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June 2010

Local schools help each other Theatrical tradition lives on here in St. Johns

By Karl Kennell



"It's a Jungle Out There" performed at Timberlin Creek Elementary using sets borrowed from SPMS.

There is an old theatrical tradition which lives on today among our neighborhood schools. Theatre troops have always lived with a "Mother Hubbard's cupboard is bare" existence. This is the fact of life for actors and performers who have helped develop a sharing tradition. Props, costumes and scenery have always been exchanged between troops. It is amazing what a stitch here or a coat of fresh paint can do to transform a prop, costume or set into a new life.

Christine Leeviraphan, mother of a second grader at Timberlin

Creek Elementary was so impressed with how the teachers of the many schools here in our neighborhood have pooled resources together that she thought you should hear about it. These teachers are not only carrying on a theatrical tradition, they are helping their students to learn a valuable lesson—one that poet Robert Fulgham penned in his poem "Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." The poem is a simple list of rules to live by and is topped by the word "sharing." That is exactly what the teach-

Theatrical tradition cont. on pg. 4

Girls' fast pitch softball and boys' baseball complete inaugural season First ever middle school district championships held

By Contributing Writer Kim Kendall, St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association

Girls' softball and boys' baseball teams from all eight St. Johns County middle schools competed in the first ever District Championship Tournaments the week of May 10 through 15. The middle school girls' fast pitch softball championship game was played on Thursday, May 14. Fruit Cove Middle School (FCMS) and Swiss Point Middle School (SPMS) competed for the coveted district girls fast pitch softball school trophy. Representative Mike Weinstein started the game by throwing the first pitch.

It was a fight to the finish, but in the end, FCMS rallied after being down 2-0 by scoring five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Kelsey Chisholm hit a home run in the seventh inning and then SPMS had the tying runs on base before they hit into a spectacular double play to end the game.

FCMS Sports Director John Aggas was very proud of the FCMS softball coaching staff, headed by Mark Dullum. Aggas, beaming over the tremendous achievement of the softball team said, "It was a great game by both teams; it



Flyers pitcher Slammin' Sami Hays

was too bad one team had to lose. Everyone should be very proud of the ladies and the dedication they showed us all season long!"

Taking the mound on Friday, May 14, Senator John Thrasher threw in the first pitch to begin the middle school boys' baseball tournament which was held on May 14 and 15. Alice B. Landrum Middle School (LMS) won overall, beating SPMS on Friday 20-0. On Saturday, LMS played FCMS for eight

innings and two and a half hours to win 3-2 and beat R. J. Murray Middle School (MMS) in the final championship game 15-0.

LMS used four pitchers for the playoffs—eighth graders Max Miller and Ben Ohno and seventh graders Michael Williams and Austin Sizemore. LMS had an undefeated season coached by Chris Stubbs, Tony Russo and Kirk



#4 John Cassala and #12 Michalsi at second base

Championships cont. on pg. 31

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Girl Scouts bridge to a higher level

By Karl Kennell

On May 16, over 90 girls gathered at a park in Julington Creek to participate in a Girl Scout multi-level Bridging Ceremony. It is one of the most anticipated ceremonies in a Girl Scout's life as it is time when they proudly move to the next level of being a scout. It is a right of passage. On that day girls from troops 16, 88, 155, 183, 641, 935 and 1165 bridged from being a Daisy to being a full-fledged Brownie.

Brian Ward, father of Daisy Sarah described it as, "A beautiful day. I was beaming with pride as Sarah joined so many other Daisies in moving up to Brownies."



These scouts are excited about their bridging to the next level!

With seven Daisy troops moving their scouts up into Brownies, one can only imagine just how excited all those young girls were.

Scouts from troops 204 and

1337 bridged during the day up to Juniors and troops 804 and 909 watched as their girls made the step of bridging to Cadettes.

Cadette Girl Scout Emily Daclouche commented, "It was fun having so many girls participate and to have some girls of all ages together. To see their faces as their names were called was really special."

Bridging step one for these Girl Scouts was "Pass It On!" where they shared their talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts. They are tasked with sharing something they have learned while being a

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What's New

Community Happenings

Do you have community or club news you would like included in *The CreekLine*? Then contact Martie Thompson at: editor@thecreekline.com or 886-4919.

The June Chamber Mixer will be held on Thursday, June 17 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Nocatee Welcome Center, located at 245 Little River Road in Ponte Vedra. No RSVP is required and the cost is \$5 for members or \$25 for non members (payable in cash only at the door.) For additional information, please visit www.sjc-chamber.com.

Julington Creek Elementary (JCE) will hold an evening kindergarten "Round-up and Registration" on Tuesday, June 15 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. to assist working parents with registering their kindergarten age children for school next year. Please spread the word in your neighborhood to families with young children. If they miss that night then visit the local high schools to contact the appropriate elementary school during the summer hours, since the week of June 14 is the last week the JCE administrative office will be open on campus. On June 21, JCE staff will relocate for the summer to Creekside High School. The office staff will return to JCE on Monday, August 2.

Applications are being accepted for the 2010 St. Johns County Master Gardener class. The Master Gardener program recruits volunteers for horticultural activities of the Extension Service. In exchange for 50 hours of intensive horticultural education, the volunteer commits to donating 75 hours of volunteer time to Extension Service projects. Examples of volunteer projects are arboretum care, demonstration vegetable garden, phone desk, plant clinics and educational outreach, to name a few. If you are interested in the program, please call 209-0430 for application forms. The deadline for applications is July 2, 2010.

Adults and teens age 14 and older are invited to attend the Project Lap Blanket crochet group from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14 and Monday, June 21 at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. We'll be crocheting squares to sew into blankets to donate to cancer patients at the Mayo Clinic located in Jacksonville. All skill levels welcome! No registration is required. Can't attend? Feel free to donate yarn or to pick up the crochet pattern at the Reference Desk to complete on your own time and then bring the squares back to the library. For additional information, please call the Reference Desk at 827-6960.

The Northwest St Johns County Democratic Club will hold its June meeting on Wednesday, June 9 at Hancock Bank on County Road 210. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Jean Moeller who is running for re-election for a seat on the Mosquito Control Board. For additional information, please call Don Parry at 287-7720.

Campers, enroll in BeatPAC (Bartram Trail High School performing arts summer camp)! You can attend a one week session or both weeks (June 28 through July 2 or July 5 through July 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day). Children participate in acting, singing, dancing or tech theatre and receive two snacks and a lunch everyday. Space is limited. For further information, please call Ava Fixel, theatre director at Bartram Trail High School and BeatPAC director at 547-8340; ext. 22574 or email her at fixela@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

The Northwest Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly luncheon on Thursday, June 24 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Genki Sushi & Grill. The speaker will be Albert Syeles and the topic will be Romanza. RSVP required at www.sjcchamber.com/NWBC and prepayment of the cost of \$15 is also required.

The Northwest St. Johns County Community Coalition (NWSJCCC) meets the fourth

Thursday of every month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, located at 60 Davis Pond Boulevard near the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. All are welcome to attend these important, informative meetings. For additional information, please contact NWSJCCC president Phyllis Abbatiello at 703-9142.

The World Golf Village Toastmasters Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Hancock Bank, located at 1950 County Road 210. For additional information, please visit our website at <http://worldgolfvillage.freetoasthost.org>.

Please join us to learn more about Fair Tax. If this law is enacted it will affect everybody. Do away with the IRS, no more filing tax forms. The next free monthly meeting program will be held in St. Augustine on Saturday, June 19 at 10:15 a.m. at Gander Mountain, located at 550 Prime Outlet Mall, in St. Augustine.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7 meets the first Thursday of every month 7:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse. However, for the month of May, the meeting will be held on the second Thursday, May 13. The flotilla is always looking for new members, particularly those who own aircraft, boats and have radio equipment and skills. If you are interested, please contact Vic Aquino at 460-0243.

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a weekly meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Old Colee Cove Volunteer Fire Station, located at 9105 County Road 13 North (south of Buddy Boys Grocery Store). Weigh in starts at 8:30 a.m. We are a National Weight Loss Organization, fees are low and we have lots of fun, contests and inspiring programs. All are welcome; come and join us! For more information, please contact Sara Weaver at 940-7528 or Bobbi Culbreth at 824-2466.

The NW St. Johns County Republican Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Northwest Annex multipurpose room located at Flora Branch Boulevard and Race Track Road. This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22. All are invited. For more information, please call Brian Iannucci, president, at 708-9765.

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.

~ Frank Lloyd Wright

Correction:

While Bartram Trail High School did open in August of 2000, the first graduating class graduated in May, 2001. Because of a reporting error, this information was not accurate in the *Bartram Trail celebrates 10 years* article which appeared in the May 2010 issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Letters to the Editor policy

At RT Publishing we welcome Letters to the Editor. We request they be no more than 250 words. All letters must include writer's name, address and telephone number. Only the name will be published. E-mail to editor@rtpublishinginc.com. Anonymously sent letters will not be published.

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The Sheriff Reports

By Contributing Writer David B. Shoar,
St. Johns County Sheriff

New alarm ordinance

The St. Johns County Commission enacted a new alarm ordinance that went into effect in early April of this year. There were several reasons for this ordinance that I would like to tell you about this month as well as information concerning this ordinance.

Last year the Sheriff's Office responded to over 10,000 false alarm calls. Assuming that these false alarms could take a deputy away from other calls for up to an hour for each call would equate to almost five full time deputies handling nothing but false alarm calls for the year. Most of these were caused by faulty equipment or user error. In addition, the prior ordinance was over 30 years old and contained no remedy for correcting repeated false alarms. The intent of the new ordinance is to shift the cost to the users of alarm systems and ultimately reduce the number of false alarms coming into the Sheriff's Office.

Currently it is estimated that 24,000 alarm systems may exist in the county and registration was

not mandatory and no fees were collected in the past. The new ordinance requires all alarm systems to be registered within ten days of installation and requires all existing unregistered alarms to be registered prior to 30 September 2010. The initial registration fee and yearly renewal is \$25 per alarm; however, renewal fees will be reduced by 50 percent if there were no false alarms during the preceding year.

False alarm calls per location would be monitored annually. The first false alarm would result in a notification letter and the second would require a minimal training effort in lieu of a fine. Afterwards, the third through eighth false alarm would result in fines ranging from \$50 to \$100 each. The ninth false alarm would require the user to have the alarm inspected plus a fine of \$125. A 10th false alarm would result in permit revocation. Failure to pay any of the mentioned fines would result in suspension of response by the Sheriff's Office which would resume when the fines

are paid and/or the system corrected. There are procedures in the ordinance to allow for false alarms caused by acts of nature or power interruption as well as an appeals process is included.

An alarm user in the county shall ensure that their alarm system is registered with the Sheriff's Office and has a current registration decal displayed. They shall maintain a set of written operating instructions for the alarm system as well as contact information at each alarm station. The user shall maintain the alarm site and alarm system in a manner that will assist in reducing and preventing false alarms. The alarm user shall not activate their system for any reason other than an occurrence of an event that the system was intended to report. Also, the user shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a registered responder is at the alarm site within 30 minutes after a request is issued.

If you need any additional information concerning this new alarm ordinance, please contact Susan Biesiada in alarms at 209-3119. I thank you in advance for complying with this new ordinance.

I would also like to remind our residents that there are several ways you can reach me. In addition to contacting me by phone or appointment at the Sheriff's Office, you can reach me by e-mail at dshear@sjs.org. And for additional information on the many programs we offer at the Sheriff's Office, please go by our website at www.sjs.org.

Theatrical tradition cont. from pg. 1

ers of Timberlin Creek Elementary, Cunningham Creek Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Wards Creek Elementary and now Switzerland Point Middle School are reinforcing in their young theatrical charges.

Timberlin Creek Elementary music teacher Jeni West shared with us a lot about how the cadre of teachers and parents have come together, joining in by sharing lesson ideas, program ideas and songs, props, sets costumes and all those other items which make for a fabu-

lous performance. She herself has borrowed a cardboard jukebox from Cunningham Creek and recently borrowed some "Body Sox" from the music teacher at Wards Creek for a fifth grade production.

Kathy McDonald, parent at Timberlin Creek and local artist, has become deeply involved in this sharing of theatrical materials. She has been volunteering her time and talent to design and produce sets and scenery. Those are the very wonderful sets that parents have been seeing their children learn of becoming a performer in front of. She recently teamed up for the play "It's a Jungle

Out There" with Pam Coleman, a mother at Switzerland Point, to bring the sets together.

She said, "Visions of trees, trees and more trees danced in my head for weeks."

She then met Coleman, whose team of volunteers had recently finished decorating a "Survivor Bash" FCAT celebration party for the middle school.

McDonald said, with a hint of relief, "Meeting Pam, my fears were quickly replaced with a feeling of relief."

Carrying on in the tradition of theatre troops heralding back to Shakespeare, our local teachers and parents have created this camaraderie of teamwork for those young performers learning in our neighborhood schools.

As West put it, "The stars of the show are the kids. We work really hard to allow every student the opportunity to shine on stage."

We want to suggest whether you still have a child in school or if they have left the nest that you take in one of the great performances these kids put on throughout the year. Remember they have some great backstage support.

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School bus routes approved by board

The school bus routes for the 2010-2011 school year for the St. Johns County School District were approved by the School Board at their May meeting.

Four new bus routes are being added for next school year to accommodate growth in the Nocatee and Mill Creek Elementary School areas, as well as an increase in the

numbers of special needs students.

The routes are available online at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/transp/routes. Persons without access to computers may visit any of the county public library locations, and staff will assist them in locating the web site.

"Our intent is to provide the information prior to the end of school in an attempt to improve communications with parents," said Joe Purvis, director of transportation.

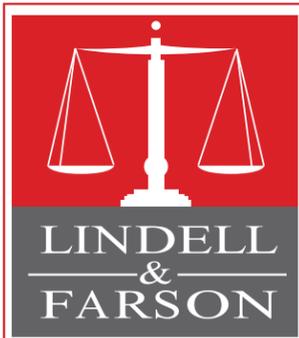
During the week of August 9, postcards will be sent home to parents of all potential bus riders giving them the bus stop, times and bus number for their students.

There will be 164 school buses transporting approximately 16,500 children twice a day when school starts on Monday, August 23.

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Flag Day
June 14



From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Ron Sanchez,
County Commissioner, District 2

It was once written that "attitude is more valuable than money." I believe this to be very true. A good attitude will bring you success and in turn the money. Everyone has the capacity to be positive under almost any circumstance. A positive attitude is the key to success in any problem-solving procedure or major lifestyle change. With a consistently positive attitude it is possible to win the game of life in all directions; personal satisfaction, strong relationships and success in a meaningful career.

As commissioner and now chairman of the board, I can tell you that our staff at the county has maintained an excellent attitude during some very bad times. That is how we have made it through this outrageous period.

Like many organizations facing our current economic reality, St. Johns County has had to respond to decreasing revenues while the demand for services increases. The County Commission must balance provision of essential services with the non-essential programs that enhance our quality of life. To do this, like any organization, we rely on our staff to not only deliver the programs, provide services and care for our facilities

but to find ways to continue to do so with dwindling resources. As part of the cost saving measures, staff are taking a one week unpaid furlough this year and have been asked to continue to take on new responsibilities as vacant positions go unfilled. This requires commitment to the organization and the citizens we serve.

This commitment was evident at this year's Employee Service Awards ceremony celebrated in April. The county recognizes service milestones annually and this year over 150 employees were honored for achieving five or more years of service. Ninety employees hit five years of service and 40 reached a decade of service. Together these two categories of employees reflect 12 percent of our full time workforce; the percentage is much higher when factoring in the many employees with six or more years. Two dozen employees were honored for 15 to 25 years of service with an additional four recognized for 30 years of service.

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The county hit a milestone this year with three employees celebrating 35 years of service. This level of commitment and dedication is visible daily in the programs, services and facilities offered in our community.

As our financial reality continues to challenge us to find ways to deliver services more efficiently, the County Commission will continue to rely on staff to be flexible, creative and dedicated. The staff in turn relies on citizens for

support – through suggestions and feedback and through volunteer hours. Our positive thinking staff, citizens and volunteers remain crucial to the successful delivery of programs and services throughout our county.

Answering five questions can help you pursue your goals

Contributed by Chris Draughon, AAMS® Financial Advisor and Frank Gorman, AAMS® Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

As you strive to achieve your long-term goals such as a comfortable retirement, you may at times

feel frustrated over events you can't influence, such as the up-and-down movements of the financial markets. Yet there is much you can control — once you determine the answers to just five key questions.

Where am I today? Take stock of all your assets — your IRA, 401(k) and other savings and investment accounts. Then, do the same for your debts, such as your mortgage and any other financial obligations. On your financial journey through life, it's essential that you know your starting point.

Where would I like to be? Once you've established where you are today, you'll need to identify where you'd like to be tomorrow. How much will you need to pay for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Will you be able to help pay for your children's or grandchildren's college education? Will you need to support any other family members? At this stage, you'll want to write down all your goals and put a price tag on each one.

