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Fried chicken and the rest of the story

By Karl Kennell

Brother Knight of Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council provided a meal and necessities to the SEA community.

On Monday, July 16, the Brother Knight of Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council pulled their caravan into the dusty parking lot of the SEA Community Center in Elkton in southern St. Johns County. The cars and trucks were packed full of clothing and food donations from San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church. The delivery was accompanied by a delicious southern summer meal—fried chicken, baked beans and coleslaw composed the menu for the evening accompanied by homemade cookies from the Ladies' Auxiliary. As the St. Vincent Medical van arrived, residents from the Elkton community wandered in and began looking through the clothing for just the right items they needed.

Over 100 residents of the neighborhood came that evening for what has become a welcome monthly social event for the community. The SEA Community Center and the farm worker families of Spud, Elkton and Armstrong (SEA) have become a special monthly outreach for area charities. On the third Monday evening of each month, the St. Vincent Health Unit comes to the community center to provide free check-ups and medical services for the residents of this farm workers community. It is at this humble community center, located next to the First Baptist Church of Armstrong on Armstrong Road just down from the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, that a handful of grandmas, moms and wives/community matriarchs began serving up dinner for the residents of the farming community. It was a dinner of just what they could bring together from their own modest pantries.

It is also where Kathy Bravo of JCP CARES became overcome by not only the need she observed on her first visit, but also by how joyful the community matriarchs were in serving up their modest meal and trying to provide some clothes and personal items for these working men. She has made the SEA community a special project and as a result has signed up charitable groups to each take a month to go down to the SEA Community Center and provide dinner, clothing and personal

SEA community dinners cont on pg. 19

Group raises funds to help hometown hero

By Contributing Writer Claire Diamond Sano

Diane Timoney shares details of the day of her son's injury in Afghanistan with attendees at the St. Michael's Soldiers second annual All-American Hoedown and Auction. Photo by Bert Brohman

When Diane Timoney, mother of injured United States Army First Lieutenant Ryan Timoney, stepped to the microphone during the second annual All-American Hoedown and Auction, the lively crowd fell silent. She shared the intimate details of May 20, the fateful day her 26-year-old son and his military unit were attacked by an Afghani suicide bomber. Two of Ryan Timoney's friends were killed and he was severely wounded. He is now stateside receiving rehabilitation therapy, with a long road ahead to recovery. When Diane Timoney concluded her remarks, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

This was Diane Timoney's first public speaking engagement since her son's injury and

Hometown hero cont on pg. 30

Back to School Guide

Appearing again in our **September Issue!**
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Area youth on an Appalachian Mission

By Contributing Writer Wendy Richards

For one week in July, three adult chaperones and 19 students ages 13 to 18 participated in the annual Geneva Presbyterian Church summer mission project. The group traveled to the Appalachians in rural Kentucky to provide assistance to those struggling throughout three counties in that coal mining region. They participated in the incredibly well organized Big Creek Mission program—assisting with free home repairs, children's programs and other community outreach efforts.

While there, Big Creek Mission had its monthly food drive. Feed America trucks deliver bulk products like bread, cabbages, canned fruit and paper products and everyone pulls together to load bags with family portions. Then the cars arrive from as much as an hour away to benefit from the assistance with food and necessities, many cars carrying two families. Volunteers estimated as many as 300 to 350 cars came through that day, with area police having to assist with traffic control.

Beyond selflessly helping others in surrounding communities, Big Creek Mission provides mission groups with accommodations and meals in a Christian atmosphere geared towards teens where everyone pitches in to keep things running smoothly. Teens who

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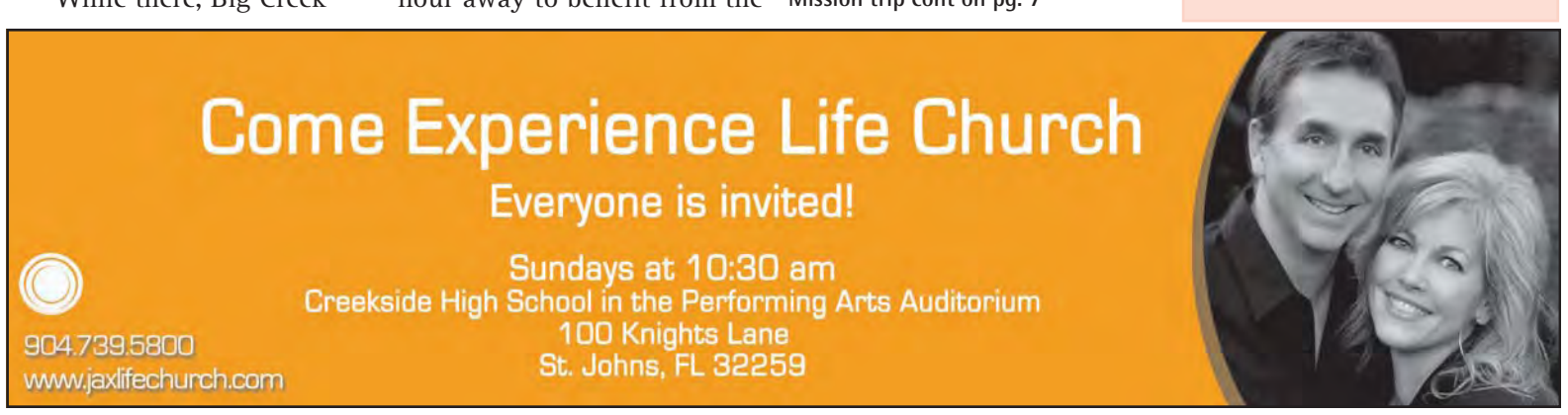

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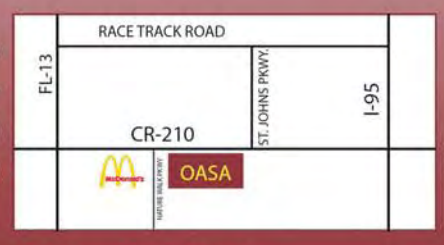

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What's New

Community Happenings

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The Friends of Alpine Park will hold a new member meet and greet on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at Alpine Groves Park. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to meet at the farmhouse by the river at 9:00 a.m. for a history of the park presented by park naturalist, Beverly Fleming, who will be dressed in period costume. Following that we will have light refreshments while sharing our group's goals and future plans. Please come, step back in time with us and learn the history of the park and then join its future—join The Friends of Alpine Park. For additional information, email us at friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com or visit and "like" our Facebook page, "Friends of Alpine Park."

The Marine Corps League, Ancient City Detachment 383, meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829, located at 1420 State Road A1A South in St. Augustine. For additional information, please visit mclfl383.org.

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.

Soil preparation should be done four to six weeks before planting a production bed, so it is time to plan and prepare for the fall vegetable garden. On Thursday, August 16, the **St. Johns Extension Office** will be conducting a class on this topic. It will be held at the St. Johns County Extension Office from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. In the class you will learn about amending the garden plot, vegetable varieties to grow for fall and winter and gardening techniques. If you have not had a soil pH analysis done in several years you may also want to bring a soil sample to submit for free testing. You must pre-register for the class. There will be a $5 registration fee or bring three nonperishable food items to donate to the St. Johns County Social Services Division of Health and Human Services Food Closet. To register for the class call 209-0430.

Haven Hospice is hosting a grief and loss support group at St. Johns Family Funeral Home every Wednesday from August 1 through September 5. The group meets from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the local office at 810-2377.

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Research shows that students who consistently meet with mentors have increased attendance, decreased disruptive behavior and/or increased academic achievement. The St. Johns County School District is looking for volunteers who have a bit of time, a listening ear and an encouraging word to help a student become successful in school and in life. **Mentor**s assist in a school setting and meet with a student once a week. Mentor training for the 2012-2013 school year will take place on August 30. This will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Fullerwood Resource Center in St. Augustine. If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please call 547-3945 or email freemac@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

The St. Johns Federated Republican Women (SJFRW) will meet at Romney Victory Headquarters, located at 525 State Road 16 Ste.104, in St. Augustine on Wednesday, August 22 in lieu of August 20. Just drop by anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and make calls to ensure we elect a Republican president. Lunch and dinner will be provided. For more information, please contact Debi Newton at 910-0290.

The Nease High School swim team will have their 2012 tryouts on August 13 at the Palencia Pool, located at 1865 North Loop Parkway. Nease is proud to announce our new pool location and new head coach. This will be

What's New cont on pg. 4

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From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Ron Sanchez, County Commissioner, District 2

Increased communication and transparency

As we approach the beginning of a new fiscal year and finalize the 2012-2013 annual budget, my fellow commissioners and the St. Johns County administrative staff are taking time to review, update and expand the county's communication efforts.

