The CreekLine℠

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All Service Academy Ball enjoyed by local cadets and midshipmen

By Contributing Writer Greg Bloch

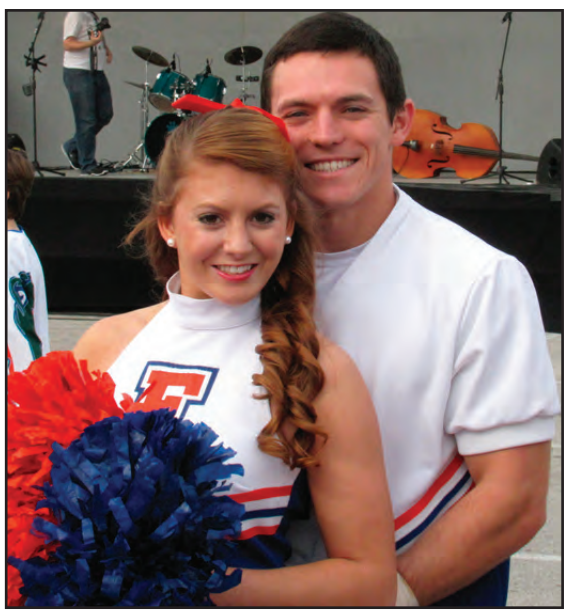
The sixth annual Northeast Florida All Service Academy Ball hosted the largest attendance ever for this year's annual event held at Jacksonville's Riverfront Crowne Plaza Hotel on December 27. And for the second year, the Brumos Companies was the major sponsor for the local military ball which honors young men and women from as far away as St. Simons Island and Daytona Beach who are enrolled in the United States Service Academies. More than 60 cadets, midshipmen and alumni from America's academic military institutions, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Air Force Academy and United States Coast Guard Academy joined with the United States Naval Academy and United States Merchant Marine Academy for a festive formal event far away from rigorous routines and cold weather.

Mayor Alvin Brown's Official Proclamation declared December 27 as "All Service Academy Ball Day" stating, "Jacksonville is proud to be home of such a large and prestigious military community."

The five Service Academies were represented by local Cadets William Alpert, Karlos Febus-Traphagen, Sarah Pendergraft, Brendon Gregory, Ryan Evans and William Myers attending the United States Military Academy, Midshipmen Katherine Castro, Christopher Dendor, Kameron Wright, David Towle, Jason Infante, Conor White and Delano Martins, attending United States Naval Academy, Cadets Adam Guarno, Charles W. Leffler, Walter Andrew Heaney and Charles Totten attending the United States Coast Guard Academy, Midshipman Tom Fossa attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy and Cadets Jordan Bresnahan, Bradley Frost, Loren VanRassen and Kathleen Mc-

All Academy Ball cont. on pg. 21

Proud to "come home" to cheer at bowl game



Gator cheerleaders Stephen DeAngelo and Gabbi Froeba at the Gator Bowl

Gabbi Froeba, a Bartram Trail High School graduate and Stephen DeAngelo, a graduate of Mandarin High School were delighted to represent their corner of the community and participate in the game and all the activities surrounding Jacksonville's Gator Bowl this past January 2.

"We are always excited to cheer for the University of Florida Gators and our amazing fans, but in our own backyard—coming home to Jacksonville made this Gator Bowl even more special!" exclaimed Froeba

Over the last decade, cheerleading has grown into a widely recognized and respected athletic activity, one that requires a great deal of strength and determination.

Both Froeba and DeAngelo believe it is a privilege to represent the University of Florida as students and as athletes— but it is also a big responsibility. Imagine classes, papers and homework plus a very rigorous extracurricular schedule! Cheerleaders must maintain a certain grade point average to stay a member of the squad and skipping class is never an

Cheerleaders cont. on pg. 7

Look for our annual

Home Improvement Guide

in the March issue of

The CreekLine

Call or email *today* to reserve your space!

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Linda Gay
287-4913

Timberlin Creek celebrates Literacy Week

By Contributing Writer Jill Hillier, Instructional Literacy Coach, Timberlin Creek Elementary

Timberlin Creek Elementary kicked off "Celebrate Literacy Week" in a big way! TCE and the Winn-Dixie Marketplace on County Road 210 teamed up on January 23 to host a fun filled, enjoyable night out for the family.

The focus was on math and literacy. Hundreds of students flooded the store with their families and participated in a variety of activities including "Find the Product Phrase" and "The Recipe Ingredient Price Hunt." Stations were set up around the store where students were able to put their senses to the test, listen to a story, decorate a cookie, participate in a coloring contest, use their estimation skills and much more.

Aisles were packed as students completed the different and were excited when they received a ticket for finishing each activity. Tickets were drawn for prizes such as a guest spot on the morning news show, snacks for their class and extra recess time, just to name a few.

The event took months of careful planning.

"Timberlin Creek's first Math and Literacy Family Night at Winn-Dixie certainly was a hit! The overwhelming attendance at the event and the enthusiasm by both parents and students alike, were living testimonies of how supportive our parents and community are," said Assistant Principal Catherine Peralta.

Math and Literacy Night was a huge success and was enjoyed by all.

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What's New

Community Happenings

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

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The Garden Club of Switzerland will meet on Thursday February 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. The guest speakers will give attendees information on the best way to grow and take care of herbs and also how to use herbs in cooking. New members are welcome!

Boy Scout Troop 474, sponsored by Fruit Cove Baptist Church, will hold a chicken and rib dinner on Saturday, February 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the church in Fruit Cove to raise money for Boy Scout summer camp. Chicken dinners, including a quarter of a chicken, beans, slaw and bread are available for $5. Rib dinners, including St. Louis ribs, beans, slaw and bread are $8. Drinks are also available. Additional information is available at www.474chickens.com.

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.

Get ready for spring by bringing your gardening questions to the **plant clinic** at the Bartram Trail Branch Library on February 16, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. St. Johns County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your plant and lawn questions. We will also accept small soil samples from your vegetable, lawn or shrub areas for free pH testing. The Bartram Trail Branch Library is located at 60 Davis Pond at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation.

JCP Singles Network is for singles 40s and up who are single, divorced, widowed - looking to make new friends! This network originally formed in 2005 and we are looking forward to starting back up and continuing on. It's a great way to meet people, make new friendships and network. If you are interested in joining us and would like more information please email klandrumfl@comcast.net.

Adults and teens age 14 and older are invited to attend the **Project Lap Blanket** crochet group at the Bartram Trail Branch Library on Tuesday, February 14, Tuesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 27 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The group will crochet or knit blankets for cancer patients at area hospitals. All skill levels are welcome. Can't come to any of the meetings? Pick up the crochet pattern at the Reference Desk in the library and crochet the blanket in your spare time. Drop off completed blankets and any yarn you'd like to donate during regular library hours. For additional information, please call the Reference Desk at 827-6960.

The Bartram Trail Newcomer's and Women's Club will hold their March meeting on Tuesday, March 13 at the Ramada Inn Mandarin at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is open to everyone. We invite you to join us for breakfast and an informative program by Beverly Fleming, St. Johns County Naturalist. We will also be collecting gifts for our baby shower to benefit the Divine Mercy House, a Christian maternity home for single women facing unexpected pregnancies. Some of the items on their wish list include baby clothing, baby blankets, diapers/wipes, maternity clothing and many other ideas which can be viewed on their website (www.divinemercyhouse.org/item-wish-list/). The breakfast buffet will be served for $12 a person. A check must be mailed by Wednesday, March 7 to secure your reservation. Please call Fran Albert at 230-6010 for more information. For membership information or to receive a newsletter, please contact Vice President of Membership Ellen Brenner at 230-2676 (email: ebbjc@bellsouth.net)

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What's New cont. on pg. 5

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The Sheriff Reports

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

Aggressive dogs

The topic for this column was suggested by a reader. They are concerned about aggressive, unleashed dogs that are allowed to roam in their neighborhood. They wrote : "There have been so many incidents in our county with pit bulls and dog attacks recently that I thought residents would benefit from your advice on this subject. I know this really is an animal control issue, but many people (including myself) contact the Sheriff's Office for help with this type of problem. From my own personal experience over the past few months in dealing with a pit bull that runs loose through our neighborhood, your department has been so helpful in doing what they can."

The owners of those dogs are in violation of the St. Johns County leash law ordinance and likely are soon to have their pets classified as dangerous and thus can be charged with another misdemeanor. In this case, the reader called to my attention that the dogs in question are pit bulls. This breed is often involved in vicious attacks, although responsible owners of pit bulls will tell you they can be docile and are wonderful pets.

As the reader suggested the enforcement of ordinances involving dogs and cats is the responsibility of St. Johns County Animal Control. Those trained officers have as a major part of their job description the safe return of healthy pets to their rightful owners, but they also issue citations to pet owners who are repeat offenders of the county ordinances regarding dogs and cats. That said, a call to the Sheriff's Office is appropriate when a dangerous situation regarding aggressive dogs, or any other issue, threatens public safety. We will respond as promptly as possible.

These situations can be very serious. As you probably recall last June in neighboring Putnam County, a 76-year-old man died from injuries he sustained in a pit bull attack. The owner of the two dogs involved was recently indicted by a grand jury and faces the likelihood of stiff fines and/or jail time. No fine or jail time however will compensate for the loss of life as a result of their alleged negligence.

Nearly 1,000 people in the United States go to emergency rooms for treatment of dog bites each day. Many of those victims are children and most of them have been bitten in the face. Here are some recommendations from animal control experts to help prevent a dog attack:

Keep on the lookout for aggressive dogs when you are walking or jogging. If you spot one in the distance, try to alter your route or simply cross the street. If you see a dog in the distance, be sure not to surprise it. An unknown person entering a dog's space can be interpreted as threatening, especially if the dog is unaware of your approach. Don't be afraid to say something to the dog when you are heading its way.

If you spot an aggressive dog off leash and approaching you, stop walking or running. Even though this goes against your instinct, it will stop the "game" in which you are the prey and it is the hunter. Avoid eye contact with the dog. Do not strike the dog unless he has already attacked you, but also do not put your hand out to the dog if it is snarling or acting aggressive in any other way. If the dog does attack you, try to get something in its mouth that is not a body part—such as a shirt or jacket or even a water bottle or iPod. Report the incident to our office or animal control right away.

I hope that this information assists you in the event an aggressive dog confronts yourself. If you have a suggestion for a future column or a comment or just wish to contact me on any matter involving county law enforcement please email me at dshoar@sjso.org. As always thank you for taking the time to read my monthly comments.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the January Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District (JCP CDD) Board of Supervisors meeting, your board voted 4 to 1 to approve payment of about $25,000 in incentive bonuses, distributed among 22 employees. While I support providing competitive wages and benefits for our employees, I believe the timing of these bonus payments is inappropriate.

Like much of our country, many JCP residents – who provide the funds to pay these bonuses, are being forced to cope with low property values, underwater mortgages, high foreclosure rates, high unemployment, higher living expenses and no raises or bonuses. With that reality in mind, I could not support the forced transfer of money from JCP residents to our employees at this time and therefore voted against approval of these bonus payments.

Further, the bonus payment proposal was not on the meeting agenda and therefore I had no opportunity to review the specifics of the proposal before it went up for a vote. I found that event more than a bit odd.

Improvements in the economy may provide justification for paying future bonuses on objective criteria – but in my opinion, not now. I welcome your thoughts and opinions.

Sam Lansdale
JCP CDD Supervisor Seat 1

Mandarin Garden Club
$1.00 Clothing Sale
Saturday, March 2nd
9am to 2pm
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What's New cont. from pg. 3

Newcomers of North St. Johns will meet on February 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Latitude 30, located at 10370 Philips Highway across from The Avenues Mall. Lunch is a mixed green salad, rolls, Chicken Piccata with chef's selection of vegetable, starch and dessert served with hot/iced tea or coffee. Cash bar, door prizes and raffle will be provided. Entertainment will be The Oasis Dancers, a dance group from St. Augustine under the direction of Jean Courter. Lunch, tax and tip included, is $22. Please reserve by February 14; no refunds. Mail your check to NNSJ, 824 Ifield Road, St. Augustine, FL 32095. For luncheon questions, please email Laraine at lol2918@aol.com. For membership information, please email Sue at sjaird@comcast.net.

On Friday, February 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the St Johns County Extension Office will be holding a **rain barrel class.** The class is a "make and take" class with class participants leaving with a finished barrel. The cost of the class is $40. The barrels are 55 gallons. During the dry season, rain barrels can come in handy for capturing what little rain we do get. You must pre-register to attend and do so by calling 209-0430. The class will be held at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine.

Save the date for Hickory Creek Elementary School PTO's upcoming fundraising event. **Evening of Luck** is scheduled for Saturday, March 17 from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club. Spend St. Patrick's Day trying your luck bidding on a wide variety of donated items and services. The evening will feature great food, live music, a silent and live auction, a 50/50 drawing and a golf challenge. All proceeds from this event will go toward replacing computer hardware that will benefit the students and teachers at HCE. Thank you to all the business supporters who have already contributed to this event. Donations are still being accepted until March 1. If you would like to contribute or need additional information about Evening of Luck, please email hcepto05@yahoo.com.

The MOMS Club is a wonderful way to meet other stay-at-home and part-time working mothers and is a fun way for your children to socialize with other children. Mothers with children of all ages are welcome. Members for this chapter must live in the 32092 or 32095 zip codes, including all neighborhoods along the 210 corridor. We meet once a month to plan our activities for the month ahead. These business meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Our meetings and activities are during the day, when stay-at-home

What's New cont. on pg. 6

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From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Ron Sanchez,
County Commissioner, District 2

St. Johns County Ordinance 2011-46, Underage Alcohol Use

License holders beware! Sell alcoholic beverages to underage and be fined, lose your license, go to jail or maybe all three.

If you hold a license acquired by Special Use Permit, which covers restaurants, bars, grocery stores, convenience stores and others, you may want to read up on the regulations. You may want to pay close attention to St. Johns County Ordinance 2011-46, a new ordinance passed 5-0 by the Board of County Commissioners to help the fight against underage drinking.

For the last five years I have served on PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County. The Mission: "To make St. Johns County a healthy substance-free community through the reduction and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse by our youth with Prevention, Advocacy, Choices and Teamwork." Do you remember "The Party's Over?" It worked well and is still in existence. We can thank our Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney for that one.

The new ordinance is about underage drinking and I would like to tell you why I felt something more had to be done to protect our children. We have locations that have already been caught twice for selling alcohol to underage children. The State of Florida has a 28.8 percent underage alcohol use while our county is at 29.4 percent. This is not simply 18 to 21 year old people. The use of alcohol and drugs are even a higher percentage in our own middle and high schools. Yes I said "middle" as well as high schools. A survey taken three to four years ago asked: Have you taken drugs or alcohol in the last 30 to 60 days? The answer: Forty some percent said "yes!" That was actually in the very high 40-some percent.

The recent ordinance that we passed contains the following provisions for penalties:

1. The fine for a first offense of purchasing an alcoholic beverage by persons under the age of 21, shall be $250 and for any second or subsequent offenses, $500.

2. The fine for a first offense of selling an alcoholic beverage to persons under the age of 21 by an employee or agent of an Alcoholic Beverage Establishment, shall be $250 and for a second offense within three (3) months from the date of the first offense shall be $500. Any third and subsequent offenses occurring within one (1) year from the date of the first offense shall result in a $500 fine and may, upon a finding of continuous willful and wanton behavior in regards to the ordinance, be punishable by imprisonment of up to thirty (30) days.

3. The fine for a first offense of selling an alcoholic beverage to persons under the age of 21 by an owner of the Alcoholic Beverage Establishment, shall be $500 and for a second offense within one (1) year from the date of the first offense shall be $500 fine and may, upon a finding of continuous willful and wanton behavior in regards to this ordinance, be punishable by imprisonment of up to thirty (30) days. Further, the penalty as described below in Section5(C) of this ordinance shall only require a two (2) citation minimum to prompt the notification and review provisions by the County Administrator.

If it goes to the County Administrator, the Special Use Permit and/or the St. Johns County Local Business Tax Receipt could be suspended of revoked. An appeal would go to the Board of County Commissioners.

Should you have any questions about "The Party's Over" or if you would like to make an anonymous report, please call the Sheriff's Office CrimeStoppers at 1(888) 277-TIPS (8477). Call the PACT Coalition at 829-6261 x 43 if you have any questions.

Do you know the warning signs of stroke?

- Sudden numbness or weak ness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
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- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Source: Baptist Medical Center South

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What's New cont. from pg. 5

moms need support most. Of course, children are welcome at all of our meetings and activities. Activities are scheduled for almost every weekday of the month and moms may attend as few or as many activities as they like. Some of the activities we have planned are trips to the zoo, beach/pool days, storytime at the library, and playgroups at members' homes and local parks. If you have any questions or would like to get more information to join, please email Jenn at sanmoms@gmail.com, check out our website at http:\\ sanmomsclub.weebly.com or drop into our business meeting.

The 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. 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.

Learn how to create or **enhance a wildlife habitat in your landscape.** Invite back the plants native to this region and support our winged friends all year long. Instructors include Gail Compton, nature columnist; Beverly Fleming, Master Gardener and Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant. Come join us February 16 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Agricultural Building Auditorium, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. It's free, open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. In addition, St. Johns County Audubon Society will be present and Florida native plants will be available. For more information, please contact 209-0430.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) FL#493, St. Augustine has 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.

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NAS Jacksonville Skin and Scuba Diving Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Ramada Inn, located at 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin. The club is open to all divers and those who are interested in diving. For more information, please visit www.nasjaxscubadivers.org or contact the club president, Dave Martin at 413-8773.

