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# ValenciaVoice

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## Obama draws clear line in sand

### President supports same-sex marriage in wake of N. Carolina ban

By Michael A. Memoli  
and Kathleen Hennessey  
Tribune Washington Bureau

President Barack Obama, marking the end a prolonged “evolution” on the issue, now favors allowing homosexual couples to marry, he said in a television interview Tuesday.

The announcement comes days after Vice President Joe Biden’s comments that he was “absolutely comfortable” with gay marriage put new pressure on Obama to clarify his position on the issue.

“Over the course of several years as I have talked to friends and family and neighbors when I think about members of my own staff who are in incredibly committed monogamous relationships, same-sex relationships, who are raising kids together, when I think about those soldiers or airmen or Marines or sailors who are out there fighting on my behalf and yet feel constrained, even now that ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ is gone, because they are not able to commit themselves in a marriage, at a certain point I’ve just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to



People show their support of Barack Obama’s announcement by signing cards to the President.

go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married,” Obama told ABC’s Robin Roberts.

There is a movement among activists in the party to adopt a so-called “marriage equality” plank in the official platform this

summer. Such language would mark the continuance of the party’s own evolution.

In October 2010, during a question-and-answer session with progressive bloggers, Obama first signaled he was reconsidering his previous position.

— See ‘Obama shows support for LGBT’ on page 4.



## UCF, Rice in epic showdown

### Final series will settle C-USA season supremacy

By Mary Stevens and Bryan Levine  
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This weekend’s series against Rice is arguably the biggest series in UCF baseball history, and possibly even the most significant baseball ever to be played in Orlando.

Expectations were high for the UCF baseball program going into the 2012 season. The win Sunday against Marshall made them the first team in school history to notch a 40-win season. With just three conference games remaining, their expectations are quickly becoming reality.

— See page 10



# ‘For Duty, For Honor, Forever’

## Emotions of war conveyed through moving musical for heroes

By James Tutton  
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A masterly composed musical entitled “Requiem For A Young Man” officially premiered at Valencia’s Performing Arts Center last week, after eight years of preparations by visionary creator and composer Ronald Owen. This touching tribute to the emotions of war

was presented in a classic operatic style. The relatable archetypal characters and exceptional music compositions gives this concept all the foundations of the next great American musical.

“This is for all of the service men and women who have ever served our country,” said Ronald Owen, writer and producer of the show. Originally this concept was meant to honor Vietnam veterans,

but after more than eight years of development, it has grown to represent all members of the military and their families throughout modern history.

The story follows the complex universal topics faced by a small family as their young son goes off to fight for his country. By not centering on a specific conflict or era, the story is left open to focus on what it means for soldiers and their loved ones also facing the trials of war as they hope for peace in the future.

Accompanying the musical performance of the lead actors was a 20 piece orchestra of strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and a large choir. The music written by Owen is brilliantly refined and focused on moving this story in a clear direction. The songs have the technical arrangement quality of any professionally written movie sound track, and the feel of watching the live performance of a major motion picture testified to this exceptional composition.

The young man falls in love with his hometown sweetheart, but feels the drums of war calling him into service for his country. Tunes with an upbeat marching tempo positively introduce this character and his intentions to honorably serve his nation. Addressing this topic with his parents in operatic style, the young man pleads his case as his



Michael Mucciolo plays the focus driven Young Man who goes off to bravely fight for his country.

parents share their concerns, in hopes he will reconsider. This is a natural reaction that conjures sincere emotions and further validates the authenticity of the story.

The young man goes to fight, and in a moment of confusion after assisting a fallen ally, he is mortally wounded in battle. His loved ones then have to come to grips with the cruel reality of this honorable sacrifice. Rather than becoming a tragic end, this outcome is turned into a representation of all the brave soldiers throughout history, and

what it means to support them and their families after the fight.

“It’s very powerful, I was almost brought to tears when the young man was shot,” said audience member Ariel Thomas. She also feels that the quality of this story and its music is at the high standards of any Broadway musical.

The future of this production is now the big question to be answered. Organizers want to continue to perform the show in cities around the country to keep spreading the word, but its full potential could be much higher than that.



Emotions run high with actress Sarah Michele Harder after learning the tragic fate of her love.



# Time runs out for Paul

## Congressman effectively ends presidential campaign

By Michael Finnegan  
Los Angeles Times

Ron Paul, Mitt Romney’s lone remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination, announced Monday that he would stop spending money on the party’s 11 remaining primaries, in effect suspending his campaign.

The libertarian Texas congressman told supporters in an email that he would continue to accumulate delegates to the Republican National Convention, to be held in Tampa, Fla., in August.

“Moving forward, however, we will no longer spend resources campaigning in primaries in states that have not yet voted,” he wrote. “Doing so with any hope of success would take many tens of millions of dollars we simply do not have.”

Apart from President Obama and Romney, Paul has raised more money than any other White House contender this year -- more than \$36 million. His calls for strict adherence to the Constitution and his no-nonsense manner have spawned a vocal and well organized group of followers, but not enough to give him a realistic shot at the presidency.