Can I get there? After you've identified your goals, determine if they are, in fact, achievable. By considering a variety of factors — including your likely future income stream and your family

situation — you should be able to determine if you can attain your goals or if you need to modify them in some way.

How do I get there? Now it's time to put a strategy into action. Specifically, you need to choose those investments that can help you pursue the goals you've selected. Your ideal portfolio will depend on your risk tolerance and time horizon, but in general, you'll want a diversified mix of quality investments. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility. As you put together your holdings, make sure you understand what you can expect from your investments. For example, growth stocks may offer the highest potential returns, but they also carry the greatest risk. On the other hand, investment-grade bonds can offer a steady income stream and barring the default of the issuer, will repay your principal when they mature.

How can I stay on track? Once you've built your investment portfolio, you'll need to review it regularly — at least once a year — to help ensure it's still meeting your needs. After all, many things can and will change in your life,

such as your family situation, your goals, your employment and your risk tolerance. To address these changes, you'll need to adjust your portfolio over time.

As you can see, answering all these questions will take both work and expertise. That's why you may want to work with a professional financial advisor to help you identify your goals and create a strategy for pursuing them.

In any case, though, start asking — and answering — these five key questions as soon as you can. It's easier to reach your financial goals if you put time on your side.

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World's Greatest Dad

Girls Scouts cont. from pg. 1

Brownie, Junior or Cadette. The second bridging step is appropriately titled "Look Ahead!" which in name alone describes the task the Girl Scouts are to do.

While helping her fellow Girl Scouts realize the fulfillment of those bridging steps, Cadette Girl Scout Madison Warner said, "I enjoyed helping the younger girls advance. Everything was fun."

Coordinator of the event Pat Guilford reflected upon the exciting day for the girls and shared, "This is an important right of passage in a girls' scouting participation in the Girl Scouts. All these girls get excited about obtaining the next level."

If you are fortunate to know one of these young Girl Scouts be sure to take the time to congratulate them on such a memorable moment in their career as a Girl Scout. If you are interested in introducing a girl to the Girl Scouts or want to participate yourself, please call the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council at 388-4653.



School District Journal

By Contributing Writer Beverly Slough, Chariman, St. Johns County School Board

Graduation season is always such fun! All the ceremonies honoring our students and the celebrations at every school culminate in the graduation ceremonies themselves. It is my favorite time of year because it gives opportunity to reflect on what a fine job our teachers are doing each day, preparing our children for their next steps. I cannot commend them enough – they are the frontline when it comes to excellence in our schools. Congratulations to every graduate and kudos to every teacher who helped him/her along the way. Of course, we can never overlook the first teachers – our fine parents. Because of your involvement in your child's education, you give him/her the best opportunity for a successful life. Thank you for all you do as well.

With the legislative season behind us for another year, we turn our eyes to the election and all the Constitutional amendment questions that will be up for votes. The one of most interest to the school district is Number 8 – modification of the class size amendment. As I am sure you know, current law sets the maximum number of students per class in grades kindergarten through three at 18, grades four through eight at 22 and 25 students per class at the high school level. Beginning this fall, the requirement applies to each individual classroom, meaning that if the 19th child enrolls in a kindergarten classroom, the school

is required to provide an additional teacher and space. The class would be split and those students who move will have to adjust to a new setting and a new teacher. In addition, at the high school level we will see fewer academic electives as we are required to provide enough core subject teachers so that the class size requirements can be met.

The proposal on the ballot would allow the class sizes to be calculated at the school average, giving much more flexibility. If one primary class has 16 students, another might have 19, still preserving the school average at 18. In addition to the flexibility of school averages, the Constitutional question provides caps so that no kindergarten through third grade class would be allowed to have more than 21 students, no fourth through eighth grade class more than 27 and no core academic high school class more than 30. A yes vote on this amendment would allow districts to maintain small classes but would provide flexibility so that the impact of new students is not so great, either financially to the district or emotionally on the children whose classes might have to be divided. I urge everyone to study the issue and be sure to express your opinion on Election Day.

On August 5, eight of our northwest schools, Bartram Trail and Creekside High Schools, Fruit Cove and Switzerland Point Middle Schools and Cunningham

Creek, Hickory Creek, Julington Creek and Timberlin Creek Elementaries will hold a joint golf tournament as a fund raiser for all eight schools. The Champions Club at Julington Creek Plantation has generously offered the course free of charge on that day so that the schools may maximize their collective benefit. In addition to golf, a charity ball drop will be held. Numbered golf balls will be sold for \$10 each and dropped from a helicopter on the day of the tournament. The ball that lands in the hole will be the winner. The prize for this event has not been determined at this writing. If you would be interested in playing to benefit our schools, please contact one of the principals or me. It should be a great day of fun for a super cause!

As always, thank you for your commitment to public education. It is the bedrock of our society. If I may assist you in any way, please contact me at sloughb@stjohns.k12.fl.us. I appreciate your confidence in me as I seek to provide the very best for the children of St. Johns County.

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Web page offers tips for hurricane preparation

With early predictions calling for a more active-than-normal hurricane season, which began June 1, the St. Johns River Water Management District has key information available on its website (floridaswater.com/storm) to help residents, local governments and elected officials prepare for and deal with severe storms.

The district's storm pages include links to information such as flood statements and warnings, river stage and flooding data, and local government emergency contacts. Also included are links to the National Weather Service, Florida Division of Emergency Management and the United States Geological Survey's interactive map of current conditions in the state.

"This storm site allows for quick access to numerous flooding resources," said Jeff Cole, director

of the district's office of communications and governmental affairs. "The links to the National Weather Service's real-time river stage and flooding maps are particularly helpful following a storm and with an active hurricane season predicted, this information could prove to be a valuable asset."

Local governments are the primary entities responsible for implementing state-of-emergency declarations, evacuations and rescue efforts during flood-related disasters. The district works closely with local governments year round to develop improved flood management plans, and to help communities establish and implement strategies to deal with floods once they occur.

In the event of a storm, the district assists local governments by issuing emergency orders that allow

for the pumping of water to alleviate flooding when public health and safety are at risk. The district also issues emergency orders to authorize repair, replacement or restoration of public and private property.

To prepare for hurricane season, which runs through November 30, individuals can protect themselves and their property by:

- Keeping debris out of storm drains and ditches.
- Reporting clogged ditches to local governments.
- Cleaning out gutters and extending downspouts at least four feet from the home.
- Building up the ground around the home to promote drainage away from the foundation.
- Obtaining flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program

Youth horse ranch adds director to board

Haven Horse Ranch, a non-profit, youth horse ranch in St. Augustine, welcomes Annie Marks, founder and CEO of MAY Management Services, Inc. to its board of directors.

"We are thrilled that Annie has joined our board of directors. Her background in local business coupled with her board experience with other youth programs will bring additional professional diversification to our board," said Ric Lehman, executive director of Haven Horse Ranch. "Having served St. Johns County in property management since 1988 also means Annie is well acquainted with the community and its residents and is well poised to help with our mission to serve the area's youth."

MAY Management has been active with a number of local charities and organizations for many years including The Salvation Army, The Children's Home Society of Florida, Northeast Florida Community Hospice and Autism Speaks of Florida.

Marks stated, "Giving back to our local community is a mission that MAY Management Services Inc. takes seriously both as a humanitarian mission to help our neighbors but also with a grander vision to strengthen our community from within. Haven Horse Ranch combines two of my personal pas-

sions—helping children and horses. I look forward to being a part and to doing what I can to help further the work of this fine organization."

Haven Horse Ranch is a

501(c)(3) nonprofit working horse ranch and licensed SpiritHorse Equine Assisted Healthcare facility in St. Augustine that uses horses to teach children basic life's principles and values.

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Local boaters come to aid of injured youth



Jan and Pete Peaver are honored for their act of heroism.

It was a gorgeous spring night to be out on the water—warm with a gentle breeze. Jan and Pete Peaver, local residents of Mandarin and members of the Freedom Boat Club, were cruising Durbin Creek in a 20 ft Hurricane Deck Boat owned by the boat club, relaxing after a busy day.

Soon, their attention was drawn to a group of youth who were gathered near a very popular rope swing. The relaxing evening on the water quickly took on a frightening urgency. Ryan Benton, one of the youngsters playing on the swing, had hit his head on the trunk of the tree as he swung backwards and was unconscious. His friends were nervous and not sure what to do.

“I was worried for his life and felt like we needed to act quickly,” said Jan Peaver.

The Peavers called 911, but there was a problem. The operator told them she needed an address to send an emergency crew. So the

couple drove the boat to a house on Bishop Estates Road, found an address and waited for the 911 crew. Then the Peavers waited for the EMS team and brought them to the injured Benton.

Pete said, “The EMS team was worried since he was non-responsive and were grateful we acted so fast. We drove them back to the house and they were taking him to the hospital, unsure if he would have to be put on life flight.”

Benton ultimately made a full recovery, with only three broken ribs.

“We are so grateful to have members like the Peavers who would take the time to rescue and help a stranger,” said Lisa Almeida, manager of The Freedom Boat Club.

In recognition of the Peavers’ extraordinary efforts to aid a seriously injured person, the Freedom Boat Club awarded them with a Certificate of Heroism at a recent club event.

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Family Storytime

Wednesday, June 30
10:15 AM
Bartram Trail Library

This program is geared toward families with young children. Caregivers and children alike will enjoy stories,



fingerplays, action rhymes, music, movement & more!



Pack 287 San Juan del Rio Catholic Church camps at Kennedy Space Center! Pictured are Luke Monte, Matthew Bailey, Sam Rautenstrauch, Luke Guckaven, Javier Ramos, Charlie Sullivan, Conner Rafferty, Noah Arzenas, Bryce Vandenberg, Brandon McSwigan, Cameron Arreche, Paige McSwigan, Jack Leonard, Michael Guckaven, Holden Towne, Anthony Fetyko, Vincent Fetchero, Brendon Chamberlain and Kyle Rafferty.



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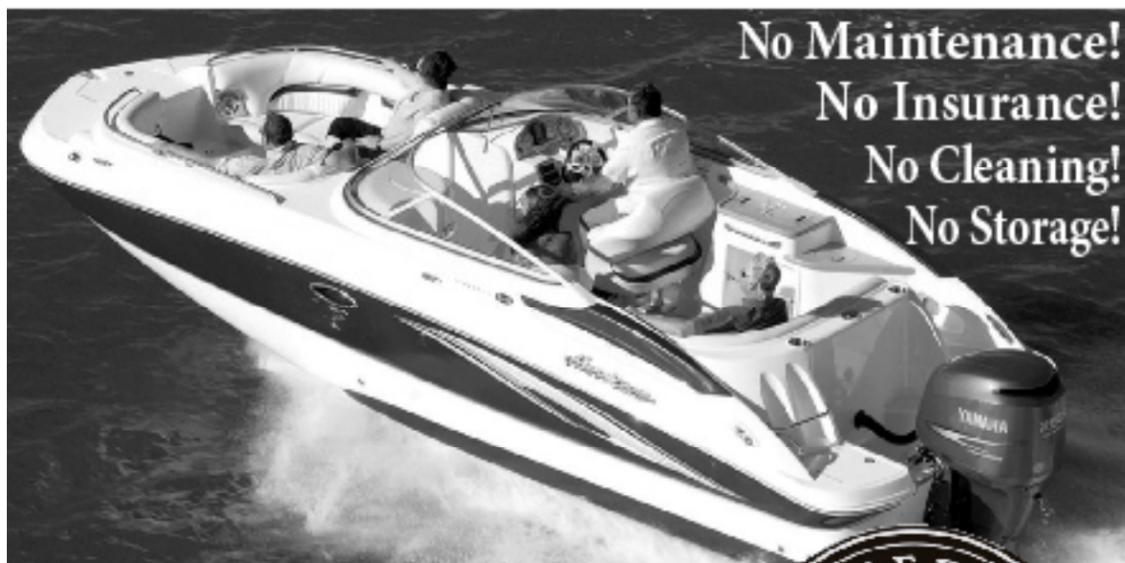
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New indoor sports facility opening in St. Johns County

Early June is the anticipated opening date for G.O.A.L.S., an indoor sports field house located adjacent to Nease High School in northern St. Johns County. This summer, athletes of all ages and skill levels can enjoy lacrosse and soccer in an air-conditioned and bug-free building that also provides shelter from afternoon thundershowers. As fall and winter return, area athletes will no longer be affected by early darkness, cold weather or fields crowded with school events.

G.O.A.L.S. stands for Growing Outstanding Athletes in Lacrosse and Soccer. Owner David Ott, who is also the head coach of the boys' varsity lacrosse team at Nease High School, plans to introduce lacrosse to new players, challenge current players and have fun competing with all levels of players in camps, clinics and tournaments. Soccer instruction will be led by the experienced team from PURE FC Soccer. PURE FC has years of experience coaching and building athletes in

soccer. They represent thousands of players, coaches and parents nationwide and are based right here in North Florida.

The facility is not limited to these two sports. G.O.A.L.S. will also be hosting camps, leagues and tournaments in dodge ball, kickball, flag football and wiffleball. Camps begin meeting the week of June 14. These are for children in third through eighth grades. There are camps just for lacrosse and camps that feature all of the sports offered at G.O.A.L.S.

Kids are not the only ones that get to have fun. Adult wiffleball leagues and adult dodge ball tournaments are now forming. Future plans include a high school level "boot camp" in lacrosse, sports specific training sessions with neighboring Titus Sports, specialized clinics for lacrosse, and wiffleball tournaments. G.O.A.L.S. is also available for corporate team building, fundraising tournaments, and birthday parties.



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Envy yields to generosity at local massage clinics

Six Massage Envy clinics in the Jacksonville area took on a challenge in the month of May. Together, they pledged to donate a portion of proceeds from each appointment to Dreams Come True, the only locally based nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of local children with life-threatening illnesses. Our hope was to raise at least \$5000, which is just a little bit over the average cost of a dream. By mid-May it became apparent that not only would we be able to reach \$5,000 but we may even be able to reach \$10,000. By the end of the challenge, Massage Envy was delighted to raise over \$12,000 for Dreams Come True.

Staff at all six Massage Envy locations, Fleming Island, Ortega, Bartram Park, Southside, Harbour Village and Jacksonville Beach launched into action. Clients were informed of the campaign and word of mouth spread like wildfire.

"Our entire staff was extremely excited to have the privilege of partnering with Dreams Come

True. These children and their families are tackling an indescribable challenge and if we can help just a little bit and bring some smiles to their face, then we will have accomplished our dream. Our customers have been extremely generous and supportive of these efforts," says Sue Kowalewski, regional developer of the six Massage Envy Clinics.

Special events such as Cinco de Mayo celebrations, silent auctions and raffles helped increase donations and provided opportunities for other local businesses to help too. Massage Envy collaborated with local radio station Lite 96.1 to provide music for special fundraising events and to create awareness of the campaign. Chick-fil-A and Subway contributed to the cause by generously donating coupons and food during fun events.

In a time when many nonprofit organizations are experiencing worrisome drops in donations, the resounding success of the six Massage Envy locations participating in the May challenge is especially encouraging.

"The support of Massage Envy and its customers is priceless," stated Andrea Siracusa, special projects coordinator for Dreams Come True. "It has been a pleasure working with the amazing staff in what has become a great success. Without the support of the community we could not bring joy and unforgettable memories to these children and their families who are going through some of life's toughest challenges. All the proceeds

raised, 100 percent, will go directly to sponsoring the dreams of local children. Thank you for making their dreams come true."

For Dreams Come True, an organization completely reliant on local donations, this campaign represents more than a double achievement. It represents the ability to replace the pain and fear of a child with laughter and joy. For that, there is no measure.

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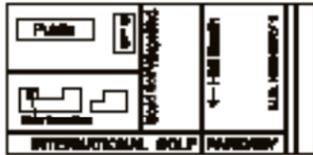
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State of St. Johns County Town Hall meetings to be held in June

St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick invites all St. Johns County residents to attend a local Town Hall meeting in June. Wanchick will give a presentation on the State of St. Johns County, focusing on the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. He will also discuss challenges facing the county over the next several years, including funding options and quality of life considerations.

The goal of the Town Hall meetings is not only to present information to citizens, but more

importantly to hear back from the community regarding their desires for St. Johns County. A strong community dialogue began with last year's Town Hall meetings and Wanchick believes it is crucial to continue that dialogue as the County Commission faces more difficult decisions in the future. Citizens may provide feedback at the Town Hall meetings, or they may submit comments via email to townhall@sjcfl.us or leave a voice message by calling 209-1202.

"The good news is that we do not anticipate a millage rate or tax increase this year," Wanchick said. "However, as the county's revenues continue to decline and the demand for services is increasing, public feedback is very important. The input received during last year's Town Hall meetings significantly influenced the final adopted budget. Next year's budget, as well as the future direction of St. Johns County, truly should reflect the desires of our community."