Make plans to attend Buckler's Home and Garden Craft Show, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11 at the Clay County Fair Expo building, located at 2493 State Road 16 West in Green Cove Springs. Enjoy demonstrations and seminars with exhibits inside and outside. Admission and parking are free. For additional information, please visit www.bucklershows.com

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BAPTIST Primary Care

Your Vote Counts!

By Contributing Writer Vicky Oakes, Supervisor of Elections, St. Johns County

At the writing of this article, the Presidential Preference Primary Election draws near. When you read this article, it shall be behind us. I hope that many of you took the opportunity to exercise your right to vote in this important process of selecting the Republican presidential nominee for the November General Election.

Following each election, there is a time for reconciling the votes cast in the election to assure each and every vote has been counted. The election results are then certified to the Division of Elections. State law requires a public manual audit be conducted after certification of the election results. The manual audit consists of a public manual tally of the votes cast in one randomly selected race that appears on the ballot. The tally must include election day, absentee, early voting, provisional and overseas ballots in at least 1 percent of the precincts chosen at random. Once the race and precinct(s) are chosen, the ballots are manually counted and compared against the actual results. A report with the results of the audit is filed with the Department of State and is posted on our website. In the 2010 Primary and General Elections audits, the overall accuracy of our voting equipment for both elections was 100 percent. Our DS200 ballot tabulators are very accurate and reliable.

Florida law currently does not allow for a "permanent" list of absentee voters. You must call every election cycle to request your absentee ballot. The law changed last year to allow ballot requests to be for two federal election cycles which means if you request an absentee ballot today, your request will be good through 2014. If you think you should be receiving an absentee ballot but did not, please call our office or use the voter lookup quick link on our website to verify or make your request for this year.

Tips for absentee voters: Be sure your signature is up to date. Any time there is a change in your signature or identifying "mark" you must complete a new Florida Voter Registration. In order for your absentee ballot to count, the signature on the Certificate envelope must be compared with the signature on your voter file and the two must match. If your signature did not match and your ballot was not counted, you will receive a letter from my office letting you know it was not counted; and a request to update your signature before the next election.

You must sign the back of your certificate envelope. Your absentee ballot cannot be counted without it.

Very Important-In order for an absentee ballot to be counted, it must be returned to the Elections office no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots received after election day cannot be counted. The only exception is overseas voters who have 10 additional days provided that their ballot was posted-marked by election day.

It's not too early to begin preparing for the fall elections. If you have not registered to vote, I encourage you to register today. If you need to update your address, please call our office at 823-2238 so we can keep your record up to date. All registered voters will be mailed sample ballots prior to each election, so you have time to adequately prepare, but we must have your correct address on file in order to reach you.

Please call the office at 823-2238 any time we can be of service. You can also visit our website for registration and election information: www.sjcvotes.us or follow me on Facebook.

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Cheerleaders cont. from pg. 1

option! Somewhere in between, cheerleaders have several two to three hour long practices and workouts required to perform a complex set of technical skills. In addition, there are appearances, pep rallies, cheering for several sports and the local events to add to an already busy collegiate schedule.

As cheerleaders, Froeba and DeAngelo represent the Florida Gators and people recognize them on campus, in the community and out at night. They always have to present themselves in a very professional manner because the standards are raised with or without their cheerleading uniform on.

Both Froeba and DeAngelo believe they have been blessed with the opportunity to be surrounded by amazing teammates, incredible trainers and two of the best coaches in the Southeastern Conference—all while they are having the best college experience of their lives!

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Mothers Against Brain Injury, Inc. changes name and expands program in Florida

Mothers Against Brain Injury (MABII) has officially changed its name to Mothers For TBI Hope, Inc.

Tracy Porter, founder of the local non-profit says, "The name change better reflects the organization's core mission to provide comfort and hope to families experiencing a moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with a loved one following arrival at a hospital. We felt better about being 'for' hope than 'against' brain injury and truthfully, I can't think of anyone who would be for the leading cause of death and disability for everyone ages 0-44."

The new name also helps the organization align with their toll free family hope line, 800-TBI-HOPE, as well as their website www.800tbihope.org. The 501c3 charitable organization founded in 2005 by the mother of a TBI survivor has donated more than 6,500 tote bags free to families through 22 participating trauma centers and recently added four new "provisional" trauma centers that joined the elite group of hospitals this past November, but many more families can be reached and provided a tote bag.

It is believed that there may be a rather high number of critically injured patients who never make it to a designated Trauma Center but rather are taken to an acute care hospital nearest to where the injury was sustained. It is imperative that a person who has been assessed at the scene of a fall, pedestrian incident, bicycle, motorcycle, car crash or other blunt force trauma to the head, be treated within the "golden hour" and sometimes an acute care facility is the only available option.

Porter wants to make sure all families receive comfort items, useful tools, snacks, helpful information and resources but most importantly hope, no matter where their loved one is treated and that means having to introduce the program to approximately 210 additional hospitals throughout Florida. An enormous challenge Porter says, but having been through the injury with her own son just seven years ago with nothing to help her family through it, the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness remain very fresh and that feeds the passion and desire to make sure no family ever feels the way hers did during those first heart wrenching days in a hospital waiting room!

Mothers For TBI Hope is always looking for donations to help fund the totes of comfort and hope program to insure they are always available for families who need them. For more information, visit the "How you can help" page of their website: www.800tbihope.org

About Mothers For TBI Hope, Inc.: A 501c3 charitable non-profit organization dedicated to providing an oasis of comfort, hope and information to families experiencing a Traumatic Brain Injury with a loved one within 48 hours of arrival through Florida's hospital systems.

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2011 A year to celebrate

JCP CDD 2011 chairperson's annual report

By Contributing Writer Nina A. Kannatt – Gapinski, Chairperson, JCP CDD Board of Supervisors

I am extremely pleased to report that the Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District (JCP CDD) has much to celebrate. Management's dedication to effective programming and cost consciousness during the 2010-2011 fiscal year resulted in revenue projections exceeding expectations by over $200,000. In addition, $189,000 was placed into the newly created Capital Reserve Fund, allowing us to save for our future. Also, assessments for 2011-2012 remain at last year's levels with no reduction in services or programs. No other CDD with recreational facilities in Northeast Florida has lower assessments.

I applaud the talented management team of the JCP CDD's Recreation Center led by General Manager Stacie Hernandez. This team consistently provides top quality amenities and creative programs at a reasonable cost. The team works diligently to find cost savings and to refine expenses while still meeting the community's needs. Their focus on providing top quality amenities and innovative programs greatly enhances our residents' quality of life.

In addition, the JCP CDD leadership team, which consists of the five member board of supervisors (BOS), the general manager and the district manager, continue to provide the vision and dedication necessary to guide the JCP CDD to the next level of excellence—despite budget constraints.

The JCP CDD employs many local residents and our retention level remains high even though salaries have remained frozen during the last three annual budget cycles. Our employees are dedicated, upbeat and positive professionals who focus on providing superior services at the lowest possible cost.

The future is bright: In 2012, we will continue to refine our programs and services. Some of the many amenities that we will continue to offer include tennis, fitness, swimming, on-site café, child watch, banquet rooms, skate park, basketball, community programs and events. Please visit our website at www.jcpcdd.org for a complete listing of amenities and programs.

The BOS will continue to work with the management team to ensure that quality operations continue while simultaneously seeking to reduce the costs of operation so that assessments will not increase. We will kick off our 2012-2013 budget process this spring and will include a budget workshop designed to help us further refine our process. We are poised for an exciting fall as two BOS seats will be up for election in November. If you are interested in running for a BOS position, please contact our district manager, Jim Oliver, (joliver@govmgtsvc.com) for more information.

In closing, thank you for using our facilities, providing constructive input to our operations and budget process and placing your trust in the BOS. It is my intent that we will continue to earn your trust and remain effective stewards of our valuable resources. I hope you will continue to enjoy all that the JCP CDD has to offer and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities available within our beautiful facilities.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. My email address is ninakannatt@jcpcdd.org. Thank you.

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Sixth of a series

All CDDs in Florida ordered audited by Governor Scott

By J. Bruce Richardson

Governor Rick Scott signed an executive order on Thursday, January 12 for state government to take a close look at some of Florida's oldest government structures, the over 1,600 special districts which take in $15.5 billion in taxpayer monies each year. The governor wants an audit to know how much districts are paying their employees and whether special districts are charging too much in taxes and fees.

Both the Associated Press and *The Palm Beach Post* reported the setting in motion of a review of all of the districts in Florida – including those community development districts in St. Johns County – by the governor's Office of Policy and Budget. The analysis is also designed to measure whether districts are serving the purpose they were formed to meet, are spending taxpayer money wisely and are operating transparently and efficiently. There are 39 special districts/community development districts (CDDs) in St. Johns County.

CDDs are often a tool used by private developers to pay for infrastructure costs when new communities are formed. Typically, the costs cover items such as roads and sewer systems; some districts expand beyond that to include recreation centers and community swimming pools, golf courses and more. The CDDs sell bonds to raise money for the infrastructure costs and the bonds are paid off on an annual basis. It often takes decades to pay the principal and interest on bonds. Residents of CDDs may not opt out of these fee obligations; they carry the same requirement to pay in law as property taxes. While a home cannot have a tax certificate sold for non-payment of CDD fees such as with property taxes, a lien can be placed against a property and when that property is sold, the lien can be collected by the CDD.

Most CDDs operate under the direction of an elected board of directors chosen by the residents of each district. Board members are elected for four year terms on a staggered basis. Beyond the board, many of the districts are managed on a daily basis or advised by large, private management companies, which are first answerable to the various elected CDD boards of directors. Some CDDs directly employ staff workers; others have minimal contract staff.

Larger CDDs often imitate some functions found in small municipal governments, such as the maintenance of common areas and providing recreation services. In addition to CDDs, many communities also have homeowners associations as another layer of highly localized control. As with CDD fees, homeowners association fees are mandatory for residents inside the association boundaries.

CDDs are answerable to state government, not local county government. The annual fees imposed by CDDs on residents and any businesses which may be located within the boundaries of CDDs are typically collected by the county tax collector's office when annual notices for property taxes are sent to home and land owners. Residential CDD fees are in most cases drastically lower than CDD fees imposed upon businesses and raw land owners within CDD boundaries.

The Palm Beach Post quoted Scott as saying, "Floridians have a right to know what they're being taxed for and how that money is being spent. This review will bring to light these questions and allow us to identify ways to save taxpayers money and increase accountability."

The AP quoted Scott saying, "We ought to be constantly reviewing how Floridians' tax dollars being spent. If it's being spent well, we ought to keep doing it. If not, let's change."

The AP reported Scott ordered his budget office to assemble large amounts of information on the state's special districts, including the budgets of the districts and whether they are charging too much in taxes and fees. Scott also wants to know what the districts are paying their employees. The governor suggested some districts are not currently turning over information about district activities to state overseers as required under state law.

The AP further quoted the governor, "With such a significant impact on the lives of every Floridian and our economy, it is critical that we get a firm grasp on how these special districts are operating and hold them accountable."

Here in St. Johns County in mid-January, the Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District, which operates with over 150 employees at peak times of the year, approved over $25,000 in bonuses for some of its employees in a controversial split vote by its board of directors.

The Post reported officials at some special districts anticipated Scott's move, which he has been hinting at since last summer when he expressed "shock" at the amount of billions of dollars which are imposed by and controlled by Florida districts.

As previously reported in *The CreekLine,* some St. Johns County CDD residential fees are as high as $3,936 per year. Of a dozen CDDs surveyed by The CreekLine, those districts collected an aggregate of $24,838,703 for 2010. Included in the CDD survey were Aberdeen CDD, Brandy Creek CDD, Durbin Crossing CDD, Julington Creek Plantation CDD, Marshall Creek CDD and more. Commercial businesses in CDDs in St. Johns County pay higher amounts, such as a church in Julington Creek Plantation paying $10,760 for the year, an automobile tire store, $18,895 for the year and a retail shopping center with a large chain grocery store, $194,342 for the year.

Simultaneously, in the Florida legislature, which is currently in session, two companion bills regarding CDDs are working their way through various committees. HB 0107 in the house and SB 192 in the senate are designed to attempt to determine if any tweaking or reduction of present laws is called for to ensure the districts are fully accountable and remain relevant. You can follow the progress of each of these bills by logging on to www.flhouse.gov and www.flsenate.gov and placing the bill numbers into the legislation track on the respective home pages. Governor Scott's office can be contacted by calling 850-488-7146 or by email through his official web site at www.flgov.com.

Some board seats of 15 various CDDs and special districts will be on the ballot this November during the general election. Most CDDs will have elections for two seats this November and three seats in November of 2014. At least two CDD have vacant seats not due for re-election until 2014 and will have short-term elections this November to fill those vacancies and full term elections in 2014. Candidates for board seats submit paperwork for qualifying for office through the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections in a process similar to all elected officials. The Supervisor of Elections conducts CDD board elections on behalf of the CDDs. Further information is available at www.votessjc.com.

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The St. Johns County Medical Alliance offers scholarships to graduating St. Johns County high school seniors pursuing an education in pre-medicine, nursing or allied health.

Applicants must reside in St. Johns County and plan to begin a program of study in the fall of 2012 at an accredited institution. This includes a four year college or university or a two year community or junior college. Scholarship applicants are evaluated on academic ability, school involvement, community service and financial need.

To obtain a copy of the scholarship application, please visit www.sjcma.blogspot.com.

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance represents spouses of St. Johns County physicians. Its purpose is to promote health education, identify and address health-care needs and issues, participate in health-related legislation and provide college scholarships to St. Johns County students.

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For more information call:
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Commentary

Citizen X

By Contributing Writer James A. Lee, M.Ed., Ed.D. ABD, St. Johns County School District

Hello. I'd like to introduce myself. I am Citizen X. I am "the average citizen." When politicians and pundits quote "public opinion," I am that public. I am the constituency represented by every elected official. Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives and libertarians all claim me as the base of their support. The American free press, whether it was the newspapers of an earlier era or the horde of opinion-makers on the blogosphere, relentlessly pursues the issue of the day and speaks on my behalf because I am its "public who has a right to know." I am the special interest groups advertising "on behalf" of the candidates. I am the voter who chooses to stay home rather than go to the polls. I am also the voter who wades through the speeches, debates, political advertisements, rumors and innuendo and learns to the best of her ability who the candidates really are, what that ballot referendum really means and how those candidates and that referendum will affect her and her children's future and then goes to vote - even though she has too many other things to do.

I am Citizen X. I am that talk show host to whom you listen religiously and that loudmouth on television blabbering about who knows what and the person who chose to run for the school board because no one else would and the young man in town who just started that new shop that you like so well and that corporate executive who came to a comfortable landing thanks to his "golden parachute" and that person in line hoping for a place for the night at the homeless shelter. I am Citizen X and I am old and young, pretty and plain, rich and poor, atheist and believer, gay and straight, pro-life and pro-choice, capitalist and socialist.....

In reality though, I don't exist. Citizen X does not exist. Citizen X is an idea perceived by many, promoted by some and symbolic of nothing. Citizen X does not exist because the "average citizen" does not exist. There are only citizens—pluribus and unum, the many and the one, bound together and free. There are only citizens who have obligations—obligated to self and obligated to country and community. There are only citizens who each have the obligation to protect his or her rights and the rights of others—obligated to self and to others.

Citizen X does not exist. There are only citizens obligated to the fulfillment of a social contract – a contract found in the Preamble of the Constitution.

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

When our leaders in office and seeking office and in the media claim to speak for the American people, listen to them carefully. Most of them sincerely want what is best for our land and its people; they just differ on principles, very important but heartfelt principles. And please understand that they really speak for themselves or what they perceive our opinions to be and we have to choose to accept what they say and do or to refuse it. All citizens are responsible for holding them responsible. All citizens are contractually obligated. Stand up. Speak up. Get involved.

Who am I? I am Citizen X. I am you.

Constitution for the United States of America

Continued from previous issues of The CreekLine. Please refer to the prior issues for the beginning of the document. Prior issues of The CreekLine are available online at www.thecreekline.com.

Article. III.

Section. 1. The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; — to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; — to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; — to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; — to Controversies between two or more States; — between a State and Citizens of another State [Modified by Amendment XI]; — between Citizens of different States; — between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due [Modified by Amendment XIII].

Section. 3.New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

As a community service, The CreekLine community newspaper will be publishing the Constitution for the Untied States in its entirety over the next several issues. Please check back next month for the continuation.

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Veneers are very thin, custom made, tooth colored laminates that are bonded to the front surfaces of teeth. They are designed to improve the appearance of teeth that may be permanently stained, chipped, worn, or uneven. Veneers can also be used to close gaps between teeth.

You must have a healthy foundation to be considered for veneers. Teeth and gums should be without disease or decay. However these issues can be treated and resolved, therefore making veneers an option.

A consult is needed to determine a treatment plan that will best improve your smile. The dentist may take x-rays and impressions of your teeth during the consultation and will explain the procedures and maintenance of veneers.

To prepare teeth for traditional veneers, about 1/2 mm of tooth surface must be removed. Once this is completed, an impression or mold of the teeth is sent to a dental lab where the permanent veneers are fabricated. You will leave the office at your initial visit with temporary veneers. In about two weeks, you will return and the permanent veneers will be bonded to your teeth.

No prep veneers can be an option for some patients. Those with small or short teeth that are otherwise healthy may be prime candidates for no prep veneers. In these cases, no enamel will be removed, making this the least invasive procedure that actually changes size, shape, or length of teeth.

If you don't love your smile, have a consult to determine if you qualify for veneers or other procedures that will improve the appearance of your teeth.

For questions or a consultation, please contact Dr. Gari's office at 287-0033.

Dr. Gus J. Gari D.D.S.
To Schedule an appointment call
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The Lifestyle Guru

Ready for spring!