Having won 104 out of the 1,144 delegates needed to capture the Republican nomination, Paul is in fourth place and has no chance of overtaking Romney, who has 966, according to the latest Associated Press tally. Rick Santorum is in second with 264, followed by Newt Gingrich, who has 130.

Paul’s success at winning delegates at state party conventions could push him ahead of Gingrich by the time the national convention takes place. The more delegates Paul wins, the more influence he can wield at the national gathering.



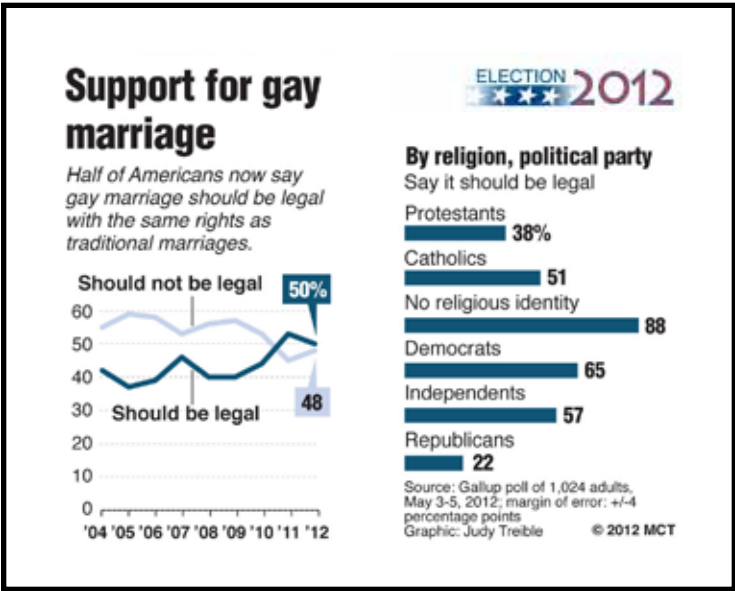
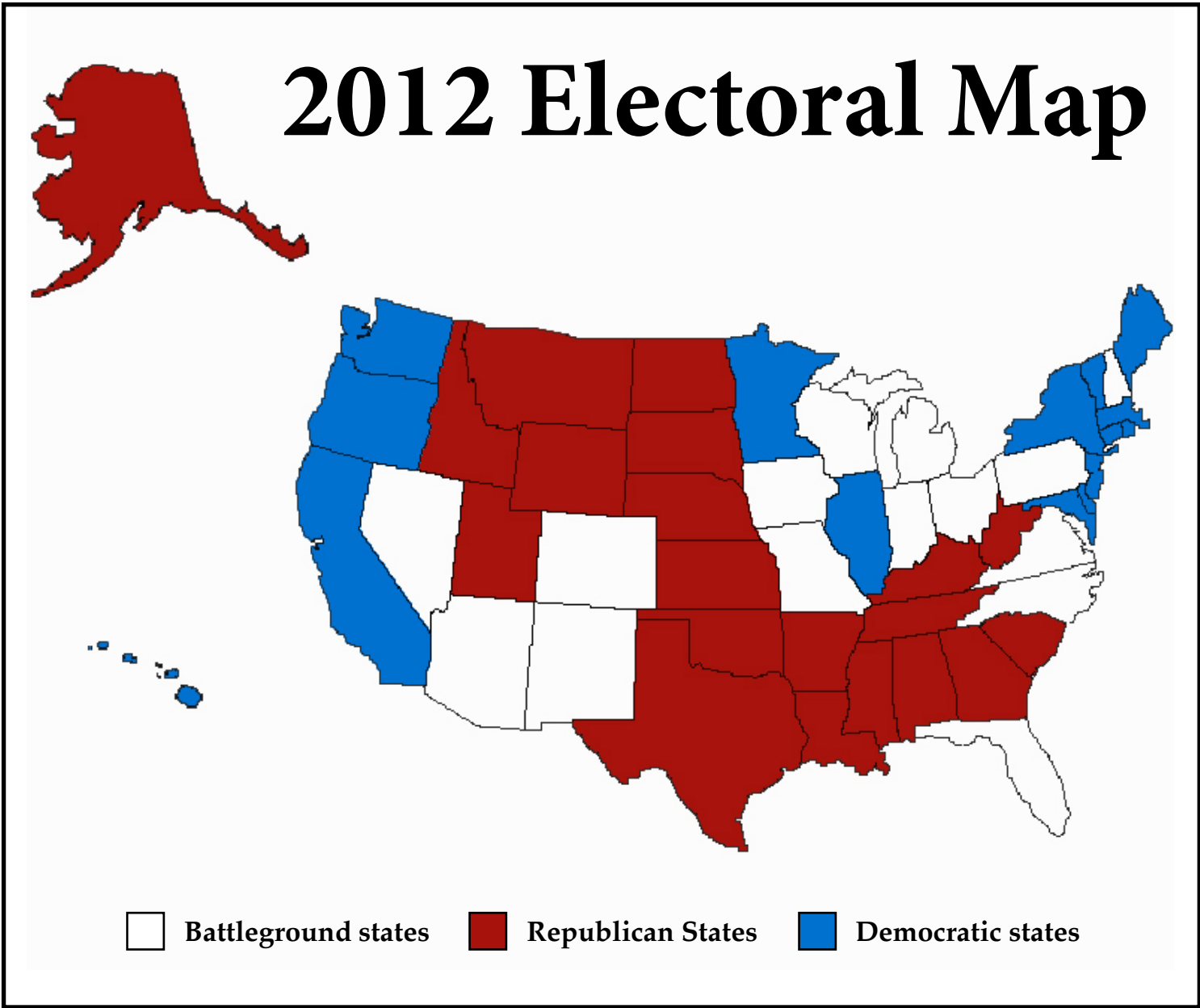
Ron Paul announces his decision to stop campaigning, while still accumulating delegates to the Convention.