St. Johns County was recently recognized with a 2012 "Sunny" Award for transparency by the Sunshine Review organization. Of the more than 6,000 entities rated, we were one of only 214 to receive an "A" grade for providing convenient website access to an array of information regarding county budgets, meetings, public records and taxes. While we are proud of our communication and transparency record and awards, we also understand there is value in periodically assessing our program for potential improvements.

In conjunction with this effort, I'm happy to announce the arrival of our new communication manager, Michael Ryan. Well-versed in a variety of communication tools and techniques, he comes to St. Johns County with more than 14 years of experience and an award-winning record of building public-sector communication programs. After settling into his office, Ryan's first order of business will be to conduct a complete communication audit of all St. Johns County Board of County Commissioner offices to outline the organization's current communication efforts.

Once our existing program is assessed, a panel of representatives from different departments will be assembled to discuss the county's communication needs and how we can augment the efforts to share information with our residents and businesses. The overall goal will be to distribute informative and accurate stories that are of interest to the community in a timely, comprehensive, and consistent manner. Understanding that different people receive and process information in different ways, we will also pursue the use of a variety of communication tools including traditional media, video content and electronic communication tools.

In the future, the award-winning St. Johns County website will receive more frequent news updates, the GTV bulletin board and programming schedule will be expanded, our email newsletter will be re-launched and we will continue building partnerships with our local media. In addition, we will explore the creation of a mobile application for smartphones, an expanded social media presence and the use of other technology-driven communication. Our county administrator will again write a monthly update of projects and programs and many of our departments, including the library, parks and recreation, and emergency services, will be encouraged to increase communication with their respective audiences and customers.

Your St. Johns County Commissioners and staff work diligently to continually provide quality services, programs, and infrastructure. In the upcoming months, we will strive to ensure you have access to an abundance of timely information regarding your community and county government.

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our first season our new home pool, Palencia. This will also be our first season with our new head coach, Susan Lucas. For more information, please visit the Nease High School home athletics page at www.neaseathletics.com.

United We Guide is a free transportation and information guide for seniors who are interested in the variety of transportation options offered throughout St. Johns County. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.

World Golf Village Toastmasters meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at First Florida Credit Union (entrance in back), located at 1950 County Road 210 West. You are invited to visit the World Golf Village Toastmasters Club. Our members include experienced Toastmasters and those just starting. Together we share the Toastmasters experience in "...a mutually supportive and positive learning environment, where every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills...and have fun doing it." For more information, please visit www.worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org.

September is National Literacy Month and local organizations are making an effort to expand their volunteer reading program. Reading Pals are needed in a childcare setting, along with Head Start and kindergarten classes in the St. Johns County School District. By providing just one hour per week, you can get children excited about reading. The first training session for the school year is on Wednesday, September 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Training, required background screening (free to volunteers) and support are provided. If you are interested in working with young learners to create excitement for reading, please

What's New cont on pg. 8

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School District Journal

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

Is four-peat a word? The St. Johns County School District has been named the number one school district in the state for the fourth year in a row! I am so very proud of the extraordinary instruction of our teachers, coupled with the support that our parents and community give that allows us to continue to reach the pinnacle even in the face of greater rigor and rising cut scores on the testing. Leadership also deserves applause. The School Board, Dr. Joyner, and the district staff, along with our principals, have placed strong attention on the achievement of each one of our students. I believe that is the key to our success – we focus on each child, keep an eye on his/her achievement data and make adjustments to his/her instruction to assure that each one is gaining the skills necessary to progress to the next level.

I cannot emphasize enough the role that parents play in this process. When you as a parent make certain that your child is reading every day, know and understand where s/he is in terms of grades and academic progress and offer your support to the teacher to assist at home where necessary, the chance of success for your child is exponentially increased. Thank you to the entire team who surrounds our children with love, support, expertise and guidance to help each one to be successful.

August 20, the opening day of school, is fast approaching. If you or someone you know has not registered an incoming student, I urge you to do so immediately. In order to meet class size requirements, we must have a firm understanding of how many children will be at each school and in each grade. If you are new to Florida or your child has never been in public school, you will need your child's original birth certificate, his/her shot record and proof of a physical within the last 12 months, in addition to proof of residence. Please be aware of immunization requirements in our state, especially the additional ones in middle school. This information may be found by accessing the district website: www.stjohns.k12.fl.us. Please take the time to explore the site as the answers to many questions as well as informative sections are available there.

We in St. Johns County Schools are excited about the beginning of a new school year. This year we have three additional members to our family of schools. Palencia Elementary, located at the entrance to the Palencia development on US Highway 1, opens its doors to children for the first time. Principal Don Campbell has worked hard with the community to begin to develop traditions and expectations. In addition, we welcome two new charter schools, St. Paul's School of Excellence in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Public Montessori School located in the northern part of St. Augustine will welcome students on August 20. For more information on these schools, please see our website under the tab "Schools."

Volunteers and business partners are always welcome in our schools. These alliances enable our teachers to extend the learning of our children and our schools to have the resources to provide additional learning tools for our students. Every school welcomes volunteers to do everything from assisting in the classroom, making copies, helping in the cafeteria, providing one-on-one tutoring, reading to children and much more. You must first be cleared through the county before volunteering. Please access the volunteer form on our website and complete it today so that the background screening may be complete before school begins. Beginning last year, volunteer forms must be cleared before parents may interact with our students, even to eat lunch with your child. These requirements are a result of increased safety measures for the protection of all our children.

August 14 is the primary election. Two School Board seats are up this cycle. I urge you to examine the new voter registration card you received recently. School Board and County Commission districts were redrawn after the census and you may be in a different district than previously. The new districts do not have an impact on County Commission races because these positions are elected countywide and all voters select the representative from all the districts. In contrast, School Board seats are single-member, meaning that only voters in a particular district elect their representative. District 1, which I serve, was drastically reduced, adding many neighborhoods to districts 2 and 4. An example is that all the neighborhoods on the south side of County Road 210 are now in District 2, currently served by Tommy Allen, while they were previously in District 1. District 2 is up for election in the current cycle, so those residents will be voting for their representative even though District 1 was just selected last election. In addition, polling places have changed in some instances. Your new registration card will tell you where to vote and identify your district for all races, so it is important to check your new card.

It is my honor and privilege to serve you as chairman of the St. Johns County School Board.

As always, I am grateful for your support of public education. If I may assist you in any way, please contact me at sloughb@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

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Hospitals ranked No. 1 among Metro Jacksonville hospitals

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center South, which share a license, were ranked No. 1 among metro Jacksonville hospitals in U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Hospitals rankings, which were released this week. The hospitals were also ranked fifth in the state. Baptist Medical Center and Baptist South were the only metro Jacksonville hospitals that were nationally ranked.

The hospitals were nationally ranked among the nation's top 50 hospitals in two specialties – gynecology and diabetes/endocrinology – and regionally ranked as high-performing in the following eight specialties:

- Cancer
- Gastroenterology
- Geriatrics
- Nephrology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology
- Urology

This year's Best Hospitals showcases more than 720 of the nation's roughly 5,000 hospitals. Only 148 of the hospitals were nationally ranked in at least one of 16 medical specialties.

To be considered for ranking, hospitals had to meet certain requirements for size, technological capabilities, and Medicare volume for certain procedures. The 1,868 hospitals meeting those requirements were scored and ranked by specialty based on:

Reputation (32.5 percent of the score)
- Mortality rate (32.5 percent)
- Patient safety (5 percent)
- Care-related factors such as nursing and patient services (30 percent)

"This accomplishment is a credit to the skills, knowledge and dedication of the physicians, nurses and staff," said Michael Mayo, hospital president, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. "It gives us feedback that we are hitting our marks for excellence."

"It is a great honor to be recognized for the care we provide patients and families," says Ron Robinson, hospital president, Baptist Medical Center South. "Congratulations to the nurses, physicians and staff for this affirmation of their skill and dedication."

The U.S. News rankings are a GPS-like aid to help steer patients to hospitals with strong skills in the procedures and medical conditions that present the biggest challenges, said U.S. News Health Rankings Editor Avery Comarow.

"All of these hospitals are the kinds of medical centers that should be on your list when you need the best care," Comarow said. "They are where other hospitals send the toughest cases."

The U.S. News rankings were published by U.S. News in collaboration with RTI International, a research organization based in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Highlights of the 2012-13 rankings will appear in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2013 guidebook, to go on sale in August.