By Joy Hartley

I am enjoying my fifth year of being the Lifestyle Guru at "The Creek" for our readers! February is my anniversary month and no one has benefited (?) more than my extended family. Who else has been to every State Park in northeast Florida and had all their family recipes raided and sent to print?

Now I am seeing Spring Break out there on horizon. I do not allow the visiting teenagers to sleep 'till noon and loll around the beach for the rest of the day. We have a mixed bag of things to do to entertain ourselves here in northeast Florida. Each year I try to top the previous one...a couple of years ago a reader/friend called me and said, "Did you really do all that stuff during spring break?" Of course we did!

My latest "find" is White Oak Conservation Center up in Yulee. Where else can you go on a safari and experience a tour of the African savanna without traveling on a plane? And, of course the day will include our infamous picnic lunch, happening somewhere up around the Amelia Island/Kingsley Plantation area. How much would you spend on a day like this in Orlando?

The center was founded in 1982 and is one of the world's premiere wildlife breeding, research and training facilities. The research center is located along the St. Marys River on 600 acres of pine and hardwood forests and wetlands. The facility offers a wide span of experiences to the public to include observing, working on actual projects and participating in hands on animal care. Group tours to view the most popular wildlife species are conducted twice per week; you must call for the specific times of this one and a half hour experience. Their phone number is (904) 225-3396. View their website at www.wocentr.org.

Since it's February and Valentines Day is upon us, our thoughts go to strawberries. Whether you coat them with chocolate or just slice and eat them, it's time to pick! Yes, I spoke to the folks down at Riverdale Farms on State Road 207 and they say the picking's good. They also had a heart warming tale to share; it seems that being as small as they are they have chosen to go to an "honor" system. You pick on your own time frame and leave your payment in their little banking box on the grounds. Their price per pound of goods is located right there with a little produce scale. And this is working! They are amazed at how honest their customers are. One lady came back to settle up with the correct change. How uplifting! Oh, and right now they also have their winter harvest of spinach, spring onions and broccoli ready to pick. The farm is just six miles west of Interstate 95; phone 829-6927 for more information.

Here's a way to utilize those berries. This is an easy pastry goodie to wow your friends and family with; I just love cheating with biscuit mix! Happy Valentines Day!

French Strawberry Tart

½ cup Buttermilk baking mix
1 pint strawberries, halved
½ cup sugar
½ cup orange juice
¼ cup water
1 tbsp grated orange peel
2 tbsp sugar
½ cup butter
1 tbsp cornstarch

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Mix baking mix, sugar and orange peel. Cut in margarine until mix is mealy. Press mix in bottom of ungreased round pie or tart pan. Bake until light brown, about 10-12 minutes. Cool; invert on a serving plate. Arrange berries on crust. Mix orange juice, water, 2 tablespoons sugar and cornstarch in sauce pan. Boil, stirring constantly for one minute, then cool completely. Pour glaze on berries. Refrigerate 1 hour. Top with Cool Whip (or whip your own).

Julington Creek Elementary students worked in pairs to invest $100,000 while taking part in a stock market simulation. The students were given a two month window to buy and sell stock to produce a profit. Several groups did well enough to have the best gains in the First Coast Region and won a pizza party for their class. They have been invited to the Federal Reserve Bank for an awards ceremony. First place went to Emily Szczepanik and Mackenzie Richardson. Carey Carpenter and Anna Epting took second place and Brendan Craft and Noah Maust were third. Congratulations!

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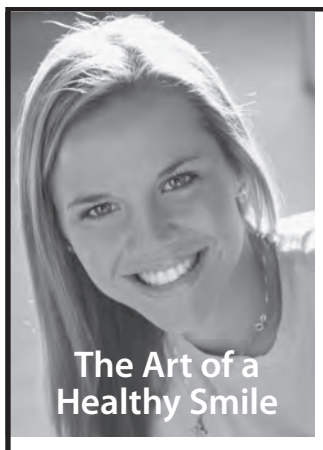

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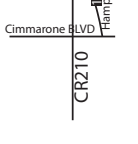

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William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@bellsouth.net

The William Bartram Scenic Highway group started off the New Year's planning and activities on January 12 and enjoyed another "spirited" meeting. We missed hearing your ideas about 2012 planning and other county environmental issues and suggest you come to our next meeting on February 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the County Annex on Flora Branch Boulevard.

Let's get together to talk about quality of life issues in NW St. Johns County and the future of our Scenic and Historic Highway. Our primary mission is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and maintenance of the William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway and its cultural, environmental and historical resources. If you live in our historic area of NW St. Johns, I would hope you're interested in saving not only our scenic beauty but also the heritage of those that came before us. See you in February.

2011 was a year of many accomplishments and activities. We won several awards and in cooperation with St. Johns County Administration saved another historic tree from destruction.

In 2012, we're moving forward with programs including our annual Bartram Bash, Old Settlers Reunion and expect to add a bicycle tour for experienced and newer road bike riders. More on coming events will be coming soon.

The ride is still in the planning stages and details will be announced as planning proceeds but we do know the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be providing safety information and tips for experienced and newer riders at this event. Alpine Groves Park is where the tour will start (and probably end) on April 21. The annual Bartram Bash will be held on April 20 so please reserve these dates.

Our video, "Up from the Roots – Remembering Rural St. Johns County" is selling extremely well and will be featured in a February Board of County Commissioners meeting. Watch for this and contact me (alabbat@bellsouth.net) for your own personal copy of our historic (10 minute) video. The price is $9 with free shipping.

We're proud to say the Switzerland Garden Club presented the William Bartram Scenic Highway with a $1,000 check to be used for tree plantings along the Scenic Highway (State Road 13) where and when needed. These proceeds were from the Garden Club's raffle to specifically raise money for the Scenic Highway. Our hearty "thank you!" goes to the Garden Club and Claire Fioriti for their hard work on behalf of our community.

Business owners, please note our Scenic Highway website and quarterly newsletter are now available for advertising messages at reasonable rates. Take a look at our website and sign up for the next issue of the newsletter due to be published in February. Visit the website www.bartramscenichighway.com for more details or call Al Abbatiello at 287-5577 for more information.

A new membership brochure is also available to help encourage new members. The brochure gives more information on our group and our mission. We welcome new members and look forward to your application. We look forward to seeing you on February 9.

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New option for pain relief for your pet

A Fruit Cove veterinary practice is the newest in the area to make K-Laser Class IV Laser therapy available to its patients. Greenbriar Animal Hospital now has a new way to treat chronic pain and acute injuries. High-energy laser therapy can penetrate deeply into the body to diminish pain and stimulate healing.

Many pets suffer from chronic pain due to arthritis caused by hip dysplasia, spondylosis, traumatic injury, etc. A class of drugs, non-steroid anti-inflammatories (NSAIDS), has provided significant relief from pain, but long-term use of these drugs can have some undesirable effects. In addition, some animals are NSAID-intolerant. Cats are particularly sensitive to some of these medications, so there are fewer pain-management options available for the feline patient. K-Laser provides a safe solution for them.

K-Laser is a new type of therapy laser that can provide remarkable relief from chronic pain. It penetrates to considerable depth and has programmable protocols for specific veterinary conditions. K-Laser has also shown very good results when used on surgical incisions and wounds. Traumatized tissue swells less and heals more quickly when treated with the device. Treatments last about two to five minutes per site and are completely comfortable for the patient.

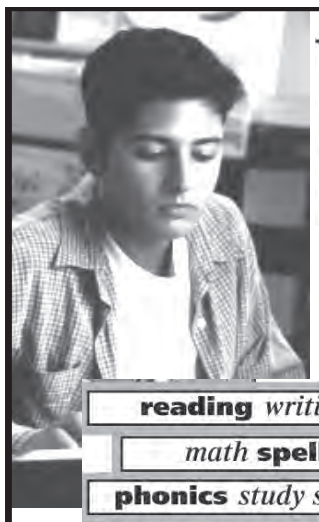
K-Laser received its FDA clearance for human use in January, 2005. It has been available to the veterinary profession for a little over two years and is in use in more than 300 human-care and over 200 veterinary practices. It is estimated that more than 9,000 dogs, cats and horses have benefited from the therapy (So have a growing number of birds, snakes and turtles.)

Dr. Richard Oglesby, Dr. Constanze Goricki and the Greenbriar veterinary healthcare team evaluated K-Laser on some of their own patients. Clinical results and client enthusiasm compelled them to add this important new modality to their medical offerings.

The practice has staff members who have been trained in K-Laser use and applications. They are ready to answer clients' questions about suitability for their pet's condition. Clients interested in knowing more can contact them. Additional information about K-Laser in human and veterinary use can be found at www.k-laserusa.com.

Look for Greenbriar Animal Hospital's ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

World Golf Village Gymnastics participated in the first AAU qualifier at Florida State University in Tallahassee on January 14 and 15. The girls had great success at the meet. In the modified optional division, Brooke Landess placed first on bars, first on beam, first on vault, first on floor and first all-around with an all-around score of 34.4; Scarlett Ralls placed first on beam, fourth on bars, fifth on floor and fourth all-around with an all-around score of 31.4; and Emma Landess placed second on floor, third on vault, third on bars, fifth on beam and third all-around with an all-around score of 33.05. In level 4, Isabella Storey placed fifth on beam and 11th all-around with an all-around score of 30.15. All girls qualified to participate in the state meet in April. Congratulations team WGV!



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February at Liberty Pines Academy

By Contributing Writer Stephanie Bradford

The School Advisory Council (SAC) of Liberty Pines Academy would like to invite you to participate in our "Community Leaders Day" on Friday, March 9 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. Liberty Pines Academy is St. Johns County School District's only public K-8 school, serving 1,200 students who live along the County Road 210 corridor. Since its opening in 2008, the focus has been centered on developing leadership skills in our students, starting with our kindergarteners through our eighth graders. Combining high standards and leadership training for our students today is the commitment we have to the leaders for tomorrow.

Our Community Leaders Day will start with a luncheon reception at 12:00 noon for you to meet some of our student ambassadors and the SAC members, as well as introduce yourself to the other speakers. The following two hours will be divided between the kindergarten through third grade students and the fourth through eighth grade students, with each speaker having approximately 35 students rotate through the day in 20 minute sessions.

We are asking that you bring some sort of visual aid to share with your group of students, something that is particularly interesting to the field in which you work. The focus of the presentation should be on how you are a leader in your field, highlighting what first got you interested in what you are doing and the influence that you are making in our society by doing your job well each and every day. It is not often that we get to welcome visitors to speak specifically about how they are leaders in their daily lives, so we thank you in advance for your support of our efforts here at Liberty Pines Academy. Your presence will be greatly appreciated by teachers and students. We are looking for a wide variety of careers that represent various fields, income levels and academic preparation and background. The deadline for presenters to complete the registration form and return it to us is February 15, 2012. If you have any questions please email Dr. Brian Schoonover at schoonb@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Connie Serra and Dianna Carlson-Bright, School Advisory Council co-chairs thank you in advance for your support!

The Liberty Pines Academy PTO invites you and your family to Family Fun Night at LPA! Join us on February 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a fun Valentine's Day themed night. There will be pizza, beverages and fun crafts for you and your family to enjoy. Siblings of LPA students are welcome! The cost for the night is $4 per person. Please fill out the form sent home in your child's backpack (also found online at www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/). The PTO will also be collecting donations for Relay for Life so please consider donating when sending in your form. Please email Lori McGinnis at LoriTex@aol.com or Michelle Cardinal at mcardinal@sjgcc.com with any questions. We hope to see you for at Family Fun Night!

Liberty Pines Academy PTO would like to send a huge thank you to Bozard Ford for offering our school the chance to participate in their Box Tops for Education Facebook Campaign. We had 131 people participate which earned our school $655 in Box Tops from Bozard Ford. If you get a chance, please stop by and tell Letti Bozard how much we appreciate Bozard Ford supporting our school. Also, a big pat on the back to all LPA students, teachers and parents for clipping and turning in Box Tops. We have already met our $2000 goal for the year and are hoping to double it! Way to go Wolves!

What an EPIC adventure we had LPA with the Boosterthon team! Liberty Pines Academy wrapped up a nine-day fun filled program promoting fitness, leadership and character on February 8, 2012. Please look for an update on what a huge success this event was for LPA in the March issue of *The CreekLine*.

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Tax Tip of the Month

IRS agents in TAX EXAMS are now requesting taxpayers' electronic software data files, thus giving agents access to more data than we, as tax practioners wish to give them. It is not acceptable to remove subsequent or prior years from the data file given to the agent. With this in mind, the quality of the bookkeeping becomes even more important. Please consult us for advice as to how to properly prepare for an IRS EXAMINATION.

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This is Macular Degeneration Awareness Month

Contributed by Russell Pecoraro, M.D., Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) is the leading cause of vision loss in people 50 and older and as you age, the risk increases. It is a chronic condition that causes central vision loss and affects more than 25 million people worldwide.

ARMD occurs when the macula—the central part of the retina that is important for reading and color vision—becomes damaged. In some individuals, tiny dot-like deposits, known as drusen, accumulate beneath the macula. While these deposits usually do not cause visual loss directly, they indicate that a person is at risk for developing further problems with the macula. Further degeneration can result in areas of tissue loss, called atrophy can develop which can lead to visual loss in the "dry" form of macular degeneration.

In approximately 10 percent of patients, abnormal leaky blood vessels may develop in the macula leading to the "wet" form of macular degeneration. Although this is thought to be the more severe form of ARMD, there are effective treatments that have been shown to help stabilize and in some patients improve their vision.

Some common symptoms of ARMD are gradual loss of ability to see objects clearly, distorted vision, a gradual loss of color vision and a dark areas appearing in the center of vision. If you notice any new distortion or visual changes, it is critical to contact your eye care provider immediately.

Clay Eye physician and retina specialist Russell Pecoraro, M.D. says, "Age Related Macular Degeneration is the leading cause of vision loss in our senior population. I am excited to see new and better treatment options being developed to help patients maintain and improve their vision."

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons have recognized the need for a facility specifically dedicated to diseases of the retina and have established the Northeast Florida Macular Degeneration and Diabetes Eye Institute. Comprehensive eye exams play an important role in your overall health and wellness and it is imperative that you schedule one every year for optimal vision health. In addition to measuring your vision, regular eye exams can help identify early signs of certain chronic health conditions, including high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and high cholesterol.

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons was established in 1977. They currently have offices in Orange Park, Fleming Island and Mandarin. Look for their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine*.

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Notes from the Pacetti Bay Media Center

By Contributing Writer Lynn Johnson, NBCT, Library Media Specialist, Pacetti Bay Middle School

I feel like I am back from a drought; I have four great books to recommend that I recently finished reading! Dystopian novels have definitely caught my eye this past month. Looking back to the first one I read, *1984*, I am surprised at how much I actually like reading this genre. This seems to be the popular genre of the moment. Della Thompson uses *The Giver* with her classes in the sixth grade. For our students this is their first introduction to dystopian literature and many of them become hooked. The first I picked up in January was *The Scorpio Races*. It both fascinated me and made me sick. I really don't handle violence of any kind well, but the stories these four books have keep you so engaged you simply cannot put the books down; you have to know what is happening next. *The Scorpio Races* introduced me to the mythology of water horses, a very intriguing story. Both of the main protagonists demonstrated strength of character in spite of the odds against them.

Next I picked up *Matched* and *Crossed*; the series is actually a trilogy. This novel is set in a society that plans everything—what you eat, what you wear, who you know, who your "match" will be. The book opens with the "match" ceremony. Usually they meet their "match" via the monitor due to the different neighborhoods not mixing. Cassia is matched and the story begins to take many unexpected twists and turns. Once you finish *Matched* you want to read *Crossed*. Usually I find the first book the best but in this case the second one definitely is better.

Rachel Checchia sent me an email early in January recommending *Divergent*. It was showing up in Good Reads (more on Good Reads next month!) over and over as a "five" which is really unheard of. I was a little reluctant but decided to order it certain that once word was out the students would want to read it. The comparison was being made to *Hunger Games*. The book came in and I took it home on a weeknight hoping to just get started and have it to read for the weekend. In my opinion this book outclasses *Hunger Games* by a long shot. The protagonists are 18 making it for the more mature reader; I think it is truly a young adult novel and adults will enjoy it as well. The setting is a unique society that is divided into five factions and at the age of 18 you choose the faction you want to be in, sometimes leaving behind family in the process. It is fast paced, with lots of action and once again unexpected twists and turns. I could not put it down and actually spent every moment outside of school reading and had it finished in two days. The sequel will be released in May!

To celebrate Florida's Literacy Week we had our first PBMS Book Swap during lunches one Friday. Students eagerly traded books for tickets the week before the swap. I found myself asking them, "Are you sure you want to trade this book for another book?" We had a great selection and have some left over to use in teachers' classrooms. Way to go Pacetti Bay!