Following are the remaining Town Hall meetings in June:
 Monday, June 14, 9:00 a.m.:
 St. Johns County Auditorium (Civic Roundtable meeting), 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine
 Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m.:
 Fruit Cove Middle School, 3180 Race Track Road, St. Johns
 Tuesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m.:
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Boulevard, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.:
 St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village Renaissance, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine
 Details and the complete Town Hall schedule are on the following page. For more information, please visit www.sjcfl.us/townhall or contact Public Affairs Specialist Karen Pan at 209-0549.

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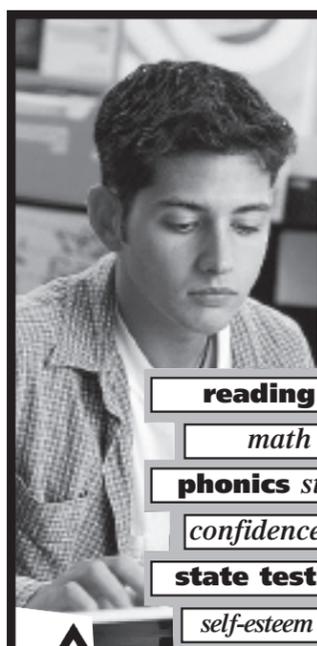
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Local swim school selected by USA Swimming Foundation as Make a Splash grant recipient

Swimming Safari Swim School was selected as one of nine "learn to swim" providers in Florida to receive up to \$5,000 in grant monies from the USA Swimming Foundation, thanks to a generous donation from Beall's Department Stores. Swimming Safari Swim School is recognized as a "Make a Splash Local Partner," one of over 210 providers across the nation who has committed to the USA Swimming Foundation's goal of helping provide the opportunity for every child in America learn to swim.

So far, Swimming Safari Swim School has taught 200 kids to swim in 2010. While the school has been teaching children to swim for years, they have been incorporated since 2006 and the program has been a local partner since 2009. Since then, 1,000 children have gone through the program and are now more water safe.

"Our Make a Splash Local Partners make a difference by taking tangible action to advance the Make a Splash mission," said Chris LaBianco, chief development officer for the USA Swimming Foundation. "Local partners including Swimming Safari Swim School help us expand our reach across the country, and potentially

save lives."

With the grant, the school will expand their ability to teach kids to swim by providing swim lessons to children who are part of the city Community Connection summer camp program, which is offered to at-risk children. Many of these children's families are unable to pay for transportation and admission fees without grant support.

"We are extremely excited to be a part of the Make a Splash initiative," said Joani Maskell, director at Swimming Safari Swim School. "As a recipient of the grant monies, our program will now be able to help save lives by ensuring children become more water safe."

NW Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. – Fruit Cove Middle School
 Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m. – SJC Convention Center, WGV
 County Administrator Michael Wanchick will give a presentation on the State of St. Johns County, focusing on fiscal year 2011's budget. He will also discuss challenges facing the county including funding options and quality of life considerations.

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Bartram Trail Branch Friends of the Library announce...

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Aug. 30, Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4

SAT class: 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.
 ACT class: 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

All students must pre-register. Include name, grade, SAT or ACT and time slot. Registration will close on August 16. Call the library at 827-6960!



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FCMS has an a-May-zing May and is jumping for June

By Contributing Writer Ashlyn Cooper, FCMS Student

As the 2009-2010 school year came to a close, FCMS spaced out our activities and added things to our school making it better by far. In some cases that could be bad, but every rule has its exception. The exception here happens to be Fruit Cove! Mr. V and Fruit Cove Cares started a Fruit Cove fruit grove and planted orange trees around the school grounds.

On May 25, the eighth grade took finals in their language arts and science courses. This was also the day of our beginning bands' and wind ensembles' spring concert. On May 27, our band and chorus members took a field trip to Disney World. The next day, eighth grade students took their end of the year exams for social studies and elective classes. We had a holiday on May 31, due to Memorial Day; this meant... no school!

Moving into the last few days of school we had more fun activities. But first, eighth grade had their math finals on June 1. The next day, seventh and eighth graders got to do what they have been waiting 180 days to do... get rid of those big bothersome textbooks. Later, sixth grade followed suit.

Then the fun began! The seventh graders went to Sea World on June 4 and the eighth graders had

a formal dance at Creekside High School. The eighth grade had their awards ceremony on June 7 in the FCMS gym. The seventh graders had their ceremony on June 8 in the gym and sixth grade awards were on June 9. June 8 was also the day of the eighth grade field trip, as well as sixth grade Fun Day. There was also yearbook signing parties for all! To do any of the fun activities or fieldtrips, all fines had to be paid or books returned.

Our last day of school (finally!) was on Wednesday, June 9. "Nothing gold can stay," as Robert Frost wrote (thanks to Mrs. Zamparelli for helping me remember the author). That "gold" happens to be our school year. After June 9, the Flyers (and incoming Knights) can kick back and relax. After all of the activities and events, the summer of 2010 hopes to be nice and relaxing. But don't forget those summer reading assignments!

This is the last FCMS current events article for the year. So before I go I want to say a few things. Congratulations to our eighth graders for graduating! Finally a gigantic thanks (and shout out) to the staff, faculty and teachers who made the year "golden." Let's hope that the 2010-2011 school year is just as much fun!

William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@bellsouth.net

The Master Plan presentation to the County Commissioners on April 20 is now available. Go to www.glatting.com/williambartram/index.htm and click on the Board of County Commissioners link. This beautiful presentation ended with the commissioners' acceptance of the plan. We later learned the entire Master Plan was submitted to a statewide landscape architect organization for a possible award – we'll give an update next month.

With County Commission "approval," the management council must now begin prioritizing the various projects in the plan and of course, determine costs and funding potentials. We must also create committees to work on various segments of the plan. Come join us – we can use your expertise and urge you to be part of our team of community volunteers. As stated before, our goal is to keep our Scenic Highway, State Road 13, scenic and historic.

We are on a roll! We have a dynamic plan, an enthusiastic management council and lots of energy created from our recent successes.

In our May 13 meeting we discussed the potential of hosting

a "book signing" event for a local writer and the potential for raising funds for our work. We need to tie this into a local community event in NW St. Johns County and are looking for ideas and opportunities. Volunteers, anyone? There will be more on this topic soon. This generated enthusiastic ideas for other potential fund raising events. Ideas abound with action to follow.

The website discussed in previous articles is ongoing and is being "tweaked" for a "live" presentation by Jan Hanak, designer for our web consultant, on June 15 at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. Join us if you can from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We already have local businesses asking if they can advertise on the website. This would be a big plus to our organization considering we are an authorized 501(C) (3) non-profit and any income would help finance the projects being planned.

The management council has also authorized adding nine more oral histories to the 25 already completed. Some of these 34 oral histories will be featured in an oral history video to be produced by a

local firm. The contracted firm will make a presentation on this topic at our June 10 meeting and we're sure to have a lively discussion afterward. You are welcome to listen and contribute.

Beverly Fleming gave an update on the results of our April Bartram Bash and we were pleased to learn how well the "party" was received by participating organizations and neighbors. There will be some organization "tweaks" for our seventh annual Bash next year—specifically, a committee of volunteers to assist Fleming in putting on the event in 2011.

Our prior chairman and current historian, Mary Cornwell, made an impassioned plea to include Francis P. Fatio in our Scenic Highway story (Cornwell is a passionate devotee of Fatio). Fatio was an early St. Johns County settler who hosted our namesake, William Bartram, during his travels to St. Johns County. Yes, Fatio will be part of our story.

Our next meeting is June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the County Service Center located at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard. Everyone is invited to attend!

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Get ready for flag football and cheerleading!

Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading is registering participants for the fall season at Fruit Cove Baptist Church. The co-ed league is for children in first through eighth grade (entering fall 2010); cheerleading is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade (fall 2010).

Flag football players are grouped by grade levels and equal playing time in a positive environment is offered to all. Football evaluations, uniform sizing, practices and games will be at the Fruit Cove Baptist ball field at the back of the Fruit Cove Baptist Church campus located at 501 State Road 13 (behind the church parking lot). Jerseys, shorts, flags and belts and other items are included in the \$70 fee; after July 26, the cost is \$90. Cheer top, shorts, pom poms and megaphone are provided for cheerleaders. Orientation/Evaluation/Sizing (attend any one event) will be held on Thursday, August 5 (6:00 p.m. to 7:30

p.m.), Saturday, August 7 (time to be determined) or Tuesday, August 10 (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.). Cheerleading sizing will be at the same times, in Building B. Have your player wear a t-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes (cleats are even better for football).

Practices are early evenings, usually Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, beginning September 7. Games are usually on Saturdays, from October 2 through November 20. Each team has a one-hour practice per week and a one-hour game per week.

Register and pay securely online at www.fruitcove.com/ministries/sportslife.asp. Payments by cash or check are also options; scholarships are possible. You must have your child registered, evaluated and paid for by August 10 to secure a spot on a team. Please contact Lisa Sheffield at 287-0996 or email lsheffield@fruitcove.com with any questions.

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First day of Summer



Become the jolly green giant in your neighborhood

By Contributing Writer Bob Hardie, General Manager, Air Engineers Service Experts

Relax! No one's asking you to fill the shoes of a mythical giant, but your neighbors here on the big blue planet are asking that you make an effort to reduce the size of your carbon footprint. It's not as difficult as you might think. There are a lot of little things you can do to become a towering figure in your green-minded community and the first big step is posting this short list of energy-saving tips for everyone to see.

Tip #1: Replace all of your incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Believe it or not, this simple act can save you somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,000 over the life of the bulb (\$56/per bulb). Speaking of light, this should shed some on a raging debate: What's more reprehensible—leaving the lights on in a room that's unoccupied or switching them on and off every time you enter or leave a room? As a general rule of thumb—albeit a green one—you should turn off the lights if you're going to be away more than 15 minutes.

Tip #2: Turn off appliances and electronics not in use. Seems obvious enough, but there's a catch. Off doesn't necessarily mean it's off. As long as it's plugged directly into a wall outlet, it continues to draw energy. In fact, 75 percent of the energy consumed by these products takes place when they're not in use. So use a power strip and make liberal use of the on/off switch. Keep in mind that a laptop computer is more energy-efficient than a desktop and a screen saver isn't an energy saver.

Tip #3: Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater. Some units arrive from the factory with high temperature settings. Lowering them as little as 10°F can reduce your energy bill by 3 percent to 5 percent. Properly insulating your hot water tank and pipes can raise the water temperature as much as 4°F and result in additional savings. Draining a quart of water from your tank every three months will also remove the sediment that obstructs the transfer of heat and overall efficiency.

Tip #4: Landscape your yard. Planting trees and shrubs around your home doesn't just increase curbside appeal. It can also decrease your energy bills significantly during the summer and winter months. Saplings typically provide window shade within the first year and a roof canopy within five to 10 years, whereas shrubs planted a foot from your home offer a thick layer of insulation. For more details, visit www.energy.gov/landscaping.htm.

Tip #5: Schedule a furnace and air conditioning tune-up twice a year. In roughly an hour's time, a certified heating and cooling expert can help lower your monthly energy bill up to 30 percent, extend the life of your system and eliminate costly repairs. Installing a programmable thermostat can save you an additional \$200 a year.

So the next time you're faced with a sky-high energy bill, a light should go on upstairs. Just make sure it's a green one. And everyone will feel jolly good.



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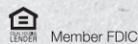
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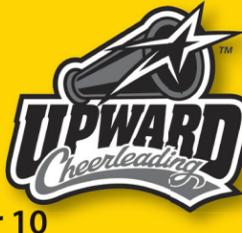
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Fast paced Daytona

By Contributing Travel Writer Debi Lander



Daytona Beach lies just 90 miles to our south, so a summertime day trip works well for a family. Known as the Birthplace of Speed, the Daytona 500 auto race will be held on July 3 this year. But, the interactive race-themed attraction, the Daytona 500 Experience is open daily to lure visitors with personal thrills.

Now, I admit I'm not into NASCAR, but that doesn't matter. Just about anyone would find the action-packed place fun. Admis-

sion includes a Speedway Tour via a tram that rolls along the upper rim and lower edge of the asphalt course. The banked 31-degree turns are so steep that cars traveling under 80 miles per hour will slip off. The dramatic incline, as seen from the field, looks much more alarming than what you see on TV. You get a racer's view of the two and a half mile tri-oval NASCAR course and the 3.56 mile road course used by Grand-Am sports cars and motorcycles. The tour

includes the pit area and Victory Lane where kids seemed to love posing with their arms up.

To get a true feel for racing try Acceleration Alley, a head-to-head simulated race that puts you in the driver's seat. Eight cars are lined up in front of a video screen. Each person gets into their racer, adjust seats for height and distance to the pedals, clicks on a seat belt which closes and locks the doors, then waits to hear the announcer say, "Gentlemen, start your engines."

I flipped a switch and floored it. Except, dumb me, forgot about following the pace car. I rammed into its rear, causing me to flip and roll! Well, not really, but the simulation was amazing. Once my car righted, I re-entered the track and let it rip. I zoomed around slower cars, but nearly smacked into the wall. I tried to remember everything racing champion Hurley Haywood had taught me when I attended Porsche Driving School. I could hear his warning to not over-steer, especially when trying to avoid an obstacle. I held my line steady and nudged past another car, three of us just inches apart on the track. Whew! The experience feels authentic and is totally captivating and intense. When the eight lap race is over printed results are distributed.

Now, if that's not thrilling enough there's another option, but a very expensive one. The Richard Petty Driving Experience lets you take command of the wheel and actually maneuver a NASCAR-style stock car on the track. Some crave speed but prefer not to drive so choose to ride shotgun with a professional driver.

Plan to spend a half a day, including a challenge where visitors attempt to beat the clock on a tire change. You'll see the winning Daytona 500 car in the exact condition it crossed the finish line, full of confetti, bumps, scrapes and scratches. You can stroll through the history displays and try a few lesser intense simulators or the IMAX movie. The place was so charged up; I'd really love to go back again.

If you go: Take Interstate-95 South to the Daytona exit. Can't miss the facade along International Speedway Boulevard (US Highway 92) which spreads across 480 acres.

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Julington Creek Baseball 8U Red Sox win championship!



The game held on Saturday, May 15 was a nail biter. In the bottom of the sixth inning with a runner on third base and a tied game at 9-9, William Suchy steps up to bat with the entire championship resting on this clutch hit. With a base hit, the runner on third scores and Suchy gets the game winning RBI. The Red Sox win 10-9 against the 8U Phillies! The Phillies were a great opponent and the Red Sox team pulled together for an outstanding game.

The 8U Red Sox are coached by Head Coach Marty Flores and assisted by Bill Brockmeier, Kurt Daetwiler, Tom Dutrieux and Ben Comfort.

Congratulations to the 8U Red Sox: Ethan Clark, Justin Kuthan, CJ Brockmeier, David Brundage, William Suchy, Jake Follenweider, Logan Flores, AJ Gajewski, Nate Dutrieux, Colin Brown, Kyle Daetwiler, Nick Comfort and Corbin Harris.



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FCMS assistant principal earns honor

Emily Harrison, assistant principal at Fruit Cove Middle School (FCMS), was chosen as the district's nominee for the Outstanding Assistant Principal Award. Superintendent Joseph Joyner visited FCMS to make the announcement in front of Harrison's staff.

Additionally, Wayne King, principal of Landrum Middle School (LMS), has been selected as the St. Johns County School District's nominee for the 2010 Commissioner's Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership.

These programs honor principals and assistant principals who have spearheaded initiatives and used teamwork and leadership skills to increase student performance, promote safe learning en-

vironments and establish partnerships with parents and community members.

Harrison has been employed in her present position since 2006. While at FCMS she initiated a Middle School Best Practices Symposium for the district and also organized the school's Veterans Day assembly honoring local members of the armed forces.

During the 2005-2006 school year, Harrison worked as a gifted teacher at Cunningham Creek Elementary School. Prior to that, she served as a substitute teacher for the school district and volunteered at Julington Creek Elementary School while completing her master's degree. She also has six years of elementary school teaching experience in Florida and Georgia.

"Emily is an outstanding assistant principal with strengths in all areas of leadership," said Dr. Joyner. "I have watched her work for the past several years and can tell you that she is one of the finest assistant principals I have ever encountered. We are very fortunate to have her at Fruit Cove."

Harrison also holds a bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University and a master's degree from the University of North Florida.

These two St. Johns County nominations will be forwarded to the state where they will compete at the regional level. The statewide winner in each category will be announced this fall.

Nearby Getaways: Okefenokee Swamp

By Molly McKinney

In the area of southern Georgia and northern Florida lies a green-tinted jewel of wildlife. Since 1937, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has stood as a preservation of Florida's disappearing marshlands, rare swamp life and a glimpse into the wilder part of the state that many call home.

As many know, Florida used to be completely under water. The Okefenokee Swamp is very old, inhabiting an area that used to be an approximately 950 square mile depression in the ocean floor. Essentially it is a peat bog, but actually is so much more than that. The Okefenokee Swamp houses wildlife from black bear to white ibis all year long, has Indian history as deep as the tree roots and offers exciting activities for all levels of

adventurers.

Native Americans named the area "Okefenokee" meaning "Land of the Trembling Earth" since peat deposits, up to 15 feet thick, cover much of the swamp floor. These deposits are so unstable in spots that trees and surrounding bushes tremble by stomping the surface.