The complete rankings and methodology are available at http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals.

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The Sheriff Reports

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

Elder fraud

This month, I would like to address a topic of concern: fraud against our elderly. Of more than 149,000 registered voters in St. Johns County, nearly 72,000 are currently age 50 or older and over 42,000 are currently age 61 or older according to records obtained from the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections. As in other parts of the state, with the arrival of the "baby boomer" generation, we look for St. Johns County to continue to grow our population of senior citizens.

Because retired adults between the ages of 65 and 85 control over 70 percent of the nation's wealth, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse and many of those people do not realize the true value of their assets, seniors are likely targets of a category of criminal activity referred to as "Elder Fraud."

Elder fraud can be loosely described as any financially motivated crime where the perpetrator intentionally misleads or deceives an elderly person in order to gain access to the victim's assets for their own use. The problem with the description is that there is really no exact age that makes a person "elderly" or "senior," therefore statistics and instances of this crime are hard to track. In addition to physical age, "elder" also describes a person in terms of bodily health and ability to function, for example, debilitating memory loss or loss of mobility.

Data regarding this crime is difficult to obtain since it is estimated that only one in twenty five cases ever get reported. If those estimates are reliable, we may have as many as five million "silent victims" of elder fraud in the United States every year, surpassed only by the reported cases of elder neglect and physical abuse. Currently there are no national reporting systems in place to record and analyze this abuse. Secondly, we suspect that the crime is very often unreported. Third, the actual definitions of "elder fraud" vary and finally, the nature of the crime makes it difficult to detect even by trained professionals.

The overwhelming physical and emotional toll of this crime can not be understated. Late in life, our elderly cannot recover in many cases as they could when they were younger and still working. For the victims, destroyed trust in a time of need and isolation, crushed dreams, ruined life savings and sometimes even physical abuse and death can be the results.

Typically there is no lone indicator of financial exploitation; however, there are several recognizable warning signs. Some include a new purported love interest or best friend, a caregiver who seems to demand a lot of control over decisions, sudden changes in mood or behavior such as depression or sadness, signs of neglect, possessions disappearing, inexplicable financial transactions, ATM usage, checks or credit card transactions including the appearance of suspicious signatures on documents, large purchases of needless home repairs or poor explanations about specific financial questions where the elder person does not comprehend financial arranges that have been made for them. In addition, we get reports regularly that target the elderly of a relative, such as a grandson, that is incarcerated in another country and needs money to bail him out. Oftentimes the victim is so upset they obtain a money order and send it to the suspects without checking with other family members to determine if it is true.

If you know of someone that could be a victim of elder fraud or if you suspect it, please report this to your local law enforcement agency or here at the Sheriff's Office. For us in law enforcement, it is essential that we continue to follow-up with the victims of these devastating crimes after the case is closed. At the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, we are committed to a referral network of community programs and to ensure that our victim's advocates remain available to help.

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Commissioner appointed chair of Florida Association of Counties Trust

St. Johns County Commissioner Ken Bryan will assume the role of chair for the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) on October 1, 2012. FACT is a county risk sharing pool with significant differences from many other local government and commercial insurance programs. An at-cost, not for profit program, this county-owned risk pool provides broad liability coverage developed specifically for Florida counties.

St. Johns County is one of 20 counties that own and manage FACT through an 11 member board of trustees elected by member counties which oversees daily operations. The program has been successful in assisting the county with loss prevention strategies with an overall goal of minimizing risk related costs. FACT delivers unique insurance coverage, claims and litigation management, as well as valuable risk management services for its members.

In his role as chair, Commissioner Bryan will be instrumental in leading FACT in meeting its goal of helping counties control costs of loss through effective risk management assistance and maintenance of reasonable and stable liability coverage pricing on an at-cost basis.

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Nease NJROTC Cadets attend leadership academy

Captain Robert Young, Gunnery Sergeant Duane Hanson, Cadet Will Duncan, Cadet Christopher Mead, Cadet Tyler Mayben, Cadet Ashley Cooper, Cadet Madison Stenzel, Cadet Nicole Thatcher and Cadet Jared Heinrich. Photo by Cyndi Thatcher.

The Allen D. Nease Panther Navy is part of Area 12 NJROTC (Navy Junior ROTC). Each summer, approximately 150 cadets are nominated amongst 61 high schools throughout Georgia and North Florida. The top shelf cadets meet for one week for formal leadership training at the Riverside Military academy in Gainesville, Georgia. The qualifications to attend this leadership academy include strong academic, athletic and leadership performance. The cadets are divided into two companies, each with five platoons.

For the 2012 Class, Cadets Ashley Cooper, Will Duncan, Jared Heinrich, Tyler Mayben, Christopher Mead, Madison Stenzel and Nicole Thatcher represented Nease High School NJROTC. The weeklong camp begins with intense physical training starting before dawn, preparing them for a physical fitness test mid-week, which they must pass or risk being sent home. Throughout the day, cadets attend classes covering integrity in leadership, teamwork, planning, goal setting, loyalty, social etiquette and being a servant leader, among many other facets of leadership. Cadets are required to pass a final exam at the end of the week in order to graduate from this Academy.

Cadets also participate in daily drill practice to reinforce discipline and precision. Two Nease Cadets, Jared Heinrich and Will Duncan, served as platoon commanders for their respective platoons, leading them not only in drill formations but in other various functions at the academy as well.

Cadets are expected to keep both their rooms and their uniforms orderly throughout the day and receive scores based on their performance in daily barracks inspections and uniform inspections. These tests instill orderliness, precision, attention to detail and time management, as well as teamwork as cadets must work together to keep their shared rooms neat and clean. Then the platoons are ranked by their cumulative score.

Individual cadet scores include the combined scores for uniform inspections, room inspections, class work and exams, and the physical fitness test. The cadet with the overall highest combined score from each platoon is named the Platoon Honor Cadet, earns the Cadet Achievement Award. This summer, Cadets Thatcher, Stenzel and Mead each won Platoon Honor Cadet within their respective platoons. Additionally, Cadet Stenzel won the award for highest academic average in Bravo Company and Cadets Heinrich and Mead were tied for highest academic average for Alpha Company.

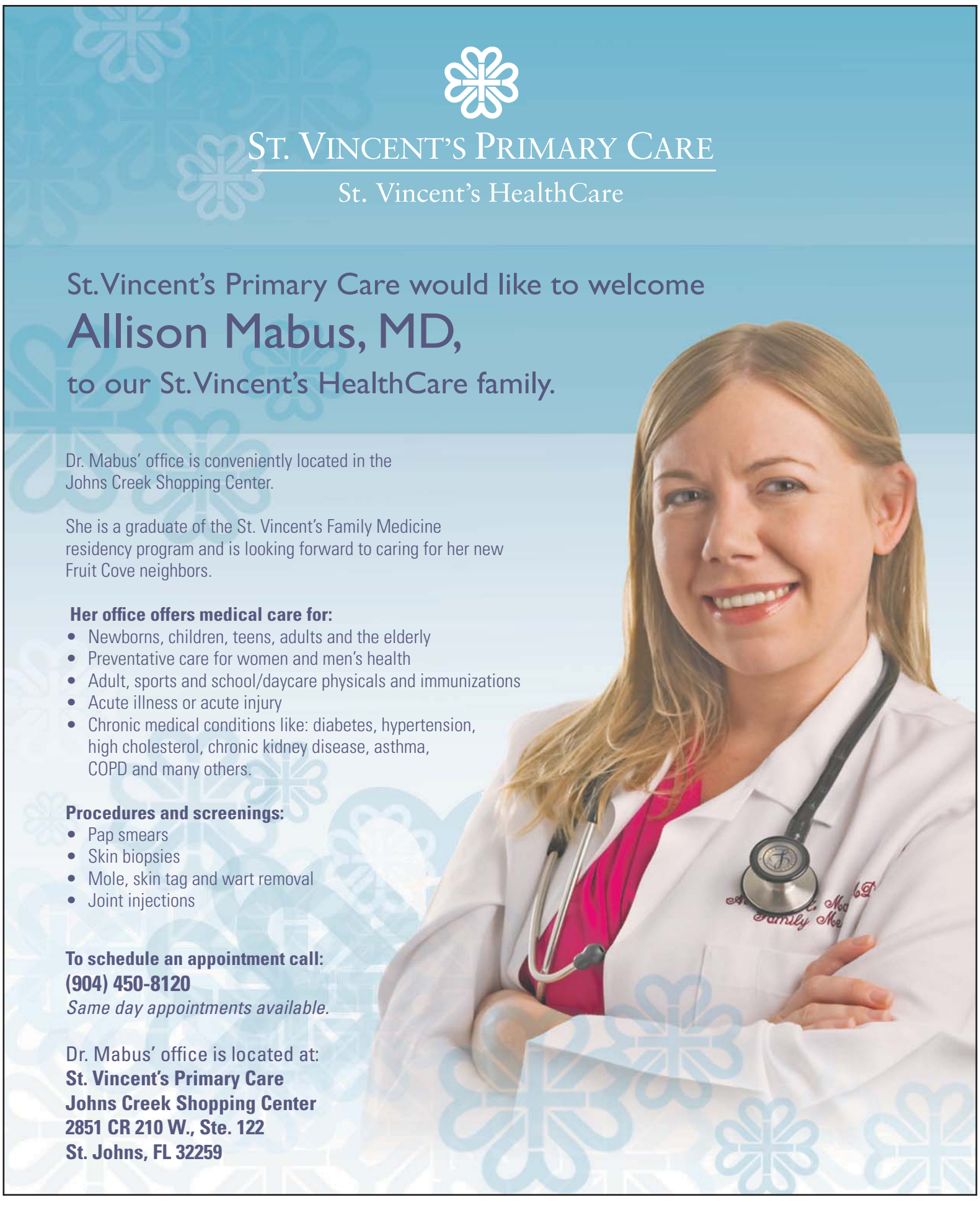
During this summer's 2012 Leadership Academy, Nease Cadets once again demonstrated high standards of excellence and commitment in their work, and once again proved the Nease NJROTC Panther Navy truly is "A Cut Above."