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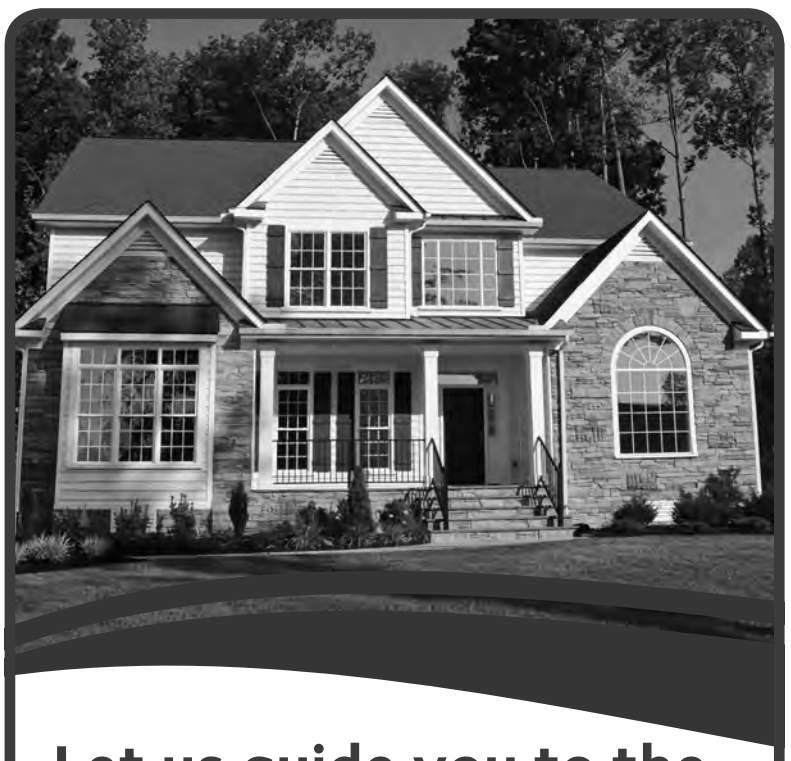
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CHS Happenings

The hunger days

By Rachel Buff, CHS Student

Rachel Buff of Creekside High School and Halley McClure of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Nearly one in four people, 1.5 billion people, live on less than $1 per day. As 2011 wound down and the college application process concluded, Halley McClure and I found ourselves devoted to a new project: hunger. For the entire month of January, we survived on a dollar a day.

Nourishment is a basic necessity of which billions of people are deprived each year. In the sheltered community of St. Johns County, this harsh statistic is hard to see and difficult to understand.

Simply by being born in the United States, we are wealthier than more than 75 percent of the world.

We have never felt real hunger or understood starvation.

The rules were simple: all food consumed per day had to be below one dollar, leftover money could not be carried over to the next day and "donated" food could only be accepted if it was available to everyone in the community (like free samples and fast food condiments).

For each dollar we spent on ourselves, we donated a dollar to Stop Hunger Now, an organization that helps alleviate the starvation felt by millions of people across the globe.

By eating on a dollar a day, we still ate better than 20 percent of the world.

With a plan to blog our daily totals each night, we set out to purchase the least expensive food we could find and calculated costs per-serving. Our main staples were peanut butter, bread, oatmeal, cereal, ramen, pasta, rice and beans – essentially an all-carb diet.

The first few weeks were slow. It was hard to get into the habit of counting everything we put in our mouths. Eventually we got the hang of it, and we would find ourselves saving up each day so we could afford a 25 cent chicken patty or a 16 cent egg.

It grew easier each week – counting cookies and crackers became second nature. But our cravings were still constant. Fresh produce, fruits, vegetables and dairy products are expensive – more expensive than we realized. Berries, carrots and yogurt were all off limits.

We developed an ever-present consciousness. All our thoughts revolved around food – how much more we could afford for the day, where we could get some for free. We could no longer eat for pleasure – all meals were a source of energy and fuel to get us through the day.

Truly surprising was how well we could eat on zero dollars a day. Free samples at Publix, Costco and Peterbrooke could satisfy us for multiple meals. With so many places and people giving away food, we eased our immediate hunger. However, we were only doing this simulation for 30 days. To rely on giveaways was fine for the short term but would be difficult as a permanent way of life.

In the end, we gained more than enough insight to replace the weight that we lost.

Some irrevocable lessons learned from this simulation:

• Every morsel counts, so produce as little food waste as possible.

• Protein is the most important staple, so make sure you incorporate at least 5 grams into every meal.

• White rice can go with just about anything.

• When you are taking more than your fair share of free samples, don't make eye contact with the cashier.

To learn more about our experiences, visit www.thehungerdays.wordpress.com or watch us on Creekside's Knightly News Network at www.chsknn.com.

Get involved at www.stophungernow.org.

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Rotary Club of Bartram Trail supports Toys for Tots

By Contributing Writer Carol Higley, Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

The holiday season brings joy to many people in a wide variety of ways—compassionately offering and graciously accepting service to name a few. Multiple enthusiastic families of The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail spent an afternoon in December shopping in preparation for service to the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The club purchased over $600 in toys, arts and crafts and more to brighten the season for needy families. Thanks to Mike Lawson at Roosevelt Target for supporting the Toys for Tots program with a contributing donation valued at $100.

Toys for Tots coordinators from the United States Marine Corps attended the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail's December 22 meeting to collect the donated toys for distribution to the less fortunate children of our community.

The Toys for Tots program is one of many service opportunities supported throughout the year by the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail as members live the Rotary mission "Service Above Self - One Profits Most Who Serves Best."

The club meets at 7:30 a.m. on Thursdays at Westminster Woods in Julington Creek. For more information, please contact club president, Frank Gwaltney, at fgwaltney@gatepetro.com.

The CreekLine
YOUR
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JCE students honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Contributed by Ingrid Griffin, Julington Creek Elementary

Martin Luther King Jr. Poster contest winners.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Julington Creek Elementary school once again participated by conducting a poster making contest for kindergarten through third grade students and an essay contest for students in grades four and five. These contests were designed to create awareness among our students, of the life and activities of Dr. King, Jr. and of his vision for justice, peace and equality for all.

Fourth and fifth graders were encouraged to write a 200 – 400 word essay on this year's topic, "Reaching your Goals. Focusing Beyond the Dream" and the essays were sent to the St. Johns Education Association for judging. Special recognition is due to Ms. Lyons', Mrs. Roettger's, Mrs. Marrinan's and Mrs. Trubey's fourth grade classes. Almost every student in their classrooms participated in the essay contest. Congratulations to all of the students who participated!

The kindergarten through third grade posters were judged at Julington Creek Elementary School with two posters selected to represent each grade. There were also a couple of honorable mentions for each grade level. Winning posters sent to the St. Johns County School Board offices were: kindergarten, Natalie Grimm in Mrs. West's class; first grade, Cassidy Beyer in Mrs. Buening's class; second grade, Leah Prendergast in Mrs. Black/Jarriel's class; and third grade, Maddie Allen in Mrs. Phillips' class. Winning posters kept for display at JCE were: kindergarten, Josh Matsushima in Mrs. Meadows' class; first grade, Larissa Pleiman in Mrs. Scott's class; second grade, Midori Matsushima in Mrs. Thomas' class; and third grade, Alexander Kamerzel in Mrs. Dawson's class.

Posters receiving honorable mentions: kindergarten, Harrison Manon and Brady Goodfriend in Mrs. Carson's class, Peyton O'Connor and Cohen Newsholme in Mrs. Bishop's class, Hayden Williams in Mrs. Woodard's class; first grade, Alan Skrypek in Mrs. Taylor's class, Evan Jourdan in Mrs. Scott's class; second grade, Katie Redway in Ms. Boldin's class, Raham Abrar and Isabella Dodak in Mrs. Schmutz's class, Clarissa Spackman in Mrs. Pierce's class; third grade, Adriana La Vopa in Mrs. Delony's class, Brianna Eng in Mrs. Dillard's class, Hannah Garrido and Sofia Sanchez in Ms. Barton's class.

We want to thank our parents for all of the support and encouragement they have given in completing the project. We hope this has been a fun and positive experience for each of your families.

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Pacetti Bay PTSO Happenings

By Contributing Writer Sharon Davis

Top cookie dough/mixed bag fundraiser, Andrew Farraye, with his prize.

Another successful PBMS PTSO Cookie Dough/Mixed Bag fundraiser has come to an end. The Pacetti Bay PTSO would like to congratulate sixth grader Andrew Farraye, who was the overall top seller for the school. The top sellers were rewarded with the opportunity to duct tape teacher Shawn Ryan to a wall. It was an exciting event and was broadcast over the school TV system for all to enjoy. The PTSO appreciates all the students' efforts that made the fundraiser such a huge success!

PTSO fundraising has proceeded at a steady rate this school year, so well in fact that at the December board meeting, the PTSO was able to approve funds for an enhanced school security system. This is an item that has been on the school's wish list and the PTSO was very happy to be able to provide the funds for this system.

A new fundraiser to PBMS will begin within the month: the Enjoy the City book. This $20 book contains coupons for St. Augustine and Jacksonville area businesses that can provide you with significant savings. Students will be taking orders for later delivery and the books will also be for sale at PTSO events.

The Evening of the Arts will be held on March 27. This event is an opportunity for the community to hear choral and instrumental music and view artwork created by area students. Refreshments and spirit wear will be available. The book fair will also be open that evening. It will be a special night, so please join us!

If you didn't get a chance to join the PTSO, it's not too late. Membership applications are accepted at any time. Membership is $15 per family and includes a copy of the school directory. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the PBMS Media Center. All are welcome. More information can be found at www-pbm.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ptso/.

Students are excited this year about being allowed to carry their books and school supplies in cinch bags between classes. PTSO is helping the kids to stay organized by offering for sale both green and blue cinch bags, so kids can pack items needed for green day and blue day separately. Bags are $7 and can be purchased by completing the spirit wear form available at www-pbm.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ and sending it to school with the student.

Language Arts teacher Shawn Ryan duct taped to a wall as a reward to the top sellers.

The PTSO is grateful for the support of the community as we work to raise funds to support programs at PBMS. If you own a business and are interested in partnering with the PTSO or are an individual with fundraising ideas, please contact Debbie Adams dadams2@att.net.

Local dentist offers solution for sleep apnea

If you are among those that suffer from sleep apnea, you know how debilitating the disorder can be. Sleepless nights lead to groggy days and you never really feel well. You certainly never feel full of energy.

Described as extreme snoring, broken only by spells of gasping for breath, sleep apnea is as much of a problem for one's bed partner as it is for the sufferer—no one is getting a good night's sleep! Not only does all the starting and stopping of the breathing ruin your sleep, it's hard on your heart as well. It can cause high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease. On the lower end of the spectrum, sleep apnea is responsible for extreme fatigue, depression, headaches and irritability.

For mild to moderate sleep apnea, oral appliance therapy can be recommended. It is very effective and easy to manage.

Oral appliance therapy means you put in a mouthpiece before going to sleep at night. This mouthpiece holds your jaw in an appropriate position for keeping your airway open. Oral appliances are comfortable, convenient and effective for many patients.

Dr. Alan Krantz of Krantz Dental Care is one of the few trained dentists in the area to fit his patients for this type of oral appliance.

"My patients call me after, write me thank you notes, send me flowers and show such appreciation for my helping them," says Dr. Krantz. "I'm just so happy this type of treatment has become available and now widely accepted by the insurance companies. It was an easy decision to go and get certified so that I could provide this to my patients. I see what a difference it makes in their lives."

Look for the Krantz Dental Care ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

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Sabine Mosal of Saint Johns, Florida, has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's First Year of Studies for outstanding scholarship during the Fall 2011 semester. Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Happy Valentine's Day!
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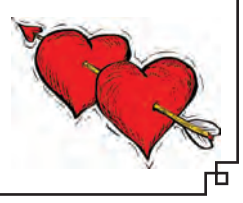

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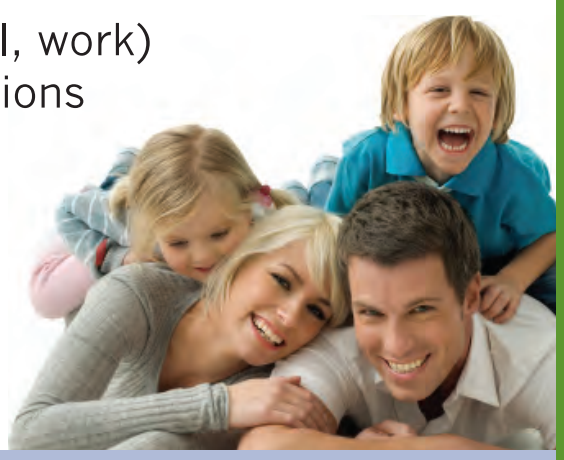

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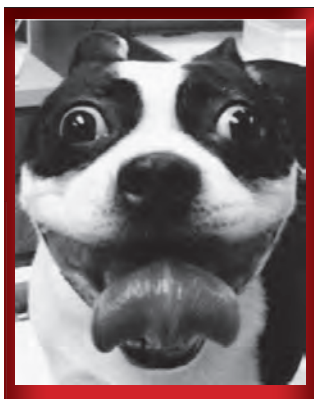

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Encore!

A new way to experience the world's best in performing arts!

By Betty Swenson Bergmark, Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville University

Movie theatres are not just for the movies any more. Live, one night entertainment events are lighting up the silver screens across the country. A part of NCM Media Network, NCM Fathom is marketing a communications and entertainment network that spans more than 1450 cinemas nationwide.

During the latter part of 2011, I accidentally came across one of their brief listings for a film presentation by the Royal Shakespeare Company of the "Merry Wives of Windsor," performed at the restored Globe Theatre in London. It was hard to believe that it was to be shown at one of the major cinema chains and was therefore easily accessible. I was not disappointed! In fact, the acting and production were outstanding and one almost forgot that one was watching it on a cinema screen. I started to keep my eyes open for announcements of other productions, but strangely promotion appears limited. There is a website (www.fathomevents.com), but I found it a little difficult to navigate. I did however manage to see a live performance of opera from La Scala in Milan and the ballet "Giselle" performed by Bolshoi Ballet at the famed Maryinsky Theatre. The latter was filmed live in 3D, which generated some concerns on my part, but it was handled with restraint and taste. How wonderful to see such outstanding performances!

So what is coming up in 2012?

If you are not able to travel to Europe, you can still attend a live opera performance coming to you from La Scala or the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Similar to the Met's opera series, the European companies are broadcasting live movie performances on the big cinema screen. If you prefer ballet, the Bolshoi, the Paris Opera Ballet and England's Royal Ballet all have performances coming to a movie theatre near you. These include "Le Corsaire" performed by the Bolshoi Ballet on March 11 and "Romeo and Juliet" danced by the Royal Ballet on March 22.

Yet another organization involved in these live movie presentations is Britain's National Theatre. Coming up are productions of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" on March 1, and Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" on March 29.

Presentations by the Metropolitan Opera include "The Enchanted Island" on February 8.

These are just a sampling of events scheduled in the next few weeks. And just think—you won't need opera glasses! Every seat in the movies is better than Orchestra seats in the theatre!

For additional information, you can call 1-877-59-FATHOM or visit www.fathomevents.com.

Children's Art Activity

St Johns Reads Event!
Wed, Feb. 29 • 3 pm
Bartram Trail Branch Library

Children in grades 3-5 are invited to learn about the influence of Japanese art and Japanese-inspired watercolor!

Teacher of the Year finalists chosen

Four finalists for the 2011-2012 St. Johns County Teacher of the Year have been chosen from 34 nominees representing each school in the St. Johns County School District. They are Tiffany Cantwell of Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley/Rawlings Elementary School (PVPV/RES), Emily Senko of Pacetti Bay Middle School (PBMS), Gwen Westfall of Pedro Menendez High School (PMHS) and Jeffrey Nethery of Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS). The winner, in conjunction with the Rookie Teacher of the Year, will be announced on Thursday, February 9 at the Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year Celebration at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village.

Emily Senko has been the Spanish teacher at PBMS in NW St. Johns County since 2009 for grades six through eight. She possesses eight years of teaching experience with three in St. Johns County. Having completed the International Baccalaureate training, Senko facilitates the integration of this philosophy by leading meetings and training sessions throughout her school. She also serves as a Professional Learning Community Leader, organizing professional growth and vision for others. Her emphasis on real-world application by integrating history and culture into language lessons helps her students to increase their linguistic fluency.

Congratulations to the following teachers of the year representing NW St. Johns County schools:

- Cunningham Creek Elementary: Sherry Galbraith
- Durbin Creek Elementary: Brooke Paget
- Hickory Creek Elementary: Alison Moody
- Julington Creek Elementary: Rosina O'Mahoney
- Mill Creek Elementary: Heather Clark
- Timberlin Creek Elementary: Laurie Lear
- Wards Creek Elementary: Janine Beaulieu
- Liberty Pines Academy: Nicole Briell
- Bartram Trail High: LeAnna Rizzo-Hayward
- Creekside High: Travis Brown
- Fruit Cove Middle: Cheryl Heymann
- Allen D. Nease High: Nancy Williams
- Pacetti Bay Middle: Emily Senko
- Switzerland Point Middle: Deborah Robbins

The annual Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year Celebration is sponsored by the SJCEF to recognize excellence in the teaching profession.

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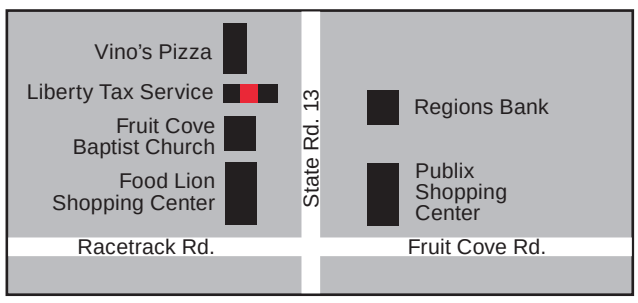

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FCMS Happenings

By Contributing Writer Sarah Jacobs, FCMS Student

It's a very busy and exciting time for eighth graders at Fruit Cove Middle School! Students are beginning to choose which high school they want to attend. There are so many interesting choices to explore. In our area, there are seven high schools that are available with many different academies to apply to for any interest.

Many things are being done so that the eighth graders will have a smooth transition to high school. The "Middle School Blitz" began at Fruit Cove on January 9. Each day, the eighth graders watched a video clip highlighting a different high school and their academies. This has helped inform the students of the many options.

Also, many events have been going on to educate students and parents. On January 26, students visited World Golf Village Convention Center for the High School Showcase. On January 27, visitors from Creekside High School came to speak to students about clubs, courses and what high school is like. Starting January 30 through February 9, the seven high schools were open in the evening for any interested students and their parents.