“Our campaign will continue to work in the state convention process,” Paul said in his email.

The general-election contest effectively began after Romney beat Santorum in the Wisconsin primary on April 3. Santorum and Gingrich have dropped out of the race.

“This campaign fought hard and won electoral success that the talking heads and pundits never thought possible,” Paul told supporters in the email. “But, this campaign is also about more than just the 2012 election. It has been part of a quest I began 40 years ago and that so many have joined. It is about the campaign for Liberty, which has taken a tremendous leap forward in this election and will continue to grow stronger in the future until we finally win.”

Romney is likely to win enough delegates to formally capture the nomination later this month. Primaries are to take place on Tuesday in Nebraska and Oregon, a week later in Arkansas and Kentucky, and on May 29 in Texas. In June, the final primaries will set in California, New Jersey, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah.



# New Smyrna Beach celebrates 125 years

**Community plans to capitalize with events that celebrate, highlight historical milestone**

By Fred Lambert

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New Smyrna Beach will be commemorating the city's 125th anniversary with three days of community activities and celebrations in June. The event, occurring between June 8 and 10, will be hosted in the NSB Waterfront LOOP and feature activities ranging from dances to firework displays.

"New Smyrna Beach is not just a city," said Holly Smith, a marketing consultant for the city, "it's truly a community. People who live (and visit) love our old-Florida, hometown charm. This weekend of events will highlight that charm."

Originally named "New Smyrna" and incorporated on June 6, 1887, the first city had a population of 550 residents. The community came into its own 60 years later after merging with the coastal area of Coronado Beach, which made it a waterfront locale, and today the city is home to 22,000 Floridians.

The anniversary celebration is to "honor the past, preserve the present and look forward to the future" of New Smyrna Beach, according to Smith, who also said that many in the community

feel they are the oldest settlement in the U.S., even older than St. Augustine.

Festivities commence on Friday, June 8 with a 5:30 p.m. time capsule dedication at city hall, followed by 6 p.m. historical tours at the Museum of History and Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum.

Saturday, June 9, will feature period arts and crafts at both the Harris House and the Arts on Douglas galleries, a children's fishing tournament, a Firecracker four-mile run, family games in Riverside Park and a 5 p.m. food truck bazaar.