Mission trip cont from pg. 1

resist doing basic chores at home are miraculously found pitching in to do things like mopping floors, doing dishes, restocking paper products in bathrooms and taking out trash on a daily basis. And these are no small tasks because roughly 200 youth and adults are staying at the facility every week throughout the summer. That's a lot of dishes and paper products!

The teens in the Geneva youth group look forward with anticipation to their mission projects, working to pay for each trip through various fundraisers throughout the year. This year, four students from outside of Geneva's church family came along so they too could participate in a youth mission project.

Adults and students alike came away from the trip to rural Kentucky with an appreciation for all they have, a sense of satisfaction in having made others' lives a little better and a strengthened bond of friendship within the group. It's comforting to know that there are youth programs like the one offered by Geneva Presbyterian Church building teens' faith and teaching them through experience that there is much more to life than material belongings, video games and a focus on one's self. It is truly an enriching experience this group looks forward to every year.



What's New cont from pg. 4

call RSVP of St. Johns County at 547-3945 or email freemac@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

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, August 14, Tuesday, August 21 and Tuesday, August 28 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 St. Johns County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your lawn and garden questions at the Bartram Trail Branch Library located at 60 Davis Pond Road at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. Clinics are for scheduled for Saturday, August 11 and Thursday, August 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. You can bring in a soil sample for free pH testing. Instructions on taking a soil sample can be found on the internet.

The 210 Community Market was founded by a local residents' group, The 210 Community Alliance. The goal of both the founders and the market is to unite the communities along the 210 sector. The market is envisioned to be a town center for neighbors to gather and enjoy the open air atmosphere of a local community market. The market will feature specialty foods as well as artisan crafters and organic fruits and vegetables. We have moved the market to a new location, the Winn Dixie parking lot at 2220 County Road 210. Come out and join us and bring the whole family, including the dog. The market will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14–7 meets the first Thursday of every month at 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.

"Texture with Native Plants" is the program on August 16, 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Enhance your landscape with plants that sway in the summer breezes and calm the senses. If you want to use less water, fertilizer and pest control, native plants can be an excellent choice. Instructors include Gail Compton, nature columnist; Beverly Fleming, Master Gardener and Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant. The program is free, open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. For more information, please call 209-0430.

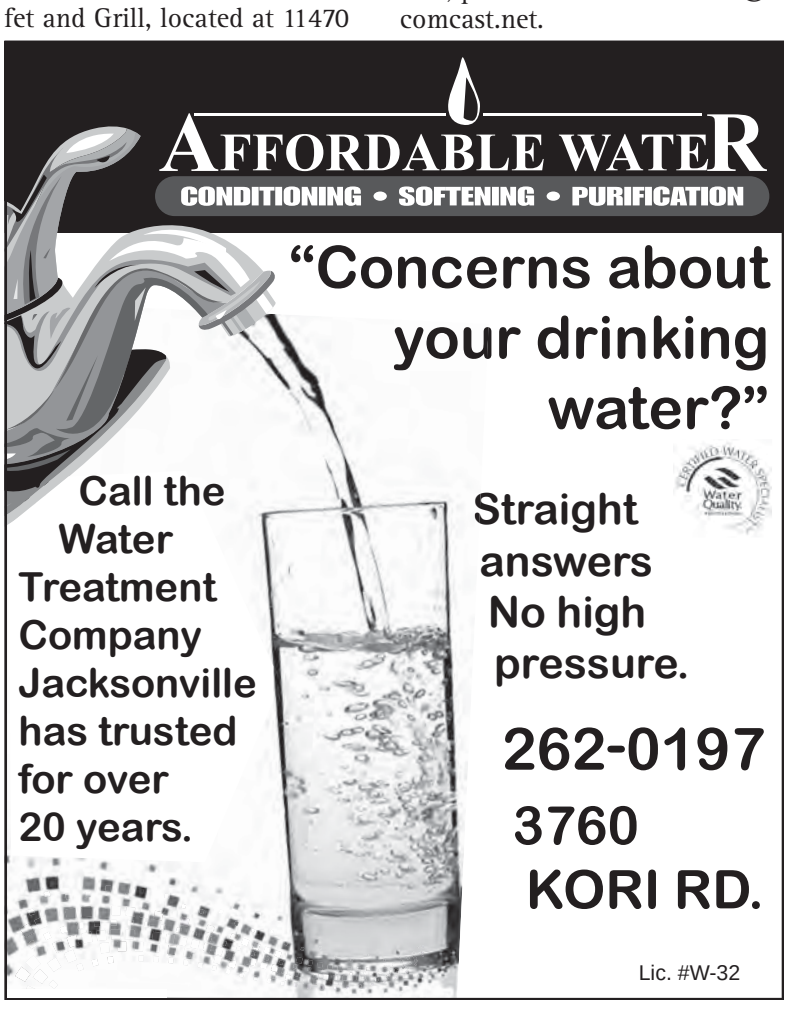
The MOMS Club is a wonderful way to meet other stay-at-home and part-time working mothers and is a fun way for your children to socialize with other children. Mothers with children of all ages are welcome. Members for this chapter must live in the 32092 or 32095 zip codes, including all neighborhoods 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. 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 Sarah at sanmoms@gmail.com, check out our website at http:\\sanmomsclub.weebly.com or drop into our business meeting.

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.

Congratulations to the Julington Creek 18 and up boys baseball team who won the state championship the weekend of June 30 – July 1. They are now headed to Alabama for the regional tournament.

The NASJAX Skin and Scuba Diving Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, located at 11470 San Jose Boulevard in Mandarin. The club is open to all divers and those who are interested in diving.

Single, divorced, widowed and looking to make new friends? **The JCP Singles Network** is for adults 40s and up—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.



Political Commentary

Angry mobs and peer pressure can be helpful

By J. Bruce Richardson

We conclude reporting on The Wall Street Journal article of April 21, 2012, "Rethinking The War On Drugs" by Mark A.R. Kleiman, Jonathan P. Caulkins and Angela Hawken. Previously, we reviewed new and innovative ways to fight the high cost of prosecuting alcohol-related crime and repeat drug offenders.

"Substantial progress in suppressing the drug use of arrestees would be a great boon. It would deprive the illicit drug markets of their most valuable customers, which would, in turn, reduce violence in inner-city neighborhoods. ...

"Since the war on drugs started ... three decades ago, the law has found it impossible to stop the flow of illegal drugs. Prices have dropped despite billions of dollars spent on catching drug dealers ... . We are long overdue for refocusing antidrug efforts on the central task of protecting public safety and order.

"David Kennedy of John Jay College in New York City has pioneered two related programs designed to go after the most violent dealers and organizations and to shut down the most violet market areas. His Drug Market Intervention program, first used in High Point, N.C. ..., focuses on areas where crack house and flagrant street-corner dealing generate crime and disorder.