The eighth graders are really getting excited for the end of the year, mostly because they will be going to dances, the eighth grade cookout or "social hour" during school, the end of the year field trip to Islands of Adventures theme park and of course, graduation from middle school. The eighth graders recently returned from their trip to Washington D.C., too!

Even though they're busy having fun, they must remember to fill out applications for an academy if they wish to attend one. We wish all of the Flyers good luck during their last months at Fruit Cove Middle School!

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Exchange student's mom survives!

By Donna Keathley

Carter on a Stick enjoys some Mexican food with friend Rhonda Ramos.

Last August *The CreekLine* ran a story about three NW St. Johns County girls who were going on international exchange ventures for the year. One was Carter Grant from Nease High School. Grant left in the fall for a 10-month journey to Lima, Peru. The void she left at home had to be filled said her mom, Adrienne Lord. So "Carter on a Stick" was born!

An almost life-sized photo of Carter Grant's face has been mounted onto a stick and named Carter on a Stick or "COAS" (pronounced co-as) as her closest friends know her. COAS has traveled extensively and her adventures are photographed then followed by family and friends on her website and Facebook pages.

"The charade has been a catharsis for me, particularly helping me get through the holidays this year," says Lord. The "real" Carter has been a really good sport about it; sometimes she is jokingly jealous of what the comedian is doing.

"It's been lots of fun and I have gotten along pretty well," adds Lord. "And we are at the half way point this month!"

Grant has missed some really big things happening in our family this year, her mom explains.

"My brother and his wife had a baby and a cousin got married, so, COAS was there! We took her on our family vacations and her brother took her with him on a mission trip last summer," Lord offers. "Seeing the reaction of other people when we take these photos is a real hoot!"

COAS has dozens of followers in South America now, as her new friends are hitting the website to see what's going on with Grant's family in the states. The entire family is traveling to Peru visit the "real" Carter in April; the question is, will the real Carter see "COAS" on the visit?

"That hasn't been determined yet," says her mom!

Anyone who would like to follow Carter on a Stick's adventures are welcome too. Just check out her Facebook page, Carter on a Stick.

Congratulations!

Chief Master Sergeant, Iben Phillips, AFJROTC instructor at Bartram Trail High School was selected as the **2012 local level and state level VFW Outstanding Teacher of the Year** Award recipient! He will travel to the International Palms Hotel in Orlando on February 11 for the annual state recognition banquet. Congratulations to Chief Phillips for receiving this outstanding recognition!

Music School receives grants

Northeast Florida Conservatory recently received grants totaling $40,000, including $20,000 from an anonymous donor and $20,000 from Spanx Inc. founder Sara Blakely. Blakely has donated the funds in memory of Laura Pooley, the daughter of Conservatory founder Richard Dickson and his wife, Janet. Blakely recently appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Forbes* magazines and has appeared on Oprah's show among others. Everyone talks about Spanx!

The Conservatory has a planned project called Laura's Friends, whose purpose is to provide opportunities to children/schools/organizations where music is absent or limited and children are deprived or disenfranchised and have no access to music education and performance.

The Northeast Florida Conservatory is now beginning its second year as a non-profit community school of the arts and member of National Guild for Community Arts Education and New Horizons Music International Association. The distinguished faculty consists of Jacksonville Symphony players and college music instructors.

Congratulations Lightning Bolts

On January 21, the Lightning Bolts, from the Academy Program at Creeks Athletic Association Soccer Club, won the U8 girls division of the Challenge Sports second annual Florida Rush 3V3 soccer tournament in Winter Garden. Congratulations to Logan Brown, Kamryn Towers, Paige McSwigan, Caroline Rice and Coach Bob McSwigan.

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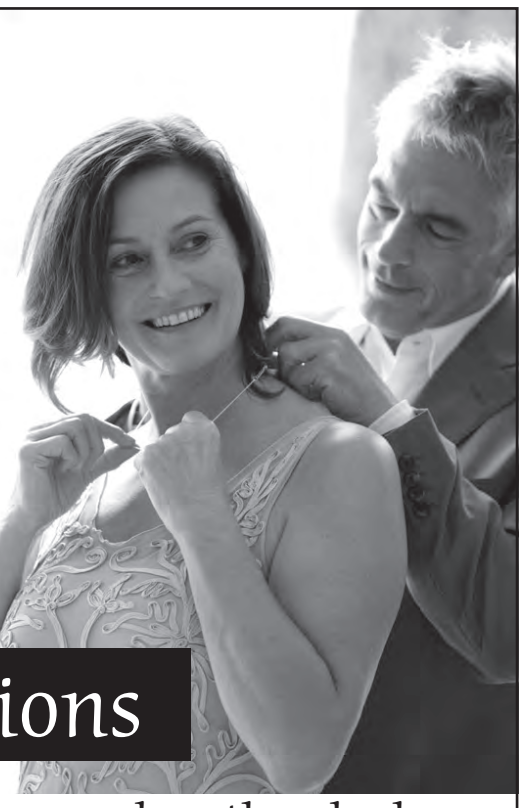

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"2013 Day without Violence" art and poetry project

It's time to enter the Betty Griffin House 2013 "Day Without Violence" Calendar Art and Poetry Project before the April 13, 2012 deadline! Thirteen art winners and twelve poets will receive cash prizes and will have their art or poem published in the "2013 A Day Without Violence" calendar, which is distributed free to every classroom in the county, pending funding.

The project is open to all St. Johns County students ages six through 18, whether they attend public school, private school or are home schooled. Entry forms have been delivered via email to participating schools. If you did not receive one please email education@bettygriffinhouse.org.

Winners will be honored at an award ceremony in October 2012. Winning art and poetry will be displayed at the ceremony. The top 100 pieces of art will also be selected and exhibited at the Ponce de Leon Mall during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Winners will receive a color, framed copy of their art to keep. Students submitting poems should keep a copy for themselves.

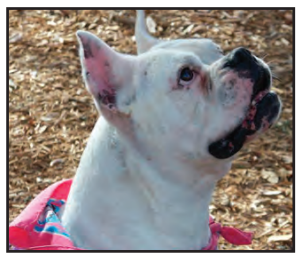
All entries should be dropped off at one of the following collection sites:

Either Betty Griffin House Thrift Shoppe locations:

- 445 State Road 13 North, St. Johns, in the Plantation Plaza, half a mile south of Race Track Road
- 1961 Highway A1A South, St. Augustine.
- Any of the six county libraries will collect entries. Look for the decorated entry box.

For entry forms and contest rules, please contact your child's school or call Kim Brumfield, community awareness coordinator at Betty Griffin House 808-9984 or email education@bettygriffinhouse.org.

We Need a Home!



My name is Julius; I am a 3 year old Boxer. I am current on all my vaccines but still need to be neutered. I walk well on a leash, I love to play tug of war, but I also think I'm a lap dog!

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All adoptions are $60, which includes neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. **The Pet Center** is located at 130 N. Stratton Road, just off US-1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. The hours are 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday and 9:00-12:30 on the last Saturday of each month.

209-6190

Newcomers to meet in Ponte Vedra

By Contributing Writer Marcia Smith, Newcomers of North St. Johns

Kathy Hillyard and Lydia Wagner escorted Captain William Mayhem, a pirate magician, to his presentation for Newcomers of North St. Johns at a recent meeting.

The Newcomers of North St. Johns will be meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 11:00 a.m. at Ruth's Chris Steak House, located at 814 A1A North, Suite 103, in Ponte Vedra Beach. Diners may choose a petite beef filet or a fresh salmon filet topped with Thai-chili butter and roasted grape tomatoes. All served with a house salad, bread and butter, a sizzling 500 plate with mashed potatoes and creamed spinach, followed by bread pudding served with whiskey sauce. Soft drinks or tea included and a cash bar is available. Door prizes and raffles are also offered.

Membership is now half price for the rest of our year.

For our entertainment, the Sons of Beaches Barbershop Harmony Group, from Ponte Vedra Beach will perform. The group consists of eight to 10 men who have been singing a cappella together for 10 years. You'll enjoy their music from the '40s, '50s and '60s.

The cost is $25 for lunch, tax, tip and entertainment.

Please RSVP by March 12 and note that there are no refunds. Please mail check to NNSJ, 824 Ifield Road, St. Augustine, FL 32095. Indicate your entree choice on the bottom of your check. For luncheon questions, please email Laraine at lol2918@aol.com.

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Movie Review

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Directed by: Brad Bird. Starring: Eddie Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton and Michael Nyquist

Good Movie, Glad to Have Seen It (4 out of 5)

This month's movie review belongs to the film *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*, an action-thriller film for adults and teens

From the Russian Kremlin to the Middle East, the Mission Impossible team is in trouble and Ethan Hunt, portrayed by Tom Cruise in this fourth MI film in the series, is back. A terrorist known as Kurt Hendricks, played by Michael Nyquist, has obtained Russian nuclear launch codes and is planning an attack on America. The MI team traces him there and the situation quickly unravels. The Kremlin explodes and Ethan and his team are implicated. The president now has to shut down Mission Impossible and deny any knowledge of their actions; he has invoked the Ghost Protocol.

Ethan meets with the MI director and his assistant, William Brandt, represented by Jeremy Renner, where trouble and danger follow them resulting in the death of the director. Hunt hooks up with past team members loyal to him, Jane Carter and Benji Dunn, performed by Paula Patton and Simon Pegg. In Dubai, they locate Hendricks and again try to stop his plans of destruction. These two act as support and highly technical computer assistance, which proves to be a much-needed element to prevent tragedy while Ethan directs the undercover ploys and the hunt for Hendricks to save America.

Mission Impossible is back, even though the team has been disavowed and has no backup or support and the world keeps blowing up around them. The action in this film is phenomenal and meets the expectations that many viewers will have. The plot moves fast and though occasionally predictable, there are twists and turns not only in the relationships of the team, but in the hunt for a terrorist and saving the world. Drama and action are provided throughout under the direction of Brad Bird, including ties to Ethan's past. This movie was well done and enjoyable from start to finish.

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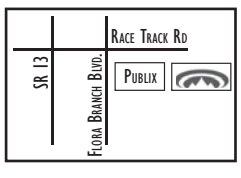

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FCMS Jazz Ensemble honored to perform at educators' convention

By Contributing Writer Vicki Barfoot, FCMS

The Fruit Cove Middle School Jazz Ensemble traveled to Tampa on January 12-13 to participate in the Florida Music Educators Convention. This is significant because only 13 bands were selected to perform and of those 13, only three jazz bands were invited.

This is an annual convention attended by elementary through college level music educators from all over the state.

The FCMS Jazz Ensemble is a select group of 30 young musicians who perform at various locations around northeast Florida. They are directed by Don Isabelle who has been teaching band in St. Johns County for over 20 years. To be invited to perform at this event is an honor, as it allows the bands to showcase their hard work to their musical peers.

The students were able to attend other concerts and visit the various exhibits. The types of concerts varied from an all steel-drum band to the High School All-State Jazz Band. Participation in this event broadens the students' exposure to many types and styles of music. The students were also able to meet with representatives for many colleges who were there to discuss musical opportunities.

The overall assessment of the FCMS Jazz Ensemble's performance was—Superb!

The comments received from those in attendance were glowing. Most could not believe that the band was composed of middle school students since they play more maturely than the typical 13 year old.

The band will continue preparation for their Musical Performance Assessment in February. Expectations are high since they did so well in Tampa.

Jazz Ensemble members are Sydney Amici, Connor Anderson, Hayden Blom, Monica Calyton, Maria Fanelli, Gus Fischer, Justin Fiske, Shannon Glinka, Katelyn Gray, Kelsey Heburn, Michael Hurley, Brooke Jackson, Kyla Jacob, William Johnson, Lee Joyner, Dustin Knight, Madeline Lee, Kaitlyn McDermott, Andrew Mendez, Alec Mosier, Camden Padgett, Matthew Pena, Grant Polk, Mckenzie Reagan, Erin Rupp, Dalton Rust, Nathanial Smith, Austin Solomon, Kimberly Traub and Casey White.

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All Academy Ball cont. from pg. 1

Queeney attending the United States Air Force Academy.

The non-profit All Service Academy Ball has raised donations for Jacksonville-based Wounded Warrior Project that "honors and empowers wounded warriors," as well the USO and Fisher Houses, which serve the families of patients needing medical care at major military and VA medical centers.

The annual event is one of dozens held across the country during winter break from intensive training and recognizes young men and women preparing to serve as officers from the greater-Jacksonville area.

New St. Johns Riverkeeper announced

The St. Johns Riverkeeper organization is pleased to welcome aboard Lisa Rowe Rinaman, former City of Jacksonville Policy Director, as the next St. Johns Riverkeeper, the chief advocate and public voice for the St. Johns River. Rinaman will assume the role in February from Neil Armingeon who previously announced his intent to retire at the end of January.

"The St. Johns River plays a critical role in our region's quality of life and our economy. To ensure that this great natural resource is protected for generations to come, we must build on St. Johns Riverkeeper's past accomplishments and continue our campaign for a clean and healthy river," said Rinaman. "For years, my passion has been working to identify opportunities to advance legislative and policy initiatives that protect the environment and our waterways. I am honored to once again have the chance to combine my advocation with my vocation for the betterment of the St. Johns River."

As a former senior-staff member for Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton, Rinaman has extensive experience building consensus around issues and was instrumental in implementing numerous initiatives and policies that directly improved the environment. Locally, her efforts included leading the creation and implementation of irrigation, fertilizer and Florida Friendly landscaping ordinances to better protect the St. Johns and local waterways. She also played instrumental roles in helping secure state funding for water quality improvements, organizing the city's highly successful Manatee Protection Plan, and pushing for programs to fulfill the city's commitment in the River Accord.

For the past two years, Rinaman has also served as a member of the St. Johns Riverkeeper Water Policy Group (WPG), a group that advocates for water conservation and reuse and policies that are more protective of our water resources. She has provided critical expertise, helping the WPG to formulate its priorities and develop and implement effective strategies.

"For years, Lisa has served as a tremendous advocate for the river in Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Under Lisa's leadership, our community can be confident that their voices will be heard and the interests of the river will be well-served when these issues are on the table," said Armingeon.

"We are fortunate that someone with Lisa's relationships, talents, integrity and commitment will be representing our organization and our mission to publicly address and resolve the issues that are impacting the health of our river," said Jimmy Orth, Executive Director. "She's tough-minded yet tactful, passionate yet pragmatic, and has outstanding communication skills, experience, and a successful track record of getting things done."

The St. Johns Riverkeeper organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works on behalf of the community for clean and healthy waters in the St. Johns River, its tributaries and its wetlands, through citizen-based advocacy. More information is available at the organization's web site, www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

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Memorial Hospital first to earn key Sepsis program certification

Out of more than 5,800 hospitals in the United States, Memorial Hospital is the first to receive the Joint Commission's Disease Specific Certification for Sepsis. Just as the Joint Commission certifies Primary Stroke Centers and other programs, they are now certifying Sepsis programs. Memorial is the first hospital in the country to earn this important designation. In fact, it was based on Memorial's program that the Joint Commission created the Disease Specific Certification for Sepsis. This means Memorial Hospital is taking the lead in preventing and treating a medical condition that kills more people each year than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

"We believe we will become a model for hospitals around the country," said James B. Wood, Memorial Hospital president and CEO. "Sepsis is a serious threat to patients everywhere and we are using every resource at our disposal to prevent it."

Sepsis occurs when a serious infection begins to spread throughout the body. Early detection is vital since approximately 40 percent of patients that are determined to have severe Sepsis do not survive. In creating a new certification for Sepsis, the Joint Commission noted that implementation of protocols in use by Memorial Hospital would greatly improve the care of patients throughout the United States who have Sepsis.

"Being at the forefront in recognizing and treating Sepsis demonstrates our dedication to patient safety," Wood said. "Led by our Sepsis coordinator, this certification required teamwork from everyone in the hospital. Our program, emphasizing early detection through sepsis screening, quick treatment and continuous monitoring, will become a model for hospitals everywhere."

Memorial Hospital spent more than a year developing this first-in-the-nation Sepsis Program in coordination with Edwards Lifesciences' Professional Services of Measurable Outcomes program. With a goal of improving quality and outcomes, while reducing costs, Edwards helped Memorial Hospital learn the process behind the science and also provided guidance to build the infrastructure that would lead to measurable and sustainable success.

In the last few months, Memorial Hospital has received several important distinctions. Memorial was the only Hospital in Jacksonville to be named a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission.

BTHS Happenings

Books For Bears

By Devyn Fussman, BTHS Student

Shortly after starting a new semester, Bartram Trail High School hit the books by celebrating its third annual literacy week. Several fun activities designed to get kids to read were put together by Suzy Smith, Belinda Smith, LeAnna Hayward, Renee Reyes, Allison Edwards and Angela Autrey throughout the week. The goal was to show students that picking up a book doesn't have to be boring; in fact it can be a lot of fun.

To kick things off, students were given special reading maps—only instead of places, they were labeled with items that could be read. And it wasn't limited to just books; also listed on there were Facebook, Twitter, blogs, text messages, emails, grocery lists—anything with written words. Students were asked to highlight everything they had read and take it to the media center for a special prize.

Next the teachers and faculty members took the time to read excerpts from books aloud to groups in the "The Literacy Lounge" (aka the Bear's Den café). Among them were Marion Wood, Allison Edwards, Rachel Kusher, Angela Autrey, Megan Young, Kelly Pinto, Chief Phillips, Dawn Sapp, Chris Phelps, William Blythe and Suzy Smith, the school librarian.

"We're trying to show kids that reading is important, but it's also pleasurable and enjoyable," said Smith.