Several groups of Native Americans probably inhabited the area around the swamp before Hernando de Soto came in the late 1500s, but not much is known about them. It is possible that Indians had inhabited it since 2500 B.C. However, once de Soto arrived and raided Georgia, the Indian cultures and tribes were either destroyed or forced into the swamp. The last Indian tribe to leave the swamp was the Semi-

noles. In 1937, a large piece of the swamp was set aside as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and remains to this day as a tribute to untouched beauty.

Canoeing and kayaking trips as well as guided boat tours through cypress forests, historic canals and open prairies are available through local tour operators. Additionally, studying animals and plant life can be fascinating, since winding boardwalks and trails lead through unique habitats to observation towers and viewing platforms. Many species of venomous

snakes can be found in the swamp, not to mention all kinds of other reptiles such as alligators, turtles and lizards.

Over 600 species of plants can be found in the Okefenokee Swamp. Cypress forests to flooded prairies offer a never-ending, ever-varying landscape weaving in between deep and shallow peat lakes. The plants are the life of the swamp: as they decay, they form the peat that accumulates and creates this oasis of swamp life

in northern Florida. The Native Americans who had mastered living in the swamp aided explorers and settlers strange to the environment in directing them to the plants that would yield medicine and food.

If you go: The entrance to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Okefenokee Swamp is located at 2700 Suwannee Canal Road, in Folkston, Georgia. Visit www.fws.gov/okefenokee for more information.



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County receives federal stimulus grant for energy conservation

St. Johns County has secured a statewide competitive energy conservation grant that will provide \$437,902 for two projects. St. Johns County is proud to be one of only 14 applicants in the state to receive this funding, which is a result of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The first portion of the grant will be used to re-synchronize traffic signals to improve traffic flow along five major road segments, including two segments on US Highway 1 South and one each on State Roads 13, 207 and A1A South. There are 23 total traffic signals planned to be synchronized, resulting in lower fuel consumption in vehicles, reduced greenhouse gas emissions through shorter travel times, increased travel speed, less stops and less delays for travelers on these roads. The estimated annual impact is anticipated to be 728,894 gallons of gasoline saved and a reduction of 6,768 metric tons of carbon.

The second portion of the grant funds will be used by the county building department to develop a proactive energy program, which will include technical assistance and training workshops on energy efficient building techniques. A total of 90 workshops are planned over a two-year period that will reach out to a diverse industry base, anticipating over 1,600 attendees. The technical assistance component will facilitate availability of county staff to address specific questions from building applicants to provide the most appropriate information on energy savings.

Based on the State Energy Program Calculator, St. Johns County anticipates the average annual savings of these combined programs to be more than \$3 million in reduced fuel usage and energy savings.

The grant application was a group process including the engineering and building departments, as well as the environmental

division. The scoring for the grant included an overall energy efficiency strategy, the development of a well thought out project plan, a defined experienced project team, identification of matching/leveraging funds (which are "in kind" – by providing hours of existing staff time), identification of job creation or retention, calculating the energy savings and renewable energy production, and identifying the greenhouse gas reduction.

The Florida Energy and Climate Commission (FECC) within the Executive Office of the Governor will administer the United States Department of Energy (DOE) program funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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Nearby Getaways: Princess Place Preserve

By Molly McKinney



Princess Place Preserve not only has an intriguing history, it is the site for Flagler County's oldest standing structure. This preserve, originally named Cherokee Grove, began as a land grant to Francisco Pellicer from the King of Spain in 1791. In 1886 it became home to the state's first ever orange grove and Henry Cutting added to its fame that year by building an Adirondack camp style hunting lodge. This style was mostly found in states like New York and never Florida, so its uniqueness gave Cherokee Grove a lasting impression on those who came by.

After Cutting died, his now-widowed wife married an ex-Russian prince, Boris Scherbatov and they made Cherokee Grove a popular entertainment spot for travelers from abroad and from the eastern United States. Thus, Cherokee Grove became known as Princess Place. It passed through several other sets of hands up until the 1990s, when it was purchased by the state of Florida to be preserved and rehabilitated. Today, the name Princess Place Preserve can be found in the National Register of Historic Places.

Princess Place Preserve is perfect for recreation and education. Its location at the meeting of Pellicer Creek and the Matanzas River allows it to have several varying ecosystems all contained in its large expanse. There can be found everything from saltwater marshes to

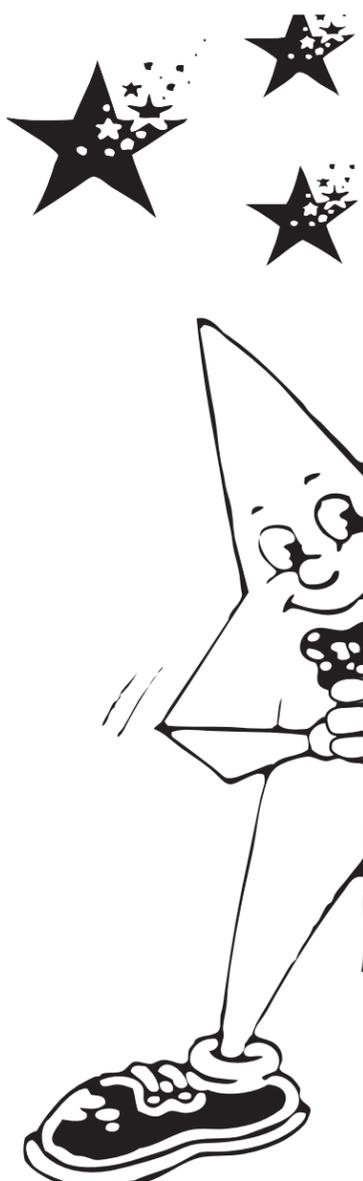
oak hammocks, both natural and man-made. Recently the presence of the Preserve drew the attention of the National Estuarine Research Reserve of the United States and thereby the Matanzas River became the 23rd reserve of this organization. Pellicer Creek has been selected as an Outstanding Florida Water and a State Canoe Trail.

Today, Princess Place Preserve with its rich history and 1,500 pristine acres attracts nature enthusiasts from near and far. Visitors can take in the environment on one of the many hiking trails, spend time fishing in the salt marshes along the Matanzas River and Pellicer Creek or camp out under the stars. The preserve is a popular spot for equestrian enthusiasts. With an equestrian campsite and plenty of riding trails it is easy to embrace nature while enjoying a ride. The picnic area at the lodge may be reserved. Please call (386) 313-4020 for more information.

If you go: Princess Place Preserve is located at 2500 Princess Place Road in Palm Coast, Florida, just off Old Kings Road in north Flagler County. Visit www.flaglercounty.org and select Parks and Preserves for more information.

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Nearby Getaways: Devil's Millhopper

By Molly McKinney

Located in Gainesville, a great preserve is Devil's Millhopper, a 500-foot wide, 120-foot deep sinkhole that was created when an underground cavern roof collapsed nearly 14,000 years ago. Devil's

Millhopper Geological State Park is a beautiful preserve of nature, made accessible by convenient boardwalks and trails. A set of 232 wooden steps lead to the bottom of the sinkhole and what appears to be a miniature rain forest. Small streams trickle down the steep slopes of the limestone sinkhole, disappearing through crevices in the ground and lush vegetation thrives in the shade of the walls even in dry summers.

The preserve is a National Natural Landmark that gets its name from the way the cavern collapsed in a funnel shape that resembles the "hopper" farmers used to use to grind grain on in the 1800s and there is a legend that the millhopper fed bodies to the devil. Since the floor of the sinkhole was literally littered with fossils and bones, early explorers named it Devil's Millhopper.

The plants and animals that live there are the same kind as those that live in Appalachia, bringing a bit of the north to our tropical state. The great amount of

fossils has provided researchers and geologists with invaluable information pertaining to Florida's past.

Guided tours are available on Saturdays, but the park is also open to those who wish to peruse its boundaries freely. The park itself is 63 acres and a full half-mile of nature trails guide hikers along the rim of the sinkhole and the boardwalk can be followed all the way to the bottom. There's also a visitor's center that offers a mass of education about the nature and history of Devil's Millhopper.

The park is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday; however, they are closed Monday and Tuesday. To get there, take 1-75 to County Road 222 (Milepost Exit 390, Old Exit 77) and drive east 7.8 miles. At 43rd Street, turn left. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Millhopper Road and the park entrance is about 1,000 feet beyond that on the right. There is a small parking fee. For more information, please visit www.floridastateparks.org/devilsmillhopper.

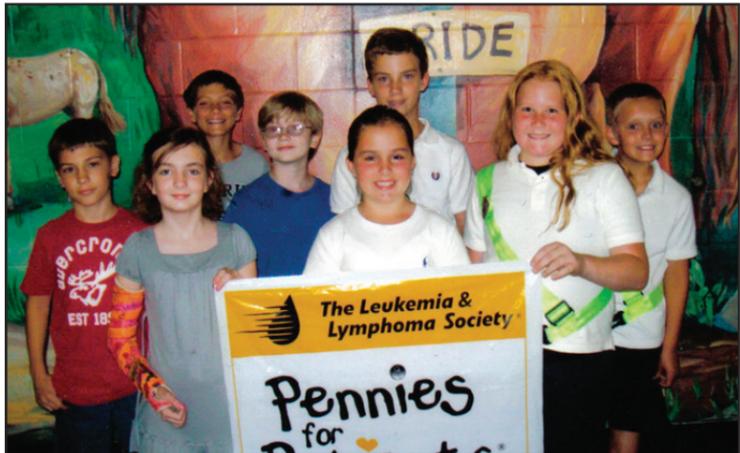
NW Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. – Fruit Cove Middle School
 Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m. – SJC Convention Center, WGVA

County Administrator Michael Wanchick will give a presentation on the State of St. Johns County, focusing on fiscal year 2011's budget. He will also discuss challenges facing the county including funding options and quality of life considerations.

MCE Student Council's philanthropic year

By Contributing Writer Kate Dowdie, Technology Teacher, Mill Creek Elementary School



Mill Creek Elementary School Student Council members raised money through the annual Pennies for Patients campaign.

Mill Creek Elementary School's Student Council is finishing up an eventful year!

Among their achievements:

- They raised \$2,975.11 for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through the Pennies for Patients campaign
- They spearheaded the annual Goodwill Bag It Up drive, helping the school earn a Radio Disney Party for accruing 77 percent participation
- They held a food drive for the

St. Francis House shelter prior to Thanksgiving

- Through December candy cane sales, they raised \$604.80 for the St. Augustine Record's Empty Stocking Fund.

Wow, if they can achieve these kinds of results in elementary school, we can't wait to see what these stellar fifth grade students can do when they get to middle school next year! Excellent work!



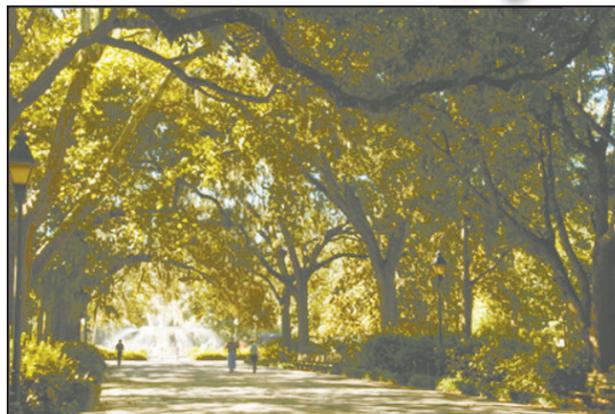
Springtime in the gardens of Savannah and nearby Tybee Island

By Contributing Travel Writer Debi Lander

Seductive Savannah, Georgia's first city, beckons with stature: iron fences and balconies adorn stately antebellum mansions; renovated townhouses abut cobblestone streets; green squares blossom and aged live oaks drip with Spanish moss. She flaunts mystery with tales of murder and ghosts. Neighboring Tybee Island, a 20-minute drive, bespeaks an altogether different aura, tempting visitors with tiny raised cottages, marsh grass, tidal beaches and sea breezes. Where Savannah displays Southern charm and elegance, Tybee prefers laid back relaxation. Both vacation spots, approximately two hours

from Jacksonville, offer ideal getaways.

Savannah's historic district is divided into a grid. Walk or hop on a tour bus to review her past and visit expensive antique shops, quirky boutiques or art museums. Fans of John Berendt's *Midnight in*



the Garden of Good and Evil will enjoy touring sites from the book, including the Mercer Williams House and serene Bonaventure Cemetery.

Make sure to dine at Paula Deen's The Lady and Sons Restaurant, probably the most sought out reservation in town or Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room, a former boarding-house that dishes a lunch that lasts all day. Another favorite, The Pink House, serves elegant southern cuisine. If you want to splurge check into The Mansion on Forsyth Park or consider numerous bed-and-breakfast inns at www.historicins-sofsavannah.com.

Cross the causeway and let your hair down. Tybee Island boasts Fort Pulaski and Tybee Lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in Georgia. Sign on for deep-sea fishing charters, perhaps a dolphin cruise, rent a bike or kayak, bird-watch, surf or simply rest on her shores. The beach is perfect for dribble sandcastles and many couples choose to wed along the five miles of sandy dunes.

Island shopping offers beach-themed kitsch, bait and tackle shops and art exhibits. The Savannah Beach Inn on Tybee offers lodging in a restored 1898 Victorian house. The owners prepare a luscious gourmet breakfast, featuring Bananas Foster French Toast, host daily wine and cheese receptions and leave bedtime milk and cookies. For dinner try the Crab Shack's seafood low-country boil or catch a sunset meal at a local's favorite, A.J.'s Dockside Restaurant.

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Nease IB students recognized by at STAR banquet

By Contributing Writer Donna Mancini, Nease IB Booster Vice President



On Monday, April 26, 67 of St. Johns County Schools' best and brightest were honored at the 15th annual STAR (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) awards banquet held at World Golf Village.

The STAR Awards recognize the top three percent of graduating seniors from each high school in the county. Eleven students from Bartram Trail High School, nine from Creekside High School, 12 from Pedro Menendez High School, nine from Nease High School, eight from Ponte Vedra High School, 14 from St. Augustine High School and four from St. Joseph Academy received commendation for their outstanding academic performance.

During the recognition ceremony, the high school principals introduced each of their students, along with a special teacher selected

by the student. The STAR students shared their plans for the future and their reason for choosing their honored teacher. In addition to making top grades, these students are involved in athletics, performing groups, school clubs and community service.

The nine outstanding STAR students in the Nease International Baccalaureate program and where they plan to attend college (pictured left to right) are: Lexie Cegelski, University of Florida; Conor Hanney, University of Notre Dame; Lauren Donnangelo, University of Florida (Lombardi Scholar); Utkarsh Pandey, Georgia Institute of Technology; Nick Hosseini, Cornell University; Zach Chizmar, Tulane University; Catherine Li, Cornell University; Kristie Yang, Duke University; and Ekaterina Prosvirkina, Duke University.

Nearby Getaways: St. Augustine forts



By Martie Thompson



Certainly a list of "one tank of gas" getaways has to include a trip to the Nation's Oldest City, located a brief car trip to our south. You've probably explored the historic district of St. Georges Street (well worth a trip) and maybe even the beautiful beaches located over the Bridge of Lions. But how about a trip back in history to the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas?

Castillo de San Marcos is located on the shores of the Matanzas River in the heart of the historic district. After the city of St. Augustine was founded by the Spanish in 1565, the city was defended by nine wooden forts in its first 100 years. But after an attack in 1668 by the English pirate Robert Searle, it was decided by Mariana, Queen Regent of Spain, that a masonry fortification needed to be constructed to protect the city. In October 1672 construction began on the fort that would become the Castillo de San Marcos. The Castillo is a masonry star fort made of a stone called coquina, literally "little shells," made of ancient shells that have bonded together to form a type of stone similar to limestone. Construction lasted 23 years and was completed in 1695.

Today, the Castillo comes alive for visitors hoping to learn about our history through a wide range of programs which include historical reenactments, Ranger talks, museum

exhibits, historical weapons demonstrations and special events.

Approximately 12 miles south on the Matanzas River lies the smaller Fort Matanzas National Monument. Built as part of the outer defenses to St. Augustine, Fort Matanzas offers both historical insights and natural barrier island beauty. Back in 1740, Governor James Oglethorpe of Georgia used the inlet to blockade St. Augustine and launch a 39 day siege. St. Augustine endured the siege but the Spanish realized the need to protect the inlet. Thus, Fort Matanzas was constructed on Rattlesnake Island with a commanding position over Matanzas Inlet in 1742.

Today, the National Park Service offers ferry rides across the Matanzas River to the fort as well as fort tours, talks and nature walks.

If you go: The Castillo de San Marcos is open to the public from 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. every day of the year except December 25. (The ticket booth closes at 4:45 p.m.) The Park grounds are closed from midnight until 5:30 a.m. The Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 South Castillo Drive in St. Augustine. Fort Matanzas National Monument is open every day of the year except December 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is located at 8635 A1A South in St. Augustine. For additional information about both forts, visit www.nps.gov.



