



### Moving On Up

Taylor Ramsaur of Lake Brantley High School and Willie Bennett of Seminole High School, both First Team All-Seminole Athletic Conference Offensive performers from last year, have taken their talents to the mid-west to begin their college careers.

Page 1B

### Legislative Meeting is Sept. 6

#### The Seminole County Legislative Delegation will hold its annual public hearing Thursday, Sept. 6 at the Seminole County Commission Chambers, 1101 E. First Street in Sanford, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. If it is determined a second meeting will be needed, Sept. 24 has been reserved at the same location.

To be listed to make a presentation, or for additional information on a local matter, call Representative David Meador's office at 407-328-3718.

### Sanford Main Street has Annual Meeting

Sanford Main Street Inc. will hold its Annual Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 25, at DaVinci's restaurant, located at 107 Magnolia Ave. in downtown Sanford. A social time will begin at 5:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed at 6 p.m. with the business meeting. For more information, call 407-322-5600.

### Seminole Smile



Don Knight - Owner of Knight's Shoe Store in downtown Sanford

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# Voters OK 1¢ sales tax

## By a landslide margin, 72-28, Seminole residents extend penny tax for 10 more years

By Christopher Patton  
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Ten years after Seminole County voters approved an initial 1-cent sales tax increase, citizens on Tuesday approved a 10-year extension of the tax.

County voters approved the extension by a 72 to 28 percent margin, with 30,533 votes in favor of the measure and 11,664 against. The 42,197 people who voted on the sales tax represents 21 percent of Seminole County's registered voters.

On July 9, 1991, 20,696 voters, or 17.5 percent of the county's registered voters, approved the initial one-cent sales tax, garnering 60 percent of the vote.

"I think it's a great day for Seminole County," Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide said. "I'm proud to be a resident of Seminole County, and I'm proud to be an elected official of Seminole County."

Van Der Weide credited the landslide victory to the "massive collective effort" of the county, schools and the seven cities of the county. He also credited the Private Business Association of Seminole County and the schools' Parent Teacher Associations for coordinating the groundwork.

"Before we ever made the decision to put it on we had a profes-

sional poll conducted, and it showed 65 percent of the people in Seminole County would support the tax. If we had the roads and schools together, it would be higher," Commissioner Carlton Henley said. "I'm still extremely, extremely pleased it passed."

Seminole County School Board Member Larry Furlong was surprised at the margin of victory and the voter turnout, but felt the schools may have made the difference.

"I think what we will find when it's all said and done is the school community turned out a large chunk of the voters," Furlong said.

County manager Kevin Grace agreed "Ten years ago it was just transportation and it was 60 percent. I think it would be that again, but I think the schools certainly added something to it."

According to Grace, the first referendum "established credibility" because the county "laid out in detail what they planned to do with the money," which also helped with the large margin of victory Tuesday.

The last referendum helped improve 86 miles of key roads. This referendum will help fund more than just roads improvements as a quarter of the revenue will help schools build an additional 169 classrooms.

"This measure we will have a chance to keep up with the



Ethel Fried mans the polls at precincts #62 and #125 and the Sanford Civic Center. Fried and her fellow poll workers across the county had plenty of spare time — only 21 percent of registered voters turned out for the sales tax referendum.

Herald photo by Tommy Vincent

growth," Furlong said. "It's unusual for a tax referendum to pass that overwhelmingly. I think it's encouraging for Orange County, too. You can get a tax referendum passed if it's done a certain way."

Elections in Oviedo had Tim Walters winning the mayor elec-

tion, while Todd Russell defeated incumbent Christopher Jepsen by 15 percent for one of the councilman seats. Incumbent councilman Tom O'Hanlon narrowly escaped defeat as he was losing until the last precinct reported and gave him a narrow 130 vote victory.

The water treatment and parks and recreation bonds in Oviedo passed by more than 70 percent, while the cultural arts center fell by almost 70 percent.

In Winter Springs, voters passed wholesale district amendments and a bond referendum for Central Winds Park by 65 percent.

### Stairs Theatre hosts Saturday night run of Sanford Opry

By Michelle Joris  
Managing Editor

SANFORD — A cast of aspiring professional and amateur vocalists will perform an array of musical selections Saturday during the premier of the Sanford Opry.

The brainchild of Wyatt Davis, the Sanford Opry is a new high-energy variety show. Performers will sing some of today's greatest hits and standard selections from music's golden days.

"The show offers something for everybody," said Sanford Opry Assistant Director Dale Wesley. "We don't do anything that would offend anybody. It's a real family show."

Along with directing the show, Wesley also sings several numbers during the performance, including "The One I Love Back Then" and "Everything is Beautiful." Local residents may recognize Wesley from his former band, "Renegade," which performed at the Lake Monroe Inn.

As for the Sanford Opry,



Lindsay Logsdon, a singer from Seminole County, is one of the local performers in the Sanford Opry, a variety show at the Helen Stairs Theatre.

Herald photo by Michelle Joris

Wesley said the premier performance is one of many future appearances scheduled to appear at the Helen Stairs Theatre.

Besides Wesley, who is one of the show's veteran performers, numerous up-and-coming talent will be featured during the Opry, including Melissa TenBroeck, Dustin Seymour, Lindsay Logsdon and recent Seminole High School graduates Phaze 3.

Other performers include legendary saxophone player Noble "Thin Man" Waits, who will headline the showcase, former Mousekateer Jennifer McGill, Raye Snow, Eddie Uzzle and Elvis Impersonator Michael Leone.

"People are really going to love this show," Wesley said. "I've been with it for 14 months, See Opry, Page 8A

### County's credit ranking among state's highest

By Christopher Patton  
Staff Writer

SANFORD — As the economy sways and dips don't look for the Seminole County government to falter.

