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**STORY IDEA:**

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**FAMOUS FACES OF SANFORD – FROM HOMETOWN SPORTS HEROES  
TO MOVIE STARS, WRITERS, AND BUSINESSMEN**

*With claims to fame in sports, film, manuscript and even the business world, Sanford's wall of fame boasts variety like no other. The charm of Sanford's downtown and residential historic districts has made the town a favorite since the 1800s.*

*The famous faces of Seminole County and unique story ideas can be found on display at the Sanford Museum. Located at 520 E. 1st Street in Sanford, Florida, the museum is open Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 407-302-1000.*

**Lights, Camera, Action**

*Film producers recognize the charm found in the antique shops, park benches and turn of the century streetlights that line the red brick roads of the historic river town of Sanford. Topped off with a famous clock centerpiece, the town is a picturesque representation of colonial America as seen in a plethora of movies, television series' and even commercials.*

***Movies***

*One of the most notorious movies to be filmed in Sanford was My Girl (1991), starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Macaulay Culkin and Dan Aykroyd. An historic home located in Sanford's residential district was Thomas J.'s (Macaulay Culkin) house and various town scenes can also be identified as the streets of downtown Sanford.*

*More recently, the Academy Award winning film, Monster, starring Charlize Theron and Christina Ricci, was shot at the Seminole County courthouse. Road scenes from this critically acclaimed movie were captured in Seminole County as well.*

*Set crews from Our Son the Matchmaker, starring Ellen Burstyn, Ann Jillian and David Andrews, and Wilder Napalm, a romantic comedy with Dennis Quaid, Arliss Howard and Debra Winger, found the streets of downtown the perfect scenery to project American suburbia. In addition, the runway at the Orlando Sanford International Airport was home base for Wesley Snipes' take off and landing scenes in the 1992 movie Passenger 57.*

***TV Shows***

*Downtown Sanford also provided a great location to shoot television series' like the spy program Fortune Hunter and superhero series, Superboy, as well as the action series, Thunder in Paradise, starring Hulk Hogan.*

*The home-improvement series "Trading Spaces" has taped episodes at least twice in Seminole County residences.*

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### **Commercials**

*Commercial producers find Sanford's historic charm just right for portraying the American way of life. From new signage to mock restaurants producers of Bob Evans, Toyota and Wendy's commercials used Sanford's natural scenery to communicate their message of friendly service, reliability and classic America.*

### **Calling All Sports Fans**

*From legendary visitors to hometown heroes, Sanford boasts a hall of fame of its own. Baseball legend Babe Ruth visited Sanford during a promotional tour in the 1930s and Jackie Robinson played in the second integrated minor league baseball game which was held in Sanford.*

### **Sanford natives include**

*Tim Raines, a seven-time All-Star who ranked fourth nationally in stolen bases following the 2001 season and earned two World Series rings with the New York Yankees in 1996 and 1998 Short stop, David Eckstein, of the 2002 World Series champion team, the Anaheim Angles*

*Wide receiver Alvis Whited, helped lead the Oakland Raiders to Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003 and Reggie Branch, former running back for the Washington Redskins helped his team win Super Bowl XXI in 1987*

*Jim Courier, ranked No. 1 tennis player in the world in 1992 and winner of two Australian Opens (1992-93) and two French Opens (1991-92)*

*Other well-known sports affiliates and Sanford natives include Muhammad Ali's corner man, Drew Brown, also known as "Bundini Brown", and the "voice of sports" sportscaster Red Barber. Brown coined the popular phrase "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" to refer to Muhammad Ali.*

### **More Sanford Natives**

*The Sanford roots grew strong in more than just athletes. From Pulitzer Prize winners, cartoonists and renowned writers to famous animal lovers and well-known business entrepreneurs, Sanford has success stories of all sorts.*

*Pulitzer Prize winner Doug Marlette, a political cartoonist and creator the famous comic strip "Kudzu" as well as political cartoonist and comic strip writer Bill Park call Sanford home.*

*Pat Frank based his science-fiction novel, *Alas, Babylon*, on his hometown, Sanford. Dolores Stanford Forbes, author of more than 40 mystery novels and frequent contributor to Alfred Hitchcock's *Mystery Magazine* as well as*

*American author Zora Neil Hurston called Sanford home as well. Hurston's 1934 novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine* was based on the life of her father, who was pastor of a church in Sanford.*

*Jack Hanna, host of the hit television series *Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures*, was the first zoo director at the Sanford Zoo, now known as the Central Florida Zoological Park. Hanna also mentions the Central Florida Zoological Park in his book *Monkeys on the Interstate*.*

*Also known as the "movie star of the business world", Sanford native, Jeno F. Paulucci, was named 2002 Overall National Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young. Paulucci is the creator of *Michalina's*, *Chun King* and *Gina's Pizza Rolls*.*

*For more information and assistance, please contact Patrick Harrison or [Patrick@paradiseadv.com](mailto:Patrick@paradiseadv.com) or (727) 821-5155 ext. 110.*

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