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Fundraising and "funraising" with the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club

By Karl Kennell

Wow! This group of ladies is just plain having fun. Twenty-five years ago a handful of ladies who were new to our neighborhood formed the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club. They found themselves having come from all over the United States and not knowing anybody in the neighborhood. They were not shy about introducing themselves though. Today the group has grown to 149 members.

As outgoing President Dorothy Burns put it, "We are all friends!"

She went on to explain, "You don't have to know anyone. Just come visit with us. You will find you are immediately welcomed in."

Member Kathy Cosnotti introduced us to the group during the recent Symphony Designer Showhouse, where the club joined together with the Jacksonville Symphony Guild for a benefit. Incoming co-presidents for the upcoming year, Donna Prouse and Debby Brown, joined Burns and Cosnotti

for our chat.

They both described their positions of co-presidents as necessary because Burns has left such a dynamic legacy as president it requires two to keep up the pace. This club enjoys focusing on charitable activities that benefit the neighborhood—activities such as the recent baby shower and Bingo for the benefit of unwed mothers. The ladies described the enthusiasm of the participants as being really grand. Many members no longer have children at home and throwing a baby shower is something they all miss. It was a day when they could bring all kinds of items to the shower for which they had the added pleasure of shopping for. There were even



Debby Brown, Dorothy Burns and Donna Prouse of the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club.

brand new strollers. The ladies said that the unwed mothers were overjoyed with the wonderful gifts and the outpouring of loving care. The Nuns supporting the shelter were also overwhelmed by the sincere outpouring of love.

not the only thing these ladies get themselves involved in. "Funraising" is absolutely imperative. Two book clubs, daytime Bunko, bowling, golf-day, mahjong, bridge pennies day and night, lunch and a matinee, recipe exchange, evening

Another charity close to the heart of the club is Christ's Cupboard Food Bank at Celebration Lutheran Church. They conduct ongoing food drives, plus recently they held a clothing drive for not only adult clothing but especially children's clothing. The ladies bring food items and clothing to each meeting. There they also place a little piggybank at each table. You will find the members at the beginning of each meeting rummaging in the bottom of their purses for loose change to drop into the piggy bank.

Be not mistaken though! Fundraising is not the only thing these ladies get themselves involved in. "Funraising" is absolutely imperative. Two book clubs, daytime Bunko, bowling, golf-day, mahjong, bridge pennies day and night, lunch and a matinee, recipe exchange, evening

fun golf and of course a ladies evening out add that element of ongoing fun that makes this club a very special gathering place for the ladies in our neighborhood.

There is even a 50/50 drawing at each meeting. We are told though that the competition is tough, with the club's oldest member at 94 winning quite a few of those 50/50s. She is one very lucky lady indeed.

Come on down to visit with the ladies of the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn Mandarin. Or pick up the phone and give Co-Presidents Donna Prouse (287-5364) or Debby Brown (838-0168) a ring. You surely don't want to miss out on being a Parrothead at the end of the year Jimmy Buffet beach party on Saturday, June 19.

Got news?
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Creeks Softball Association 8U league champions

Contributed by Ben Funnell



Head Coach Todd Sandiford, Jackie Creamer, Mike Barnard, Kerry Creamer. Row two: Hannah Norris, Raffaella Funnell, Faith Sandiford, Hannah Barnard: Row three: Haley Sandiford, Olivia Creamer, Anna Cowling, Bridget Ausley. Front: Cameron Nill, Lucy Glover, Madison Lippy, Aubrey Nill.

Congratulations RockHounds! The RockHounds brought their big bats and excellent fielding to CSA 8U softball this year in a total team effort by completing the spring regular season with a 14-0 record against an excellent group of six CSA teams and several other district teams.

The RockHounds won the two loss elimination CSA playoff championship with a 3-1 playoff record for a combined 17-1 spring record. Last fall the RockHounds had an 11-1 record giving this young group of superstars a combined season record of 28-2.



Etiquette by Elizabeth

Dear Elizabeth,

My husband and I both work and have not had a vacation in a long time. We have promised each other that we would take the time this summer and go on a family vacation. The problem is that when my sister hears that we are planning something she will want her family to go too. We see her and her family all the time and really do not want to vacation with them. She ends up taking over and running the show and we are miserable. How can I go on vacation without including my sister's family?

Leslie
Julington Creek

Dear Leslie,

You have no obligation to include your sister's family in your plans. You need to go ahead with your vacation and if she asks about going just let her know that this year, your family is going alone. She should respect your wishes. You may need to remind her of that you are doing what is best for your family. It might be fun to plan a fun activity for your families to do together.

Good Luck!
Elizabeth

Dear Elizabeth,
My daughter is getting married next year. I would like to send

out "Save the Date" cards. How early should I send these before the actual wedding invitation is sent?

Cindy
Fruit Cove

Dear Cindy,

Save the Date cards are generally sent at least four to six months prior to the wedding, but if you are planning a destination wedding, for example Hawaii, it is strongly recommended that you send them 12 months in advance if not longer. You want to give your guests plenty of time to make travel arrangements and keep the date free.

Good Luck!
Elizabeth

Please send etiquette questions to AskElizabethNow@Bellsouth.net. Elizabeth will answer your question in an upcoming issue of The CreekLine. Sorry, no personal replies.



The Lifestyle Guru

Summer's busiest holiday season

By Joy Hartley

Wow, when I overview my Daytimer for the next few weeks I am overwhelmed! It almost feels like the Thanksgiving/Christmas swing of events.

Sunday, June 20 is Fathers Day. How do you celebrate? Church and a big family dinner; a picnic at a fantastic park; or a road trip to see your dad? However you spend the day, good food is in order; therefore we present the hardy recipes that close this column! FYI, if you have not made plans, World Golf Village honors fathers in a big way. They offer dads a complimentary admission to the Hall of Fame museum, plus contests are conducted throughout the day on the challenge hole, the golf simulator and indoor putting surface.

Then comes July 4th which is on a Sunday this year—making it a long holiday weekend for all! House parties, a beach weekend or just a day trip to your favorite water spot is certainly in order. This could be the perfect time to visit our favorite watering hole, Wakulla Spring State Park. The crystal clear 74 degree water is perfect for swimming and snorkeling and the state of the art concrete and steel tower makes for some not-so-faint-at-heart diving experiences. For more information, go to the website for all the Florida State Parks at www.floridastateparks.org.

Locally, Fourth of July celebrations are all teamed up with fireworks displays at dusk. Fernandina 4th and Families Festival goes on all day downtown. St. Augustine celebrates with fireworks on the bay front, Middleburg and Palatka begins their day with parades and end up with fireworks and of course Metropolitan Park has the First Coast's largest fireworks display over the St. Johns River. So we have a multitude of choices for our end of the day celebration.

So I was saying earlier, good food is certainly in order...but who wants to spend the day in the kitchen? Nobody! Therefore get the ole crock pot out and make this barbeque while you play; believe me the leftovers make a mean barbeque sandwich the next day. The yummy veggie casserole can be chopped up the day before and placed in plastic bags; just add the liquids and bake at mealtime. All you need to complete the meal is a loaf of garlic bread!

Happy 4th!

North Carolina Rainy Day Barbeque

- 4 lb. pork shoulder roast
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 tbsp. ketchup
- 1 tsp. each Worcestershire and hot sauce

Put last four ingredients on top of shoulder roast in crock pot and cook on low for eight hours.

Cabbage Royale

- 1 stick margarine
- crushed corn flakes
- 4 cups chopped cabbage
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 can water chestnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 can celery soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- sharp cheese (grated)

Melt margarine in a deep casserole bowl, put crushed corn flakes over. Add cabbage, onions, water chestnuts and celery. Mix soup, mayonnaise and milk; pour over veggies. Top with cheese and more corn flakes. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

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Nease student becomes published author

Contributed by Donna Mancini, Vice President, Nease IB Booster Club



create something so mesmerizing that it takes you away from everything, makes you forget your life and where you are. All you see and feel is the story, like you're a part of it." She hopes that her novel achieves that goal with all her readers.

Besides being a published author, Catania is also a talented vocalist and musician. Among her many other accomplishments, she recently placed as a finalist in the talent portion of the Miss Nease Scholarship Pageant, where she sang "The Point of No Return" from Phantom of the Opera. In addition to pursuing her interests, she maintains a challenging academic schedule in Nease's International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

ing her interests, she maintains a challenging academic schedule in Nease's International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

Catania would like to extend her gratitude to her parents, three sisters and all of her friends who supported her during the writing and publication of the novel. She is also indebted to Lauryn King, a fellow Nease IB student, for designing the book's beautiful cover.

Jennifer Catania, a Nease High School junior, achieved her dream of becoming a published author this spring when her novel *The Dream* was printed and made available to readers. The book, written during her freshman year, describes the story of a teenager, much like Catania, who reads a school library book and travels to a mysterious place of her dreams. The goal of her book, as she shares in the "Author's Note," was "to

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<p>South Haven 5/4 Water to golf views, kitchen with new SS appliances and tile floors, built-ins, fireplace, custom touches and lots of amenities. Skip Skipper, REALTOR® ID# 61942</p>	<p>Gardens 3/3 Split floor plan, neutral interior, hardwood tile and carpet, fireplace, screened lanai, manicured yard and move-in ready. Kristi Reager, REALTOR® ID# 63428</p>	<p>BGT 4/2.5 Master suite downstairs, 3 bedrooms + loft upstairs. Tile flooring, fully equipped kitchen and large backyard. Washer and dryer convey. Skip Skipper, REALTOR® ID# 64138</p>

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SPMS students make Dreams Come True

By Contributing Writer Sue Black, Teacher, Switzerland Point Middle School

The Switzerland Point Middle School Dreams Come True—Kids Helping Kids Club has had a busy and successful year! SPMS is proud to announce that they are the top school to raise funds for the First Coast's Dreams Come True this year. During a celebration on May 6, students and staff presented a \$4,000 check to sponsor a dream to their dream child, Madison. All enjoyed watching Madison as she opened gifts featuring the Sesame Street characters and Disney Princesses.



Throughout the year, SPMS students organized a variety of fundraising projects such as Krispy Kreme Coffee and Doughnut Card Sales, a loose change collection, a "dreamsicle" sale and a student talent show. The talent show is always a success as students showcase their many talents which include

singing, dancing, comedy, juggling, playing musical instruments such as violin, guitar, and piano and finally several rock bands. These students are committed to making "a dream come true" for a child with a life-threatening illness while

having lots of fun as they work together!

SPMS thanks the community for their support with all fundraising endeavors for Dreams Come True.

Congratulations... to the 2010-2011 officers and directors of the **Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club!**

Susanna Vance, President

Vic Spatola, Vice President

Monica Agate & Diane Darragh, Co-Treasurers

Stephanie Collins, Secretary

Teena Roberts, Team Liaison

Susan Eccher, Membership

Jeannie Bastian, Fundraising

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CHS Happenings

By Rachel Buff, CHS Student



The three Youth Leadership St. Johns students who are representing Creekside

It's official – summer is finally here. After frantic weeks of AP tests and final exams, no one can hide their relief and excitement.

Advanced Placement (AP) exams took place during the weeks of May 3 through May 14. Students were tested in English literature, Spanish, human geography, United States history, English language, world history, economics, United States Government, calculus and many more. Kudos to the guidance department and the nine students who were unable to participate in the AP world history exam on the selected day, due to a College Board mistake and a shortage of tests. Guidance counselors calmly handled the situation and the students were able to make up the exam a week later. Everyone deserves a pat on the back for a job well done!

In addition to academics, the end of the year includes more activities than there are dates on the calendar.

On Friday, April 30, a new Miss Creekside 2010-2011 was crowned. Congratulations to Kimberly Triplett for winning the title!

Students from all over St. Johns County put their creativity on display at the third annual Art Attack! The event was held at the St. Augustine Amphitheater on May 1 and featured pottery, paintings, photography and even a theater performance from the Creekside cast of Grease!

Saturday, May 15 was filled with love and enchantment at Creekside's first ever prom! The event, which was held at the Sawgrass Marriott, was themed "A Night in the Spotlight." Hundreds

of students arrived in gorgeous dresses, tuxedos and limousines. The night was certainly "the bomb," in the words of Principal Randy Johnson.

Many clubs and honor societies elected new presidents for the 2010-2011 school year. Congratulations to all new officers!

Three sophomore students were selected from each of the county high schools to participate in Youth Leadership St. Johns, affiliated with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Representing Creekside are Kimberly Glass, Jane Bunn and Rachel Buff. The program teaches students about the inner-workings of the county including arts and culture, government, health care, business, social services and environmental awareness. Congratulations for being accepted into the year-long program!

The Hispanic Honor Society inducted 80 new students on May 19. The ceremony included installation of new officers and recognition of senior members.

Congratulations to the first-ever graduating class of Creekside High School! Seniors will be missed by all underclassmen. Make us proud!

At last, we made it through the school year. Now all that awaits is a summer of relaxation!

The CreekLine
 YOUR
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 Newspaper
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Fashion Update

How to "do" those spring and summer special occasions

By Donna Keathley, dkeathley designs

Just the other day I was lolling about in my favorite store for an afternoon shift of "work" if you want to call it that. I play dress up with my friends and customers as a profession and as my little friend Danielle said, "Donna comes up with some way left ideas sometimes but they work!" So when a distraught lady headed straight to me and handed me a shopping bag with a long shiny peasant skirt in it, mumbling something about this Saturday night I went into special occasion mode!

After wandering around the aisles of my shopping Mecca we teamed the pewter hued BoHo skirt up with a shrug top and a matching cami in an ivory color that had a little gold sheen in the fabric. She came out of the dressing room looking Fab! I told her we now had to go to the accessory counter to pull it all together. We went straight to the pearl display and I started pulling long strands of assorted pearls and chains off the racks, after laying three over her head I could see her eyes rolling.

"Don't faint!" I told her. "Wait till you see the total look in the full length mirror."

As we walked back to the mirror, total strangers shopping in the store said, "Wow! She looks great!" And she did!

So...my Fashionable Florida Friends (FFFs), once again you will hear my mantra, Go Shopping in your Closet!

I have seen many things go from my customers' closets to the fanciest places in town with just a little tweaking, like adding a new top or accessory to the basics. Wide legged silky pants are back and they are great for special events; add a fitted top or jacket in a comple-

mentary color and walla a great evening suit! You younger FFFs can go buy one of these new silky peasant-looking halter tops and show your stuff with this pant too!

Silk capris topped with a fancy cami and shrug type sweaters can go to daytime brunches or luncheons (see accessory ideas below). Also great for these daytime get-togethers is the new long "patio" dress in pretty printed fabrics. Don't forget to wear matching little flat shoes or sandals to complete the "put together" look.

I once took a black linen shirtwaist dress and tied a new sash at the waist in taffeta plaid print to make it a special occasion thing! Another little secret is these new lazier cut out sheer tops; layered over a matching cami they make a good looking "set" when worn

with dressy pants. Love the dress but don't want to go strapless? A short trip to the fabric store can fix that quandary...buy matching solid color silk fabric and add some straps or make a halter strap to tie around your neck. Get creative!

Ok my FFFs, don't miss the boat—by merely adding some of the new accessories that are out there this year to your great looking basics, you can have a "party" look. Those silk flowers pinned on your collar or in your hair go a long way in turning something tailored into a wow outfit. Also dangly drop earrings say dressy, along with shiny bangle bracelets (wear more than one)! My newest favorite thing is Lucite! Shoes, bracelets, earrings, anything Lucite adds sparkle and is a great friend to "Florida" fashions, like our little bright printed cotton shifts or sun dresses.

Anything looks better when it's accessorized with multi-strands of pearls in different lengths; go into your closet and throw on all your pearls and wear them in good health!

Happy Summer Parties, my FFFs!



Congratulations to the St. Johns Golf and County Club junior tennis 12s and 10s teams. Both team won their league this spring. From top to bottom are pictured: Brian Nichol, Bryan Martin, Dylan McDonie, Chad Thomas, Katie Johns, Haley Bushman, Ian McClintock, Coach Dede Allen, Noelle Mauro, Emily Underwood and Heather Bushman.

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Yesterday's Treasures

By Jay Moore

Q. My uncle gave us two plates he said date from around 1800. They are decorated with blue flowers and are unmarked. We would like to know if they are valuable. They are in good condition. - A.F., World Golf Village



A. Your plates are early flow blue in the Morning Glory pattern made around 1845 in Staffordshire, England. The blue decoration flows (appears smudged) after material was added to the kiln during firing. Flow blue was manufactured between approximately 1840 and 1900. The wares were hand-painted or transfer decorated. Early pieces sometimes have additional colors and gold or luster decoration. The plates would retail for around \$60 each.

Q. I was given a metal lamp that is probably brass or bronze and I cannot find any information about it. There is a small sticker under the donkey that states "Japan" and "TOYO." I have been told it is valuable. Can you identify the lamp and tell me its value? - G.H.F., Durbin Crossing



A. It is a modern lamp made to look like an ancient bronze, complete with a patina that makes it appear to have been dug up. I cannot identify the metal but it probably is not bronze. It has no antique value. Ancient bronzes have been reproduced for hundreds of years, especially in China. Some of the finest reproductions, complete

with reproductions of the original marks, actually are quite valuable in their own right.