County officials traveled to New York last month to discuss credit ratings with two major bond rating agencies and were able to bring home good news: Seminole County now has one of the five highest credit ratings of the 67 counties in Florida. Only Palm

Beach and Broward counties have higher ratings and Hillsborough and Sarasota counties are equal to Seminole.

"The rating services have now solidly put Seminole County in the elite financial categories for county governments," said Commissioner Randy Morris. "What makes this even more significant and satisfying is that we have been upgraded during a national

See Credit, Page 6A

### GED testing changes will affect partial qualifiers

By Christopher Patton  
Staff Writer

SANFORD — A major change to the state GED test will force thousands of Florida residents to fully complete the test before the new one is introduced in January.

Any Seminole County residents who have partially completed the current GED test must complete the remaining

parts before December or all their progress will be lost.

"We did a mail out to 3,800 persons in Seminole County who were partial completers over the last four years," said Harriet Little, director of the GED program at Seminole Community College. "They've had changes before, but this is a total revision. We don't want

See GED, Page 6A

## Pulitzer Prize nominee Clifton Taulbert visits Sanford

By Michelle Joris  
Managing Editor

SANFORD — The Good Samaritan Home opened its doors and its heart Saturday to welcome internationally renowned author and speaker Clifton Taulbert.

The writer spent more than an hour touring the facility with members of the community, including Sanford County Commissioner Velma Williams, Sanford Mayor Brady Lessard, Good Samaritan Home Director Thelma Mike and Good Samaritan Home board and committee members. The tour was part of Taulbert's visit that ended with a benefit performance at the Helen Stairs

Theatre. "This is Sanford's day, and I am just glad to be part of it," Taulbert said. "I think Sanford is its own little entity. It contains an explosive power of unselfishness that has its own ability to live and connect."

Taulbert said plans for his first visit to Sanford began more than a year ago when Good Samaritan Home Board of Directors Chairman Dorothea Fogle contacted the writer about doing a benefit performance for the facility. It was Fogle's persistence that eventually made Taulbert agree to the request.

"Ms. Fogle talked to my assistant so much, I was beginning to think they were having

a telephone love affair," Taulbert said. "Between both of them, they convinced me to come to Sanford."

Taulbert, who holds seminars and lectures throughout the world, is the author of the highly acclaimed book, "Eight Habits of the Heart." He is also the Pulitzer Prize nominated author of "The Last Train North," "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored," and "Watching Our Crops Grow." He has received numerous awards, including the 1996 NAACP Image Award and the National Arthritis Foundation Volunteer of the Year Citation, and he was the Presidential

See Taulbert, Page 8A



Sanford Commissioner Velma Williams, left, and Mayor Brady Lessard, right, presented Clifton Taulbert with a proclamation welcoming him to the city.

Herald photo by Tommy Vincent



### Obituaries

**NEDA WAMLEY BLANKENSHIP**  
Neda Wamley Blankenship, 67, of West 52nd Street, Riviera Beach, died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2001 in St. Mary's Medical Center.  
Born Sept. 18, 1933, in Sanford, she was a homemaker and a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.  
Survivors include six sons, Harold Earl Williams, Eric Earl Williams Sr., Ronald F. Freeman and Ricardo Johnson, all of Sanford, Barry R. Wamley Sr., of West Palm Beach and Rodricus Johnson of Altamonte Springs; two daughters, Loretta Williams of Sanford and Venita Whitaker of Eustis; a brother, George Wamley of Hallandale; three sisters, Geneva Duval, Laura June and Elma Young, all of Sanford; 25 grandchildren; and a host of great grandchildren.

**FELTON D. BARKER**  
Felton D. Barker, 78, of Buckshot Avenue, Osteen, died Saturday, Sept. 1, 2001, in Central Florida Regional Hospital of Sanford.  
Born in Austin, Texas, he moved to Central Florida from Cocoa in 1965. He was a retired, self-employed mason for 44 years and a former 32nd degree Mason and Bahia Shrine. He was also an avid hunter and enjoyed fishing.  
Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Betty Barker; five sons, Bill Barker of Georgia, Buddy Barker of Orlando,

John Barker of Deltona, Dale Barker of Osteen and Alan Webb of Ocala; two daughters, Linda Barker of Lakeland and Beverly Wright of Sanford; a brother, Ray Harmon of New Braunfels, Texas; two sisters, Lola Rautio and Shirley Jong, both of New Braunfels, Texas; 18 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.  
Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or a charity of donor's choice.  
Fourtown Cremation Inc. of Orange City is in charge of arrangements.

**RUBY E. BRADSHAW**  
Ruby E. Bradshaw, 93, of Selma Road, Longwood, died Friday, Aug. 31, 2001, in her residence.  
Born Feb. 4, 1908, in Fishers Island, N.Y., she moved to Central Florida 11 years ago. She was a retired entertainer and of the Episcopalian faith.  
Survivors include two sons, Kenneth L. Bradshaw Jr., of Inverness, and Richard Bradshaw of St. Petersburg; three daughters, Judi Green of Longwood, Ruby Gagnon of Jacksonville and Eunice Busiere of Taunton, Mass.; 17 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; and 9 great great grandchildren.  
Banfield Funeral Home of Winter Springs is in charge of arrangements.

**VICTORIA ETHEL DARGAN**  
Victoria Ethel "Sister Graham" Dargan, 98, of North West 26th Street, Fort Lauderdale, died Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001, in Hospice Florida Medical Center.  
Born July 22, 1903 in

Sanford, she was a homemaker and a member of Hickory Avenue Church of God.  
Survivors include two sons, Victor Dargan of Sanford and Jimmie Royal Hill of Orlando; two daughters, Violet Dargan of Fort Lauderdale and Effiea Deveaux of Greenbelt, Md.; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.  
Wilson-Eichelberger Mortuary Inc., of Sanford is in charge of arrangements.



