more feasible if it coincided with a downswing in private sector construction.

The public's suggestions of what needs improvements in

"I don't know if there is time to delay. A new facility is essential. It is absolutely essential that it happens."

Bill Gibson
Citizens Advisory Board Member

Grades

Continued from Page 1A

percent make what the state calls learning gains in reading, then that helps the grade. If, however, that same group fails to make learning gains two years in a row, the school grade drops a letter. That happened at two of the high schools.

Seminole High School had enough points for a "C" grade, but dropped to a "D." Lake Brantley dropped to a "C" this year for the same reason.

Shortly after taking over as principal at Seminole in February, Griffin told the staff to expect a low grade. He had looked at the data and the school hatched a plan.

The school district has approved a literacy specialist for Seminole. Also, instead of elective courses the lowest scoring readers will take reading courses instead of elective courses. Griffin added that this is not just to do better on the FCAT. This is to help the students learn to read well which is vital for success in life, he said.

"We will have a literacy specialist in place for the first day of school," Griffin said. "This will get better."

Younger students who have done well in reading will eventually raise the grades for high schools, Vogel suggested.

In addition to the reading coach at Seminole, he said Lyman will also have a specialist as well as Millennium, Sanford, Milwee, South Seminole and Tuskawilla middle schools.

Lake Howell High School in Winter Park fell to a "C" grade

after earning a "B" last year.

Principal Shaune Storch said Lake Howell had a large number of assigned students. These students have been unsuccessful in school, she said, but because of their age, they can no longer remain in middle school.

She said she expects another 40 to 50 assigned students this year.

"These are our lowest 25 percent," she said. "They are our dropouts, and it's a group we need to address."

New Directions will focus on basic skills that these young people have missed along the way, Storch said. The program is not funded by the district, she said, but the school felt it was important enough to carve the money out of the budget.

She also said the school has one of the largest Hispanic populations in Seminole County. Many are good students, but because English is not their first language, standardized testing can be difficult, she explained.

At Crooms High in Sanford, Principal Connie Collins said an emphasis on technology at the magnet school may not translate well on standardized testing either.

Crooms dropped from an "A" school last year to a "C" this year.

"We have already started to strategize," Collins said, after they saw FCAT scores last month.

"Count us as not real pleased with the scores," she said. "We are accustomed to placing at the top."

Collins could not pinpoint a specific reason for the lower scores, but suggested the opposite of Lake Brantley and Seminole, where the lowest scoring students did not make gains. At Crooms, the upper level students did not perform as well as expected.

At Crooms, she explained, elective courses are centered on information technology. Every student has a laptop computer. One question they asked is whether students are reading less because of the laptops.

On the FCAT, students use pencils and paper, not computers, she said.

"This is really a conflict," she suggested. "In the real world, people use computers and technology."



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SEMINOLE SUMMARY

A GLANCE AROUND OUR COUNTY

I've had a number of people ask me for an update on Charlie Carlson III, the soldier who wrote the Iraqi Diary series...

In short, it doesn't look like C3 will return to Iraq, his opinions haven't changed and he won't be speaking to the Rotary Club...

The U.S. Army has investigated C3, a 14-year veteran, for his Iraqi Diary submissions and other comments made online since he returned stateside...

..... Around the Clock by Dan Ping. During the investigation, Carlson was relieved of his squad command and told not to have any contact with his soldiers...

According to an e-mail I received from his father (C3 is not allowed to speak to the media) Carlson's saga began when he contacted Florida's senior U.S. senator, Bob Graham...

Senator Graham's office then made a congressional inquiry through the Department of the Army. The Army responded to Graham that the way was clear for C3 to request his discharge...

On May 6, Carlson, acting in response to Senator Graham's office, submitted his request for discharge. Six days later on May 12, he was notified that an investigation had been started against him...

The investigating officer, Major Byrd, called Carlson in for an interview and questioned him about making negative remarks about the Bush Administration and the Iraq War...

On June 8, C3 learned that his request for discharge had not been sent forward. Carlson was informed that Major Byrd had downloaded copies of the Iraqi Diary from The Sanford Herald webpage...

The investigating officer Major Byrd, also happens to be the Battalion Executive Officer of the same Battalion headquarters who had to respond to Sen. Graham's congressional inquiry...

On June 8, C3 learned that his request for discharge had not been sent forward. Carlson was informed that Major Byrd had downloaded copies of the Iraqi Diary from The Sanford Herald webpage...

When C3 gave him the business. When C3 asked about the "From Fort Mellon to Baghdad book" that Carlson II wrote glorifying the timeline of the 2nd Cavalry, and which C3 distributed to members of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad, again there was no response...

Carlson's spirits are good, and he has absolutely no regrets that he expressed his political opinion, or that he used his freedom of speech. He has not been shown the specifics of the charges, nor has he been given a copy of the report or of any statements...

I would suggest any loyal readers of Iraqi Diary who want to express their opinions about Carlson's situation contact Charlie Yonts, who handles military issues for Sen. Graham, in Tallahassee at (850) 907-1100 or 866-418-9569.

I'll write more as I learn it. Any comments, both for publication and "off the record," can be sent to me at editor@seminoleherald.com.

Early birds



It's sandy, it's on a hill, and these are cranes — so they just have to be Sandhill Cranes. This pair were spotted across from Sanford Middle School early Wednesday morning...

Burglary

Lennox Martin LeBlanc, 34, listed as homeless in Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police Wednesday, after he reportedly entered a boarded up residence in the 400 block of Cypress Avenue...

Oviedo Police are searching for the person or persons responsible for the burglarizing of Diamandi's Jewelry store on June 17. The store is located in the Oviedo Plaza. Police said someone cut a hole through the roof at the rear of the building to gain entry...

Robbery

Jacob Sondheim, 20, of Mellonville Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police on June 7. On June 5, police were called to a residence in the 1300 block of Santa Barbara Drive in reference to a robbery. He reportedly robbed a man at gunpoint and took his keys and vehicle, driving to West Palm Beach...