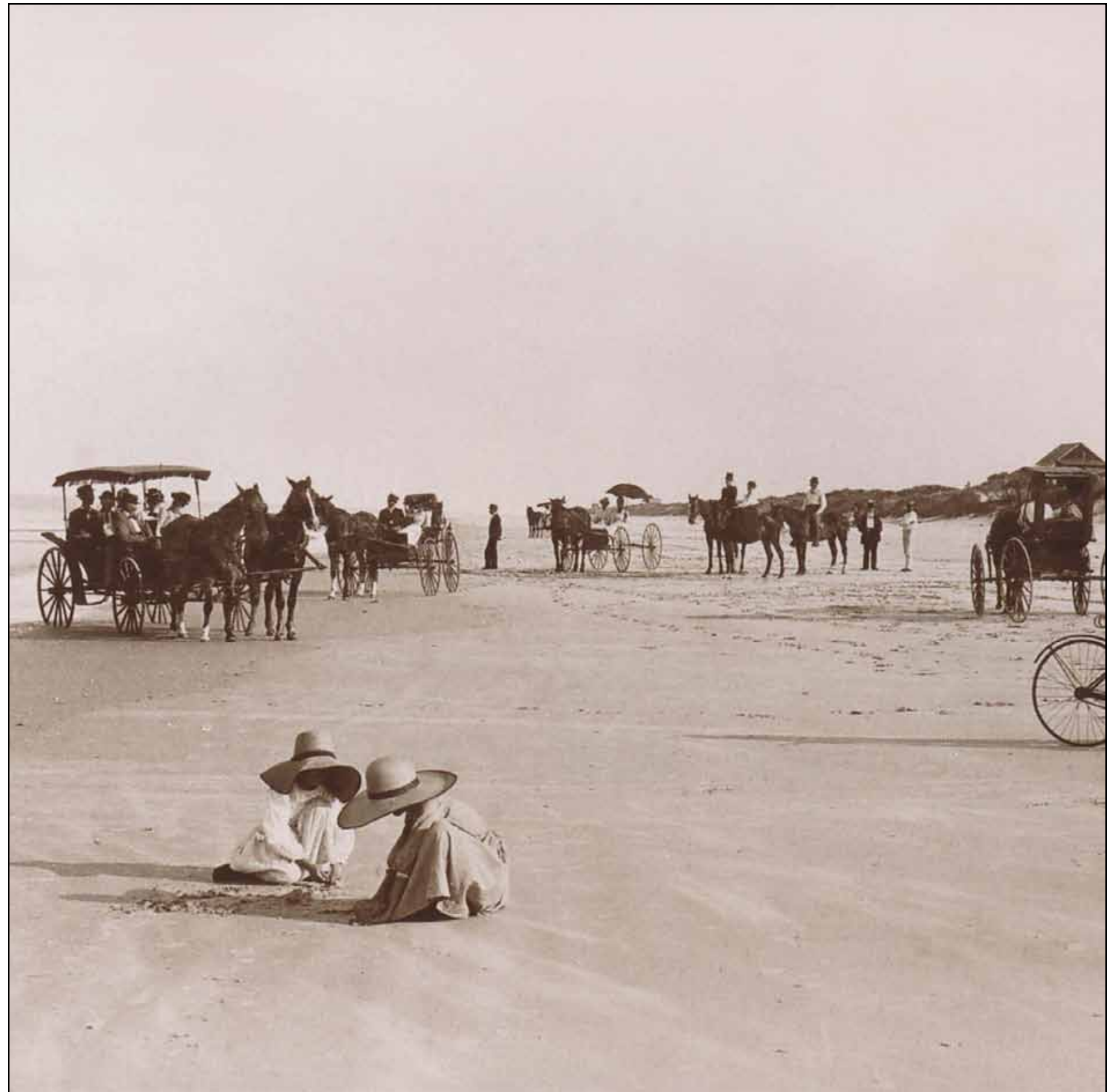
Saturday night will be capped off by a street dance in front of the Chamber of Commerce and a 9 p.m. firework display over the water in Riverside Park.

The final day will consist of Sunday community worship services called "Love in the Park," also held at Riverside Park.

"As of now there are seven local churches involved," said Elizabeth Yancey, the New Smyrna Beach Parks and Recreations Director.

A list of the events can be viewed at [www.nsbwaterfrontloop.com/index.php/events](http://www.nsbwaterfrontloop.com/index.php/events).

Times are subject to change. For more information, contact the New Smyrna Beach Parks and Recreations Department.



Floridians roll carriages out on a strip of New Smyrna Beach, merged from the communities of Coronado Beach and New Smyrna, in 1890.



# While we were Gone

Jose Baez, lead defense attorney in the criminal case against Casey Anthony, announced last week he will be releasing a book about his experiences during the high-profile case.



In a vote that took place last week, the people of North Carolina spoke loud and clear when they decided to ban same-sex marriage. With 61 percent of the voters in support of the ban, North Carolina becomes the tenth state in the U.S. with a state law that limits marriage to one man and one woman.



The trial against John Edwards is slated to begin this week. Edwards has been accused of lying to officials about his extramarital affair with the videographer Rielle Hunter and their love child.



# Obama shows his support for LGBT

“I am a strong supporter of civil unions. As you say, I have been to this point unwilling to sign on to same-sex marriage primarily because of my understandings of the traditional definitions of marriage,” he told Joe Sudbay of AmericaBlog. “But I also think you’re right that attitudes evolve, including mine. And I think that it is an issue that I wrestle with and think about because I have a whole host of friends who are in gay partnerships. I have staff members who are in committed, monogamous relationships, who are raising children, who are wonderful parents.”

The president’s stated “evolution” was widely viewed as a wink and a nod to gay rights activists. Still, the president’s advisers gave no indication that they planned to come out with a new stance before the November election.

Biden’s comments appeared to shift that calculus. While the White House claimed the remarks were essentially a restatement of the president’s position, it was obvious they were everything the president’s stance was not: open and clear.

As the issue snowballed, Biden’s comments demonstrated how difficult Obama’s “evolution” would be to explain in a debate, as the president will undoubtedly be asked to do, or even in a press briefing, as White House spokesman Jay Carney experienced in a spirited press briefing filled with elliptical or incomplete answers.