DARGAN

**GORDAN F. 'WILLIE' MANGHAM JR.**  
Gordan F. "Willie" Mangham Jr., 48, of Floyd Avenue, Lake Mary, died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2001.  
Born in Mobile, Ala., he moved to Central Florida in 1968. He was a mason and a member of Seminole Community Church of Sanford.  
Survivors include his father, Gordan Mangham Sr., of Lake Mary; a step-mother, Sharon Parker Mangham of Lake Mary; three sisters, Pam of Cocoa, Deborah of Orlando, and Kelley Kingsland of Oviedo; and three brothers, Michael and David, both of DeBary and John of Cumming, Ga.

Memorial services will be 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in Seminole Community Church, located at 5070 Orange Blvd. in Sanford. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations

be made to the American Cancer Society or The Homeless Coalition.  
National Cremation Society Beacon Chapter of Winter Park is in charge of arrangements.

**RYAN JAMES MCCARTHY-NIEVES**  
Ryan James McCarthy-Nieves, 16 days, of Bitterwood Street, Winter Springs, died Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001, in Arnold Palmer Hospital of Orlando.  
Born in Orlando, he was a member of Nativity Catholic Church.  
Survivors include his father, James Lee Nieves of Winter Springs; his mother, Heather Lynn McCarthy of Winter Springs; grandmother and grandfather, Kevin and Donna McCarthy of Winter Springs; grandmother and grandfather, Melissa and Jeff Morales of Casselberry; and great grandparents Louise H. McCarthy of Port St. Lucie, Richard Rebello of Orlando, Ruth T. Rebello of Orlando and Joyce Jordan of Exeter, N.H.

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

**NAOMI DUNLAP POFFENBERGER**  
Naomi Dunlap Poffenberger,

102, of Beardall Avenue, Sanford, died Sunday, Sept. 2, 2001.

She came to Florida in 1950 from New Weston, Ohio. She was Pentecostal.  
Survivors include two sons, Henry Poffenberger of Sanford and Frank Poffenberger of Arcanum, Ohio; and two daughters, Ruth Bonnell of Sodus, Mich., and Patricia Bolton of Geneva.

Gramkow Funeral Home of Sanford is in charge of arrangements.

**DEBORAH ALICE PURTELL**  
Deborah Alice Purtell, 49, of 4th Street, Orlando, died Friday, Aug. 31, 2001.

Born in Jesup, Ga., she moved to Central Florida in 1952. She was a homemaker and a Baptist. She was a member of the Onondaga Nation.  
Survivors include her husband, Ronald "RJ" Prutell; two daughters, Suzette Nosal of Orlando and Melanie Price of Orlando; her mother, Sarah A. (Thornton) Griffin of Exeter, N.H.; three sisters, Maxine Bruns of Winter Garden, Linda Bradberry of Clermont and Lynn Boggs of Winter Springs; and two grandchildren.  
Banfield Funeral Home of Winter Springs is in charge of arrangements.

### Glass show returns to Civic Center

Once again, plans are under way for a Depression Glass Show, scheduled for Sept. 14 through Sept. 16, in the Sanford Civic Center.

Twenty-seven top quality, knowledgeable dealers will be participating. They will be representing 11 different states.

Gene Florence, well-known author, will be the special guest. He will be on hand the entire weekend and will be offering new books for sale. He'll have the sixth edition of "Kitchenware of the Depression Era," "40s, '50s and '60s Glassware," and "Encyclopedia of Depression Glass," as well as the sixth edition of "Occupied Japan." Florence will also be autographing books.

A display of Green Cherry Blossom by Jeannette Glass Co., will be on display during the event.  
The show hours are 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday with an admission fee of \$5, which is good for all three days of the show. Doors open Saturday at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission for the final two days is \$3.

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Registration begins 30 minutes prior to each meeting.

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# OPINION

## Our View

# Hit the Road, Jack

A new program barring drug and vice offenders from 30-by-13 block area is just what the doctor ordered