Have a question about antiques? Send a detailed description and at least one sharp photograph; scans are fine as long as they are clear and sharp. Note that photographs will not be returned so no S.A.S.E. is required. Large mail volume and research may mean a delay of several months for answers to be published. Write to Jay Moore c/o The CreekLine, 12443 San Jose Boulevard, Suite 403, Jacksonville, FL 32223. Sorry, no personal replies.



ENCORE!

Where the lines of art, education and entertainment meet: MOSH

By Contributing Writer Betty Swenson Bergmark, Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville University

You walk in the door of MOSH and are immediately confronted with beautiful art work – abstract canvases as well as works depicting areas of nature by Jim Draper, Princess Rashid and David Montgomery. Is this a Museum of Science and History? Walk a bit further and you will soon be involved in outstanding exhibits featuring the Florida Naturalist's Center, both indoors and out and the joy of learning for visitors of all ages in science, astronomy and the history of our region.

At times it is almost too overwhelming to take it all in. This just gives you an excuse to return and absorb some more of the superb exhibits at a future time. The whole program is family oriented, and certainly not just for children as was indicated in one of its former titles – The Jacksonville Children's Museum.

Originally located in the Riverside Avondale area, it has gone through several phases and several titles. Renamed The Museum of Science and History in 1988, the facility we know now was designed by William Morgan and built on the Southside by the river on Museum Circle. It ideally houses the varied exhibits and one can wander from one world to another with ease and excitement.

Of the many special programs MOSH offers, one of the most exciting is their Intern Program, where 70 -80 students, sophomores and up, contribute to and learn about the wide range of offerings. For other young people ages five to 18, there is "Become a Junior Naturalist," an exciting behind the scenes instructional program, involving care of MOSH's "scaly, feathered, and furry friends." You can even plan a birthday party at MOSH! And for the older folk, there is

"Senior Day" once a month at 10:30 a.m., featuring a welcome reception, planetarium show, brown bag lunch and program. This is just one of the many lecture series for all ages.

If the above isn't enough to tempt you to plan a visit to MOSH, starting on May 15 and continuing through the summer until September 12, a very special presentation will be offered: "The Chronicles of Narnia."

"Based on the blockbuster film series and C.S. Lewis' beloved fictional books, the 5000- square foot, state-of-the-art entertainment and educational exhibition will offer visitors the opportunity to tour scenes from the famed literary fantasy world of Narnia. MOSH is excited to bring an exhibit of this stature to the First Coast," said Maria Hane, executive director of the Museum of Science and History. "MOSH is dedicated to providing visitors with a fresh experience on each and every visit."

For more information about any of these and many other offerings, you can visit www.themosh.org or call 396 – MOSH.



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DURBIN CROSSING

At Home With Nature



On April 30, Fruit Cove Cares, a community service club at Fruit Cove Middle School sponsored by Richard Villadoniga, along with the FCMS National Junior Honor Society, visited Dee Fortus' first grade classroom at Crookshank Elementary. The middle school students shared a lunch, a good book and a much needed recess.



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CAA "Nothings" win!



The CAA "Nothings" closed out their successful 2010 spring soccer season with a second place finish in the North Florida Youth Soccer Association Commissioner's Cup played at Veterans Park in St. Johns. They won their opening game over a team from the Westside Soccer Club by the score of 3 - 2 with goals scored by Jonathan Collins, Omar Lasheen and Jason Norris. They lost in the championship game to a team from Lake City by the score of 4 - 1 with Jonathon Collins having the lone goal for The Nothings. Congratulations to Maurice LaFlamme, Spencer Melton, Jason Norris, Brandon Jackson, Caleb Daly, Assistant Coach Eric Norris, Omar Lasheen, Zechariah DaPaah, William Carpenter, Jonathan Collins, Zachary Reddington, Parker Hiltonen and Head Coach Scott Hiltonen.

JCE students collect donations for earthquake victims

By Contributing Writer Linda Miglin, Fourth Grade Teacher, Julington Creek Elementary



Jonathan Herreros, a fourth grade student at Julington Creek Elementary, knows there is nothing funny about the signs all over his school saying "It's Getting Chilly in Chile." Although the weather in Florida is getting warmer as the summer heat heads our way, things are different in Chile. Winter is closing in on them and many

people are still trying to recover from the recent earthquake.

Herreros' father was born in Chile and still has many relatives and friends back in his homeland. So, Mauricio Herreros and his wife Lori Herreros decided to ask the families at JCE to send in any warm clothing or blankets which would then be sent to Chile.

They never expected such a huge response! The students brought in bags and bags of needed items. Jonathan Herreros' fourth grade class spearheaded the clothes drive and collected the items from throughout the school. They were so proud of their efforts and so impressed by the entire school's generosity.

All the collected items will be brought to Mission Harvest, a charitable organization in Jacksonville which will send the packages on to Chile. Because.... as you might have already heard.....it's getting chilly in Chile.

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Book Review

Heartless

Written by Diana Palmer. 298 pages. Published by Harlequin Books, May 2008.

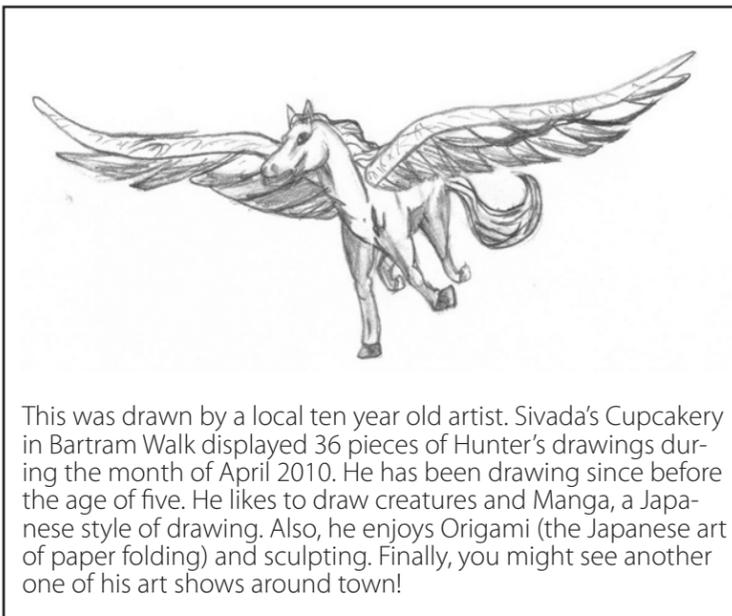
Review by T.G. Stanton

Texas, land of wide-open spaces with oilrigs and cattle, is home for Gracie Marsh. Her stepfather adopted her after her mother's death, growing up with his son and a soon to be new stepsister. Even luxury cannot cure all ills. After her adopted father passes, his son Jason Pendelton sees to it that both girls want for nothing and continues to provide for them as needed. Jason went his own way in developing his Texas fortune, cattle being just one area of his growing corporate business. He frequently returns home, where Gracie hosts his parties and keeps his home running smoothly.

Gracie suffered some trauma as a young girl, leaving her with insecurities, fears and doubts about relationships. Physical issues aside, Gracie has seldom depended on her own abilities. One night a steamy kiss with Jason not only

sets her ablaze but also rekindles unspoken fears. This leads Jason to make assumptions that lead him into the arms of a very different woman who turns his world upside down. Soon after she demolishes his well-ordered life, Gracie is kidnapped. This event brings home to Jason just what is important in life and that those he has lost need to be brought back home. After a rescue and other trials and tribulations, surprises and secrets are revealed and relationships and romances bloom.

Diana Palmer is a romance novelist who frequently bases her novels in the western genre. Though this book is short, the characters are enjoyable and well developed. The story follows fairly typical romance lines, but the kidnapping is an unusual, though predictable twist. But as for those who enjoy romances, this novel is a pleasurable and easy read.



This was drawn by a local ten year old artist. Sivada's Cupcakery in Bartram Walk displayed 36 pieces of Hunter's drawings during the month of April 2010. He has been drawing since before the age of five. He likes to draw creatures and Manga, a Japanese style of drawing. Also, he enjoys Origami (the Japanese art of paper folding) and sculpting. Finally, you might see another one of his art shows around town!

Pacetti Bay PTO Update

By Contributing Writer Mindy Gooden, Pacetti Bay Middle School PTO

Pacetti Bay Middle School PTO is wrapping up another busy and successful year. It has been an honor to serve the Wildcat students, faculty and community through various fundraising, volunteer and service projects. The year has resulted in numerous volunteer hours, the provision of much needed supplies and services to our school. A few highlights in-

clude the purchase of the classroom mobile iPod cart, the author visit, two student dances, another wonderful Evening of the Arts event, book fairs, spirit wear and teacher appreciation events.

We just concluded our last fundraising spirit night at Outback Crab Shack and we are wrapping up the year with school supply sales so students will have their pre-ordered school supplies on the first day of school next year.

The PTO would like to thank all of our members for contributing their time and financial support to our efforts. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the many business partners and families who have partnered with us by providing either dollars or supplies for events. The PBMS Business Partners for the 2010 school year include: Advanced Auto Parts, Alena's Photography, Bank of St. Augustine, Barnes and Noble, the Blount family, the Burka family, Chick-fil-A, Christopher Adamec Law Office, Collary family, Dunkin Donuts (Palencia), Food Lion (Palencia), Nanak's Landscaping McDonalds, the Van Zante family, OutBack Crab Shack, Palencia Club, Shellfish Grill, Starbuck's, The Village Dentist, Villages Chiropractic Center and Whitley Steel.

As the school year ends and the summer months begin we want to thank all our Wildcat supporters for another great year! We wish everyone a safe and happy sum-

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New pet spa offers state-of-the-art design and superior care for pets

Dogs and cats have a new hang-out in St. Augustine at the Pacetti Road Pet Spa, featuring boarding, grooming, spa treatments and day-care for pets. The new spa celebrated with a public grand opening event on June 12.

"Pacetti Road Pet Spa has been our dream for some time now," said Allen Suggs, owner, Pacetti Road Pet Spa. "Owners can be assured that their pets are being cared for as they would at home."

The 5,000 square-foot facility on Pacetti Road boasts state-of-the-art technology offering the utmost comfort and care to pets. Each room has individually controlled air-conditioned units, as well as air exchange units so fresh air is constantly filtered in. The outdoor playground features a high-tech irrigation system, ensuring the turf remains clean and fresh for frolicking pets as well as a swimming pool for even more exercise. For dogs that prefer the great outdoors, the Pet Spa features a secure, shaded dog run area.

"In designing this facility, we

put an emphasis on comfort and cleanliness," said Michael Suggs, administrator, Pacetti Road Pet Spa. "It truly was designed to pamper pets. Combined with our experienced, enthusiastic staff, Pacetti Road Pet Spa offers peace of mind to pet owners."

Doggie Digs and Kitty Condos are available for boarding when pet owners are away. For dogs with more discerning taste, Pacetti Road Pet Spa boasts private, luxury suites offering cozy couches, flat-screen

televisions and oodles of toys for extra entertainment. A limited amount of luxury suites are available so reservations are recommended.

Daycare services are available for short and long term needs. Dogs and cats staying at Pacetti Road Pet Spa have their experience customized based on their owners' selections from the a la carte menu. This includes playtime in the playground and pool, sessions with pet experts and spa treatment services, including facials, mud masks, massages

and paw treatments.

"For most of us our pets are like family – and we believe they should be treated like family," said Suggs. "The variety of services offered here helps people give their beloved pet whatever they need from fitness sessions to exclusive spa treatments."

Pacetti Road Pet Spa will also offer grooming services, including cuts and trims, brushing and bathing. Experienced staff is at the facility 24 hours a day.

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Youth Scene

By Dakota Potts

Suicide is a problem that is faced by nations all over the world. It is sometimes regarded as an easy, painless way out. As anyone who has ever been close to someone who committed suicide knows, this is not true. A suicide leaves behind a trail of tears. No matter how much you think nobody cares, anyone who truly knew you would be devastated.

I recently experienced a suicide in my life. A friend of mine decided to take his own life. The aftermath was a long, emotional ordeal. His funeral was something I hadn't ever planned on attending and something nobody should have to go through.

Following the death of my friend, many took action. His

favorite song was presented at the school along with the annual sign language presentation. A sheet of paper was rolled along the wall of the office, allowing those who knew him to right whatever they felt. This was later presented to his parents. More recently, wristbands were manufactured as a small but constant reminder.

This kind of tragedy doesn't have to happen. In any situation, if you're really upset, seek some kind of help—even in the form of a friend or a family member, just talking can be comforting. If you feel that you need more help, the National Suicide Hotline can be reached at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The main thing to remember is that what feels like a problem that's never going to go away is often just temporary and there's always a way to get through whatever's bothering you.

In the end, death is a constant which cannot be avoided. You can, however, help prevent someone from bringing it on themselves. Remember that everything you say and do can have an impact on someone's life. Above all, remember to enjoy the life in and around you, before you find yourself wishing you had.

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Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou, Helping Hands of St. Johns County



Helping Hands members with their Mother's Day bags for Betty Griffin House residents.

Helping Hands of St. Johns County recently presented 50 Mother's Day tote bags to the ladies in Betty Griffin House. Betty Griffin provides shelter to abused and battered women and their children in St. Johns County. With the help of the community, club members and Winn Dixie, each woman received new clothing, cosmetics, health and beauty needs and jewelry. The brightly patterned recyclable bags were filled by the members at their last meeting. Many thanks to project coordinator Sue Tiberio!

The group also decorated and donated pots of plants and flowers to local nursing homes in May. The group will be coordinating a Fathers day barbeque at Trout Creek Senior Center on June 18 for our local seniors.

The next meeting of Helping Hands will take place on Friday, June 25 at 12:00 noon at Faith Community Church on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. Helping Hands will be having a Flip Flop Friday. Members and anyone

wishing to donate may bring a pair of new flip flops (any size or gender) that will be donated to homeless shelters in the area. For more information or to drop off items, please contact jacqphil@aol.com. This project has been very successful across the country in providing lightweight shoes for the summer for those in need. The group will be having a pot luck luncheon and members are asked to bring a covered dish to serve four to six.

Helping Hands is a non-denominational group that meets the last Friday of the month at Faith Community Church Community Center. The group which has no dues, officers or stress, does a small project monthly to benefit the community. Members come when they can and do what they can. New members are always welcome and projects come from suggestions of the members or a need in the community.

Please contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

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How to handle motion sickness in your pet

By Contributing Writer Dr. Anna Maxwell, Pacetti Road Pet Spa

The summer travel season is here and many of us will be taking that long awaited vacation. This trip with the family can become a difficult experience if your pet suffers from car sickness. Dogs and cats may vomit, drool, urinate and defecate if they are uncomfortable in a moving car.

First make sure that there is not a medical problem which can manifest itself, like car sickness. Once this is ruled out then you can concentrate on motion sickness or anxiety. Sometimes simply withholding food before traveling can eliminate the problem. There are many anti-emetic and anti-motion sickness drugs that can be used with success if your pet suffers from motion sickness.

If your pet suffers from anxiety one of the best long term solutions is to desensitize your pet to traveling.

Here are a few suggestions:
 1) Place the dog in the car but do not start it. Praise the dog

and offer a small treat for positive reinforcement. Do this several times until the dog does not show any signs of stress

2) Next, start the car. If the dog shows no signs of stress then slowly drive up and down the drive way and then around the block. Continue to praise the dog and give positive

reinforcement.
 3) Gradually increase the time spent in the car while continuing to offer praise and treats for good behavior.

This process may take weeks to months of daily training. Most pets will respond to treatment and soon they will be happily traveling with you in the car.

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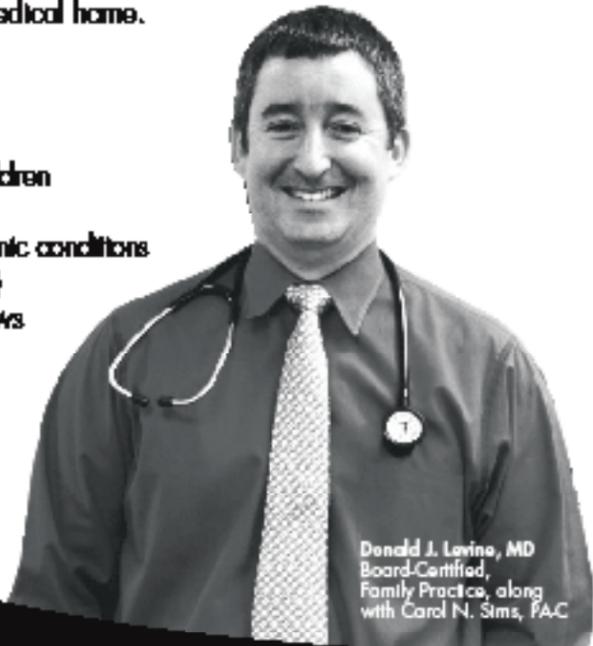
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Purposeful Parenting

By Allie Olsen

"Knock Knock."
"Who's there?"
"Your neighbor!"