And she wasn't the only one participating; plenty of other teachers and students got involved too. The art classes painted posters of book and the creative photography classes created "iPod inspired" photos that showed silhouettes of kids (similar to those on iTunes gift cards) reading books, with the word "iRead" tacked onto the photo. In addition to that, her advanced classes created photos where the subject's face was made up entirely of text in order to promote reading. The best ones are proudly displayed in the media center and in the Literacy Lounge in the hopes that they will show kids that reading is cool.

Perhaps the most exciting part of Literacy Week was not the books or the teachers reading the books, but the appearance of several guest authors who produced them as well as a few people from the county as well. These included Chris Berman, Marina Sergeyeva, Andrew Nance, Adrienne Paone, Beverly Slough, Dr. Joseph Joyner and many others who were passionate about reading. Classes of students from all grades gathered in the library and the café to listen as they read excerpts of books on everything under the sun, from piracy and time travel to dramatic struggles. And in between, they got some good advice on the importance of reading.

"In college, if you don't read outside of the lecture, you won't make good grades," said Sergeyeva, author of several poems and a book called Upstairs. "You have to read more than what the professor gives you to pass those tests...It's not like high school."

Literacy Week was culminated with a "Million Minute Marathon" where 20 minutes during fourth period was reserved for school-wide silent reading. To learn more about Literacy Week, please visit www.justreadflorida.com/literacyweek.

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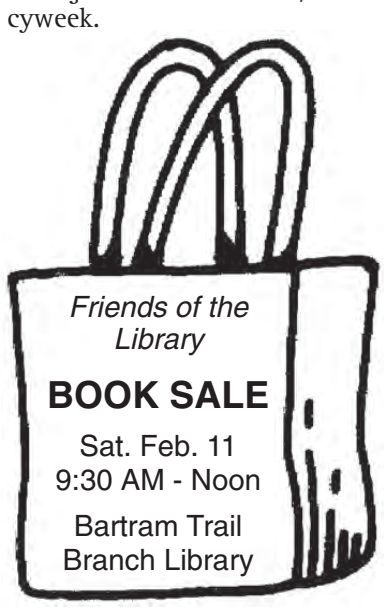


Winter at Wards Creek Elementary

By Contributing Writer Beth McCann, Wards Creek PTO

It is hard to believe the school year is half over! The Wards Creek PTO has had a busy first semester and we are gearing up for the rest of the year. We would like to thank all of those who participated in the Angel Tree. We had a wonderful response from the community and were able to make the holidays special for quite a few families in our own community.

We also want to thank the McDonald's at Murabella for participating in restaurant night on January 24. We had a great turn out and appreciate everyone who enjoyed a great dinner while supporting our school at the same time.

The Wards Creek PTO would like to announce our first annual Golf Classic scheduled for March 23 at St Johns Golf and Country Club. We are very excited about the event and encourage everyone to come out and join us for a great day on the links. We are looking for players, sponsors and donations. We will have many prizes such as hole in one contest, longest drive contest as well as raffle drawings, silent auctions and much more. Don't play golf? Come support the PTO for lunch and participate in the raffles and auction. The cost is only $100 per player and includes golf, cart, range balls, continental breakfast, complimentary on course snacks and beverages, goody bag, post golf lunch and cash bar. The cost for lunch only is $25.

If you are interested in playing, volunteering and/or donating, please go to the PTO website for a downloadable registration form or talk to any PTO board member. We hope to see you there!

A big welcome goes out to our new principal, Mrs. Edie Jarrell—we look forward to a great future together!

Community Education offers new opportunities

By Contributing Writer Tommy Bledsoe, Community Education Coordinator

The days are cooler and shorter now and the holidays are over. It's a good time to learn something new, brush up on your workplace skills or start that project you have always wanted to do. St. Johns County School District Community Education courses provide opportunities to do all of these things in an informal, intimate, low pressure classroom setting. Community Education teachers bring broad, practical experience in their vocational fields and in many cases, as educators, as well.

The spring session, which begins in February, features classes in Basic MS Office, MS Excel, painting and drawing, Hatha yoga, meditation, pottery, photography, acting for adults, ballroom dancing, sewing, American Sign Language, STEM for All Ages, beginning and intermediate Spanish language, guitar and bluegrass string band. Most classes are appropriate for all ages, including young learners.

Classes are being hosted at Mill Creek and R. B. Hunt Elementary, Gamble Rogers Middle, St. Johns Technical and Creekside High schools and the Fullerwood Learning Center. The school district offers the classes as part of their commitment to lifelong learning in the community, with proceeds going to support extracurricular programs at the host schools.

Classes will begin the first week of February and are in session for six to nine weeks. Classes meet once a week for one or two hours. Prices range from $8 to $10 per class hour. Visit the Community Education website at www.sjccommunityed.com for full class descriptions, prices and registration or call 547-7565 or 547-7503 for information.

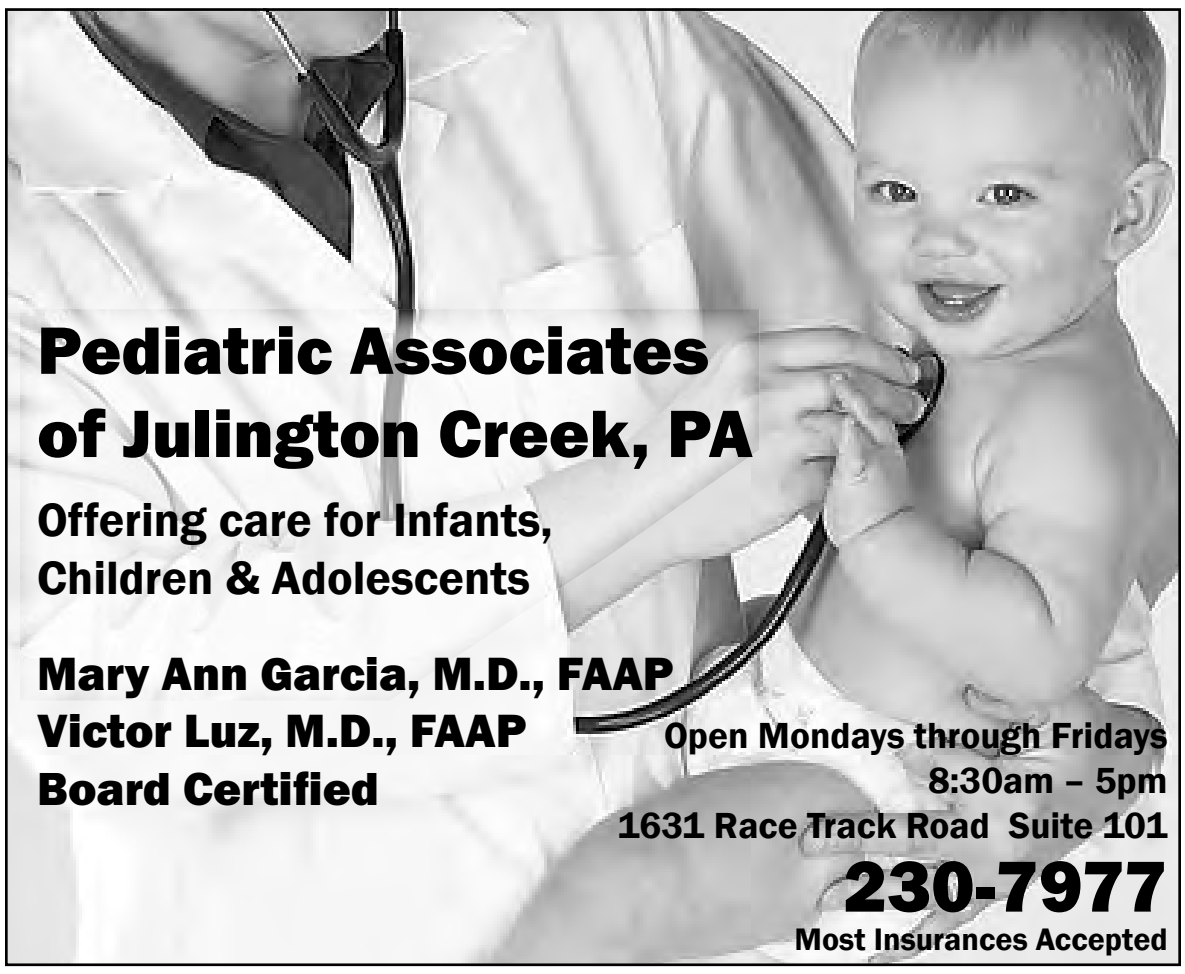
Native Plant Society to meet on February 21

"Ecological Systems of SJC - Estuaries" is the program for the meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society. The local Sea Oats chapter meets at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21 at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall, located at 2200 A1A South.

Sea Oats plans to host a series of programs on the ecosystems of St. Johns County. In order to know what plants grow best in our individual communities or how they grow, we have to understand the particular ecosystem we are in. St. Johns County has several ecosystems.

Emily Montgomery, Coastal Training Program Coordinator at GTMNERR, will speak on the estuaries ecosystem. She will be bringing some of the animals from the GTMNERR including a terrapin turtle.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.fnps.org or call 687-9450.



Happy Valentine's Day!

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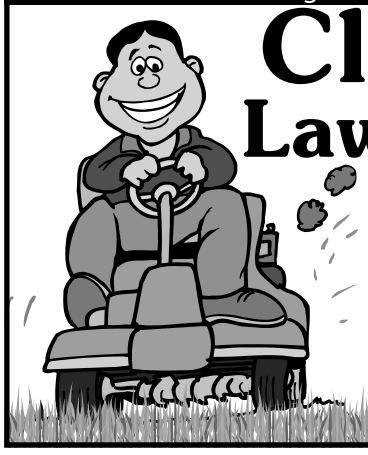

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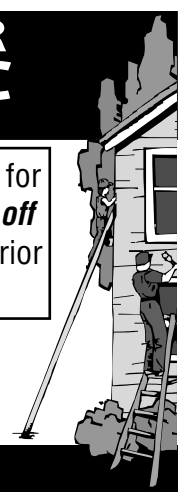

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New principal to lead Wards Creek

Edith (Edie) Jarrell, assistant principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary, has been selected by Superintendent Joseph Joyner to be the principal of Wards Creek Elementary. Her nomination will be presented to the St. Johns County School Board at their February 14 meeting. She will replace Don Campbell, who was named the new principal of Elementary "L" last month. Her appointment will be effective January 17.

"After carefully reviewing the input from staff and the community, it was very clear to me that Mrs. Jarrell was the perfect match to continue the excellence at Wards Creek," said Superintendent Joseph Joyner. "She is an experienced administrator with a passion for education and a love for children. She will be an outstanding principal."

Jarrell has four years of experience in St. Johns County, serving as the assistant principal of Cunningham Creek Elementary. Previously, she has served as a teacher of all elementary grade levels as well as a media specialist and assistant principal in Duval County. She is certified in exceptional education, information studies and library science, educational leadership, and school principalship.

"It is such an honor and privilege to join the Wards Creek family," said Jarrell. "I am so delighted to serve as the principal of this outstanding school. I look forward to getting to know the students and their families as well as the faculty, staff, and community members. Together, we will continue to provide an excellent educational experience for the children of the Wards Creek community."

The CreekLine
Everybody Gets It.
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editor@thecreekline.com

Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou

Helping Hands will be meeting on Friday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center, located on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. The Rippers will meet at 10:00 a.m. before the meeting. The group will be holding a garage sale the next day on February 25 at Faith Community Church to benefit a 14 year old St. Augustine boy who is awaiting a liver transplant. The garage sale will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and all proceeds will be given to help this young boy and his family. A few years ago, Helping Hands made over a room for him and have remained in contact wit the family. They will also be selling glass lampwork bracelets at this event. All donations and donations of merchandise are tax deductible and a foundation has been set up through COTA. If you have anything you want to donate contact cottage33@aol.com. or jacqphil@aol.com.

On January 29, Helping Hands coordinated a Bingo party for the organ transplant community at Gabriel House of Care/Mayo. Members called Bingo and provided refreshments and door prizes. With the need of donor organs being so great, please consider giving the Gift of Life through organ donation.

Helping Hands is a non-denominational group that meets the last Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center. There are no dues, officers or stress. The group relies solely on donations of goods and services from the community. Anyone is welcome to join. Please contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

Selling your home in today's market

By Contributing Writer Denise Bash, Realtor®, Prudential Network Realty

When selling your home, location, price and condition are the ABCs of real estate lingo. We are fortunate that our neighborhoods are in a great location. The Florida Department of Education ranked St. Johns County schools number one in the state. This makes our "location" very desirable for buyers. Having good schools not only will help educate our children, it also helps to maintain the value of our homes.

In addition to location buyers are very savvy and will look at homes that are priced right. When you decide to put your house on the market it is very important that you have a professional Realtor® prepare a CMA (Comparable Market Analysis). This will help you determine how to price your home. There are many considerations when setting your price such as the amenities other homes have to offer (i.e. riverfront lot, golf course lot, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, wood floors and so forth).

Your Realtor® will help you navigate through the comparison process and give you a "snap shot" of market prices based on your very unique home and circumstances.

The "condition" is something that home owners have more control of. It is a very competitive market out there and buyers are looking for homes that are move-in ready; unless of course they are looking to buy a "fixer-upper." The way you present your home to potential buyers is extremely important if you want to get top dollar for you home.

It starts at the curb and continues through out your home. It is essential that you take care of any and all maintenance issues that are needed. Buyers are turned off by an unkempt lawn, moldy caulk around tubs, bad odors, dark rooms and clutter just to name a few. Making your home clean, well kept and neutral will help you sell more quickly and for a higher dollar amount.

The northern St Johns County market is improving. Inventory of homes is down, sales are up and mortgage rates continue at record lows. I believe that the North Florida's market recovery is well under way and that our communities are among the best that Florida has to offer.

Market Update:

All numbers based on an average of sold listing during the past 30 days: December 26, 2011 – January 26, 2012. Areas include: Julington Creek, Orangedale, Palmo/Six Mile, 210 South, World Golf Village, Whitecastle and Palencia.

Number of Homes Sold: 82
List Price: $277,734
Sold Price: $269,010
List Price per Square Foot: $105.92
Sold Price per Square Foot: $102.84
Square Footage: 2554
Days on Market: 92

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School pre-registration dates announced

The St. Johns County School District will hold pre-registration for children entering kindergarten and students new to St. Johns County and/or public schools from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 22, Tuesday, March 20 and Thursday, April 12.

To be eligible for public kindergarten in St. Johns County, children must be five years old on or before September 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. To register for first grade, children must be six years old on or before September 1 and have documentation of successful completion of kindergarten.

Parents must register children at the school where they are zoned for the 2012-2013 school year. Two proofs of residency must be provided such as a current mortgage statement, lease or rent agreement and one other form of residency documentation, such as a current electric bill. An attendance zone locator is available on the school district website at http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us under Featured Links.

Florida law requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of required immunizations documented on the HRS Form 680. Proof of a physical examination that has been obtained within one year prior to enrollment in school is also required. Physical examinations can be performed by either a private physician or by the county health department.

Students can be registered during the spring and summer for the 2012-2013 school year; however, parents are encouraged to register during the three designated dates above so that schools can adequately prepare for the new school year. Additional information regarding registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

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Local realty company recognizes 2011 top performers and outstanding employees

Davidson Realty Realtors and Top Winners Suzy Evans, Mirtha Barzaga and Dottie Lay

World Golf Village-based Davidson Realty, Inc., a leader in Jacksonville and St. Augustine Florida real estate, is proud to congratulate the company's standout 2011 employees.

Davidson Realty President Sherry Davidson presented the awards at the company's annual awards banquet on January 14 which featured an "Around the World" theme. The company's office in World Golf Village was transformed with exotic décor and international cuisine prepared by Past Time Cafe and Catering and attendees celebrated in Italy, France, Germany, the Caribbean, Japan and China.

Big winners of the evening included:

Top Sales and Top Closer for Year: Suzy Evans
Top Lister for the Year: Mirtha Barzaga
President's Award: Lynn Whitley
Rookie of the Year Award: Maxine Levy
Davidson Realty Over $5 million in Closings and/or Sales: Pauline and Woody Cake, Dottie Lay, Mirtha Barzaga and Suzy Evans.
Davidson Realty Over $3 million in Closings and/or Sales: Ana Speziale, Lynn Whitley, Michelle Gonzalez, Jock Ochiltree and Ted Tyndall.
Davidson Realty Over $2 million in Closings and/or Sales: Jennifer Todd, Doug Duggan and Margherite Myers.
Davidson Property Management Award recipients: Mirtha Barzaga and Margherite Myers
"Step Up to the Plate" Award: Ed Gil
"Values People First" Awards: Sharon King and Mirtha Barzaga

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UNF student intern gets a career experience at JCE

University of North Florida (UNF) student intern Julie Glass is in the final stages of starting her career. This semester she will complete her Pre-K primary education degree requirements. Her final assignment...to complete a student internship in her field.

At the beginning of January she was assigned to join the staff of Julington Creek Elementary School under the direction of second grade teacher Neeti Gregg, who has been acting as her mentor.

Glass has already taken over the classroom activities.

"This experience is priceless. I get an opportunity to put what I have learned at UNF to life," said Glass. "Not only do I get to try different teaching strategies, but I have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students who challenge me every day to make learning not only affective, but fun."

If you ask the students, they too love the experience.

"I love having Ms. Glass in our classroom," says student Kendall Catherwood. "We now Glass says that she always wanted to be a teacher. Her mother was an elementary school teacher in Georgia. She will complete her student internship at the end of April.

UNF intern Julie Glass and JCE second grader Kendall Catherwood

Annual
Sports Medicine Scramble

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The Palencia Club
Sunday, March 11, 2012

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start at 1:30 p.m.
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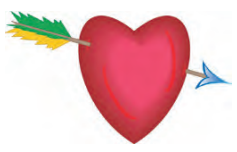
Mandarin Garden Club announces $1 Clothing Sale

By Contributing Writer Yvonne Corbett, Publicity, Mandarin Garden Club

On Saturday, March 3 the Mandarin Garden Club will be holding its semiannual $1 Clothing Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 2892 Loretto Road. A wide variety of clothing, shoes and accessories will be available for women, men and children, with boutique items being priced slightly higher.