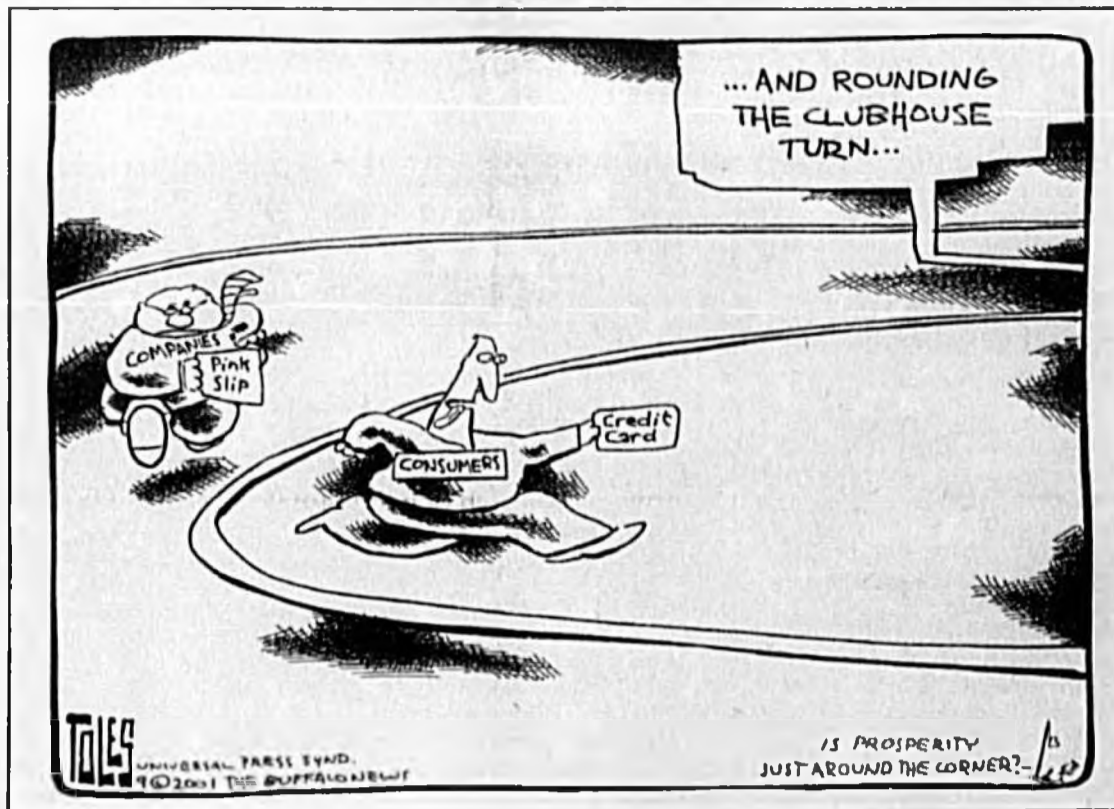
Curtis Littles earned a dubious honor over the weekend. Mr. Littles was arrested on drug charges during a sting operation last month. On Saturday, he became one of the first arrested for violating Sanford's exclusionary zone, a 30-by-13 block area that is off limits to those convicted of drug and prostitution crimes.

For too long, law-abiding residents in north Sanford have dealt with repeated drug dealing and prostitution activities in their neighborhoods. Numerous police stings in the area routinely net dozens of arrests. Despite the success of such stings, the illicit activities ultimately continue, often just hours after officers leave the area. Some label the offenses petty crimes, but there's nothing petty about living with crime night after night.

A new crime initiative created by State Attorney Norm Wolfinger, Sheriff Don Eslinger and Sanford Police Chief Brian Tooley is designed to dramatically reduce repeated vice crimes in the area and give residents relief from nightly visits by prostitutes and drug dealers. In short, anyone arrested in the exclusionary zone — between 1st and 13th streets and Persimmon and Mellonville avenues — is barred as a condition of bond or probation from returning to the area. There are provisions for those offenders who live or have immediate family in the area, but their activities will be closely monitored.

This crime-fighting tool, while new to Seminole County, has been effective in Baltimore and San Diego. Chief Tooley said a similar small-scale program in Orlando has also shown proven results. What makes Sanford's exclusionary unique is the cooperation from the State Attorney's office. Wolfinger has agreed to have his prosecutors insist on the ban for those arrested in the exclusionary zone.

Wolfinger, Tooley and Eslinger should be commended for implementing the exclusionary zone program. Their actions re-enforce residents' belief the law enforcement community is serious about eliminating criminal hot spots, and it sends a message to Mr. Littles and his fellow offenders they should take their business elsewhere.



## 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:

- U.S. Mail
- 300 N. French Ave., Sanford, Fla. 32771
- E-mail
- sheditor@aol.com
- Fax
- 323-8408

Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Seminole Herald. Letters may be edited for length.

## Your View

### Missing dog story has a happy ending

To the editor:

Our dog disappeared while jogging along side our kids in a safe neighborhood in Lake County. She was there one

minute, gone the next. Signs were hung offering a reward. She wore tags for easy identification.

We searched the area. We called the animal control departments of several counties. We watched the ads in the papers. We eventually got two more puppies.

Nearly four months later, we were overjoyed when we got a call from Dr. Susan Wayne of Murphy Veterinary Clinic in

Sanford. Someone from the clinic had seen our sign and posted picture. They had found our dog along State Road 46 looking very lost ... a month and a half ago. She became the "clinic's dog" and probably got attached to them.

You see, this story has a happy ending. Her description of our dog matched. We were reunited today. We feel so blessed to have her back and it was evident to us

that they took very good care of her. Most importantly, they continued to find her missing family. Every person at Murphy's clinic was so kind and personable to us. I just think it's the right thing to do to let people in the Sanford area know that their community has a very caring place to take their loving pets. God bless them!

Kathleen Kahn Sorrento

### Ruling ignores importance of racially diverse campuses

It has not been so long ago that George Wallace stood in the schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama to try to preserve a lily-white student body. And it has not been so long ago that white students at the University of Georgia rioted because their lily-white student body had been marred by the arrival of two — two! — black students.

None of UGA's current undergraduates is likely to be old enough to remember those turbulent times, but many faculty and administrators do. And they can look around the campus and see the legacy of that recent past: Even now, despite efforts to raise the number of African-Americans, only 6 percent of UGA's students are black.

With Monday's federal court ruling, that number could shrink. A three-judge panel of the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit Court of Appeals tossed out UGA's

modest affirmative action program as unconstitutional. Worse, the judges used the occasion to undermine the ideal of racially diverse college campuses.

They were careful not to actually rule on whether racial diversity on college campuses is important enough to constitute a "compelling state interest," a theory that has growing support among university presidents and professors.

Increasingly, academics say part of the learning experience lies in being exposed to students from different backgrounds. The 11th Circuit panel left that claim to be tested before the U.S. Supreme Court. Nevertheless, they showed their hostility to the notion.

"... If the goal in creating a diverse student body is to develop a university community where students are exposed to persons of different cultures, outlooks and experiences, a white

applicant in some circumstances may make a greater contribution than a non-white applicant. ... A white applicant from a disadvantaged rural area in Appalachia may well have more to offer a Georgia public university such as UGA — from the standpoint of diversity — than a non-white applicant from an affluent family," the judges wrote.