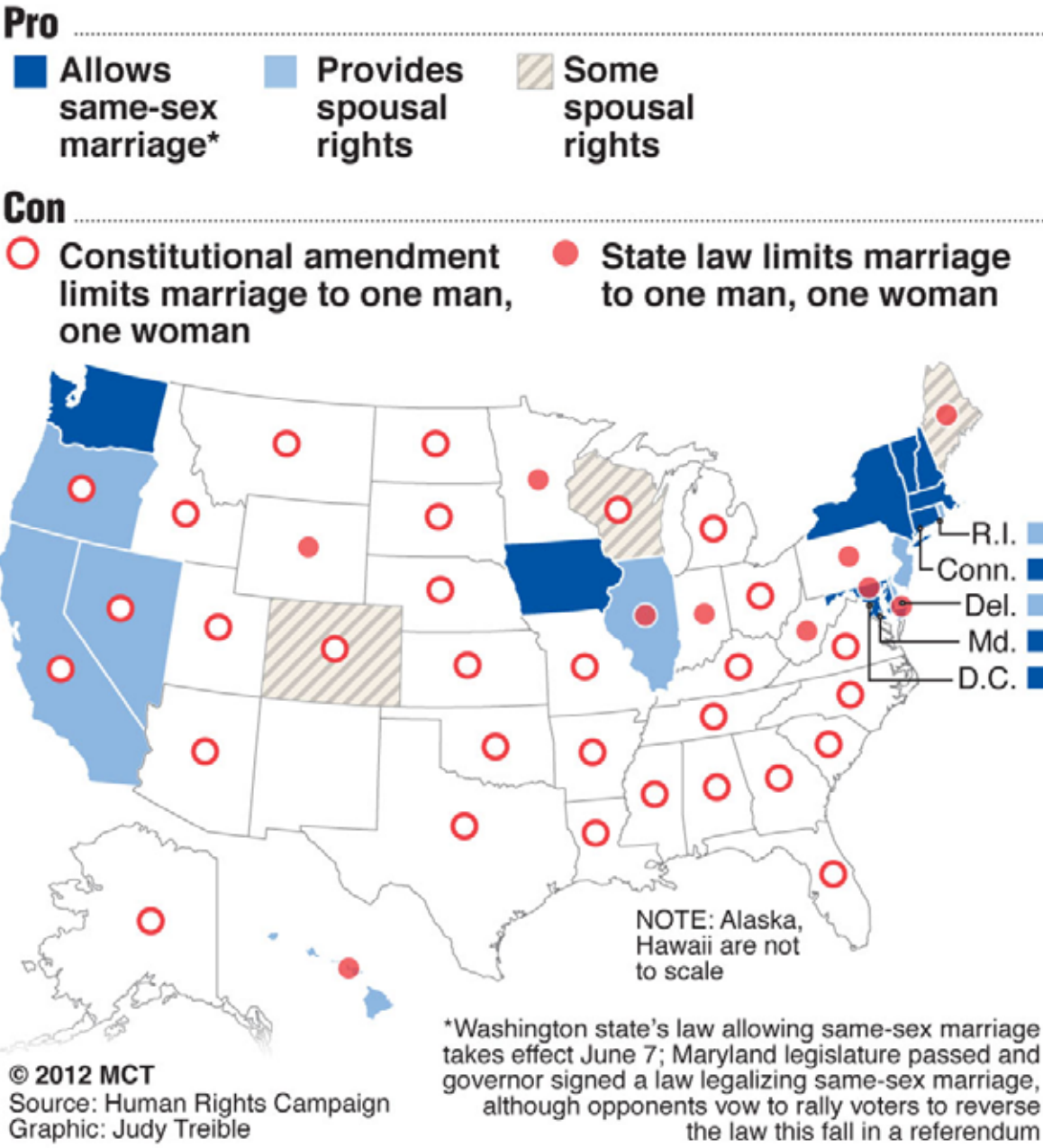
On Monday, Republican National Committee chairman said the episode exposed an authenticity problem for

the president. Publicly at least, Obama shared the same position as Mitt Romney, that marriage should be between one man and one woman.

“He doesn’t want to fully embrace what his vice president is saying, but he wants the benefit of what the vice presi-

dent is saying,” he told MSNBC. “People just aren’t buying what he’s selling because they don’t believe he’s real anymore, that it’s politics. And he has become the ultimate Washington politician, and this latest episode in regard to gay marriage is a great example of that.”

*The range of state laws on the subject of same-sex couples:*





Tweets of the Week



**Mayer Hawthorne** @MayerHawthorne  
"omg I can't wait for the desperate housewives series finale!"  
-nobody

**jimmy fallon** @jimmyfallon  
The Jets' Mark Sanchez & Tim Tebow went to dinner. It was awkward – the waiter was like, "So, did you pick a starter?" #FallonMono

**Stephen Colbert** @StephenAtHome  
A study predicts nearly half of all Americans will be obese by 2030. But with a little American ingenuity I bet we can get there by 2025!

**Weird Facts.** @TrueOrDie  
In the movie Thank You for Smoking, no person smokes a cigarette in the entire movie.

**AB** @alecbaldwin  
Those who do not support marriage equality do not understand love itself.

**Albert Brooks** @AlbertBrooks  
Obama backs gay marriage. Romney backs 1940's meaning of gay.

**kelly oxford** @kellyoxford  
Since everyone's promoting shows for tonight, I'd like to announce that my family will perform my failed NBC pilot in the Costco lot at 8pm.