DeForest LeManuel Darling, 33, of Brandon, Florida, was arrested by Sanford police on June 8, in connection with a reported robbery at a retail store in the 1600 block of Rinehart Road on June 7. He reportedly had fled following the robbery, and was located by Orange County Deputies at a filling station at Fairbanks and I-4. He was taken into custody by Sanford police. It was believed during the robbery, that Darling used a golf club to threaten a store employee...



Thefts

Giselle Shannon Nadera, 19, of Winter Springs, Blanca Rosa Gonzalez, 20 of Windchase Blvd., Sanford, and Desiree Nomy Aguirre, 17, were arrested by Sanford police Tuesday at a store in the 3600 block of Orlando Drive. They reportedly took \$87.05 in merchandise from the store without paying. Each was charged with petty shoplifting from a merchant and taken to the Seminole County Jail. Aguirre was taken to the Juvenile Center.

Melinda Crews, 24 of Orlando Drive, and Jennifer Spangenberg, 16, were arrested by Sanford police Wednesday at a retail store in the 3600 block of Orlando Drive. The two reportedly took items from the store without paying. They were charged with petty larceny.

Drug related

Henry Lee Scott, Sr., 49, of West 6th Street, was arrested by Sanford police on May 3 following a traffic stop on West 18th Street at French Avenue. During an investigation, drug related items were reportedly discovered in his vehicle and on his person. He was charged with possession of cocaine and possession of narcotics equipment.

Traffic stops

Noel Lopez, 19, of West 25th Street, Sanford, was located by Sanford police Tuesday following a two vehicle crash at 25th Street and Ridgewood Avenue. He was charged with driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs, DUI with property damage, no current insurance, making an improper right turn, and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

Eugene Rivers, Jr., 34, of William Clark Court, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford police early Tuesday. Officers stopped his vehicle after it was seen driving across the grass of the Edward Higgins housing project...

seen driving across the grass of the Edward Higgins housing project. The vehicle was finally stopped on Cedar Avenue. When Rivers opened the car door, it reportedly struck the officer, causing injury to his nose and face, after which Rivers reportedly fled, leaving a female in the vehicle. She gave officers his description and name. Officers were able to locate him on West 3rd Street at Cedar Avenue. He was charged with resisting an officer without violence, driving with a suspended license, crimes against a person, and operating a vehicle on a sidewalk. Police found he was on probation on a charge of driving with a suspended/revoked license (habitual). As his probation was violated based on the present charges, he was also charged with violation of probation.

Sonja M. Taylor, 30, of Tampa, was located by Sanford police Monday at St. Johns Parkway and Rinehart Road. She reportedly was in a verbal altercation with Antonio Marques Julks, 26, also of Tampa. Taylor was arrested on charges of driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs, battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting an officer with violence. Julks was also arrested on charges of giving a false ID to a law enforcement officer and property damage/criminal mischief. Julks is also said to have two active warrants for his arrest from Hillsborough County.

Other charges

Revonda Scott, 19, of William Clark Court, was arrested by Sanford police Wednesday. She was reportedly involved in an altercation with another woman and broke the windows in her home. After being taken into custody, she is said to have broken a window in the patrol car. She was also reportedly abusive to the officers and other persons who treated her for cuts from the broken glass. She was charged with aggravated stalking/threatening injury or death, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, and property damage of over \$200.

OUT & ABOUT

SAT. 19

Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Fort Mellon Park in Sanford from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Juneteenth is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. This is an awareness event of the Emancipation Proclamation, a vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is sponsored by the Sanford Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee. For more information phone 407-330-5665.

The Oviedo Police Department will hold its 7th Annual Law Enforcement Blood Drive from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. at Oviedo Marketplace. The drive is to ensure that an adequate blood supply will be available during emergencies. The mobile donation vehicle will be located near Cha Cha Coconuts in the north patio parking lot.

The Seminole County Administrative Services and Public Works Departments will host their second annual Bass Tournament to raise money for Kid's House. The tournament will be held at Marina Isle in Chuluota.

The City of Longwood's monthly evening of Bluegrass will be held at Lyman High School, from 7 until 10 p.m. Come and enjoy the music. Bring your strings and join in. For more information, phone 407-260-3447.

SUN. 20

In connection with the Juneteenth Celebration, a talent show will be held at the Sanford Civic Center. Admission is \$5. Doors open at 4:30 and the program starts at 5 p.m. For more information, phone 407-330-5665.

MON. 21

Scleroderma Support Group Meeting Monday June 21,2004 6:00pm - 8:00pm Orlando Fashion Square Mall 3201 Colonial Drive Community Room- from the parking garage go in the doors to the LEFT of Sears.

The speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Elston, rheumatologist.

The Sanford Fire Department will hold its monthly child passenger seat checkup for all citizens of Sanford at the Sanford Fire Station #2, 300 E. Airport Blvd. Contact Fire Inspector Tim Robles at 407-302-2520 for an appointment. Children do not need to be present.

TUES. 22

The Seminole County Animal Control Board will meet at 7 p.m. at the Animal Services Center, 232 Bush Blvd. in Sanford. Several items are on the agenda which may be of interest to pet lovers.

Advertisement for Dan Ping, Editor and Publisher of The Sanford Herald. Includes contact information for administration, legal advertising, editorial, display advertising, circulation, and classified advertising.

Main advertisement for The Sanford Herald, 'Serving Seminole County Since 1908'. Includes subscription rates for 3, 6, 1, and 2 years in Seminole and other Florida counties.

Advertisement for The Sanford Herald featuring contact information for letters and comments, including phone and fax numbers, and email addresses for the editor and publisher.

OPINION

Father's Day Reflections

Early in 1910, Mrs. John B. Dodd of Spokane, Wash., suggested a special day in memory of her father. She referred to Mother's Day, which had started three years earlier, and said father's deserved a similar recognition. The pastor of her church heeded the suggestion and gave a stirring sermon on the third Sunday in June of that year.