When's the last time you enjoyed some chill-out time with the neighbors? Fourth of July is just around the corner and provides a great opportunity for some good, old-fashioned, neighborly fun!

No extra cleaning required, no fancy meal to set on the table—this is picnic season! Heat up the grill and consider having everyone bring their own meat and a side to share to simply make this a memorable evening for everyone.

Timothy, our five-year old, insists that the best part of the fourth is water balloons. (The Dollar Store recently had packs of balloons with a filler-nozzle included for easier filling.) You can make it into a game by pairing up and toss-

ing balloons back and forth or the kids can divide into teams for an everyone-wins water-balloon war!

Sidewalk chalk, bubbles and other outdoor classics are perfect to keep little ones occupied while you chat with friends. How many stars are on our flag? Why? Can the kids work together to draw all fifty? Portraits of friends may be a new twist on an old fave; have them lie down on the driveway and outline their bodies first and then fill in each other's features!

"I like watching the fireworks all together with our glowsticks," reminisces eight year old Lauren. "It represents when we won the war for our freedom."

No Fourth of July celebration would be complete without acknowledging our gift of freedom!

If you're blessed with an elderly neighbor, he may share some stories with the group. The children could make cards for soldiers serving now or you may share the story of how our National Anthem was penned. If "simplify" is your mantra, you may simply thank God for our freedom and pray for those who don't have this blessing before fireworks and dessert.

It was harder for Ben, age 11, to nail down a favorite memory. "Popcorn race, no, fireworks... Oh! I remember! We always play hide-and-seek in the dark with glow sticks! Yes, that's my favorite."

Too many memories to choose one favorite makes a successful fourth! Have fun celebrating freedom and making memories with your family this year.

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BTHS Happenings Thank you, NW St. Johns County!

By Contributing Writer Tyler Shine, BTHS Student

When I first began writing for The CreekLine at the end of my sophomore year, I had no expectations as to what the experience would do for me or how it would open my eyes. In all honesty, I wasn't sure if my articles would even be read or if my words would be as enlightening and poignant as I had intended them to be. Besides building numerous communication and interpersonal skills, writing for The CreekLine has allowed me an opportunity to help make NW St. Johns County a more informed area that has revitalized the process of civic engagement.

I remember the day that I realized what kind of impact that I could have on my local community through The CreekLine. It was early on a Sunday morning and I was walking into Walgreens for my usual shift. A few days earlier, one of my articles concerning the merits of part-time work had been printed. I had made the public-relations flaw of noting that my manager (who was no longer with the store) was "a little OCD at times" – but knowing that the manager lived in Orange Park and probably would not see the publication, I chose to opt for the quick and dirty humor.

The first things I saw and heard as I walked in the doors to Walgreens that morning were, "So I'm OCD now, huh?"

About three hours later, still at Walgreens, a pair of women came

up to me and saw my nametag and recognized me by name. Never having served or even seen them before, I asked them (in kinder words) how they knew of me. Again, the connection was made through The CreekLine, as these two women had taken the time to read my articles while absorbing and understanding their significance.

Writing for this paper was an unmatched opportunity in so many ways. In a simple sense, it looked good on my college applications and helped me to become a better writer. From a broader standpoint, I had the chance to give St. Johns County a student perspective on many issues that otherwise may never have been brought to attention on a larger scale.

Throughout my two years, I met many people telling me that they had read my articles, without even knowing the scope and scale that they were circulated. Thank you to the staff at *The CreekLine* and to NW St. Johns County, for allowing me to spend time with you and keep you informed for the last 24 months. I will never forget what this experience has taught me and I have enjoyed seeing the amount of community activism that has come out of my writing.

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Faith News

Geneva Presbyterian Church, located at 1755 State Road 13, will be hosting its third annual "We Honor America" flag raising and patriotic service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 4. The flag raising ceremony will be conducted by Boy Scout Troop 225, under the direction of Tony Pionessa, scout leader. Patriotic songs will be sung and small flags will be distributed. A special prayer for our country will be offered by Pastor Jesse Alexander. The public is cordially invited to attend as well as members of the VFW and American Legion. For more information, call 287-4865.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is gearing up at Celebration Lutheran Church. This year our theme is "Planet Zoom." Using a bee theme, we will encourage the youth who come to "zip" into VBS each day and to "zap" into God's Word. Through crafts, Bible stories and other activities they will learn to "zoom" out to share the love of Jesus to the world. The dates are June 21 through 25 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. If you would like to make a donation, it is suggested at \$12, but no child will be

turned away on account of money. Registration forms can be found at the church office, hanging on an outside box or call the church at 230-2496 and speak with Diane who will sign your child up. Celebration Lutheran Church is located on Roberts Road.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Geneva Presbyterian Church has always been a big deal. Energetic committed volunteers at the church have been working on VBS ever since the Christmas decorations were put up in the attic! This year's theme for the week is High Seas Expedition and we plan to sail through the week having lots of fun and learning a lot about the bible. The dates are Monday, July 12 through Friday, July 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Early registration and fees are required to be paid prior to the event. For more information, please contact the church office at 287-4865. Geneva Presbyterian Church is located on State Road 13, one mile south of Roberts Road.

Faith Corner

By Contributing Writer Rev. Dale William Kaster, Celebration Lutheran Church

Things have been hopping at Celebration Lutheran and a big part of it is because of you! On behalf of Christ's Cupboard Food Bank ministry, we want to thank the generosity of the 32259 zip code who donated 14,000 pounds of food that have found their way onto the pantry shelves here at church. On Saturday, May 8, the United States Postal Service's food collection drive filled our needy shelves with all manner of canned goods, dried goods and ready to eat meals. It took us six days to sort through it all, but we did it and now we have excited to have so much to offer those who are less fortunate who come to collect food. To all of you who donated: Thank you so much and we pray that God will measure back blessings to you.

Our first round of Stephen Ministry training is a little over half done and we're excited about what that has to offer. Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian, lay ministry meant to give love, encouragement and a listening ear to people who are going through life's challenges. Our Stephen Ministers will be commission on Sunday, June 27 and will be available for anyone who has needs - not merely from our congregation. In fact, we see it as an opportunity to piggy-back on the ministry of Christ's Cupboard, finding a listening ear to those who come to us hurting and in need of encouragement.

As I write, we are two days from our annual trip to aid a Lutheran congregation in the Zulu village of Ntshongweni in South Africa. I will write more about the trip in the next issue of The CreekLine but if you are interested, just check out celebrationlutheranjax.blogspot.com. We'll post daily photos and comments from the work there.

At a time when vacations are being planned and executed, we encourage you never to take a vacation from the gifts that God has to share in His Church. Join us throughout the summer at 9:00 a.m. as we gather around His gifts and celebrate the fellowship of believers. Thank God (literally) that God never takes a vacation! Have a most blessed, safe and enjoyable summer!

Editor's Note: Faith Corner is a new monthly feature at The CreekLine. We invite leaders of all NW St. Johns County area places of worship to submit an article for a future issue. Please email editor@thecreekline.com if you would like to participate!

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Gabby Gator's Fishing News

Hello Gabby Gator fans! Let's talk about one of the laziest rivers in the world. You guessed it—it's the St. Johns River. The French Huguenots sailed into the mouth of the St. Johns river in 1562. Historically the St. Johns is America's first river. At 310 miles long, it is also one of the few rivers in the United States that flows north.

The land area that drains into a water body is called a drainage basin. The St. Johns is divided into three drainage basins, the upper basin southernmost, the middle basin and the lower basin which is northernmost.

Saltwater enters the river at its mouth in Jacksonville. The river is also home to the salt water stingrays. This is the only river in the United States where they are found. So there is just too much fun to be had by all in the St. Johns River; let's all get out there and enjoy it!

Gabby Gator's weather: Summer is here

Catches of the month:
Nanni and Poppie: One Black Bass (six pounds) and seven large Croakers

Bert Dowling: Two Black Bass (five to eight pounds each) and 20 "keeper" Bream
Glen and Mike Blythe: 60 Bream

and three Black Bass (six pounds each, catch and release)
Ted and Mike Reison: Six Reds, two flounder (19 to 24 inches each) catch and release

Tray Michaels: Eight pound nice Black Bass, catch and release
Gabby Gator's fishing tip: Get a fishing license!

Gabby Gator's boating safety tip: Remember the boat ramps are very busy this time of year. Have your boat loaded and ready to launch. Wait your turn like we all did in pre-school. Try not to powerload. Maybe we can keep nasty words under our breath!

Gabby Gator's trivia: What is the state record for a bluegill? Please send answers to: gabbygator09@yahoo.com. Yes, Blair Arendt, the answer is 60 inches and 16 pounds for the state record for an American eel.

Till next month.... keep it between lily pads and catch 'em up!

P.S. Don Davis, keep getting that hook wet. Tim Mitchell, your smile will always be missed on the back porch at Pacetti's.

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Organic Lifestyles

By Molly McKinney

In the past several months, hopefully you have opened your mind somewhat to different organic ideas. Or, if you've already been implementing them, perhaps you found some new tips and communities to augment your current lifestyle. Gardening and composting and using Tupperware all go hand in hand and this month's article comments on a way to make your summer vegetables even better.

There's a large debate that's been going on for some time now on chemical versus organic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers contain carbon-based byproducts of organisms, the most commonly known being manure. They contain nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, released as microorganisms break down the fertilizer, to help vegetables grow to their full potential. Chemical or synthetic fertilizer has all those nutrients all ready to go, no microorganisms needed. However, they also contain acids that can actually harm plant growth.

The long and short of the argument is that organic fertilizers are cheaper and provide more nutrients while building up the soil, but cannot provide nutrients right away since they need time to be broken down. You can make your own fertilizer through composting

manure, instead of buying in from the store like synthetic fertilizer and it also comes with the peace of mind that you're not putting more dangerous chemicals into the environment.

Ever wonder why that lake in your backyard is so green? Did you think it was healthy because of it? If your lake has algae blooms and plant growth on the surface of the water, it's actually in danger and the culprit is usually fertilizer runoff. Middle school biology teaches us that when the algae in a water body comes in contact with a heavily concentrated nutrient source such as synthetic fertilizer, it explodes in life. Far from being a good thing, it sucks all the oxygen out of the water so that other animals and plants cannot utilize it and chokes its own self out by shading the bottom of the lake from the sun.

Perhaps the best answer is to use a combination. If you garden is looking wilted, then maybe sprinkle some chemicals on it to improve the way it looks within a few days. Do this in all consciousness that this can sometimes cause weaker plants because it causes an explosive type of growth (i.e.: algae blooms). After you get your plants looking how you want them,

start to feed them with something organic in order to provide them with long-term nutrition and also preserve the integrity of the soil. Earthworms are essential to aerate the soil and they live better in the less acidic environment organic fertilizers provide. If you don't know where to get organic fertilizer, look it up online. You don't have to make your own and you don't always have to deal with stinky poo. Most organic fertilizers have been broken down and composted so thoroughly you can't even tell that it once came out of the back end of an animal. If you're truly gung-ho, you can try human manure composting. But we're not going to go into that here.

Sometimes you have to compromise a little with all the technological advances we've come across. It's true that they have done good things for the environment and for humanity. The trick is to find some balance. Remember that not only is everything good in moderation, but experience has taught us that the way nature has done it for millennia is often still the best way to do things. Find your own way to balance the two and good luck growing your vegetables this summer!

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JCP Women's tennis team achieves local ranking

By Contributing Writers Jill Weisblatt and M.F.A. Shipp



Back: Julie Nystron, Katy McLeod, Kristy Kastleman, Coach Chastity Bradley, Mik Hardie, Cindy Sullivan. Middle: Lisa Petty, Gina Bultman, Jill Weisblatt, Paige Unkefer. Front: Katie O'Brien, Karen Crici, Jodi Smith, Leslie Phelps, Roxy Greer. Not pictured: Lisa Barnard, Lisa Holcroft, Laurie Unkefer.

Move over, Bad News Bears. There's a new Cinderella story on the horizon — the Julington Creek Plantation Women's Doubles Tennis D Team (specifically, Orange team) has achieved a number one ranking in the west division of the Jacksonville Inter-Club League.

That ranking is significant, because this is a team of "firsts." Of the 18 players on the Orange team, 16 had never had a tennis lesson prior to this season. In fact, some of the team members didn't even own a tennis racquet before this season! While their coach, Chastity Bradley, began playing tennis at the tender age of nine, obtained national ranking in junior tennis and was a college tennis scholarship holder, this was her first experience as a team coach

To give a little more perspective on how significant a feat this is for JCP Orange, Jacksonville holds 19 Inter-Club (Country Club League) D Teams, which are divided up between the east and west sides of the city and ranked in four levels, A through D. JCP Orange is in the D level in the west division and plays the other eight teams twice.

Lest you should think that JCP Orange is the only Julington team to achieve a high rank, their sister team, the Blues, (the veteran team) are ranked number two in the D level. This is truly Cinderella season for JCP women's doubles!

JCE students win Spring stock market challenge

By Contributing Writer Ingrid Griffin, Technology Instructor, Julington Creek Elementary

Julington Creek Elementary School has swept the First Coast region in the elementary division for the Spring Stock Market Challenge! The first place team from Tracey Lyons' fifth grade class is Timothy O'Brien and Jackson Westberry. In second place is Corey Luter, also from Lyons' class. The third place team of Cody Owens, Tony Roos and Nate Blumenstein is from Mitch Gurick's fifth grade class. It is noteworthy that Julington Creek teams also placed in the Winter Stock Market Challenge. Gurick's team of Tony Roos and Bo Schrader took first place; Lyons' team of Joshua Zaiter and Jaret Dulaney took third in our division for the First Coast region.

The Florida Council on Economic Education (FCEE) is funded by leading corporations and individuals throughout the state, as well as a grant from the Florida Department of Education. The Florida Council is an affiliate of the National Council on Economic Education. Every school year, thousands of Florida teachers receive the training and materials they need to deliver life-changing economic education to their students. Through the Florida Council on Economic Education and their teachers who are trained by the council, young people learn



Back: Jackson Westberry, Tim O'Brien, Corey Luter; front: Nate Blumenstein, Tony Roos, Cody Owen

to manage the financial aspects of their lives.

Each team of students has \$100,000 of virtual money to spend on the stock game. Students are encouraged to spread their money in various sectors of the market to safely invest. Dr. Peter DeJong, Economics professor at the University of North Florida, came to visit Gurick's and Lyons' classes twice this year to discuss investment strategies. He advised students to keep some funds liquid and then to research different stocks of interest. Students then "buy" and "sell" stock shares in a virtual market game. Teams are ranked throughout the game and students can see the value of their portfolios rise and fall with investment decisions. Winning classes celebrate with pizza party gift cards.

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Gardening

Is there ever enough thyme?

By Contributing Writer Master Gardener Camille Hunter with Duval County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS

It is very rewarding to nurture something from seed to dinner plate and a great way to experience this is to grow summer herbs. Many grow easily from seed, but starter plants are also available in garden centers, often costing less than a single package of fresh herbs from the supermarket. Plus, herbs growing in your yard will supply you for several months and some, like rosemary, can be maintained year round.

The herbs I find most useful in my kitchen are basil, parsley, rosemary, thyme and more basil. As you may have noticed, basil is a favorite. When my thoughts turn to herbs, visions of yummy pesto and tomato-basil bruschetta dance in my head. Grow an abundance of basil to insure a good supply for yourself and friends, who will be delighted to share your herbal bounty.

Plant basil in full sun. It loves to be warm and it needs to be watered regularly. There are several varieties that show up in garden centers. Plant different kinds if you like, but be sure to plant some traditional Italian basil for its incomparable flavor.

The secret to full, bushy plants is to harvest basil regularly, cutting off the top of stems and leaving one or two sets of leaves. If you don't do this regularly you will have single-stemmed, skinny plants and few leaves. Also remove any buds. Basil stops growing big leaves when it flowers.

Parsley is one of the easiest herbs to grow. Tolerant of sun and shade, heat and cold, sand or clay, it grows just about anywhere. Flat-leaved parsley is preferred by most, but the curly stuff is good too. Be warned that you may find your plants cut down to the ground by striped caterpillars. These caterpillars

later turn into beautiful Eastern Swallowtail butterflies. They love parsley and will eat it until it's gone. You can hope they don't find all of it or let the future butterflies feed and buy your parsley at the store.

Rosemary needs perfect drainage and grows best in a big clay pot with large drainage holes. Grow it in the sun in warm weather, but shelter it when the weather turns very cold. My potted rosemary survives winter resting under a citrus tree in my



back yard.

Gardeners will tell you "there is never enough thyme." It is a play on words, but also meant literally, as thyme plants are small and the leaves are tiny. Thyme is susceptible to disease if kept too wet and heavy rains can do it in. Pot-grown plants usually out perform plants in the ground. Harvest only one or two stems at a time from any one plant. Over winter, place your pot of thyme under a leafy tree next to the rosemary.