**Carrie Brownstein** @Carrie\_Rachel  
I just got "What If God Was One Of Us" by Joan Osborne stuck in my head. And I apologize because now it's also stuck in yours.

**Conan O'Brien** @ConanOBrien  
Instead of flowers, I sent my Mom an assortment of unsecured Greek Treasury bonds.

**Patton Oswalt** @pattonoswalt  
Reading to my daughter's pre-school class today. Gonna do the 1st chapter of Stephen King's THE STAND. Can't wait!



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# BBQ bash set to fire up Central Florida

## Annual event will involve kid activities, live music

By Amanda Smith  
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The Central Florida Pork & Wings BBQ Bash & Competition will be kicking off two days of activities at the Central Florida Fairgrounds starting Friday, June 8 at 5:00 p.m. The event will feature barbecue grilling competitions, giveaways and more.

Chowing down on barbecue ribs will be one of the main events at the Bash, but event organizers have included other activities for everyone in the family. Large television screens will be displaying sports tournaments and games in a sports tent. Local chefs, pit masters and experts will give step-by-step demonstrations and live tutorials on the Cooking Demo Stage.

Children will also get to have fun with the "Kid's Zone," full of clowns, magicians, bouncers, face painters, games and more.

Other family entertainment will include live music and card game tournaments. Ribs, chicken, pulled pork, brisket, and wings will be on the menu. Admission and parking is free. Local vendors will have tables set up with food and other merchandise.

The Central Florida Pork & Wings BBQ Bash & Competition will be open to the public but it will not be open to pets (except for registered service animals), coolers, weapons, outside food or drink, and glass or plastic containers. The first day will go until 10:00 p.m., and the event ends the following day, Saturday, June 9 running from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m..



# Orange County hosts races, attracts families

By Neda Hamdan  
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Orange County Parks is hosting the Epic Family 5K Races, also sponsored by Nemours Children's Hospital. The event's purpose is to bring runners from all over Orange County together.

Race locations include Cady Way Trail, Barnett Park and Blanchard Park. The races began on April 14, and will continue throughout the summer.

The race is for all ages and awards are based on age categories: 11 and under, 12 to 17, 18 to

30, 31 to 54, and 55 and over. Awards are given to the top two racers of each age category, as well as the top two runners in the race, and for those who completed all six races. There is also a first, second and third place award for both males and females in all divisions.

The cost is \$25 per person and runners can register as late as the morning of the race, although by then the price increases to \$35. For those signing up as Elite runners, the cost is \$35.

Free T-shirts go to the first 100 people who register online for each location. Registration/Check in time is from 6:30 a.m. until 7:20 a.m., and the race starts at 7:30 a.m.. The award ceremony

will be held at 9:30 a.m..

Participants also have the opportunity to sponsor the event, with different sections depending on how much is sponsored, such as Silver, which is \$1,000 or more, Gold, which is \$2,000 or more and Title, which is \$6,000 or more.

"I'm really excited to go to this event because it's for everyone and their families," Kindra Tush said. "It's for a good cause and what's to not like about it?"

To find more information on the different races and locations, go to the Orange County Parks website, <http://www.ocfl.net/CultureParks/FeaturedParkEvents.aspx>.



## Aiming To Educate

Event brings Caribbean cultural experience to "The Princess Theater" in Sanford, Fla.

By Amanda Smith  
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The Anancy Festival will be stopping in Central Florida on Saturday, June 9 at 2:00 p.m. at The Princess Theater in Sanford. Organized by Xavier Murphy and Dr. Andrea Shaw, The Anancy Festival celebrates Caribbean culture and heritage, and the festival's focus is to educate children and teenagers about it.

"Anancy" (or "Anansi") is a fictional trickster hero popular amongst Caribbean and West African countries.

The festival will last from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will share the date with three other cities celebrating the festival: Pembroke Pines, Fla., Kingston, Jamaica, and Washington, D.C.

Admission is free to children under the age of two. Children from the ages of two to 18 are \$3 and adults are \$5. College students with a student I.D. will be \$3. There will also be a \$100 gift certificate door prize.





# Singer's concert features new tricks

## Elvis Costello presents alternative way to rock

By James Tutton

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A wild and highly interactive musical performance thrilled the dedicated fans of Elvis Costello at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla., on April 23. An uncommon mix of rock show and game show driven by the talented and unpredictable Costello made each stop of his 2012 "Revolver Tour" unique and exciting.

Most noticeably different with Costello's performance was the stage set-up and all the extravagant extras added. A giant spinning song wheel, movable

spotlights, liquor stocked tiki bar, and a cage for go-go dancing were all positioned along the stage and members of his band, "The Imposters."

Random audience members were picked out by Costello during several moments in-between songs and asked to spin the multi-colored wheel. On different panels were written song titles and other themes that helped guide the direction of the show.