Soon, the move caught on, and the Mayor of Spokane forwarded the suggestion to the Governor. Soon, it became known in Washington, D.C., and by 1924, President Calvin Coolidge suggested it be an annual observance. It was not officially recognized as public law until 1972, but was celebrated everywhere by that time. It is also observed in



Nick Pfeifauf

England. It officially became listed as an official holiday on the third Sunday in June in 1966. Hopefully, the observance of Father's Day will bring recollections of the gentleman who was responsible for your existence.

While we tend to believe that all father's are good people, let's face it - some didn't exactly fit the bill. As a side-bar - years ago, I had a drummer playing in my band, Tony Fillion, who once told me that he learned something from every musician with which he played. "Some of what I learned was good, and other things were bad," he used to say. "With the good, I learned to improve myself. With the bad, I learned what NOT to do, so in either case, it was a learning experience."

Possibly the same holds true with fathers. Many of them helped form us into the persons we are today. Others may have stood as an example of what to avoid in our lives.

I recall writing a story in the *Herald* some time ago, about a man in Sanford who was arrested for selling drugs. In the story, it seemed that he had his two young sons, both under 15, also hitting the streets and selling drugs. This isn't what I would call good fatherly training.

On another perspective, some may not think they learned anything at all from their fathers. But as usual, the older one gets, the more they realize that father really taught them things that are valuable in their lives.

There is that old saying, "I didn't think my father knew anything, but the older I got, I was amazed at how much he had learned." It sometimes takes us years to realize what father taught us, and how much his influence helped to form our being.

One thing about the observance of Father's Day (or Mother's Day) is the fact that gifts are not necessary. Our expressions of appreciation and love for their parenting should stand as gifts enough.

As in my case, and probably many of yours, my father has departed from this world. How I wish, today, I could talk to him one more time and tell him about myself, and how his training helped me through life. No, I'm not perfect - but neither was he. Yet we both strived to succeed in life, and maintain honesty, love for our fellow man, and raise the next generation to reflect on the training, knowledge and histories of all of our fathers which have passed before us.

After all, my father raised me, his father raised him, and it so it goes back in time.

Hey, there's a suggestion. On this Father's Day, 2004, in addition to paying tribute to our father, let's go back and have a remembrance of the other fathers who preceded him. One way or another, they all made us what we are. Hopefully, they would be proud of their accomplishments.



Opinion Page Policy

Don't like our point of view? Do something about it. Write us a letter to the editor. All letters to the editor must be signed and, for verification purposes, include an address and phone number. Letters should also be limited to 500 words. Letters to the editor will be accepted by:

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Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of *The Sanford Herald*. Letters may be edited.

Thank you America for your support

The outpouring of love and respect for my dad the American people showed last week was astonishing. It was what really kept us going all week long.

Just to see the huge numbers of people who came out to join us in mourning dad, whether it was at the funeral home in Santa Monica where they broke out singing "God Bless America", or at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley where over 100,000 people came to pay their respects, or in Washington while dad lay in state at the Capitol and another 100,000 passed silently by his flag-draped coffin, it all left us breathless and filled with gratitude.

Seeing the firemen who had their fire trucks out, standing at attention and saluting as the hearse passed by on the way to the library and standing on the overpasses as the funeral procession passed by below, tugged at our heart strings.

After all, dad had not been in the public eye for ten years but during that time which Nancy called "the long goodbye," it now appears that the love for him continued to grow as people came to understand the respect he showed for the office of president, and the



Mike Reagan

respect he showed for each and every one of us and the optimistic vision he had for America's future - that we could always do better. His message was always hopeful and it inspired us and continues to inspire us.

I will always remember a little boy about the same age as young John Kennedy Jr. was when he saluted his father's coffin. He was standing on the median on the freeway with his dad, and saluting as the hearse passed by. Here was a boy maybe three or four years old who wasn't born when my dad was president, yet because of his parents' example he wanted to show his love for a man he never knew. All I can do is to say thank you, young American, with all my heart, thank you.

I can only say thank you to the 100,000 people who waited in line for hours to have a chance to walk by dad's coffin at the Library. Thank you to the 100,000 people who stood in

line in blazing heat for hours on end for a chance to spend a minute or two paying their respects to dad as he lay in state in the Capitol rotunda.

Thank you to the members of the military for the magnificent job you did during the different ceremonies where your precision drills were perfect in every respect. These things don't just happen and I realize how much effort you put into your performances of duty.

Thank you to President Bush, and Lady Thatcher and former President Bush, and Brian Mulroney for your touching eulogies at the funeral in Washington. Thank you Rev. Danforth for your kind words and for the beauty you helped bring to the ceremony.

All of you made it so much easier for us to get through those emotion-filled days we spent in the public eye and under the glare of the TV lights. You helped turn what could have been a grief-filled experience into a week-long awe-inspiring series of moments.

You made it clear that there was a massive support system out there - a support system that was praying for my dad and for us. It sustained us.

We had to go through this

very publicly - there were no moments when we could mourn in private. It was your love that turned what could have been a mere public spectacle into a mass outpouring of affection and love for my dad, and us, his family.

Thank you, John Kerry, for coming out here to California to pay your respects to a man with whom you disagreed so many times, yet respected enough to pay your final tribute.

Thank you, America. My dad loved you, and so do we. You are the finest, most decent and loving people in the world. And you proved that last week.

And thank you, Nancy Reagan, for taking such loving care of my dad and your beloved husband during the painful and extended ordeal of "the long goodbye." Your selflessness and dedication were above and beyond the call of duty and for that we owe you a debt of gratitude.

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network. Comments to mereagan@hotmail.com for Mike.

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Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth or June 19, 1865 is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. This is an awareness event of the Emancipation Proclamation, a vision of Dr. King.

Saturday, June 19, 2004
at Fort Mellon Park
600 East 1st Street
Sanford, Florida
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Blake showcases product; gives clubs fundraisers

Sanford Optimist Club members got a chance Wednesday to hold one of Sanford's newest inventions by a Sanford native and Optimist Club member, Rev. Emory Blake.

The Sanford native and professional football player passed around two of the lightweight devices that have been patented, marketed and distributed nationally.