Somehow, that ruling captured the naïveté that is the special province of well-intentioned white Americans. Those judges imagine that the experiences of an affluent black kid growing up in suburban Dunwoody are no different from the experiences of an affluent white kid growing up in Dunwoody. I wish that were so. But it isn't — not yet anyway. And you can only believe that if you have never been black.

America's racial dynamic is a terribly complicated thing — a lot more complicated than either affirmative action critics or civil rights traditionalists will admit. Racism is by no means as virulent or widespread as it was a

short 40 years ago. Nor is racism the only barrier to black America's achievement. Self-destructive behaviors — from drug use and teen pregnancy to a youth culture that dismisses scholarship as a "white thing" — certainly play a role.

But racism is alive and well in America. Every black American, no matter how wealthy, is eventually confronted by it. By contrast, no white student, no matter how poor, will ever meet a police officer or store clerk or judge who makes instant judgments about his character based on the color of his skin.

Economic diversity on college campuses is indeed important, but it cannot take the place of racial diversity in teaching lessons about the broad American experience. If college is to grant a genuine education, it certainly ought to include the experience of rubbing shoulders with students who have struggled against the color line.

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Cynthia Tucker

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<p><b>FRIDAY THE 7th</b></p> <p>Barn Band Night <b>LIVE MUSIC</b> w/MARGO ROCHELLE Line Dance Lessons w/Gloria Johnson 7-9 pm \$10 Bud/Bud Lite Buckets all night</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY THE 8th</b></p> <p><b>Kickin'Weekend</b> Couples WCS Lessons w/Hoss &amp; Lorea 7 - 9 pm Singles Welcome 2 for 1 Bud/Bud Lite Bottles 6-8 pm \$5 Bud/Bud Lite Pitchers 8pm-2am</p>

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## This Week's Feature

### Wings-N-Things

Anyone in search of good buffalo wings and the fun dining experience that goes with them has a new place to go in Sanford. Misuk Davis, the new owner of Wings-N-Things located in the Sanford Plaza off of 17-92, has more than 20 years experience in the original buffalo style wings. Beginning in Winter Garden, Davis has had restaurants in Orange, Seminole and Brevard counties and also Puerto Rico. Davis said she has always believed in giving back to the communities where her businesses have been located. Supporting her belief, she recently hosted a meeting for the Sanford Explorers — even though the doors to her most recent business were barely open. Along with hosting the meeting, Davis provided everyone with a free dinner. A neighbor at the Sanford Plaza, Roy of Sam's Flea Market, also invited the Explorers to come to his store after the meeting to help themselves to anything they wanted up to \$20. Davis said their generosity is a way to help out and be involved in the community. Wings-N-Things will be having its grand opening celebration on Friday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 15. The restaurant, however, is currently open for busi-



Misuk Davis, new owner of Wings-N-Things.

ness. Patrons may want to try the restaurant's specialty, wings, or its other selections, including hot and cold subs, curly fries, onion rings, fried mushrooms, fried cheese and poppers. "Come and try them out," Davis said.

*Look For This Weekly Feature Every Wednesday In The Midweek Edition of the Seminole Herald Featuring Stories And Photos Of Places To Go For "Food & Fun" in Seminole County.*

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 Summer Catch PG13 Wed-Thu (4:40) 7:00 9:20  
 American Pie 2 R Wed-Thu (4:20) 9:00  
 Planet of the Apes (PG13) Wed-Thu(4:30) 6:50 9:10  
 The Princess Diaries (G) Wed-Thu (4:20) 6:40 9:00  
 John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars (R) Wed-Thu (4:40) 7:00 9:10  
 The Others (PG13) Wed-Thu(4:50) 7:10 9:30  
 Rat Race (PG13) (4:30) 6:50 9:20  
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 Captain Corellis Mandolin R 1:30 4:25 7:15  
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 Jay and Silent Bob R 4:30 7:40 9:55  
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 Jeopards Creepers R 1:50 4:20 7:40  
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**LADIES NIGHT**  
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**FRIDAY THE 7<sup>th</sup>**  
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 w/Gloria Johnson 7-9 pm  
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**Credit**

Continued from Page 1A  
downturning economy."

Morris made the trip to New York along with County Manager Kevin Grace and fiscal services director Cindy Hall.

What does this mean for county taxpayers? According to Hall, the potential for increased savings on the trails and court construction bonds.

"What we are able to do because of the higher ratings is issue these bonds without insurance," Hall said. "It makes the bonds more marketable because they would be recognized more highly."

Typically insurance on bonds cost approximately \$500,000, said Hall, and since the bonds will be more marketable they "will likely sell easily." Hall said the trails bond will probably be issued in October, while the court construction bond will be issued in November.

According to Hall, one of the reasons the county received such a favorable bond rating was the county's strong tax base. The Top 10 property tax payers in the county make up a mere 5.1 percent of the tax base, said Hall.

Unlike Orange County, where the top tax base comes from tourist attractions, Seminole County could still manage if one of the top tax payers left.

"It's just another example of the success story in the county," said Grace about the new ratings. "Anything that cuts costs makes it more affordable, and it's recognition that we're doing things right here."

"It's easy for us to get lumped into Orange County and the tourism market, but

that's not us. That's a good story in it's own, but we're a better story."

Hall said other reasons for the favorable bond ratings is the county's median income, financial status, current debt and growth management.

According to Hall, Seminole County has boasted the highest median income in the state for the last 20 years, averaging out at approximately \$48,000 per resident.