His punk rock and new wave sound was classically refined, but still remains true to its stripped down roots. A sound all its own, Costello's music deals with the commonality of everyday life, and

each song has a noticeably different style and direction.

"This is my first time seeing him live, but I've been listening to him since 1979," said Korinn Braden, a fan of Costello. "It's a really great personal experience seeing him at a smaller venue and not some giant arena."

The pinnacle moment of the evening involved a drastic change in the direction of the show. During a solo performance Costello stepped away from the mic and sang as he strummed an acoustic guitar. Though he had to sing a bit louder than normal, Costello's trained vocals never cracked, and maintained a pitch-perfect tone.

"My favorite moment of the show had to be during his solo performance," said Daniel Thomas. "It was just so moving."

Thomas was with a group of friends that were self-proclaimed diehard fans of Costello. Many were not ashamed to openly admit owning, and possibly making-out with, a life-sized cardboard cut-out of the man back in their younger days.

Over 35 years in the music business, making classic compilations with a variety of popular artists, and nearly 40 studio and live albums to his credit is only one side of this talented artist. To fully appreciate what Elvis Costello brings to the world of music entertainment you have to experience him live in concert. Classic charm and unpredictable style brings this titan of modern rock to the level of any great performer in his generation.



Elvis Costello used a colorwheel that was spun to determine which song he would perform.

Photo credits: James Tutton / Valencia Voice



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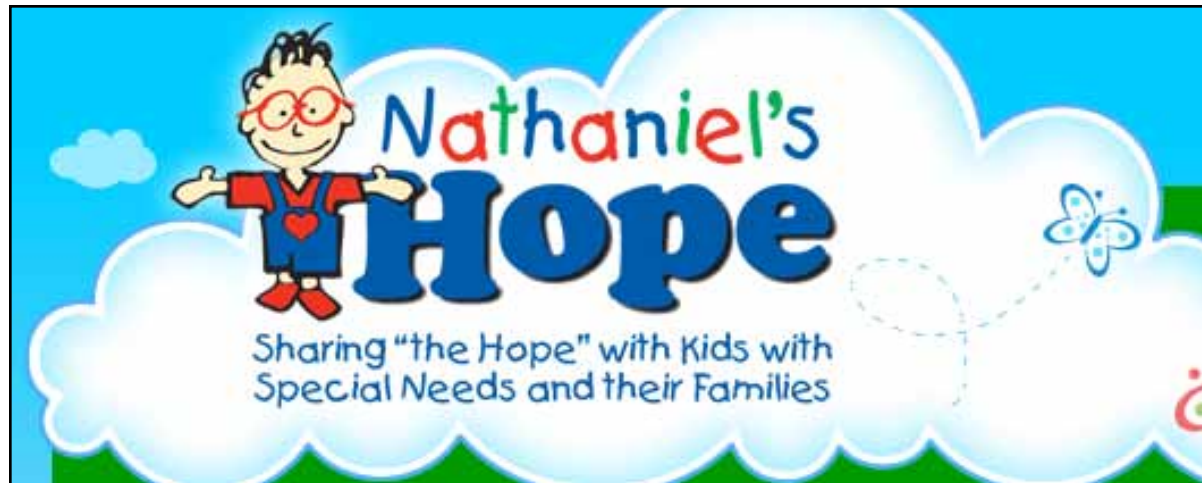
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[baycare.org/sap](http://baycare.org/sap)





Nathaniel's Hope organization celebrates 10th anniversary of Make 'm Smile community festival.

## Festival celebrates decade Honors special needs children, offers activities

By Francesca Fey  
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The Christian non-profit Nathaniel's Hope will be celebrating their 10th year of "Make 'm Smile" at Lake Eola on June 2.

"Make 'm Smile" is a community festival that honors and celebrates children with special needs. The children of Nathaniel's Hope, known as VIPs, are paired with other families from the community as they take the Buddy Stroll around the park and partake in various family activities.

The annual Make 'm Smile festivals began as a tribute to Nathaniel Kuck, who died from multiple birth abnormalities at the age of four.

Marie and Tim Kuck, Nathaniel's parents, founded Nathaniel's Hope, an organization that strives to instill confidence and hope in children with special needs.

"Through our network of disability ministries, we've seen the good work that

Nathaniel's Hope does and appreciate the important part of the special needs puzzle they minister to," said Barb Milton, a volunteer with Nathaniel's Hope.

Other events held by Nathaniel's Hope include: "Buddy Break," a hang out between caring volunteers and VIP kids, "Caroling for Kids" where volunteers sing carols and bring holiday goodies to hospitalized and homebound VIPs, a VIP birthday club and other activities between Buddies and VIPs.

At Last year's Make 'm Smile, the crowd of VIPs, Buddies and volunteers was one of the biggest turnouts ever with over ten thousand attendees. The event was so successful that Orange County Mayor, Theresa Jacobs, and the City of Orlando Commissioner, Samuel Ings proclaimed June 4 as "Make 'm Smile Day."