Blake, president of Blake Inc., presented his personal hygiene invention, "The Shower Buddy," via the club's guest speaker, Larry Kears, chief operating officer of Blake Inc., and former Sanford resident.

Kears, a former basketball star at Seminole Community College, explained how convenient and useful the light-

Service Club Connections



Charles Jackson

weight item is for athletes and older adults in proper care of the feet; which in a professional athlete's case, means millions of dollars. The 3-in-1 personal hygiene care item is a body brush, sponge tip, and massage brush. The sponge tip is good for cleaning between toes and the body brush for scraping heels.

Kears, who is moving from Atlanta to Sanford, is a long-time marketing expert. The

item was showcased at the Senior Citizens Festival here last month.

He said there are similar items on the market, but they do not have the sponge tip or the flexibility of the "Shower Buddy." The item is available in Sanford at Tru Value Pharmacy on First Street and Bethel Book and Bible on Sanford Avenue.

For civic groups looking for a fundraiser, Kears said Blake Inc. will give \$3 for each "Shower Buddy" sold. The item retails for \$39.95.

Optimist members were impressed and proud of the fact that their own members, Emory and Jeff Blake, are founders of this company and Optimist Board member Bob Howe serves as a director of

Blake Inc.

Jeff Blake, a veteran NFL quarterback, is a product of Sanford Optimist as a youth, being named Athlete of the Month at Seminole High School. He returns regularly at meetings. He holds yearly camps in Sanford and conducts a myriad of community service, including endowments and scholarships in family member's names.

MORE GOOD NEWS:

Emory said Jeff believes joining the Philadelphia Eagles is "one of his best opportunities in the NFL." As backup to Donovan McNabb, Jeff is "on a winning team, that is bound for the Super Bowl. He wants that ring," Emory said. Amid applause, he also said Jeff will

be moving back to Central Florida.

ROTARY SERVICE: Here's more from Sanford Noon Rotary's plans for the 2004-05 year. The vocational service plans call for a youth essay contest, service to disabled residents, Interact high school and community projects, youth exchange and other services. Interact helps students learn leadership skills and assists those who need help "getting over the hump." Sean Barth, chairman of vocational service, said Interact is perhaps Rotary's "best kept secret."

DRIVING MEMBERSHIP: The Rotarians are planning a contest in which each member should recruit 12 new mem-

bers. Seems overwhelming doesn't it? But Jon Gumina settled our fears when he said, "That's the goal, but the actual working goal is six new members."

That's more like it; I thought. But then too, I like the goal of 12. It has more significance and seems to inspire excellence. Yes, it's high, but I — and We — can do it. Sounds great doesn't it? Lord, help reach that drive.

Charles D. Jackson, a Sanford native, writes a weekly column on civic and service clubs in Seminole County. Please send announcements two to three weeks before event to *The Sanford Herald*, 300 N. French Ave., Sanford, Florida, 32771. Or e-mail them to editor: cpattson@seminoleherald.com.

Community Briefs

Foodsource program provides food at reduced cost

The Christian-based food cooperative is ready to supply food at reduced cost, to persons in the local area during the month of June.

This is not a program for the needy, it is for everyone, and offers huge savings on grocery expenses. Deadline for applying for the food is June 24.

Pickup date for the regular menu and the meat box menu is June 26 at Sanford Church of Christ. Order by phoning 1-800-832-5020. For more information, call the church

at 407-322-8234.

Reunion planned for naval academy

The Sanford Naval Academy is planning a reunion on Oct. 16 at the Orlando Marriott. The effort now is to locate as many alumni in the area as possible.

The Academy was located at the present site of New Tribes Mission on East First Street in Sanford from 1967 until 1976. Further details on the reunion will be forthcoming.

Any information regarding former students and instruc-

tors at the Naval Academy should call Ray Hart at 770-428-0180, or fax 336-297-9227.

Horse riders needed

Freedom Ride, a non-profit organization is looking for volunteers to help with horseback riding lessons for individuals with disabilities. If interested, call 407-293-0411 or e-mail frvolcor@aol.com

Club asks for car donations

Boys and Girls Clubs in Florida are running car campaigns to help support their programs. If you would like to

donate your automobile, call 800-246-0493. Some restrictions apply.

Longwood presents exercise event for seniors

The city of Longwood

will present Seniorcise events, each Tuesday and Thursday at the Longwood Community Building, 200 W. Warren Ave., beginning at 9 a.m.

Cost is \$2 per class, which

will offer fun and easy-to-follow aerobics combined with stretching and strengthening routines, specially designed for older adults.

For more information, call 407-260-3447.

Couple celebrates 25 years

John and Susan Neri of Lake Mary celebrated their silver anniversary on June 17. They were married at St. Bridget's Church in Westbury, N.Y. They have three children — Anna Marie, Adam and Alan.

Photo submitted



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You can even bid on one of these beautiful chairs and benefit the Council.
Beginning Friday evening and all day Saturday, enjoy live entertainment, caricature artists, face painters and more. Kids will have the opportunity to paint their own mini-Adirondack chair beginning at noon, while supplies last.
Be sure to register to win a 3 night stay at The Wyndham Casa Marina Resort in Key West and as well as lots of great door prizes. MIX 105.1 will be on site on Saturday from Noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 407-304-1327.
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EDUCATION

Seminole County teachers to receive a pay hike

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

SANFORD — A more than 5 percent pay raise and increasing medical insurance premiums for school employees will be paid for by a change in state funding that netted the Seminole County school district millions of dollars.

Teachers can also earn more money for extra educational degrees, said Stephen Bouzianis, director of employee relations.

A funding formula called the district cost differential gives more money to school districts where the cost of living is higher. A flaw in the funding was corrected this past year, according to Bouzianis.

That plus money from the reduced class size amendment created an increase in funds

allocated to the Seminole County school district.

The district receives funds designated for class size reduction.

"If you don't need all of that, if you are already meeting class size requirements, then you can use that money for teacher salaries," said Dianne Kramer, deputy superintendent.