"... (T)he police negotiate community support, ... identify all the dealers and make cases against them. Then comes the surprising part: Instead of being arrested, the nonviolent dealers are called in for a meeting ... . They are presented with the evidence against them ... and confronted by angry neighbors, clergy and relatives. Each one is then offered a choice: Stop dealing and get help to turn your life around, or tell it to the judge.

"The point is not to eliminate the drug supply but to force dealing into a less flagrant and socially damaging form: sales in bars or home delivery instead of street-corner transactions. The results have been spectacular, with long-established markets disappearing overnight.

"Prof. Kennedy's other innovation was the Boston Ceasefire program. In 1996, violent youth gangs engaged in drug dealing and other crimes were brought in by the authorities and given a simple message: 'If anyone in your gang shoots somebody, we will come down on every member of the gang for all of his illegal activity.' Suddenly gang members had a strong reason to enforce nonviolence on one another, and pressure from peers turned out to be more effective than pressure from police officers. Youth homicides dropped from two a month before the program started to none in the following two years. ...

"The U.S. has reached a dead end in trying to fight drug use by treating every offender as a serious criminal. Blanket drug legalization has some superficial charm – it fits nicely into a soundbite or tweet – but it can't stand up to serious analysis. The real prospects for reform involve policies rather than slogans. ..."

This series has shown proven, alternative programs which are more than theories – they are practical applications making a difference in peoples' lives.

In Florida, we have found success with very tough "three strikes and you're out" laws and taking away judicial discretion. But, with any absolutes over a period of time, we have found injustice which cancels justice.

In the name of justice, in the name of fiscal responsibility, in the name of morality as a people, we have to start doing something different. We elect judges we feel know justice, then hamstring them with mandatory sentences. They become mere technicians rather than wise interpreters of the law. We elect state attorneys expecting them to have and use discretion, but find them grandstanding and making political rather than judicious decisions.

In this election year, it will be critical to elect lawmakers who will look beyond the easy solutions and find innovative ways to make the places we call home safer and saner.

J. Bruce Richardson is a longtime journalist and consultant who writes in Jacksonville print publications exclusively for RT Publishing, Inc. He has led projects in Washington as well as Ottawa, Canada, and authors an Internet-based transportation column which is read in more than 60 countries. He lives and works in Jacksonville.

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Local hospital ranked high-performing in nine specialties

Memorial Hospital has been named a "U.S. News and World Report Best Regional Hospital" in the publication's annual Best Hospitals issue. Memorial Hospital was ranked high-performing, meaning it scored in the top 25 percent of hospitals nationwide, in nine medical specialties:

- Cardiology and Heart Surgery
- Diabetes and Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Geriatrics
- Gynecology
- Nephrology
- Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology

The hospital rankings, said *U.S. News* Health Rankings editor Avery Comarow, are like a GPS-type aid to help steer patients to hospitals with strong skills in the procedures and medical conditions that present the biggest challenges.

"All of these hospitals are the kinds of medical centers that should be on your list when you need the best care," said Comarow.

U.S. News and World Report takes into account patient survival rates, patient safety rates, technology and patient services offered.

"We are very pleased the quality care we provide our patients every day is being recognized by such a well-respected organization," said Memorial president and CEO James O'Loughlin. "Our entire staff works tirelessly to make sure our patients get the best medical experience possible."

This is the latest in a series of independent studies that have given Memorial Hospital positive marks for patient safety. Earlier this month Consumer Reports ranked Memorial in the top 10 percent of hospitals in Florida in terms of patient safety. Just last month Memorial Hospital received positive scores for patient safety by the independent Leapfrog Group. Memorial is also the only hospital in Jacksonville to be named a Top Performer in Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission.

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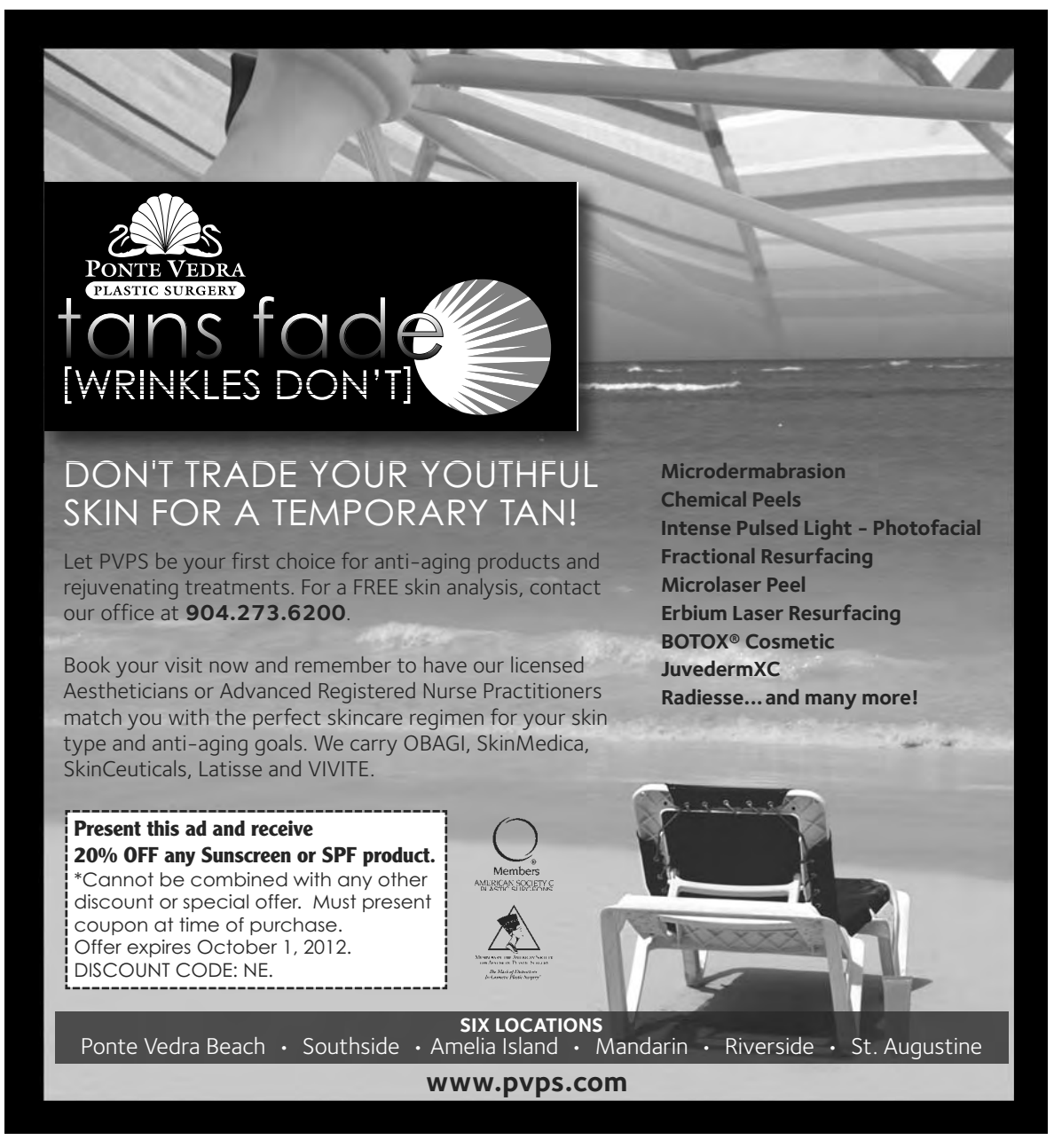

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Florida rolls out new guide for senior drivers

Florida has something new specifically designed for aging drivers. *The Florida Guide for Aging Drivers* is a handy book available at no cost to senior drivers, compliments of the Florida Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. The Coalition, a group comprised of professionals from 28 organizations, created the guide to give aging drivers a comprehensive resource with the most up-to-date information available.

Users will find safe driving tips, licensing information, lists of resources and community contacts for every county in the state. Basically, the guide offers just about everything an aging driver needs to be more proactive about staying safe on the road. This book compliments the website www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org and is just the right size for the car's glove box and available through the: Safe Mobility for Life Resource Center 636 West Call Street Tallahassee, FL 32306.

Why does Florida need an aging driver guide? Actually, it makes perfect sense when you consider that Florida leads the nation with 18 percent of its population age 65 and older. In fact, by the year 2030, over 27 percent will be over age 65, with half of those 75 or older. Mirroring this growth, an increasing proportion of drivers in Florida are getting older. Currently, nearly 3 million drivers in Florida are over age 65.