The Mandarin Garden Club 65th Anniversary Cookbook, a collection of 500 delectable recipes and cooking hints, will also be available for purchase. These make wonderful gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and many occasions.



The garden club will be collecting the following items to support worthy organizations: eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases donated to the Lions Club; cell phones and accessories donated to the Duval County 4-H; and nonperishable unexpired food and toiletry items donated to the Mandarin Food Bank. Donated ink cartridges will be used to purchase Mandarin Garden Club office supplies.

For more information about events at the Mandarin Garden Club, please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or visit our website at http://home.comcast.net/~harper113.

Keep our community beautiful... And support Julington Creek Scouts!

Springtime is the time to begin sprucing up the yard and plant beds. Nothing looks better than a fresh application of mulch, but getting the quantities of mulch home can take its toll on yourself and your car. Trying to fit as much as you need in many of today's cars is both messy and requires many trips back to the store.

To raise funds for camp this summer in Virginia, Boy Scout Troop 280 is sponsoring their third annual "I Love You Very MULCH" Sale. The boys have organized the sale on their own as they work towards both the Salesmanship Merit Badge and to live the tenet of the Scout Law that "a Scout is Thrifty" as boys pay their own way to camp.

"We wanted to combine something that would perform a needed service for the community as well as to provide a means for the boys to earn their way to camp," said Brian Miller, committee chair for Troop 280. "Our previous sales have been very well received. We think people see great value and convenience in the sale. Best of all, we are a local troop and money you spend to spruce up the community benefits youth who live here in the community."

What's more, the cost of the mulch is quite comparable with that offered by local businesses. Mulch is packaged in a two cubic foot bag, the same as available at retail and is priced at $3. Mulch is being offered in plain shredded cypress, red cypress mulch and medium pine bark nuggets. Delivery is included with the price, though there is a suggested minimum order of 10 bags.

New for this year, Troop 280 is also taking orders over the internet and giving the option of payment online via PayPal. Ordering is done via a secure link at the Troop website at www.julingtoncreekscouts.com.

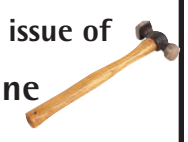
"We added the PayPal option this year, as well as the convenience on online ordering based on feedback from our customers in the past. They said it just made sense and so we were happy to set this up," said Miller.

To offset costs of using PayPal, there is a $1 service fee for any order placed online. This can be for 10 bags or more than 100.

Deliveries will be scheduled for Saturday, February 25. Orders need to be in the week prior. The delivery area is throughout the Plantation, south to Greenbriar Road, north to Julington Creek, west to the St. Johns River and east to St. Johns Parkway. If you are interested in supporting scouts, you can call 287-9670 or 699-6855 for information or an order form, email at bemiller328@gmail.com or visit the Troop website at www.julingtoncreekscouts.com

About Troop 280: Troop 280 is a Boy Scout Troop located in the heart of Julington Creek. The troop is sponsored by River of Life Methodist Church on Race Track Road. The troop was founded in 2009 and has grown from five original members to over 50 today. The Scoutmaster is Roy Reid, Eagle Scout and veteran scout leader. All boys 11-18 are welcome to join.

Look for our annual
Home Improvement Guide
in the March issue of
The CreekLine



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EWLI's 2012 board of directors welcomes members

EWLI Board of Directors 2012

The Enterprising Women's Leadership Institute, Inc, (EWLI) began its 2012 Leadership Roundtable Luncheon Series by hosting Member Recognition Day, Thursday, January 19 at The Columbia Restaurant.

"We want to salute our members and invite guests and others to join with us in 2012 as we reach out to attain our mission: 'To identify, mentor, support and promote women's leadership in communities worldwide,'" says Chris Man, president of EWLI.

"We have planned some exciting programs this year for our membership and hope others will participate as well," says Treasurer and Membership Chair Margaret Wiles.

This year's activities include the continuation of EWLI's successful and popular Leadership Roundtable, the annual International Women's Day Celebration, on Tuesday, March 13 at Marsh Creek Country Club, collaboration on programs with the Small Business Administration and other organizations to assist women's economic health, recognition and support of women leaders from throughout the community including St. Johns County high school seniors, hosting EWLI's annual summer Leadership Retreat, supporting the SJC Homeless Coalition as EWLI's Organization of the Year and ending the year with the annual "Feliz Navidad" Holiday Party.

"We are here to assist in connecting women leaders to the wealth of opportunities and resources available worldwide - and that means using the tools of technology," says EWLI Secretary, Cinda Holsombach-Ebner, a technology specialist herself.

The purpose of the Roundtable is to examine and discuss relevant topics and issues impacting on the lives of contemporary women in Northeast Florida. The Leadership Roundtable meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month at The Columbia Restaurant, located at 98 St. George Street in historic St. Augustine. All EWLI members, their guests as well as interested nonmembers are invited to attend - but seating is limited. No reservations are required but they are strongly encouraged. Complimentary parking is available behind the restaurant.

For more information about EWLI, please contact Cinda Holsombach-Ebner, secretary, at info@ewli.org or 701-4580. For membership information, please contact Margaret Wiles, treasurer, at mawiles@bellsouth.net. For information about the Leadership Roundtable, please contact Liane Stark at lstark1955@yahoo.com.

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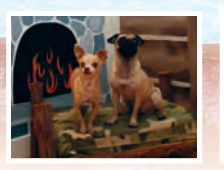

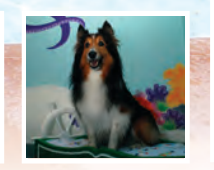

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Faith News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (OLGC) will offer, for the 10th year, their **Fish and Shrimp Frys** during Fridays of the Lenten season. The dinners will begin on February 24 and conclude on March 30. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A meal of fish, shrimp or a combination of both will be offered with the trimmings of fries, beans or cole slaw and hush puppies. Dinner will offer the same meals plus a broiled fish prepared Francaise style with rice and cole slaw. Chicken strips are available for the kids. Drinks and homemade desserts are also available. The church is located in the World Golf Village area on State Road 16 (one mile northwest of Pacetti Road/ International Golf Parkway). All proceeds go to the continued development of the OLGC church and its ministries.

Boy Scout Troop 474, sponsored by Fruit Cove Baptist Church, will hold a **chicken & rib dinner** Saturday, February 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the church in Fruit Cove to raise money for Boy Scout summer camp. Chicken dinners, including a quarter chicken, beans, slaw and bread are available for $5. Rib dinners, including St. Louis ribs, beans, slaw and bread are $8. Drinks are also available. Additional information is available at www.474chickens.com.

Our Lady of Good Counsel will hold their **fourth annual Fashion Show,** themed "Let Me Take You On A Sea Cruise!" on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. (Doors open at 11:30 a.m.) The fashion show will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, located at 5950 State Road 16. Tickets cost $30 in advance or $35 at the door; seats are numbered, so get your tickets early! The show will feature music by DJ Brett DeVoe and the latest fashions by Designer Discounts in St. Augustine. Enjoy tropical food, pina coladas, frozen sangrias, a silent auction and much more. Tickets are available by calling Jen Weiler at 829-1168 or by email at jweiler@thefirsttee.org.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church presents its **sixth annual spring fashion show and luncheon** on Saturday, February 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Michael C. Carlos Fellowship Hall, located at 2940 County Road 214 in St. Augustine. The word "philoptochos" means "friends of the poor" and the fundraising activities of the Philoptochos Society support a number of local and national charities as well as Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The luncheon will feature delicious Greek foods including pastitsio (pasta with a scrumptious meat sauce topped with a delicate béchamel), tiropita (cheese pie), spanakopita (spinach and cheese pie), dolmathes (stuffed grape leaves), Greek salad and baklava for dessert. The show will feature wonderful spring fashions from Patchington. Homemade Greek pastries will be for sale, as well as plenty of door prizes and raffles. For reservations and tickets ($25), please call Effie Lasoff at 386-931-5705 (email greekel2374@aol.com) or Athena at 471-9062 (email abduddy@gmail.com).

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Purposeful Parenting

Love one another

By Allie Olsen, www.gracefullmom.com

Our 13-year-old and our seven-year-old share a birthday. We always have fun decorating, making cards and posters for birthdays and this morning I found Lauren up early wrapping "one last present." Timothy walked into the "top secret wrapping area" for crayons to finish Ben's poster and Lauren yelled, "Get out! No, you can't come near me!" Umm... Happy Birthday, Timothy?

Why are we so committed to our plans—even plans to bless someone—that we are willing to hurt others as we strive to accomplish our ideal? This morning, Lauren wanted her surprise more than she wanted to love her brother. I can say without hesitation that I often, sinfully, parent the same way.

James 4:1 says, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? They come from your selfish desires that are at war in your bodies, don't they?" Yes. Yes, they do. We desire our ideal more than relationships—more than God's way.

Fortunately, God doesn't leave us there. He offers a solution in the rest of the chapter.

I teach my children (and try to personally apply) to submit to God. He has a better way in His Word! I remind them to resist the devil; we do not have to act on every impulse or temptation! Self-control is a character that needs to be cultivated and exercised over a lifetime. Next, James says to draw near to God. I encourage the children, young and old, not to be discouraged when they fail but to ask forgiveness for their sin and ask for God's (and Mamma's) help.

Romans 12:10 teaches us to "Love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honor." It probably won't happen naturally. Here are some Biblical exhortations to keep in mind as you seek to cultivate brotherly affection between your children:

- Let kindness be on your tongue. Don't allow your kids to speak rudely or harshly to or about their brothers and sisters
- When wrong, replace bad behavior with love by serving
- For a special day, make or do or plan a fun something instead of buying a gift. Chat about what makes the Birthday Boy special while you're working on his project
- Forgive and forget

Most of all, don't be disappointed when siblings fight. Train them in those moments, remind them of the gift they have in family and encourage kindness. But remember how difficult it can be to live with someone so different! Teaching your children to "overlook a multitude of sins," to forgive quickly and to serve joyfully will not only make your home more peaceful now, but their marriage one day as well.

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary update

Boating course schedule announced

By Contributing Writer Bob Schultz, Flotilla 14-7 Public Affairs Officer

Flotilla 14-7 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced its 2012 public boating course schedule. All courses are offered at the St. Augustine Campus of St. Johns River State College, 2900 College Drive (off State Road 16) in St. Augustine.

About Boating Safety. This beginner boating class will give the participant the knowledge needed to obtain the Florida Boater's Card. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course. Topics include: Introduction to Boating; Boating Law; Boat Safety Equipment; Safe Boating; Navigation; Boating Problems; Trailering, Storing, and Protecting Your Boat; Hunting and Fishing; Waterskiing; and River Boating. The eight-hour course will be given on April 7, June 2, September 8 and November 3, 2012.

How to Read a Nautical Chart – This four-hour course will provide the student with the knowledge to interpret the nautical chart's contents in order to navigate safely to their destination and return to port. Text and training chart are included. This course will be given on May 5 and August 4.

Students must register prior to the classes; call Vic Aquino at 460-0243.

Governing board appoints general counsel

By Contributing Writer Teresa H. Monson, St. Johns River Water Management District

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board voted unanimously on January 10 to name William Congdon as the district's general counsel. Having served for 15 years as the district's deputy general counsel, Congdon has been interim general counsel since October 2011, when Hans G. Tanzler III vacated the post to become district executive director. Tanzler recommended Congdon for the position, which the Governing Board approved.

"During his service as interim general counsel, Bill has facilitated a smooth transition of leadership and is a well-regarded manager," Tanzler said. "He demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and a balance of excellent judgment and legal skills. Moreover, he has a talent for creative problem solving and although he is a skilled litigator, he actively considers alternatives to litigation when appropriate and feasible."

Congdon has been a member of the Florida Bar for more than 30 years. He attended the University of Florida, where he obtained a juris doctorate degree with honors and a master's degree in microbiology. Prior to that, he attended Duke University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

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Local Sports Scene

By Chad Cushnir

College Basketball heats up in February:

As March Madness approaches, the college basketball games on the schedule during the month of February will determine which teams could be contenders in the NCAA Tournament.

The University of Florida lost in overtime to Butler in the Elite Eight last year. This year, the Gators hope to make the Final Four for the fifth time in school history. On Tuesday, February 7, the Gators will visit Kentucky, one of the top teams in the country. Then on Saturday, February 11, UF has the chance to avenge a loss from earlier in the season when Tennessee travels to Gainesville. The game after that will be on Valentine's Day in Tuscaloosa against an Alabama team that began the season ranked in the Top 25. This three-game stretch should tell us a lot about Florida's chances to make some noise in March.

The biggest challenge on Florida State's schedule this month will come on Thursday, February 23 when Duke visits Tallahassee. On Friday, February 24, UNF will visit JU for the regular season finale for both teams. This game will be played at Veterans Memorial Arena. For the Ospreys, it should be a tune up for the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The Dolphins have struggled this season, therefore they will not qualify for the conference tournament.

Quick Hits:

The college baseball season begins on Friday, February 17. Florida, FSU, UNF and JU will all begin their seasons that day. The Gators appear to have a strong team returning. Last season, they were the national runners-up after losing to South Carolina in the finals of the College World Series.

The NASCAR season will rev up this month in Daytona culminating with the Daytona 500 on Sunday, February 26.

PACT Prevention Coalition names new coordinator

PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County, a non-profit organization, is proud to announce the recent appointment of LeAnn Daddario as coalition coordinator. Daddario brings years of prior non-profit experience which includes areas of specialty in development, marketing and management.

"We are very excited to have LeAnn as part of the team and we look forward to her having a positive impact on our community through her leadership," says Colonel Art May, who is with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the chairman of the PACT Coalition board.

"I am delighted to work with the coalition members and the community to educate our youth and families in St. Johns County," says Daddario. Daddario earned her MBA from the University of North Florida and a bachelor's degree in Political Science. She has resided with her family in St. Johns County since 2003.

PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County is dedicated to making St. Johns County a healthy substance-free community for our youth through prevention, advocacy, choices and teamwork.

For more information about PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County, please call 829-6261 or visit www.pactprevention.org.

Boy Scout Troop 474 raises over $1,200

Boy Scout Troop 474, sponsored by Fruit Cove Baptist Church, with representatives from the Mandarin Food Bank, Christ's Cupboard and the St. Francis House in St. Augustine. The scouts held a chicken dinner in October, raising over $1200 for local food banks. The scouts cooked, packaged and sold over 400 meals.

PV Storm take first place in Elite Invitational Division

The Ponte Vedra Storm U10 girls' full-sided soccer team sent two 3v3 soccer teams to compete in the Kick It 3v3 Soccer World Championships at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex on January 14 through 16, 2012. The PV Storm (coached by Trey and Kathy Clark) played in the Elite Invitational Division and took first place! The team won all seven games, scoring 48 goals and allowing seven. The team members are: Tatum Loveless, Julie Arciprete, Channing Chappell, Ashlyn Kane, Delaney Tauzel and Tori Grambo. This is the second time in a row these girls have won the world championship! The second team, PV Storm Blue, (coached by Rob Holstein) just started playing 3v3 together this winter. They entered in the Open Youth Gold Division and took second place! This team won all their games and only lost in the final against a team they had previously beaten. Team members are: Kai Hayes, Brielle Maloney, Lauren Richter, Lillian Mace, Ivy Bickerton and Lauren Fryoux. The full-sided team is currently ranked second in the nation and is looking forward to traveling to Virginia this March.

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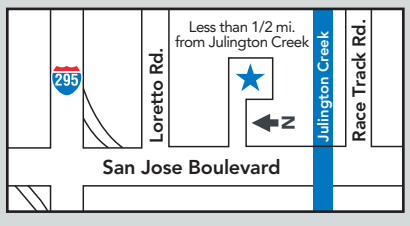

BTHS Sports Roundup

Winter sports come to a close

By Jared Freitas, BTHS Student

The start of the New Year provides a time for everyone to reflect upon what they did in the previous year and also allows for self-improvement. The winter high school sports season is a microcosm of this situation, as teams and coaches analyze what transpired through the first half and evaluate what needs to be corrected in January. What teams do during the two-week vacation is also an important factor in the outcomes of their district tournaments. Depending upon how the break is treated, it can be a detriment or a benefit to the teams. For Bartram Trail's soccer and basketball teams, the second half of the season has shown mixed results as they head into district play.

The Lady Bears basketball team has excelled this year due to outstanding play they have received from their underclassmen. With only four seniors on the team, these less experienced players have received more playing time this year. Having to make up for the loss of senior forwards Kathryn Rybinksi and Chelsea Ragle, sophomores Sarah Ragland, Madison French and Maggie Borngesser have helped tighten up the Bears' front court and have added some height to an otherwise, guard-oriented team. The young squad has had their struggles this year with losses to Orange Park, St. Augustine and Palatka (by 29 points), but the Bears (16-6) have rebounded as of late and are definitely the top dog in the three-team district, as they have dominated their two other opponents, Clay and Creekside, by double digits in both games. Their marquee win of the season came against Ribault, who entered the night with an undefeated record of 15-0. Bartram relied on their senior captains, Allie Mano and Melissa Coggins, to carry the team, which they did, pouring in a combined seven three-pointers and scoring 44 of the team's 59 points.

The boy's basketball team has not been as successful as the girls; however, they have shown great improvement from past seasons. To see this improvement, one just has to look at their record of 6-12, which amounts to the same number of wins they have tallied in the past two years combined.

"We are definitely more experienced this year," said junior and team captain Tyler Irish. "Last year we were younger, but now our team is starting to realize its potential."