The school board decided to use about 95 percent of the extra funds for pay for raises for teachers, clerical, custodial and transportation employees.

"The average pay raise will be in the 5 percent range," Bouzianis said. "It won't vary much, just tenths of a percentage point."

Employee unions and the school board still have to give final approval for the bargaining agreement.

Bouzianis said the actual

employee contracts do not come up for renewal until 2006, but each year employee representatives and the district discuss pay raises and fringe benefits.

Paul Sanchez, who represents the employees, described a congenial working relationship with the district.

"We have a collaborative relationship with the district," said Sanchez, executive director of Seminole UniServ, which represents non-management school employees and is the chief negotiator in bargaining.

He said there is no negativity or game playing. They don't demand inflated wage and benefit increases and hold out as long as possible, he explained.

"We do things very differently," Bouzianis said. "We basically bargain all year long."

In an open exchange, he said,

they sit with employee representatives and show how much money the district has available.

"Last year was a tough year for us," Sanchez said. "We didn't bargain for a significant increase and overall we received about 2 percent that included a bonus."

Salaries increased very little over the last two years, Bouzianis said. The amounts paid to teachers for extra degrees will increase this year. Bouzianis suggested the new numbers will be in the top three or four in the state, if not the highest.

The district will pay \$3,700 for a master's degree, up from \$3,504 last year; \$6,700 for a specialist degree, an increase from \$6,351; and \$9,700 for a doctorate, a boost from \$9,199.

Under the new agreement,

school employees will still not have to pay for their individual premiums, Bouzianis said.

"We tried to hold the employees harmless with the insurance premiums," he said. The district will pay the \$475 increase for single employee annual premiums. That is the largest dollar increase in six years, Bouzianis said.

Adding the pay raises and premium costs, the district will use more than \$15 million or 95.2 percent of the extra money allocated to the district, he said.

In addition, a starting teacher with a bachelor's degree will make \$30,000, a goal of the district, he said.

"We're still behind Orange County and we know that," Bouzianis said. He added that Seminole County Public

Schools are within a few hundred dollars of starting salaries in other Central Florida districts.

According to its Web site, Seminole UniServ manages the four associations that represent the public school employees in Seminole County.

UniServ is an acronym meaning Unified Service. The organization has more than 3,400 members, and is affiliated with the 120,000-member Florida Education Association and the 2.4 million-member National Education Association.

Teachers in Seminole County are represented by the Seminole Education Association, and each school or cost center in the district has an association representative.

Williams graduates from Georgia State

Penelope Williams, daughter of the late Circuit Judge Volie Williams, and Connie Williams of Sanford, graduated from Georgia State University on May 18. She received a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies.

Born and raised in Sanford, she was a 1975 graduate of Seminole High School. She has toured as a jazz pianist and vocalist for 25 years. Her early musical influences include the sounds of southern rock and roll, blues, cabaret and jazz. She received her undergraduate degree in 1998 and is Coordinator of Events and Facilities for Georgia State University's School of Music.

She is also Music Director for the Atlanta Church of Religious Science, recognized scholar on the life and music of pianist and composer...

Williams, and has presented her research at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the American Jazz Museum, and the International Association for Jazz Education conferences (IAJE).

Well known for her support of female involvement in jazz, she is chair of the IAJE Women's Caucus and an active voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and current Board of Governor at the Atlanta Chapter.

Penelope held her graduate recital before an enthusiastic audience, on March 24. She recently conducted a vocal improvisation workshop in Monterey, California for the Religious Science International annual conference and appeared in a panel discussion on Women in Music in Athens, Georgia.



Photo submitted

Penelope Williams recently received a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies from Georgia State University

Her latest CD project, "October Sky" is independently distributed and features original and main-

stream straight-ahead jazz compositions including vocal and instrumental selections.

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June Makeover

Holly Herzog is a student at Crooms Academy of Information Technology. Her hobbies include playing guitar, listening to music, sewing & computing.

Favorite bands?— The Clash, Romantics, 99, X-ray Spex

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—Holly Herzog

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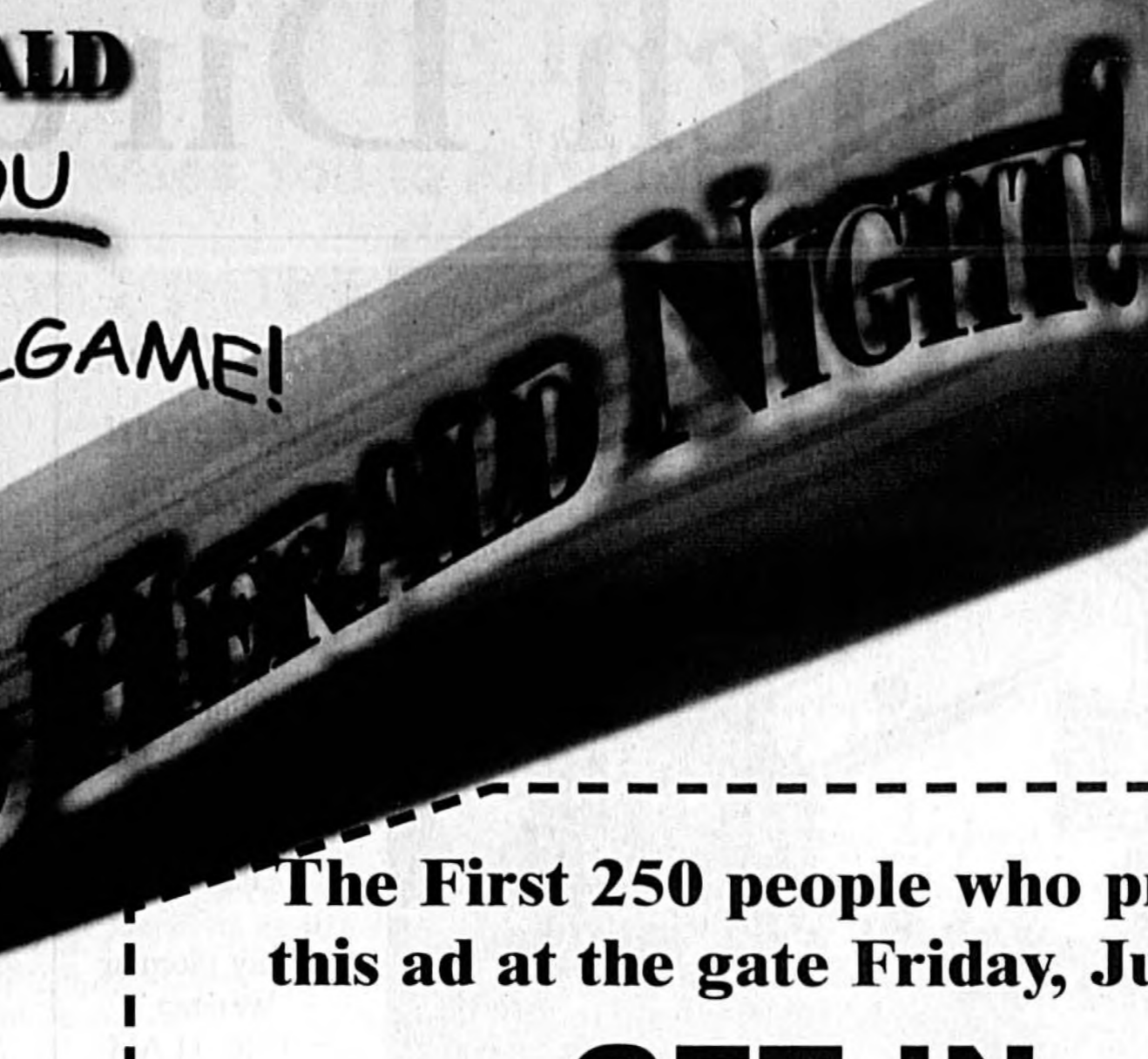