"Most people experience a steady decline in some of the skills needed to safely drive as we get older; however, these changes do not affect all drivers at the same age or in the same way," says Gail Holley, Florida Department of Transportation's Safe Mobility for Life program and research manager. "It is important for everyone to understand the impact that aging can have on their driving and learn the warning signs and resources that are available to them so they can make the transition when driving may no longer be a safe option."

The guide is designed to help aging drivers strike a balance between safety and the need for independence. The hope is that users of the guide will take the time to consider their driving abilities, take steps to improve their driving skills, explore other transportation options if needed and start making a plan for retirement from driving if it becomes necessary in the future.

Julington Creek Plantation CDD report

By Contributing Writer Sam Lansdale, Supervisor, Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District

The Julington Creek Plantation CDD facilities, amenities and programs are the envy of both current and prospective Northeast Florida homeowners. The variety of recreation services and programs both appeal to and benefit many in the JCP community. However, just because we have a great thing going, doesn't mean we can't do it for less cost or look for ways to improve how we provide our services.

At the last CDD meeting, discussion took place with regard to proposed cost savings in the proposed 2013 budget. A suggestion was made to budget an increase in the child watch program hourly rate from $3 per hour to $5 per hour which would reduce the tax payer subsidy of this program by approximately $17,000 over the budget year. However, this was met with resistance from the majority of the supervisors as an unreasonable increase. Originally when the child watch program was started, fees paid by the users were supposed to cover the costs to provide the service but that has not happened and now this program is subsidized by the tax payers by approximately $21,000 a year.

During the same meeting, a supervisor made a motion to provide a 3 percent increase to all the salaried and hourly staff of the CDD, including temporary and part-time personnel. This was supported by the majority of the board of supervisors and passed. I understand discussions of government employee salary increases and incentive bonuses can be contentious topics. I believe the goal should be for government employees to receive pay, perks and benefits comparable to some valid benchmark, but the CDD has, in my opinion, failed to determine what is fair or comparable salary ranges. The CDD refuses to perform an accurate and comprehensive salary analysis to evaluate each position based on its job responsibilities and the regional pay scale. If we don't know what a fair salary range is, how can we make decisions on salary increases or bonuses? This is why some residents have questioned the doubling of some employee salaries and the almost 700 percent increase in the salaries budget over the last six years.

I believe that CDD operational costs could be better managed by your board of supervisors. We should be closely reviewing how we provide services in order to make improvements and pushing the "user-paid" programs to generate revenues sufficient to at least cover the expenses required to provide such services. This year I presented a plan to the CDD that would further reduce operating costs by approximately $112,000 all without reducing the level of service. If you are interested in reading how we can reduce the budget without reducing the level of service, please feel free to contact me.

We work for you and I encourage you to attend the board of supervisors meetings and voice your concerns or opinions on how we are conducting your business. The next CDD meetings will take place on August 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Fruit Cove Middle School, and September 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the JCP Recreation Center. Feel free to contact me day or night via e-mail SLansdale@jcpcdd.org or phone 509-4902.

This article is my opinion and in no way constitutes nor implies District opinion, endorsement, sponsorship or viewpoint. The views expressed may or may not be shared by the other JCP CDD Supervisors.

Editor's Note: The CreekLine is, and has always been, agreeable to publishing columns penned by our elected officials so that they may communicate directly with our readers, their constituents. Any questions or requests for additional public servant columns may be directed to editor@thecreekline.com.

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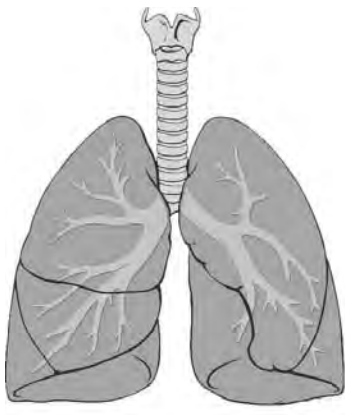

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New traditional barbershop opens in Mandarin

Angelo's Barbershop is now open on San Jose Boulevard south of Interstate 295 in Mandarin. They focus on men and provide traditional barbering services, just as owner Dominic Ruscetta's family did years ago.

Ruscetta explains, "Angelo Ruscetta, my grandfather, was a barber in Italy before moving to America in 1911. He inspired me to create my own barbershop were men can come and feel the classic touch of a professional barber!"

At Angelo's Barbershop, every haircut gets a hot towel neck shave. They offer hot towel face and head shaves.

Master barbers are available to welcome you at the door seven days a week. If you want someone who will pay attention to detail and provide real deal barbering services, be sure to visit Angelo's Barbershop.

Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

District board approves tentative budget

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

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board approved a tentative budget on July 10 that holds steady on its tax rate and reflects a budget that will support District core mission priorities and projects. The tentative 0.3313 millage rate would result in $80.1 million in revenue that would be part of a total $120.8 million budget. The budget is also slated to be funded with state, federal and other district sources (including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings, permit fees and fund balances).

Under a 0.3313 millage rate—33.13 cents for every $1,000 of assessed property value—the owner of a $200,000 house with a $50,000 homestead exemption would pay $49.69 in the coming year in property taxes to the district.

Additionally, the board approved a revised budgeting method that provides funding to support only the expenditures anticipated during the fiscal year.

"We are taking a responsible approach that is more in line with the way we and other taxpayers spend during tighter budget times," said Governing Board Vice Chairman John Miklos of Orlando. "By taking a pay-as-we-go approach to project spending, we will budget as we anticipate expenses to occur."

Through this process, the district budget for fiscal year 2012-2013, which begins October 1, will more accurately reflect the work being accomplished on an annual basis. The budget considers the total needs for district priority projects, ensuring that projects are sufficiently funded to achieve completion.

The proposed budget includes funding for priority restoration projects at Fellsmere Water Management Area and provides funds for continued water supply planning, including water conservation, and minimum flows and levels prevention and recovery strategy projects. The tentative budget also supports the district's assessment of groundwater supplies and reflects a continued commitment to increased use of reclaimed water in the Lower St. Johns River Basin.

Public hearings on the tentative budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 11 and 25. Final budget adoption will occur at the September 25 meeting.

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Affordable legal services now available to St. Johns County

Ever wish you could get sound legal advice or services but rejected the idea of getting an attorney out of dread for all those seemingly open-ended, billable hours? That's the very inspiration behind attorney Claudia Kenny's newly opened law firm Legalight, located in Palencia's Market Street Business Center. Kenny's vision with Legalight is to break old legal traditions that intimidate the average person from seeking a lawyer or leave them feeling obligated to pay whatever astronomical fees a high-profile law firm would charge.

Legalight services eliminate the frustration people associate with attorneys that require hefty retainers and by-the-hour billing only and utilizes a fixed, flat-fee billing whenever possible. Not all legal services are appropriate for a fixed flat fee, but many, like business services and simple estate planning, can be delivered for a flat-rate. On services that do not allow for a flat-fee billing rate, Legalight works with the client to provide affordably priced legal solutions that meet the individual client's specific needs.

For Legalight founder Kenny, necessity truly was the mother of invention. After graduating from the University of Miami with a BA in Business Administration, she and her husband Robert started a technology company, known today as Hyperscreens, LLC in St. Johns County. They were constantly discouraged by the lack of good, reasonably priced legal services available for their company. Kenny saw an opportunity to fill an obvious gap in the legal profession and went back to school at Florida Coastal School of Law to get her law degree. After graduating and passing the bar, she immediately went to work for Legal Aid in St. Johns County to be able to help people in need. That's when the final piece of the puzzle fell into place and Kenny envisioned the idea for Legalight.

At Legal Aid, Kenny found that they were obligated to only serve those who qualify for the services based on asset-income standards that are restricted to a certain percentage over federal poverty levels. So low-income people could get Legal Aid and wealthier people could pay for the high-end law firms, but that still left small business owners and middle class residents unable to afford the legal services they needed.

Legalight was born out of a desire to fill that gap and meet people's legal needs effectively and economically. Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

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Newcomers' and Women's Club announces meeting

By Contributing Writer Linda Gomolka

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will begin another year of fun activities and friendships with our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 11 at the BlackFinn American Grille in the St. Johns Town Center. The restaurant is located at 4840 Big Island Drive, #05, Jacksonville 32226. Our meeting is open to anyone. This will be a luncheon meeting with the doors opening at 10:45 a.m. Information on entrée choices, cost, reservation deadline and where to send a check is on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/Bartram-Trail.Newcomers.WomensClub. The Bartram Trail Newcomers Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at various local restaurants for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups. There are various card groups (bridge and canasta), golf, recipe exchange, special event outings, game day (Mexican Train), Bunko, Mah Jongg, book clubs, movie and lunch, a nature walk group and community volunteer projects.