Over the past five years the county was able to retain an average of 16 percent of its revenue to the following years, Hall said. The current debt in the county is \$184 per person, which according to Hall is one of the lowest in the state for the county's size.

"The other strong feature is our economic development," Hall said. "The success and impact of that is statistically sound."

According to Hall, since the creation of the economic development department in the 1990s, industrial and commercial is growing more rapidly than residential in the percentage of total land developed.

"A successful growth program makes for high-paying stable jobs," Hall said. "Our unemployment rates are just a little bit higher than they used to be, but they are lower than the state and national average."

Christopher Patton can be reached at cpatt@seminole-herald.com or 407-322-2011.

“  
It's easy for us to get lumped into Orange County and the tourism market, but that's not us. That's a good story, but we're a better story.  
”

Kevin Grace  
Seminole County Manager

**Senior Center hosts 'tacky tourists'**



Charlie and Lorretta Szulewski of DeBary put on their tackiest tourist apparel as part of the Sanford Senior Center's Tacky Tourist Contest and Pizza Party, held Aug. 30.



Left: Michelle Hendrick of Central Florida Regional Hospital helped emcee the Tacky Tourist Contest. Above: Beryl and Tom Lackey of DeBary make a bid for first place with their outfits. Right: Barbara Goertz serves up slices of pizza for the hungry seniors.

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# Books let students travel 'Around the World in 180 Days'

By Michelle Jerla  
Managing Editor

**CASSELBERRY** — A minor dilemma occurred Thursday while King Henry VIII was on lunch duty at South Seminole Middle School. A notebook was lost, and a student asked the ancient king of England to help find it.

A solution was found, and the relieved student returned to class. The monarch was then faced with another predicament — how to stay cool while wearing the heavy clothing of royalty.

King Henry, also known as Principal Rick Mossman, was one of several South Seminole faculty members who wore costumes to school Thursday for the "Around The World In 180 Days" kick-off celebration. During the evening's open-house at the school, parents were greeted at the door by Uncle Sam, a Roman soldier, a kimono-clad teacher and various other international icons.

"We wanted to do something fun and exciting to kick-off our

international theme and the Accelerated Reading Program," Mossman said. "We also decided to dress up during the open house to help get the theme across to parents."

Every few years, a committee selects a theme to be incorporated into the school's standard curriculum, Mossman said. This year, the committee selected the international theme inspired by Jules Verne's "Around The World In 80 Days."

During the first few days of school, students filled out a survey concerning their heritage, said teacher Martha Gioielli. The results determined what countries will be studied during the year.

Special events and projects are planned to help teach students about the different countries and their cultures. Each student will make a passport and stamp them with what countries they would like to visit. A country will also be highlighted each month on the school's morning television program, and next month, the students will visit Disney's



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent  
South Seminole Middle School's Rosa Aleman, left, represented Cuba, while Tamesia Glover represented Africa.

Epocot.

On Thursday, more than 40 teachers arrived at school wearing costumes representing countries from throughout the world. The morning got started with the faculty singing, "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing."

In Randy Allman's English class, students were learning about China. However, the teacher was dressed as one of the most patriotic U.S. symbols — Uncle Sam.

"We wanted to dress in costumes representing our classroom's country," Allman said. "But, I'm a tall person, and this was all I could get into."

Allman and Gioielli, who both served on the committee that

came up with the international theme, said the students and teachers at South Seminole are really enjoying the cultural curriculum.

"The faculty are excited because they like to tie in a theme with what they are teaching," Allman said. "And, the students think it's fantastic and fun."

As for King Henry VIII, he couldn't find a solution to the heat. So, by the end of the day, he was wearing the typical dress shirt and pants of a middle school principal.

Michelle Jerla can be reached at [mjjerla@seminoleherald.com](mailto:mjjerla@seminoleherald.com) or 407-322-2611.



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent  
South Seminole Middle School Principal Rick Mossman, dressed as King Henry VIII, and 6th-grade teacher Kathy Bolling dressed in traditional Japanese clothing to kick-off the school's international reading theme.



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent  
South Seminole Middle School's Randy Allman and Martha Gioielli dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Uncle Sam.

## Community Briefs

**Volunteers needed**  
The Salvation Army of Seminole County needs volunteers for court ordered supervised visits and monitored exchanges. This amazing group of volunteers make it possible for children and parents to have a fun, safe place to visit and maintain a positive relationship. For information phone 407-322-2642, ext. 233.

**And more volunteers**  
Community Care for the Elderly is seeking volunteers of all ages to assist frail elders in Seminole and Orange Counties. Volunteers enrich the lives of homebound elders by helping them live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Some volunteers may qualify for a stipend, a modest monetary allowance. Mileage and expenses are also reimbursed.

The next volunteer training is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 25 at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to register, phone 407-628-2884, ext. 104.

**Upcoming reunion**  
Although a Seminole High School Class Reunion for the class of 1981 won't be held until sometime in October, efforts are underway to locate as many old classmates as possible in advance. A definite date remains to be set, possibly based on the SHS Homecoming Game.

For information, phone Ginny Bishop Lyden at 407-678-

3942 or visit the class website at [www.SHSClassof81.com](http://www.SHSClassof81.com).

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## Taulbert

Continued from Page 1A  
Scholar for the Southern Literature at Rogers University.

Taulbert said it was also the unselfishness of the Good Samaritan Home and its volunteers that made him agree to the benefit appearance. Since 1948, the facility has been a haven for indigent elderly and the disabled.

The Good Samaritan Home was established by Timothy and Ruby Lee "Mother" Wilson, who fed the hungry during the Great Depression and the war years. As the numbers increased, the couple founded the home, which was constructed by members and friends of Free Holiness Church.