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THE 2ND ANNUAL

Best of Seminole

READERS CHOICE

The Herald is asking you, our readers, to participate in the 2nd annual "Best of Seminole" Readers Choice Awards for the best food, people, places, shopping and services in Seminole County.

Tell us your picks for the "Best of Seminole" by filling out the official entry ballot on this page.

Ballot must be substantially completed. No copies allowed, use official form only (this page). If multiple locations exist: please specify location.

All ballots must be received by 5 p.m., Friday July 2nd. Watch for the results in the *Herald* special Readers Choice Section to be published in the July 28, 29 editions of the *Herald*.

Official Ballot

		TOWN			TOWN
1. Best Cup of Coffee	_____	_____	52. Best Dance Studio	_____	_____
2. Best Breakfast	_____	_____	53. Best Realtor	_____	_____
3. Best Pizza	_____	_____	54. Best Residential Contractor	_____	_____
4. Best Hearing Aid Service	_____	_____	55. Best Commercial Contractor	_____	_____
5. Best Hamburger	_____	_____	56. Best Recreational Facility	_____	_____
6. Best Steak	_____	_____	57. Best Movie Theater	_____	_____
7. Best Chicken	_____	_____	58. Best Health Food Store	_____	_____
8. Best Seafood	_____	_____	59. Best Tobacco Shop	_____	_____
9. Best Chinese Food	_____	_____	60. Best Carpet Store	_____	_____
10. Best Mexican Food	_____	_____	61. Best Plumbing Service	_____	_____
11. Best Family Restaurant	_____	_____	62. Best Pest Control Service	_____	_____
12. Best Sub	_____	_____	63. Best Wrecker Service	_____	_____
13. Best Dessert	_____	_____	64. Best Tavern/Lounge/Bar	_____	_____
14. Best Electrical Contractor	_____	_____	65. Best Home Decor Store	_____	_____
15. Best Ice Cream	_____	_____	66. Best Liquor & Wine Store	_____	_____
16. Best Bar-B-Que	_____	_____	67. Best Lawn & Garden Store	_____	_____
17. Best New Car Dealer	_____	_____	68. Best Insurance Agency	_____	_____
18. Best Used Car Dealer	_____	_____	69. Best Pet Grooming	_____	_____
19. Best Auto Rental	_____	_____	70. Best Veterinarian	_____	_____
20. Best Vehicle Repair	_____	_____	71. Best Full Service Bank	_____	_____
21. Best Paint & Body Shop	_____	_____	72. Best Credit Union	_____	_____
22. Best Car Wash	_____	_____	73. Best Nursing Home	_____	_____
23. Best Auto & Truck Parts	_____	_____	74. Best Assisted Living Facility	_____	_____
24. Best Tire Dealer	_____	_____	75. Best Physician	_____	_____
25. Best Florist	_____	_____	76. Best Dentist	_____	_____
26. Best Jewelry Store	_____	_____	77. Best Chiropractor	_____	_____
27. Best Antique Store	_____	_____	78. Best Eye Care Center	_____	_____
28. Best Cellular Phone Sales/Service	_____	_____	79. Best Child Care Facility	_____	_____
29. Best Shoe Store	_____	_____	80. Best Mortgage Loan Co.	_____	_____
30. Best Dry Cleaning	_____	_____	81. Best Health & Fitness Center	_____	_____
31. Best Barber Shop	_____	_____	82. Best Funeral Home	_____	_____
32. Best Beauty Salon	_____	_____	83. Best Boat Dealer	_____	_____
33. Best Tanning Salon	_____	_____	84. Best Marina	_____	_____
34. Best Nail Salon	_____	_____	85. Best Golf Course	_____	_____
35. Best Furniture Store	_____	_____	86. Best Bed & Breakfast	_____	_____
36. Best Furniture Store	_____	_____	87. Best Photography Studio	_____	_____
37. Best Hardware Store	_____	_____	88. Best Lawn Care/Landscaping	_____	_____
38. Best Heating/Air Dealer	_____	_____	89. Best Oil Change	_____	_____
39. Best Bait & Tackle Shop	_____	_____	90. Best Lawnmower/Tractor Dealer	_____	_____
40. Best Pet Store	_____	_____	91. Best Real Estate Agency	_____	_____
41. Best Feed Store	_____	_____			
42. Best Bicycle Shop	_____	_____			
43. Best Motorcycle Shop	_____	_____			
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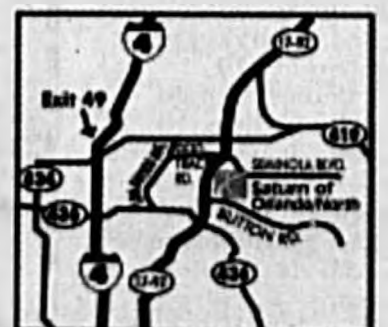
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MIDWEEK

JUNE 23, 2004



Sunday Sweep

The Sanford River Rats bounced back from a loss on Friday to sweep a double-header from the Daytona Beach Barracudas on Sunday and improve to 6-3 on the season.