This year's event will be held on June 2 at Orlando's Lake Eola. There will be games, prizes, family activities, entertainment, free food and lots of fun.

# Valencia to display professor's art

Arts and Entertainment department will host gallery, featuring paintings

By Paulina Praphanchith  
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Valencia College will be hosting an exhibit to display pieces by photographer Silvia Lizama. The event will be held from June 15 to August 3 in the Anita S. Wooten Gallery on the East campus. The Gallery hours are from

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays and 8 to 12 p.m. on Fridays. Lizama's photographs, paintings and prints will be open to the public and are available for viewing.

"This photographer records the building of expressways with images that appear both ancient and contemporary," said Jackie Otto-Miller one of the

organizers of the Valencia College Arts & Entertainment Department.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Lizama moved to South Florida in 1960, and has since developed a skill for photography. Her photographs usually come in shades of black and white, and depict the unusual environments and objects found from the different countries she traveled to. Her work has not only been exhibited and collected in Orlando, but all throughout the Americas and even Spain.

The exhibit featuring Lizama's work will last from 6:30 to 7:30, and guests will have the opportunity to view and critique the photographs by Lizama.

"After searching Lizama's photographs online, her work really caught my attention," said Valencia student, Catherine Makey. "I also heard that a lot of my friends will be going and it sounds like a fun event that everyone should attend."

The reception is completely free and open for everyone to attend. Lizama will also be available for special meetings and discussion after the Lizama's gallery will be over.

For more information, please feel free to visit the website: <http://valenciacollege.edu/events/>. In addition, the organizers of the Valencia College Arts & Entertainment Department are always available to answer any other questions at 407-582-2340.



Above is a photograph taken by Silvia Lizama, who will have her gallery on East Campus.



# UCF wraps season

"Anytime you have the opportunity to play for a ring it is an exciting time," said UCF head coach Terry Rooney. "It is the first time it's happened in this baseball program since being in Conference USA."

UCF entered Conference USA in 2006.

With identical 15-6 conference records, both No. 13 UCF and No. 4 Rice are just two wins away from being crowned regular-season champions. It would be the first for UCF since joining the Conference-USA, but Rice is looking to win their sixth championship in seven years. The Owls also reached the semifinals of the College World Series in 2008.

If UCF wins or sweeps the series



UCF first baseman D.J. Hicks watches his ninth home run of the season. Hicks is expected to be a key contributor this weekend.

against Rice, they will be the top seed in Conference USA and will have a better chance of hosting a regional. If UCF loses, that opportunity becomes much less likely.

UCF's first baseman D.J. Hicks and Rice's second baseman Christian Stringer will play a huge role in the outcome of this weekend since

the two consistently step up to the plate when needed to.

Hicks has led the nation in RBI on and off throughout the season. The first baseman weighs in 250 lbs, filling out his 6'5" frame. He currently has 65 RBI and has hit 11 homers in the 2012 season.

Stringer's, standing at 5'10" and weighing in at 185 lbs, leads his team with a .357 batting average and 70 hits. His season RBI totals to 32.

UCF's probable starting pitcher for Thursday's game will be RHP Ben Lively (8-1, 2.97 ERA). Lively started the season in the weekend rotation but he was sent to the bullpen after having a couple of rocky starts. He spent his time in the bull-

pen working on his command and eventually worked his way back to the weekend rotation.

"We played okay at Marshall but we didn't pitch very well," Rooney said. "Our starting pitchers did not do a good job and we need to get better. For us to put ourselves in position moving forward into the postseason, we need to have some consistency in our rotation and they need to pitch better."

Lively's likely opponent is expected to be Matthew Reckling. Reckling (8-1, 2.45 ERA) has thrown two complete games this season.

The first pitch for this historic series is set for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Jay Bergman Field.

## Rice baseball: program with a rich history

By Fred Lambert  
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successful head coach in Rice's history, leading the team to 785 victories over 17 seasons, including their win in the 2003 College World Series.

With the University of Central Florida and Rice tied up for the regular season standings, all it will take is two victories out of the next three games to crown a new champion. It has arguably been UCF's best season in school history, putting them in unfamiliar waters. But for Rice University, this is just one more season among many others where championship contention has been a reality.

The Rice Owls won the regular season in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011, five of the last six years, and have been in an NCAA tournament for every year since 1995.

Wayne Graham, managing the Owls since 1992, has been the most

Since entering the Conference USA in 2006, Rice has dominated. Their three Conference-USA championships are complemented with another 10 won in the Southwest and Western Athletic Conferences, respectively. At one point, they won 13 straight conference championships divided amongst three different conferences.

The question now is, can this Houston, Texas college baseball team add 2012 to their elite listing of regular season victories? Or will UCF spawn an upset and do what only the 2009 East Carolina Pirates have done since 2006 - stop the Owls from raising another championship banner?

**For updates throughout the weekend:  
follow us on Twitter @ValenciaVoice  
@Bryan\_Levine and @MaryPazStevens**