Today, the facility is run by Thelma Mike, who was encouraged to care for the elderly by her mother, Ruby Lee Wilson. More than 40 residents currently reside at the Good Samaritan Home.

Taulbert praised the efforts of the Good Samaritan Home during Saturday's visit and commended the many hours of vol-

unteerism and unselfishness given by numerous members of the community.

"The very heart of our country is not the monuments that surround the Potomac, it is the every day actions of individual people who choose to live beyond themselves," Taulbert said.

Taulbert, however, wasn't the only person handing out praise. Mayor Lessard and Commissioner Williams presented the author with the key to the city and a resolution proclaiming Sept. 1, 2001 Clifton Taulbert Day. The Good Samaritan Board and Committee also hosted a small reception for the guest of honor.

"I am absolutely amazed and thrilled that he is giving us his time," Good Samaritan Board Vice Chairman Phyllis Conklin said. "He's doing this out of the graciousness of his heart. He believes in community involvement."

"This was a family reunion weekend for him and he still came to Sanford," she said. "He

is an amazing individual."

Taulbert said after he heard about the Good Samaritan Home and all it does for the community, there was no question he would make a benefit appearance in Sanford.

"With each piece of literature I received, I began to get a picture of what it might be like," he said. "Over the years, the facility has not only been the dream of two people, it has been the dream of a community."

After the tour, Taulbert had a few hours to rest before his appearance at the theater. Introduced by Vanessa Echols of Channel 9, the author spent more than an hour discussing the values of family, friendship and community to a full house.

Following the performance, the Good Samaritan Board and Committee hosted a dinner for the author at the Sanford Marina.

Michelle Jeris can be reached at [mdjeris@seminoleherald.com](mailto:mdjeris@seminoleherald.com) or 407-322-2611.

## Kuhns donate personal watercrafts



Herald photo by Tommy Vincent  
Bob and Linda Kuhn, left, recently presented two Sea-Doo personal watercrafts to the Sanford Fire Department in memory of Bob's mother, Madelyn S. Kuhn. The Sea-Doos will be used as part of the department's Water Rescue Team. On hand to accept the donation for the fire department were Dave Frost, center, Mike Turner, and Dave Copeland.

## GED

Continued from Page 1A  
anybody to lose what they've already achieved."

There are five sections to the current GED test: math, writing, literature, social studies and science. Many times people will take the test and will not pass all the portions. They must then retake the failed parts to receive a State of Florida High School Diploma.

The new test will be a "good bit harder" with more difficult math questions and a greater emphasis on work-like documents, said Little.

The new test will feature an answer grid that does away with math multiple choice questions, putting the emphasis instead on analyzing graphs and tables and using a scientific calculator.

"We're working very hard to make sure people are prepared for the new test," Little said, "but we're urging people to come on in and finish the old test."

To register to take the old test or portions of it, call the SCC GED center at 407-328-2153. There is currently less than a dozen test dates available before the new test is unveiled and Little is encouraging people to register

before the end of October. The test takes approximately six hours and you must be 18 years old.

New applicants are encouraged to enroll in the free GED prep classes available on SCC campus and the six study centers throughout the county before taking the test. The entire test costs \$35 and \$7 to \$8 for an individual section.

"We're down to the line now where it's a one shot try," Little

said.

According to Little, instructors have begun video-conferencing with test publishers and attending workshops to prepare for the new test. Two hundred and fifty calculators were also purchased in preparation.

Instructors help assess the skills of individuals wanting to take the GED test. They then help them prepare for the test through individualized assistance and a program called the "GED fast

track." The SCC GED program helps about 600 people a year receive their high school diploma.

"Sanford was an agricultural center for years," Little said. "This was a different type of cultural. Children left school to work in the fields with their families. They were not encouraged to go to school."

Christopher Patton can be reached at [cpatton@seminoleherald.com](mailto:cpatton@seminoleherald.com) or 407-322-2611.

## Opry

Continued from Page 1A  
and I love it."

There is also an opportunity for aspiring performers to participate in the Sanford Opry. According to Davis, there are several cast openings still available. For an audition, call Davis at 386-672-6500.

The Sanford Opry will begin 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in the Helen Stairs Theatre located at 201 Magnolia Ave. in Sanford. Tickets can be purchased at the

theater's box office until Friday between the times of 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and one hour prior to show time.

Ticket prices are \$15, general public, and \$13, senior citizens. Groups of 10 or more are \$12 per person. Reserved seating is limited. To order tickets, call 407-321-8111 or 386-672-6500.

Michelle Jeris can be reached at [mdjeris@seminoleherald.com](mailto:mdjeris@seminoleherald.com) or 407-322-2611.

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## Sports

Inside:

CLASSIFIEDS 4B-6B  
CROSSWORD 5B

## "Bear Facts"

The FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) has begun analyzing preliminary data from a Department of Transportation-funded study of bears in the Ocala National Forest.

"One thing we've found is that we have more bears than we thought," Eason said. "We have about 500 bears on the national forest, and we previously thought there were only about 210 bears in all of central Florida."

Eason said researchers also have found that bears in the national forest tend to cross roads much more frequently and in more places than thought previously. He said researchers have documented more than 650 bear crossings on a 10-mile stretch of SR 40.

"Seven of the 96 bears we identified and tagged for this study were road-killed," Eason said.

Bears do not naturally seek out humans, but they are attracted to the food odors from garbage cans, bird feeders, pet foods, compost piles and grease on barbecue grills. They learn quickly where to look for food when people don't secure garbage cans and don't keep pet foods indoors, especially at night when bears feed most actively.

"Once a bear makes that connection between human dwellings and food, it can turn into a nuisance animal," Eason said. "The food bears get from human sources is the drive behind almost all human/bear conflicts. If people stop leaving food out where bears can get to it, the problem will largely go away."