See Sports, Page 10A.

New Coati Babies at Zoo

Two litters of ringtailed coatis (co-ah-tees) have been born at the Central Florida Zoo.

The coati litters were born to two separate females, one on May 6 and the other on May 13. The male coati is on exhibit in the Zoo near the Snack Bar, however the females are currently off exhibit with the babies.

Ringtailed coatis are South American mammals that inhabit forest regions. Coatis are diurnal or active during the day, and they primarily feed on insects, although they will occasionally take small reptiles, rodents and amphibians. Coatis have a long, mobile snout and very strong claws that they use to uncover surface soil and leaf litter when feeding. Coatis also have a long tail that is used to balance during climbing.

Coatis are in the raccoon family, which includes our native raccoon, coatis, kinkajou and the red panda. Coatis are considered common in their natural habitat, however few people in the U.S. have ever seen them.

Four of the eight coatis will be hand-raised and one will remain in the Zoo's Education Department. The remaining three will go to other education programs around the country.

"Coatis are such an interesting species, and they offer many great educational opportunities," said Sandi Linn, Director of Education at the Zoo.

The babies can be seen in the Zoo during brief encounters on the weekends at 11:45 a.m., from June 26 through July 4.

Seminole Smile



Jessica Smith —
Worship Leader at Common Ground Community Church

Parents fret over school rezoning

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Angela Hoefflich of the Sabal Bend part of Sabal Point subdivision worked as a relocation coordinator before moving to the Lake Brantley High School zone.

"We could have chosen anywhere to live," she said of her husband's change in jobs. She researched the area for two years before they moved, and settled on Lake Brantley, 30 miles from her husband's job.

"We sacrificed a lot to move here," she said. They bought a 17-year-old

Officials work to relieve crowded facilities and fill new high school

home when they could have built a new one closer to her husband's job, she said. His commute means less family time, she added.

Parents from Sabal Point and nearby The Springs subdivision attended the June 15 Core Committee meeting which began the process of identifying who will be rezoned when Hagerty

High School opens in Oviedo in August 2005.

The principals, parent-teacher association presidents and the school advisory council chairpersons of each high school and middle school comprise the Core Committee.

Pouring over maps and figures, the committee tried to decide which areas

to consider for rezoning. Tables were busy, but only the Lake Brantley table attracted the vast majority of the attending public.

Lake Brantley committee members identified 12 cells, including The Springs and Sabal Point.

Kate Landis of Sabal Point said her community will look at the information and then decide what action it will take.

"We can hear the band play on Friday nights," said Janice Winn of The Springs. "That's how close we

See Rezoning, Page 8A

Deputy manager leaves Seminole for Ocoee

From Staff Reports

Seminole County officials confirmed that Deputy County Manager Rob Frank has submitted his resignation.

Frank's resignation is effective July 7, at which point he will assume the duties of city manager with the city of Ocoee.

"Rob and the city of Ocoee completed salary negotiation (Monday) night, and he submitted his resignation

(Tuesday) morning," said Daryl McLain, chairman of the Seminole Board of County Commissioners.

Frank began his career with Seminole County in 2001, serving as one of two deputy county managers. He led several departments including Public Works, Public Safety, Environmental Services, Administrative Services, and Information Technology. "Rob has been a real asset for Seminole County Government," said County Manager Kevin Grace. "One of his many accomplishments was coordinating the success-

See Frank, Page 7A

Commission picks LM fire hall site

By Christopher Patton
Managing Editor

LAKE MARY — Debated for more than two years, Lake Mary city commissioners have finally agreed where to locate a new fire substation, though some are still not convinced it's the best fit possible.

From land around City Hall to space near the community center, officials have searched Lake Mary's downtown area for about an acre of open land to build a fire station. They considered purchasing a site, but recent development in the downtown area has sent property values soaring, according to City Manager John Litton.

"We could never find the perfect site and we still haven't found the perfect site," he said, adding more than a dozen potential locations were originally studied.