For club information, please contact Vice President of Membership Shirley Bodziak. Her email is Shirley@bodziak.com. Members who join before August 31 will pay only $20, saving $5 on their membership fee of $25. To download a membership form, go to www.facebook.com/BartramTrail.Newcomers.WomensClub.

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Smart money tips for the self-employed

By Contributing Writer Judson Mallini, Financial Planner, CFP, CLU, Prudential Financial Planning Services

With so many looking for jobs and the opportunities out there limited, many are considering opening their own business. Working for yourself, setting your own hours and calling the shots are appealing. But what about managing your money? Working for yourself offers flexibility, but it also presents unique financial challenges.

Whether you are currently an independent contractor in today's work force or just considering making the leap to entrepreneur, here are four quick tips to help you plan your financial future.

Manage your cash flow: It's so important to be prepared to deal with periods of uneven cash flow. To ensure you always have money reserves, develop a budget that allows for swings in your income. Determine an average of how much revenue you can count on each month and use that as a base for monthly expenses. During months that you earn more, resist the urge to splurge. Instead, stash away extra cash in an interest-earning savings account or money market account. Also, when setting up your budget, consider paying yourself a set salary and keeping your personal and business cash in separate accounts. These steps alone will greatly simplify your life when tax time rolls around.

Keep Uncle Sam happy: As an independent contractor, you should receive a Form 1099-MISC from every organization that pays you $600 or more during the tax year. But, you should also keep your own records on what you receive because the income is taxable whether or not you receive a Form 1099-MISC. Since no taxes are withheld, you will need to calculate the amount you owe. Now is the time to invest in a good tax software program or line up a good tax advisor. The IRS website (www.irs.gov) also has guidelines on calculating quarterly tax payments. Keep in mind, you will also have to pay your own Social Security and Medicare taxes. The good news is that the self-employed enjoy many unique tax breaks. Contributions to retirement plans, health insurance premiums, travel costs and office-related expenses may be deductible. Your personal tax advisor can help you determine which deductions are applicable to your business.

Prioritize protection planning: When working for yourself, it's up to you to provide your own health, disability and life insurance to protect your business and your family. At the very least, you should have enough coverage to protect against potential loss of income due to illness or disability, medical and dental expenses not covered by government health plans, and potential medical expenses while you travel. You may also need to boost your home insurance coverage or purchase liability insurance if you have a home-based business. Your best bet is to speak to a licensed financial professional or accountant to determine how much coverage you really need.

Invest in your future: It's never too soon, or too late for that matter, to start saving for retirement. Fortunately, the government affords the self-employed many generous tax breaks when it comes to retirement accounts. There are a number of retirement accounts for business owners, including the traditional IRA, Roth Ira, Keogh plan, Simple-Ira, SEP-IRA and the Solo 401(k) Profit Sharing Account that you can consider.

Working for yourself can be both exciting and overwhelming, with many new challenges to face, and an equal number of opportunities. Developing a strategy that will help address your goals for economic security and success is an important step to your success.

For additional information, please contact judson.mallini@prudential.com.

Wanted: your updated address...

Have you received your new Voter Information Card? Approximately 140,000 registered voters in St. Johns County have been mailed new Voter Information Cards. Currently, 20,000 cards have been returned to the Elections Office by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable. Voters who have not received their cards or who need to make changes to their voter record are encouraged to update their information on-line at www.votesjc.com, by calling the Elections Office at 823-2238 or in person at the Supervisor of Elections Office at 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 in St. Augustine.

Voters are reminded that as a result of the recent redistricting, their voting information has changed. The Supervisor of Elections asks that voters please verify their information before going to vote. The voter information card contains the address, party affiliation, polling location and district information.

Note: when voting in person a voter information card is not required. The law requires photo and signature ID. Any voter without proper ID can still vote, but is required to vote a provisional ballot.

For more elections information, please visit www.votesjc.com or call 823-2238.

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When should I file an insurance claim?

By Contributing Writer Bob Ebersberger, President, Varsity Insurance Inc

One of the most common question presented to me by customers is should I file a claim? My answer is always the same. It depends.

Deciding to pay out of pocket or file an insurance claim is not always clear. You purchased insurance for life's unexpected events, but sometimes you need the advice of your agent to guide you on when to file a claim.

An insurance claim is a request to an insurance company to pay a loss. Once reported, the claim initiates an evaluation process to determine if the loss is the responsibility of your insurance company to contractually cover and pay. However, keep in mind the purpose of insurance for consumers is to protect them from financial disaster, not small expenses.

Common sense sets these guidelines. Do file if ...

1. The loss is large. Experts agree it is not wise to make small claims although the very definition of "small" varies. Is it $500? $1,000? It depends on what you can afford to pay out of pocket.

2. You have not had recent claims. Filing a single claim may have no effect on your auto or homeowners premiums. (Accident forgiveness)

3. Injuries are involved. If there is a chance someone else in the incident could claim injury, file the claim to protect yourself from an injury lawsuit. In Florida, your own injury bills are payable by your own auto insurance company so if you went to the hospital or received a doctor's treatment, I advise to file a claim.

4. You have had the policy with the same company for a few years. Longtime customers who make few or no claims generally will get more leniency then new customers who file claims.

Do not file if...

1. Your deductible is higher then the value of your claim. Many times it is best to have a damage estimate in hand before calling the insurance company claims office.

2. You have had other recent claims and your damage is small. Unfortunately, multiple claims in a short period of time will sometimes trigger rate increases or policy cancellation.

Your agent is a valuable resource. A call for help or advice can be a way to eliminate frustration and save money!

For additional information, please contact varsity@fdn.com.

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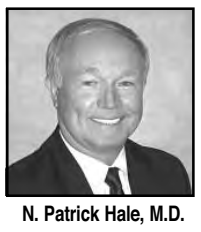
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Check out area's newest concept salon

A new concept salon has arrived here in the Mandarin/NW St. Johns County area. This eclectic world style hair salon has a beautiful photography studio located right inside. What could be better than your stylist doing your hair and make-up; then stepping into a photo shoot for family portraits, senior pictures, pre and post baby pictures or maybe a mother and daughter photo shoot just for fun?

This concept came from Anetta Nadolna Wilkerson. Driven by her passion for photography, Wilkerson's business has been so successful that she needed to find a larger space to work her magic behind the camera. In purchasing the photography studio she realized the potential to incorporate her other passions: hair styling and make-up, which she has been doing full time for many years. It just made so much sense to combine both enterprises in one place: the Art n Illusion Salon and Studio.

The hair salon is made up of four stylists, a receptionist and a nail technician. All are previously of Paradise Hair Designs and have worked side by side for many years.

The response to this new salon and studio has been overwhelming—whereas people used to plan pictures for special occasions, coordinating hair up-dos and make up with their photo session, now everything is conveniently located in one place. For instance, students getting senior photos have a variety of photographic opportunities including different outfits, hairstyles and even make up. Finally, the accessibility of this symbiotic union of artistic talents has resulted in some clients of Art n Illusion simply having pictures taken to upload on Facebook, use for passports or just to give a piece of themselves to a loved one.

Be sure to look for their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

WWW Visit our website: www.TheCreekLine.com

William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@bellsouth.net

Members of the Scenic Highway Management Council are presently enjoying the summer but we're still moving forward with some of our projects.

The project ranking accomplished during our last meeting has helped us move forward to develop "scopes of service" documents required for us to determine costs and budgets to complete the projects. When reconvening in September, we'll be geared to make decisions to meet our 2012 objectives.

In the July issue of The CreekLine I outlined the priority list of projects we're attempting to fund and complete and I'm very pleased to say this has created a lot of interest on the part of The CreekLine's readers who have asked for membership brochures and/or volunteer their services. This interest is much appreciated and we look forward to growing community interest in our work.

Anyone interested in joining the William Bartram Scenic Highway organization to help protect and preserve the intrinsic and historic resources along the scenic highway should request a membership brochure by calling 287-5577 or e-mail alabbat@bellsouth.net . Memberships start at $15 for students and seniors. Corporate sponsorships are also available.

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on September 13, 2012 at the County Annex at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard. See you then.

University of Georgia appoints new director of federal relations

University of Georgia alumnus D. Andrew Dill joined his alma mater in a professional capacity as he became its newest director of federal relations, effective July 30. Dill will replace previous director J. Griffin Doyle, who was promoted to vice president for government relations at UGA in 2011.