When a bear becomes a problem, the FWC first works with the affected landowner to prevent further conflict, usually by securing attractants or "bear proofing" food sources.

If the problem persists after preventative measures have been taken, the FWC may attempt to capture and relocate the animal, but that practice is largely ineffective. It accomplishes no more than moving a problem.

Also, since there are almost no unoccupied bear habitats in Florida, moving a nuisance bear amounts to taking a problem bear and placing it on top of a bear that is not a problem. This situation often results in aggressive encounters between bears. Relocated bears often struggle to survive, and they are subject to high mortality risk from motor vehicles or other contact with humans.

"Relocating nuisance bears is not the best option in most cases," Eason said. "It's dangerous for the bears, and it's dangerous for the people who do the capture, but we do try to allow it to work before we take more drastic measures."

When bears repeatedly wander into human settlements or do not display a natural fear of humans, officials have no choice but to euthanize (put to sleep) the

See Outdoors, Page 2B

## One more tune-up

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

SANFORD — With the opening game jitters out of the way, Seminole Athletic Conference varsity football teams get one more week of dress rehearsals before they have to play for "real."

The second week of the regular season finds most local teams again playing old rivals and conference foes before the start of the district schedule and the race for the playoffs.

Two neighborhood battles, a long-standing rivalry and an interesting intra-county battle are on this week's schedule.

## SAC football teams to play another round of non-district games

Coach Bill Caughell's Lyman Greyhounds look to establish themselves as a contender when they look for the upset against Coach George Clayton's

powerful Lake Brantley Patriots. This will be the home opener for the defending Seminole Athletic Conference Champion Patriots at Tom Story Field.

The other backyard battle finds Winter Springs hosting its second Class 6A power in as many weeks when the Oviedo Lions come calling at the A. Wayne Epps Sports Complex.

First-year head coach Steve Katz feels his Bears are talented enough to make a run at the playoffs this season, while Coach Greg Register is anxious to establish his Lions as a favorite and not just a darkhorse for the 6A-District 1 crown.

The other inter-county battle finds former district rivals Lake Howell and Seminole squaring off at Thomas E. Whigham Stadium. The game also features

See Football, Page 2B

## Moving on up

## Ramsaur, Bennett begin college football careers

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

SANFORD — Taylor Ramsaur and Willie Bennett, a pair of First Team All-Seminole Athletic Conference Offensive performers from last year, have taken their talents to the midwest to begin their college careers.

Ramsaur, a quarterback and defensive back from Lake Brantley High School, is attending Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, while Bennett, a four-year starter at running back for Seminole High School, is proving himself at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Ramsaur, 6-foot, 165-pounds, was a four-year performer for the Patriots and head coach George Clayton. He was the offensive Most Valuable Player and won the Coach's Award for Excellence after leading Lake Brantley to an 8-2 regular season record and a spot in the playoffs.

He was also named the Patriots' "Athlete of the Week" in

See Signings, Page 2B



Herald photos by Art Zielinski

Two 2000 Seminole Athletic Conference First-Team performers began their college careers last weekend as the 2001 season kicked off. Seminole High School's Willie Bennett (No. 31 above), a four-year starter at running back for the Tribe, is at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, while Lake Brantley's Taylor Ramsaur (No. 5, right) has taken his many talents to Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.



Herald photos by Tommy Vincent



The excitement will return to Rinker-Stenstrom Field at Historic Sanford Memorial Stadium when Grand Reopening Ceremonies for the Stadium and the start of the ASA Super Slowpitch World Series take place next Thursday.

## Rams quartet off to college

Special to the Herald

LAKE MARY — Christopher L. Lasterza, a graduate of Lake Mary High School, has committed to continue his education and football career at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee.

The son of Larry and Shari Lasterza of Lake Mary, Chris has East Tennessee connections. His great-grandfather, Ernest M. Lees, is a resident of nearby Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

After making the move from wide receiver to tight end prior to his senior season, Lasterza became a 10-game starter for head coach Greg Stanton. The 6-foot-2, 200-pounder helped his team to a 6-4 record in 2000. In 1999, Lake Mary went 9-1 and won the district championship.

A two-year letterman in football, Lasterza also earned two letters in basketball under coach Kym Gaudreau. For the 1998-99 basketball season, Lasterza was named Most Improved by the team.

As an NCAA Division III institution, Maryville College does not award scholarships based on athletic performance; however, for his proven academic ability and accomplishments, the Lake Mary graduate has been awarded the Maryville College Scots Scholarship, a \$7,000 merit-based scholarship.

Maryville is ideally situated between the Great Smoky Mountains and Knoxville, the

See Rams, Page 2B

## Grand reopening of Sanford Memorial Stadium next week

By Dean Smith  
Sports Editor

SANFORD — A year of hard work and waiting will come to a grand fruition next Thursday (September 13th) when the renovated Historic Sanford Memorial Stadium is reopened for use.

Grand Reopening Ceremonies are tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. and will precede the opening of the 2001 ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Super Slowpitch World Series.

The stadium and the playing field, which has been named in honor of Wes Rinker and Julian Stenstrom, has been the home to such baseball dignitaries as Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays,

Willie McCovey, Tim Lincecum and Buddy Lake over the years.

The ASA World Series will run through the weekend and brings together eight of the top slowpitch softball teams in America and is leg three of the Grand Slam of championship tournaments for the 'pro' players who consistently drive the ball far beyond the 330-foot walls.

Among the new amenities at the stadium is club houses for both teams, a new concession area, new bathrooms, a new press box, and improved seating under the covered roof.

For more information on the Grand Opening or the World Series, call 407-330-5697.