Commissioners approved a site plan by a margin of 4-1 for

See Site, Page 3A

Cuts in federal funding threaten to LEAVE SOME CHILDREN BEHIND

Seminole schools struggle to replace Title I allotments

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

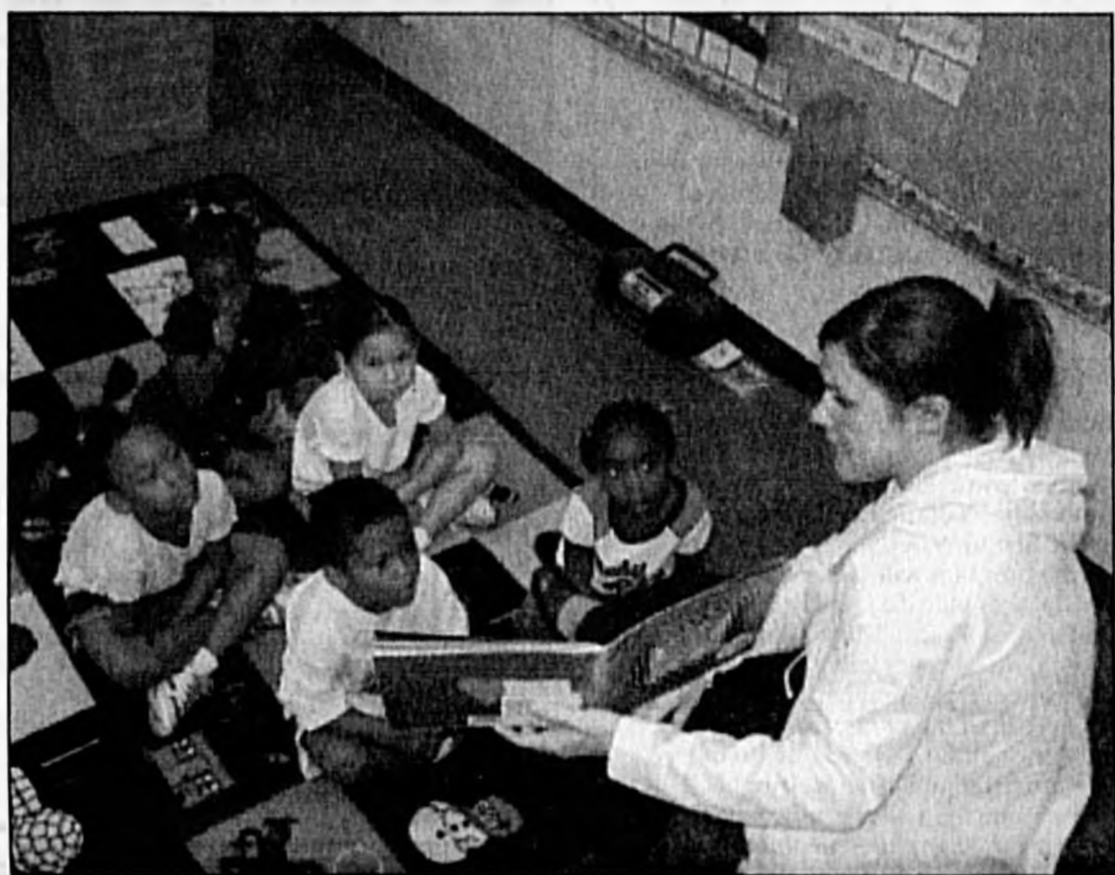
SANFORD — Six small children walked around a corner at Hamilton Elementary here, their fingers pressed to their lips. They understood the message to remain quiet.

Their teacher, trailing the group, saw another opportunity for a lesson since they were outside the school.

"Never go around the corner, so I can always see where you are," she said. Some nodded knowingly. Others just looked ahead, their fingers still to their lips.

The young people will start kindergarten in August, but will spend two weeks this summer getting oriented in Kinder Kamp.

The orientation almost didn't occur. Seminole County Public Schools cut the program because funding from Title I has been cut by the federal government; however, the Seminole County Coalition for School Readiness stepped in to fund the program



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

Kinder Kamp teacher Dawn Savery reads "The Color Zoo" to upcoming kindergarten students at Hamilton Elementary School. Programs like Hamilton's Kinder Kamp, which prepares low-income children for their first days of school, face difficulties because of cuts in federal money.

with a small grant, according to Karen Willis, executive director of the Coalition.

"The purpose of it is really to provide an opportunity for low-income kids

to get a jump start on the first day of school," said Marjorie Murray, director of special projects for Seminole County Public Schools.

Title I is part of the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The federal law gives billions of dollars to the country's school districts, based on the number

See Title I, Page 8A

Juneteenth celebration draws large crowd

By Marva Hawkins
Herald Correspondent

More than 1,000 people enjoyed the Juneteenth Celebration this past Saturday in Fort Mellon park.

Juneteenth and Race Unity Day was sponsored by the City of Sanford Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, the Bahai's of Seminole County and 94.5 FM radio station.

Master of ceremonies at the opening was Kenneth Bentley, chairman of the

Goldsboro Front Porch. The City of Sanford Police Department color guard presented the colors.

Sanford musical artist and soloist Tracy Jackson led the celebrators in singing the National Anthem, also the musical rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

The Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Chorus also presented musical numbers.

Dorothy Guess of the MLK Jr. Committee gave the history of the

Juneteenth and Race Unity Celebration.

The Celebration is held every June 19 because on June 19, 1865, the last slaves in America were freed. The actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The end of slavery, Juneteenth, has come to symbol-

See Crowd, Page 3A

SCC auto repair program shifts to high gear

By Steve Paradis
Staff Writer

SANFORD — With \$6.5 million from the state and Central Florida auto dealers, the automotive technology program at Seminole Community intends to shift into high gear.

The college will construct a new Automotive Technology Center on its Sanford/Lake Mary campus. The plans include expanded courses and a permanent home on campus for the Central Florida Auto Dealers Association, which donated \$2.5 million for the project.

The State of Florida will match that money and authorized an additional \$1.5 million to complete con-

struction. "Technology is the reason that it's so important for the industry to work with education," said Barbara Miller, executive vice president for the auto dealers association.

"We're very, very excited." The automotive technology program at the college has piled up national awards of excellence, but the facility is 30 years old and space for students is limited.

"We knew we needed a new facility for our program which is tops in the nation," said E. Ann McGee, college president. She described a seven-year process that started with a donation from the auto dealers association.

After the association's annual auto show helped

raise enough money, matching funds were sought from the Legislature, she said. Lawmakers included the extra dollars to help pay for rising construction costs, she said.

The need for trained and certified technicians is great, said Michael Griffin, department chairman at the college.

"The State of Florida is saying we will need 9,000 techs by the year 2009," Griffin said. "Nationally it's estimated that 386,000 certified techs will retire in this decade."

Currently, the college offers classes in auto service technology and sales training, but the new center will accommodate much more.

"Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art automotive training center offering training for all five departments of a dealership, including sales, service, parts, administration and body shop," Miller said.

Technology and demand created a need to boost the program, McGee said.

"Auto technicians today are no longer shade tree mechanics tinkering with cars," she said in an interview. Increasingly systems on cars are computer controlled.

"The college currently offers an exceptional program with classroom and lab instruction, on-the-car expe-

See SCC, Page 3A

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