Despite this new success, the Bears have struggled with consistency and rarely have won back-to-back victories this season.

Part of this problem, according to Irish, is the team's demeanor, "We have to work on our attitude and approach each game like it's our last," he said.

Hopes are high for the Bears as they prepare for the district tourney, where they will likely face rival Creekside, whom they have not beaten, in the championship, barring a loss to Clay, whom both teams have defeated. This optimism is also high for next season as well, as the Bears will be returning their top three scorers, including Irish, to their roster.

Unfortunately for the girls' soccer team, 2012 started the same way as 2011 did, with a loss to Ponte Vedra in the district semifinal. This marks only the second time that the team has missed the state playoffs, as they reached the state championship only two seasons ago. The girls' team finished with an astounding 14-3 record, however all three losses came to district opponents Creekside and Ponte Vedra, who faced off in the district championship last year. Seniors Ashland Rahn and Lindsey Ina and junior Samantha Patterson led the Bears in offense; however, they were held scoreless in all three losses in which Bartram was shut out. Despite this, the Bears are only losing four seniors and should be a much more experienced team next year.

For the boys' soccer team, things have not gone exactly to plan this season, as they entered with an experienced lineup and had high expectations for success. Despite this, the Bears have accrued a dismal 5-12 record (2-5 in district play) and have had problems scoring this year. As of late, however the Bears have strung together back-to-back wins and are striving to improve.

"We just need to finish games and be more consistent," said senior Timothy Lasseter. "We have struggled to string together good halves and have lost matches because of it."

A case in point was their match against Fleming Island in which they entered the second half up 2-0 and lost the game 2-6. The only thing that matters for the Bears, however, is their district quarterfinal match against St. Augustine, where they can redeem themselves and salvage their season.

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Free fertilizer for your lawn

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

Lawns are pretty much dormant right now, but the grass will be growing again soon. This year, how would you like some free fertilizer for your lawn?

Of course you would. If whoever mows your lawn bags the grass clippings when the lawn is mowed, they are throwing away some good lawn fertilizer. Lose the bags and leave the clippings were they fall. Each bag of clippings you throw away can contain up to one quarter of a pound of organic nitrogen. Think about this: what could be better for feeding the grass than grass itself?

So I'm hearing some of you saying the clippings clump up and are unattractive. But they won't clump up if the grass is dry, which it should be. Mowing wet grass would produce clumps, but mowing wet grass is not recommended and should be avoided.

Clippings may also form clumps if you let the grass get too tall before mowing, so don't do that. Mow most St. Augustine grasses when the grass is about four inches high, cutting it back to three inches and you shouldn't have any clumping. You really shouldn't even see the little one-inch clips.

What about thatch, that thick layer of spongy matter? Isn't that caused by layers of grass clippings? The answer is absolutely not. Thatch is a spongy layer of dead and living shoots, stems and roots that build up over time. Thatch occurs primarily because of too much fertilizer, especially nitrogen, plus improper mowing and over watering. Lawn clippings do not contribute to thatch.

From a purely environmental point of view, keeping your clippings on the grass also keeps them out of the landfills, already overburdened in Florida. I recently saw a statistic claiming up to 20 percent of total municipal waste was our yard waste.

There are a couple of times when you should consider bagging lawn clippings. If you have mature weeds in the lawn and they are producing seed heads it is best to haul them away with the trash and keep them off the lawn. Also remove the clippings if you are dealing with a lawn disease to avoid spreading it.

Okay, so here's a summary. Grass clippings are a valuable resource. They are free organic fertilizer. Leaving them on the lawn recycles nutrients. It reduces the time and money spent on lawn care because you need way less fertilizer and don't have bags of trimmings to deal with. A lot of lawns get by on just the clippings. We give our lawn a small fertilization a year and let the clippings do the rest.

If mowed properly, clippings should not clump. If you do see clumps just spread them around. Check your mower blades and if they are dull, see that they get sharpened.

Mow when the lawn is dry and never let the grass get taller than four inches. Don't over-fertilize or water to excess. Such poor lawn practices lead to thatch and increased disease, insects and weeds.

Save money, help the environment and take the easy way out. Let the clippings fall where they may.

Nease Wrestling update

By Contributing Writer Lea Ann Wade, Nease Wrestling Liaison

The Nease Panthers are peaking at the right time. They had a good showing at the Orange Park tournament on January 21 with Nease junior Branden Wade going undefeated for the day in the 160 weight class. The Panthers are led by Zack Delray, Branden Wade and Manny Quintanilla, the only Panther senior. Quintanilla was honored on Panther Senior Night on January 25 at the home meet against Ponte Vedra with an impressive Nease finish of 48-31. With a GPA of 3.65, Quintanilla has led the varsity squad and recently was awarded a Navy ROTC scholarship to attend Florida State University in the fall.

The Panthers are coached by Ohio State wrestler, Tim Timmons and assisted by Rich Maritato who coached his three sons. With such vast experience at Nease, the Panthers are on a mission. They have set goals and are ready to face the next competition with strong rising undergraduates.

Competition continues at the district tournament, to be held February 3 and 4 at Oakleaf High School in Argyle. The top four placers will continue in each weight class to the region competition in Tallahassee the following weekend, February 10-11 and those who placers will continue on to the coveted Florida State Wrestling Competition in Lakeland on February 17-18.

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Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

Here we are in the month of February and it's already time to start thinking about spring time fishing. It could be days or maybe a few weeks, but for us spring is just around the corner.

Spring time means largemouth bass. Warmer weather means Florida's number one freshwater game fish will be awakening from their winter slumber. Since they are hungry and ready to spawn, spring is one of the best times of year to fish for bass. You can look for largemouth to begin to show just as soon as the water temperatures begin to rise following a lengthy warm spell. The shallower waters of creeks, ponds and the river banks will be the areas to fish during the earliest of spring days.

Whether you are fishing from a boat or shore, the methods used to catch a largemouth remain the same. Tossing artificial baits such as plastic worms and crankbaits will always be effective, but the most irresistible bait to the largemouth bass is the wild shiner.

Wild shiners are readily available at most bait and tackle stores serving areas along the St. Johns. However, wild shiners are often available in our favorite neighborhood creek or pond and are easily caught on a bread ball on a small hook.

Fishing with shiners for bait is fairly easy. Simply hook the shiner in the back just behind its dorsal fin. A weedless worm hook will work just fine. Add a float two or three feet above the shiner and let him swim. There will be no doubt when that bass gobbles your shiner, but if you blink you might miss it, leaving you wondering where your bobber has gone.

Yes, spring is just around the corner. And around that corner comes another year of fishing our area for many varieties of fish. The largemouth bass has the honor of starting off what will be hopefully another banner year fishing.

Fishing Report: Due to lack of rain and a mild winter, there are still some shrimp in the river. Look for reds and a mixed bag of other species because of the shrimp. Stripers at the bridges. Catfish and bream in creeks.

Whether you catch one, some or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.

CHS Sports Roundup

By Grant Piper, CHS Student

From the court to the field and back, winter sports at Creekside have gone extremely well but are beginning to wind down giving way to talk about spring sports and playoff tournaments. Boys' basketball fights to hang on as the girls' soccer team prepares for the district championship game and Creekside marches on.

The boys' basketball team was rolling at 12-3 until they suffered a pair of tough losses to local rivals Mandarin and Ponte Vedra, dropping them to 12-5. Now as playoff season approaches some are wondering if the boys can hang in there for a strong finish. Many people's hopes have been shaken after the boys suffered a 15 point loss to the Mandarin Mustangs. However many more are encouraged by a string of telling victories before the losses. A defeat of rival Clay with a stunning 51-17 finish and a 62-36 victory over Jackson show that this team has it in them to win. Hopefully they will continue this trend instead of the other. All in all the boys have proven they can win and now is the time to show it.

The girls' soccer team is going to the district championship game for the second year in a row. In an upcoming rematch of last year's championship match, the Knights will take on the Ponte Vedra Sharks in a rivalry that just refuses to die down. As of January 5, the girls were 6-0 and marched their way into the finals again. A victory would give Creekside two district championships in two years, a fantastic accomplishment. Once again the girls have shown exceptional athleticism on the field led by Bre Saunders, voted most athletic by Creekside students in her senior year. The girls are on a roll and hope that they continue to do so.

Both of these teams are senior heavy teams and are reaching the end of a long fruitful run as the first four year Creekside students get ready to graduate this year. There is potential for district championships for both and what a way to usher in 2012 that would be. Upcoming in the sporting world includes the start of track season, softball and baseball season along with tennis and lacrosse. Stay tuned.

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Nease Sports Roundup

By Elena Castello, Nease Student

A new quarter brings new sports to Nease. With soccer, basketball, girls' weightlifting and wrestling ending, some Nease athletes have the rest of the year for practice, while the spring brings some other athletes to their court or field. Now lacrosse, tennis, boys' weightlifting, track, softball and baseball are starting and there are high hopes for our athletes.

First off, the end of soccer season: the Nease girls played a district game against Creekside, on Monday, January 16, but unfortunately lost. Sophomore Madeline Leibin was their top scorer all season and Monday's game was the last until next season. There are many freshmen and sophomores, so the team still has many years to bond and grow strong to achieve its full potential.

Boys' and girls' tennis, whose head coach is Saya Misiri, hope to start "on the ball" and get to districts and then the state competition. The boys' team just welcomed a new coach, and they hope to do extremely well with him, too. Both teams have a difficult season ahead of them, but with a lot of practice, they will succeed.

The lacrosse teams will be playing as hard as usual. Last year, seven senior girls graduated, so the young team will train well to be up their usual standards. And with a new junior varsity coach, the team is sure to reach new heights.

Track season is on the brink of beginning and the runners, jumpers and throwers of all sorts are beginning their training. With Coach Blue working with the sprinters and Coach Rivera with the long distance runners, they will surely prep the team for victory.

Coach Rivera said, "I want all my athletes to be better and faster than last year!"

Basketball season is in session as well. With a varsity record of 12-7 and the district record 5-0, the girls are doing an outstanding job. The boys

Nease continued on next page

Spring planting is near

Here's an ideal way to get into the mood for spring planting: Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 free trees to plant when the weather turns warm. Every person from Florida who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in February 2012 will receive 10 free Eastern redbud trees.

"Redbuds will add beauty to landscapes across Florida for years to come," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "They will also add to the proud heritage of Florida's 160 Tree City USA communities.

For more than 30 years, Tree City USA has supported community forestry across Florida, and planting these lovely redbuds will add to this important tree-planting tradition. The 10 free Eastern redbud trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The six to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a $10 contribution to Ten Free Eastern Redbud Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29, 2012 or visit arborday.org/February.

The Rowdies play 3v3 soccer ... for the love of the game

By Contributing Writer Alison Golan

Coach Camille Alvarez, Conor Brandon, Alex Cruz, Michael Golan, Donovan Crowley, Cameron Alvarez.

On a chilly, rainy weekend, five young soccer players dominated the U13 boys division at the 10th annual Ponte Vedra 3v3 Challenge, held December 10-11. The Rowdies dribbled, passed and shot their way to the championship, winning every game.

Impressive individual talent was evident from the start; the team scored 33 goals in four pool play games with only eight goals against them. Team play improved each game, as the players became familiar with each other's strengths. A decisive win of 9-2 in the championship game secured their title.

Yet in this age of "winning is everything," these boys exhibited attributes more important than the final score: pure love of the game and character. All of them excel at full sided soccer, but 3v3 offers the players a chance to relax and have some fun—without the pressure of winning. This particular group never practiced 3v3 together. Two of them met for the first time as teammates 30 minutes before game time. For others, it offered a chance to play with old teammates and share their latest moves.

A sister of one of the players, a soccer player herself, coached the Rowdies. During the two-day tournament, the young teens handled everything: from warm-ups, to substitutions, to game strategy. Parents sat contently on the sidelines, merely watching and cheering. And as the parents watched, we noticed something else emerging—something we all hope our kids are learning through sports: good character and sportsmanship. The Rowdies encouraged each other—complimenting skills and joking about mistakes.

When scores became lopsided, the team agreed to implement tactics to slow down the game, such as only scoring on headers. At one point, an opponent was injured and without an adult saying a word, one of the Rowdies immediately kicked the ball out of bounds to stop play and help the immobilized player.

Congratulations, Rowdies! As you play the game you love, we hope you continue to demonstrate skill, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

The CreekLine
Everybody Gets It.
Everybody Reads It.
editor@thecreekline.com

Nease continued from previous page

are also doing well. Their record is 15-4 and that is one to be proud of. One great achievement was defeating Ponte Vedra High School, which was the team's biggest competitor and that gave the team a big boost in morale.

So with new sports, our Nease athletes have opportunities to be great and succeed at their sports! All of the game schedules are on the Nease website, so there are many opportunities to see them perform at what they do best. Come support our great competitors on their playing field, court or track!

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Julington Creek fifth grade spelling bee contestants wish that was one of the contest words. The top 27 qualifiers of our 191 fifth graders participated in the 2011-2012 Spelling Bee on January 6. After several rounds, Miranda McFeaters became our runner-up, with Cameron Nill earning our Spelling Bee Champion trophy. Nill represented JCE in the St. Johns County Spelling Bee on January 18. We are so proud of all of our students!

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Loggerheads make a splash at JaxParks Classic swim meet

By Contributing Writer Jacalyn Morton

As the Julington Creek Plantation Loggerhead Aquatics swim team head toward the mid-way point of the short course swim season, over one hundred members of the team participated in the JaxParks Classic swim meet at Cecil Field Aquatics Center in early January. Six hundred swimmers from 18 different teams, including a team from Brazil, participated in the three-day meet.

Loggerhead swimmer Shannon Glinka swimming 100 freestyle

Loggerhead Eleanor Pollitt, age 12, was the meet high-point winner in the 11-12 girls division. Loggerhead swimmers Ethan Chestang, age 13, placed runner-up in the 13-14 boys division and David Gapinski, eight, earned the same honor in the boys 8 and Under division.

"Our Loggerhead swimmers looked great," said head coach Mark Corley. "Our technique work is really paying off. We are looking to the future for more gains in fitness and technique."

A number of Loggerhead swimmers set new team or age group records. Eight and under swimmer Brooke Arnold set a new a age group record in the 100 breaststroke, while David Gapinski did the same in the 200 freestyle. Age nine to 10 year old Summer Stanfield set age group records in the 50 freestyle, 50 butterfly and 100 individual medley (IM) and her age nine to 10 teammate, Ethan Howell set the age group record in the 100 breaststroke.

Three records were set in the 11-12 age group. Eleanor Pollitt set records in the 50 fly and 200 IM and Matthew Strickland set a record in the 50 free. The Loggerhead 13-14 age group was also busy breaking records. Jane Wadhams set a new age group record in the 1650 freestyle, Lauren Johnson in the 100 butterfly, Sasha Matkovski in the 100 butterfly and Ethan Chestang in the 400 IM. Lindsey Hansen, Dani Gordon and Evan Jacob all set Loggerhead team records. Hansen set the team record in three events: the 500, 1000 and 1650 freestyle. Gordon set a new team record in the100 breaststroke and Jacob in the 400 IM.

Founded in 2008, Loggerhead Aquatics is committed to excellence and dedicated to developing world class citizens and world class athletes. Please check out the "About JCLA" page to learn more about our team philosophy. www.loggerheadaquatics.com. To set up a swim evaluation to determine what training group is best for your child, please contact Coach Jennifer Ferguson at jferguson @jcpcdd.org or 821-3634. Please be sure to make an appointment, as there are no walk up swim tests.

Congratulations Dragons!

The St. Johns County Dragons U9 soccer team won the fifth annual Clay County 3v3 Challenge Sports soccer tournament held January 7 and 8. The Dragons took a 3-1 championship win over the Lightning Strikes. The Dragons have qualified to compete in the national 3v3 championship to be held at Disney's Wide World of Sports this summer. Congratulations to Lauren Black, Victoria Stachowiak, Miriam Abikhaled, Olivia Glass, Claire King and Coach Mike Glass.

Local garden center named one of Today's Garden Center's "Revolutionary 100"

Trad's Garden Center joined the ranks of the horticulture industry's top independent garden centers when it was named one of Today's Garden Center's Revolutionary 100.

The program, now in its seventh year, surveys garden center owners and managers and culminates in a listing of the 100 most revolutionary garden centers in the nation. It is open to all independent garden centers, large and small and is based on leadership and innovation, not on size or revenue.

"We are all very excited to be recognized as one of the best garden centers in the nation. We have all worked very hard and it has helped us thrive through the economic downturn. These are exciting times for our nursery," says Chris Trad, Garden Center manager.

Garden center owner and managers across the United States fill out an extensive online questionnaire covering topics such as customer and community service, management philosophy, marketing, use of technology, purchasing and profitability. The entrants are ranked according to a point system and the 100 top entries make the list.

Trad's is a family operated nursery encompassing five acres on San Jose Boulevard. The company was established in 1971 by Betty and Lou Trad. Trad's has actually grown through the poor economy and has added several positions, bringing the total to 22. Trad's boasts one of the largest pottery selections in the state and the largest organic veggie department of any garden center in the entire nation.

"The garden centers that made this year's list are an exceptional group of forward-thinking independent retailers who thrived during a tough economy, which helps their community," says Today's Garden Center Editor Carol Miller. "We are proud to call them revolutionary."

The 2012 Revolutionary 100 Awards program is sponsored by one of the premier industry suppliers for greenhouse structures, Nexus Greenhouse Corp.

More information on the Revolutionary 100, including the complete listing, can be found in the January issue of Today's Garden Center magazine and at www.Revolutionary100.com.

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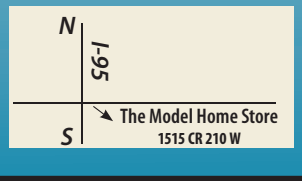

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