Sunshine and the natural nourishment of rich soil produce the best, most aromatic herbs, but if your soil is poor, fertilize lightly during the growing season with an organic fertilizer. Then combine your first basil trimmings with cheese and juicy ripe tomatoes to make a delicious Caprese salad. Mmmm.....

Caprese Salad

On salad plates, arrange alternate slices of ripe tomato with slices of Buffalo mozzarella (or other good, fresh mozzarella). Stack several clean basil leaves, roll them up lengthwise into a tube and slice thinly. Scatter the basil shreds over the top of the tomatoes and cheese. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil. Serve room temperature to some very lucky people!

Championships cont. from pg. 1

Lavrisson, winning all eight regular season games and three playoff games.

St. Johns County is only one of three school districts out of 67 in the state that does not have traditional middle school sports like baseball, football and soccer. Due to this fact, a group of active parents spearheaded an initiative to bring sports back into the middle schools. Needing help and guidance, the parents approached Senator Thrasher and Representa-

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tive Weinstein who have both been key components to the success of the sports initiative.

Thrasher was asked why he felt so passionately about middle school kids playing sports and he responded, "Middle school sports is so important for the full development of our youth... sports, competition and team work encourage teens that achievement in sports can be carried over to academics and other aspects of growth as young adults."

St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association (SJMSAA) is always looking for more volunteers and coaches. For more information on SJMSAA and ways to volunteer, please visit www.sjmsaa.us.

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BTHS Sports Roundup

By Haven Lucas

With the school year coming to a close, the Bartram Trail Bears look back and reminisce about all that has happened over these past nine months. The school has had many highlights over the year involving many different sports. Bartram Trail has a large sports program totaling 35 different teams! The Bartram Trail Bears had very competitive seasons this year and the teams' players constantly put all their energy and effort into their games.

"I would always concentrate on the game ahead and just envision myself doing well," states Cathryn Gauger, a team member of the Lady Bears lacrosse and basketball teams.

"We'd practice everyday after school for at least two hours," says Michael Larson, a member of the boys' varsity soccer team, when questioned on just how much time and effort has to go into preparing for their matches.

When it comes to sports, the

Bartram Trail Bears do not fool around and all their victories show that working hard truly does pay off.

Bartram Trail High School is part of the St. Johns River Athletic Conference. This is a group of 11 schools, including Bartram, which competes over the season in different sports. The conference also will total up points to see which school holds the top spot overall and Bartram was very happy to have finished second out of all the schools. However, the school would not have done so well over all if the individual teams were not able to hold own. Two of Bartram Trail's sports teams advanced to the final four, but they didn't stop there; they continued to move on and become champions. Congratulations to the Lady Bears softball and soccer teams!

The Bartram Trail girls' soccer and softball teams were also district champions along with many of Bartram's other fine sports. The

Lady Bears basketball played a tough season and finished off strong as district champions along with girls' lacrosse. Overall, the girls' teams seemed to dominate over all the other schools; however, there were two boys' teams that stood out among the rest. The Bartram Trail Bears boys' track and cross country teams finished off their seasons as district champions as well, showing that the men could pull off this difficult challenge.

You don't need to be able to pass a ball or score a goal to be considered a talented sports player. One team at Bartram Trail has an outstanding reputation and any opponent they face always quivers in their shoes. The Bartram Trail dance team has not earned the title once, not even twice, but three times of national champions! Their coach, Patty Adams, showed so much excitement, enthusiasm and pride for her team when asked about nationals. Those girls may not know how to score a touchdown, but they can sure bust a move.

All of Bartram Trail's teams have had amazing seasons and they encourage all who wish to try out to please come and give it a shot—because when you make the team, it may start out as just any team, but you end up with a family.

To find out information about try outs for teams, please check Bartram's website: www.bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/athletics.

BTHS STAR Award recipients 2010

The annual STAR (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) banquet celebrates the achievement of the top three percent of the senior class of each high school.

Congratulations to this year's Bartram Trail recipients:
 Tyler Shine
 Trevor Knowles
 Gianna Morelli
 Hilary Frandsen
 Cassidy Kallner
 Corissa Premo
 Falon Dominguez
 Sean Daugherty
 Ryan Saunders
 Erin Banister
 Marshall Johnson

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CHS Sports Roundup

By Grant Piper

It's going, going, gone and that's that ballgame folks, something every baseball fan wants to hear as long as it's your ball that's soon to be gone. Luckily for Creekside fans these words have been uttered more than a few times this year. Once again the Knights varsity boys' baseball team has come out swinging for the fences, literally. Creekside finished off their season with an incredible 18-7 record, a win rate of 72 percent. The Knights even managed to hit off a handful of homers or dingers as they're called in the hallways.

This year the Knights won and won and won some more and when the Knights win, man do they win! Many of their games ended in a difference of five runs or more. Five! That is no small number to be losing by, especially in baseball. But the concept of winning isn't new to the baseball Knights as they finished last year's season with an 11-7 record, a win rate of 61 percent and out of all of the Knights sports, baseball has done the best most consistently.

Hitting is another Knight consistency. This season Creekside scored 141 runs for while only

allowing 91 runs against. They scored 50 more runs than they gave up; it's no wonder that they won as often as they did.

The best thing about this season however is the marked improvement in all areas of the game by the Knights. At the end of last year's season the Knights were ranked 153rd overall in the state and 1878th in the nation. These were amazing stats for a first year school but compared to this year those numbers are history. In the 2010 spring season Creekside managed to pull themselves up to an impressive 55th overall in the state and an amazing 526th in the nation overall. We upped our runs from 109 runs for in 2009 to 141 runs for in 2010. Yes the Knights have done well, they've done great—but best of all, they've done better.

We can always hope they'll do better next year and the year after that but for right now we are all happy with how our school takes place in America's favorite pastime. We'd all love to see us take number one in the state but for now we'll settle for 55th. It has only been two years after all. Go Knights!

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First Coast Tennis Association B Gold Champions!



The St. Johns Golf and Country Club B Gold team are the First Coast Tennis Association B Gold Champions! Pictured are (l-r) Kelli Bushman, Julie Martin (Captain), Dana Vaccaro, Kristi Arns, Kim Aguayo, Donna Hale (Co-Captain), Missy Nevin and Caroline Windholz. Not pictured are Tracy Yuro, Cathy French, Jessie Ceccorulli, Min McClintock



Henry Wrightman, a sophomore at Bartram Trail High School and a level eight gymnast, placed second at the regional men's gymnastics meet in Chattanooga, Tennessee on Saturday, April 10, 2010. He placed first in vault and parallel bars, second place in the high bar, and third in pommel horse. When Wrightman is not being a glorious student or eating, he is typically found at First Coast Gymnastics.

Creeks Clash U12 Girls White team strikes gold!



The girls had a great weekend and went undefeated in the Palm Bay tournament held May 1-2, 2010. They easily won the early round with 8-0 and 4-1 wins. They won the semifinals match 3-2 and had to come back from an early 2-0 deficit in the finals to win the championship 3-2. Mei Mei Van Housen had a hat trick to secure the win. Another great accomplishment for a first year team, which went undefeated its first season together. Pictured are Assistant Coach Steve Zador, Autumn Brown, Chloe Zador, Katie Watson, Sydney Amici, Cassidy Schell, Raquel Holness, Head Coach Gairy Chin, Mei Mei Van Housen, Ellie Clark, Jaelyn Stepter, Madison Delaney, Kyla Jacobs. Missing is Kristine Galang.

Creeks 10U All-star girls softball team wins The Greatest Show on Dirt



Congratulations to the Creeks 10U All-star girls softball team, who were undefeated in a tournament at Cecil Field in May. The tournament was "The Greatest Show on Dirt." They have an upcoming tournament, the Creeks Shoot Out, at their home fields in Aberdeen on June 11-13. Front: Ansley Herring, Claire Scribner, Brittany French, Nelia Marichal, Jessie McCullough, Faythe Reilly, Avery Buchanan. Middle: Julia Williams, Baily Olguin, Amanda Haltiwanger, Lauren Stanford, Rachael Sadowski, Madison Donnelly. Back: Coach Todd Williams, Manager Greg Stanford, Coach Bryan Donnelly.



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Congratulations to the Creeks Clash girls U10 girls' team

By Contributing Writer Gary Semel



Front: Allison Felts, Jade Sparks, Rachel Williams, Brooke Kent; Middle: Katelyn Tauzel, Taylor Menk, Caitlin O'Neill, Maya Semel, Claire Amici; Back: Scott Felts, Danny Kent.

The first weekend of May was an exciting time for the Creeks Clash Girls U10 Blue team, as they played in the Palm Bay Spring Challenge soccer tournament and came up just short of the championship.

down and the defense kept the ball pushed forward, a flurry of Clash shots could not find the net. The game would be decided by penalty kicks. The girls gave it their best effort, but fell short 1-2 in the PKs.

The team's championship run

The team played in the championship game against Melbourne Beach and after a dominant performance on the field with a few unlucky bounces, the Clash rallied from a 0-3 deficit in the second half and tied the game with two minutes remaining in regulation. As

time wound down and the defense kept the ball pushed forward, a flurry of Clash shots could not find the net. The game would be decided by penalty kicks. The girls gave it their best effort, but fell short 1-2 in the PKs.



The Cyclones from the 13 year old division of the Julington Creek Athletic Association won their championship game. The score was 8 to 2 with the opposing team in the lead during the second inning. But our boys came back with a score of 8 to 8! With the bases loaded, two boys out, the coaches and fans began biting their nails. Then John Arena came up and hit an amazing line drive to the center of the field bringing Albert and Kyle home. Hats off to the team for a 10 to 8 championship win as well as an awesome season!

St. Augustine Wild Reserve news

By Contributing Writer Deborah Warwick, Founder,
St. Augustine Wild Reserve



Britt, bottle-feeding Toruk and Seze at the St. Johns Technical College

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve was invited to St. Johns Technical College for their endangered species/global issues event (school-wide literacy project) on Wednesday, April 14. The Alligator Farm was also in attendance with an alligator and other exotic animals. We brought our two baby tigers, Seze and Toruk, who delighted the students with their kittenish antics, playing with stuffed toys and drinking from their baby bottles for the crowd.

The students prepared wonderful visual presentations describing the plight of many endangered species, including tigers, snow leopards, wolves and more.

Important message from the St. Johns County Council on Aging:

The senior population is often the target of unscrupulous con artists who claim affiliations with organizations that serve the elderly. Periodically, it becomes necessary for the COA to clarify that they are **not** involved in any efforts to "survey" the financial status of seniors in St. Johns County nor are they affiliated with any insurance company or other organization seeking to gain access to personal information.



Congratulations to the Class of 2010! from your friends at The CreekLine!

was the result of an amazing team effort in their three tournament games, including a strong defensive stand against Treasure Coast and a tremendous offensive explosion against First Coast. When the coaches broke the news to the team that they would be playing in the championship game, the girls screamed, jumped around and hugged each other and the parents joined in on the celebration too.

This was the first tournament for this group of girls playing together as a team and they played extremely well and had fun. The future is bright for this team. The girls gave their best effort during the entire tournament and they showed their competitiveness, skill and class. The parents, families and coaches are extremely proud of these young ladies.

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NW Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. – Fruit Cove Middle School
Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m. – SJC Convention Center, WGV

County Administrator Michael Wanchick will give a presentation on the State of St. Johns County, focusing on fiscal year 2011's budget. He will also discuss challenges facing the county including funding options and quality of life considerations.

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Wishing this talented group all the best! The CreekLine's senior high school writers graduate

By Martie Thompson

With St. Johns County's high school graduation ceremonies completed, we at The CreekLine find that it is time to say farewell to a truly talented trio of senior writers who have penned articles for us for the past couple of years. It has been a pleasure working with these aspiring journalists who have displayed professionalism and a grasp of editorial knowledge well beyond their years.

We hope that they have learned and expanded their writing talents as a result of their association with The CreekLine and wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Haven Lucas BTHS Sports Roundup

Lucas graduated from Bartram Trail High School. She will attend college initially at the Florida State College at Jacksonville with the intention of transferring to another

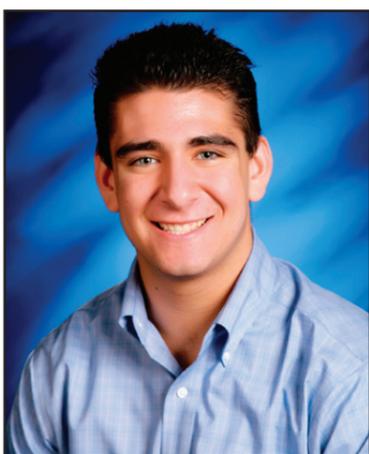


Haven Lucas, BTHS Sports Roundup

school later. She plans to major in childhood education with a minor in creative writing. During her time at BTHS, she was involved with winter guard, chorus, musical theatre, The Oracle (literary magazine), Interact Club, Senior Women, French Club and Book Club.

Lucas shares, "When I grow up I want to be a teacher for kindergarteners!"

Tyler Shine BTHS Happenings



Tyler Shine BTHS Happenings

Shine graduated as valedictorian of his class from Bartram Trail High School and will attend Cornell University in the fall to study securities analysis. While at BTHS, Shine was the three-year president of DECA as well as the student head of the VyStar Academy of Business and Finance for three years. He was a member of Sigma Nu Theta, National Honor

Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Rho Kappa, Hispanic Honor Society and the Interact Club. During the summer, Shine volunteered as a basketball coach at the Switzerland Point Middle School basketball camp, teaching fundamentals to six to 13 year old campers. He also held a summer internship as an assistant project manager with Elkins Constructors in addition to a part time job at Walgreens throughout the school year. Shine was honored with an American Youth Character Counts Award in 2009, recognizing him for outstanding leadership and demonstration of character throughout the community.

Kristie Yang Nease Happenings

Yang graduated second in her class from the International Baccalaureate program at Nease High School and plans to attend Duke University, currently under the major of biomedical engineering. She will pursue a degree related to the sciences and intends to follow the pre-med track, as she hopes to attend medical school after her undergraduate studies. While at Nease, she was a member of the National Honor Society, National French Honor Society and Science National Honor Society as well as the High Q and Future Problem Solvers teams. She has studied piano for 12 years and is an accomplished violinist as well, performing with the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra for all of her high school years. Yang



Kristie Yang Nease Happenings spent the summer before her senior year as a volunteer in Taiwan, teaching English to children in disadvantaged areas.

Yang shares, "When I grow up, I want to be a doctor, but when I'm well established, I want to open my own bakery. I want to bake and decorate cakes and treats for humans and dogs."

Best wishes from all of us at The CreekLine to these graduating seniors!

Editor's Note: As we say goodbye to this year's senior writers, we now have a few student writer positions available for underclassmen. Please contact us at editor@thecreekline.com if you are interested in becoming one of our student writers for next year!

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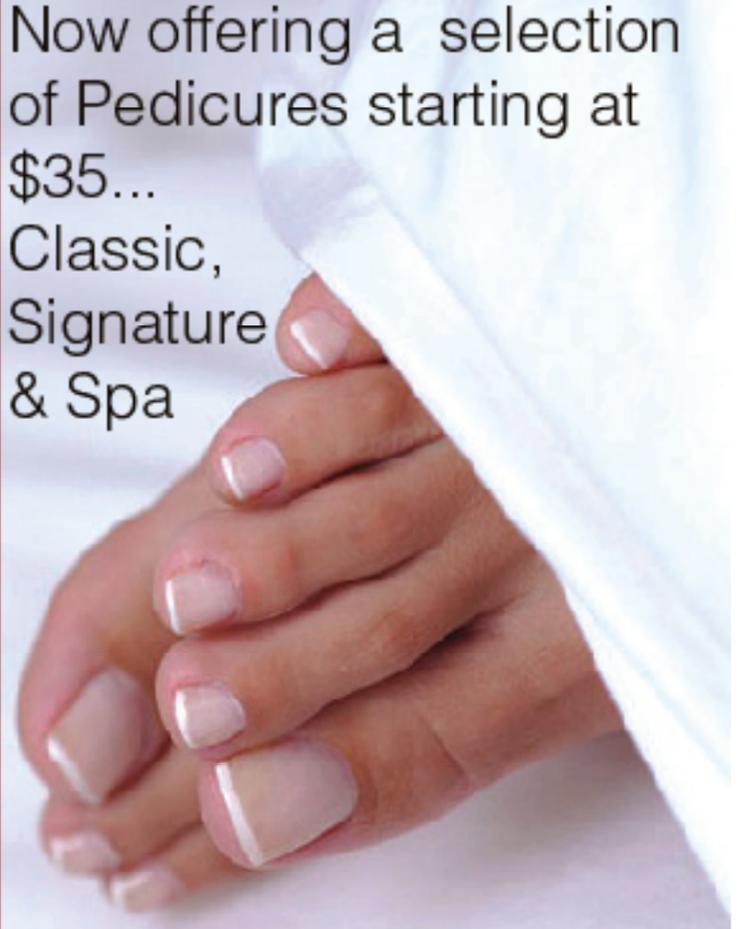
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