The director of federal relations position will be based in Washington, D.C., where Dill currently lives. Since April 2011, he has served as General Electric Company's manager of government relations and policy. He started with General Electric in its experienced commercial leadership program in 2009 after working as a regional representative for United States Senator Johnny Isakson from 2007 to 2009.

"Andrew is an accomplished professional in both the public and private sector as well as a devoted UGA alumnus," said Doyle, to whom Dill will report. "His energy, expertise and contacts, along with his experiences with Senator Isakson and General Electric, will give UGA a much greater presence in our nation's capital."

As director, Dill will be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing university priorities with the federal government that enhance the university's research, instruction and outreach missions. He is the university's principal liaison with the Congress, federal departments and agencies, as well as with higher education associations and related advocacy groups. In addition to coordinating UGA's government relations program and assisting with the development and implementation of the university's federal agenda, Dill will help connect faculty and administrators with key elected and appointed officials, including coordinating visits for both groups in Washington and Athens.

Dill is currently on the executive committee of the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is chairman of the UGA 40 Under 40, a member of the Georgia State Society and a member of the Leadership Athens class of 2009.

Dill graduated with a double major from the UGA Terry College of Business and School of Public and International Affairs in 2006. He holds bachelor's degrees in risk management and insurance and in political science. He also received a certificate in organizational leadership while at UGA.

Dill is a 2002 graduate of Bartram Trail High School. His mother, Debbie, is a sixth grade math teacher at Fruit Cove Middle School. His father, David, is the vice president of marketing for Gate Petroleum Company. They are long time St. Johns County residents.

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Before

After

A great Smile is a Beautiful thing

PPECs offer a less costly alternative to in-home nursing care

A medically fragile child has unique needs that require skilled medical attention. This child may need apnea monitoring, oxygen administration, tube feedings, IV medication, tracheostomy care or ventilator management. Whether temporary or short term, this means financial and time commitment from parents who may have to hire in-home nursing care or otherwise postpone work or studies to stay home full time and attend to these needs. It also usually means social isolation for the child.

In Florida, these families have another answer – a little-known solution, which happens to also be 100 percent covered by Medicaid, for those who are eligible.

Florida has passed legislation and initiated a Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care program (PPEC) to provide a cost effective alternative to private duty nursing or institutionalization and reduce the isolation that homebound children may experience. Caregiver Services, Inc. (CSI), a leading provider of caregiving services and Florida's largest nurse registry, has been a pioneer in this program and developed meticulously appointed centers through its CSI-Special Care division to provide medical and therapeutic care in a friendly and nurturing environment. Licensed and regulated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), CSI's PPEC centers are staffed by highly skilled and qualified nursing professionals and therapists, and offer up to 12 hours of daily health-focused care and therapy services. Already successfully operating in the southern part of Florida, CSI has opened centrally located centers in Jacksonville, near the downtown Wolfson Children's Hospital and in Fruit Cove, just south of Mandarin. For the surrounding communities, convenient transportation to and from these centers is available.

"My grandson has a tracheostomy and a feeding tube and has received specialized attention from the nurses at CSI-Special Care," said Janice Chappell, grandmother and caregiver to a patient. "Therapies for my grandson are received right there in the center and the nurses are very attentive. They have actually helped in the progression of my grandson's mobility. I know that I can drop him off in the mornings and be confident that he is receiving the best care possible."

Pediatric physicians are turning to PPECs as solutions for their patients and prescribing their services. The PPECs represent a less costly alternative to in-home care or hospitalization and provide social stimulation and peer interaction in a daycare setting.

"Our PPECs are not only for medically-complex children who have conditions more chronic in nature. Though we certainly have the skilled staff to manage these conditions, many of our patients require less complex supervision such as apnea monitoring or administration of small amounts of oxygen, routines that are not handled at regular daycares due to liability issues," explained Jane Park, RN, Director of Pediatric Services at CSI. "Some of our children simply need three or six-month skilled observation, perhaps because of feeding issues or a failure to thrive." CSI's Fruit Cove PPEC can take children by the hour, by the day, by the week or on a longer-term basis. In addition to Medicaid, Private Pay is also accepted. Many stay-at-home parents find great comfort in leaving their medically dependent child for the day under the care of skilled, compassionate nursing, while they run errands or have a respite.

The PPECs operated by CSI are not only fulfilling a much underserved need in the St. Johns and Duval communities. At the Fruit Cove location, they are also fostering better pediatric nursing care. CSI works with local nursing education programs to use the PPEC as part of their pediatric clinical rotation.

"Our CSI nurses working at the PPEC talk and teach, as they perform their routines, to provide nursing students rotating through our center an in-depth understanding of the care of medically-complex children," stated Park.

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Encore!

The Alhambra brightens summer entertainment

By Betty Swenson Bergmark, Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville University

As is always the trend in Jacksonville, musical and theatrical events are limited during the summer. We are fortunate however to have the Alhambra, which continues to offer a variety of theatrical experiences. As many of you know, the Alhambra was saved from extinction in 2009 by Craig Smith, who not only greatly improved the ambience of the gem of a dinner theatre facility, but has also offered some outstanding theatrical presentations accompanied by gourmet meals!

On a recent visit, I was brought up to date on what is going on this summer. Currently a family-oriented production of "The Wizard of Oz" is being presented. What is special about this is the fact that the Alhambra has chosen to share its success by identifying it as a fundraiser for the Northeast Florida Community Hospice.

From July 25 to August 19, the theatre will present Jason Petty in "Hank and my Honky Tonk Heroes." Taking one back to the beginnings of country music, it will make you smile and make you cry as it retells the story of Hank Williams' tragic and too short life. Jason Petty has been acclaimed nationally for his presentation, including five nominations for the New York "best actor" award.

September 5 to October 7 will see a complete change of pace when the Alhambra features Joyce DeWitt in a drama about a middle-aged couple who appear to be living the ideal life. An unexpected appearance by a former boyfriend turns their lives upside down.

October 18 to November 25 will change the mood again when "Phantom," a different version of "Phantom of the Opera" will be presented. This one is unique in that it begins the story early in the life of the phantom, with many twists along the way.

And then of course the holiday season will be celebrated November 28 to December 24 with the presentation of "White Christmas," a tradition for more than 20 years at the Alhambra.

No description of the programs being offered would be complete without mention of the superb food one gets to enjoy as part of the celebration. After much consideration, the buffet was eliminated. "Plated service" at one's table is now the routine. The menu is planned to compliment the current production and includes a choice of two or three salads, three entrees and three desserts. All food is prepared under the supervision of Executive Chef De Juan Roy. You can expect a gourmet meal!

For additional information you can call 641-1212 or visit the web at www.alhambrajax.com.

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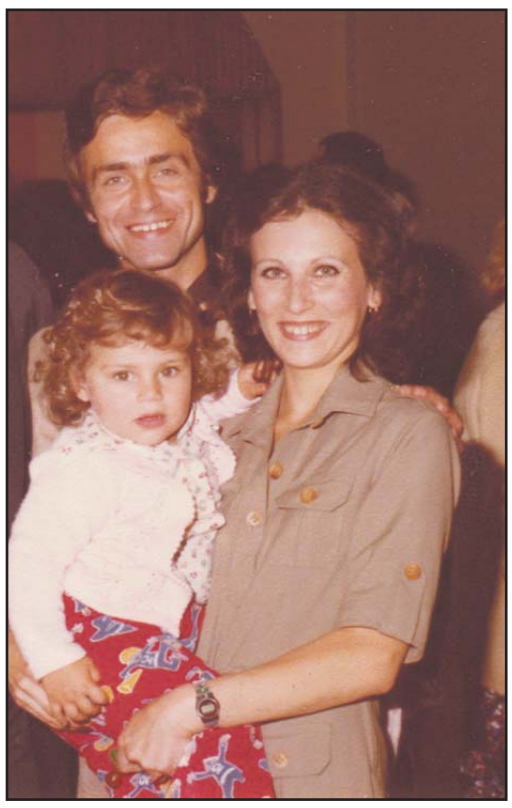
When the Spivaks came to America!

By Donna Keathley



1979 - The Spivaks arrive in Jacksonville.

Thousands of northeast Florida girls and boys have danced through the halls of Mark Spivak's Dance Institute and Dance Extension. Many danced as Sugar Plums as years of Nutcracker ballets have been performed in Jacksonville with Mark Spivak's artistic hand involved. How did our area garner such talent as Mark and Alisa Spivak? I had the "grand dame" assignment this month of getting to sit down with the Spivaks as we relived those years when their long-awaited arrival to the First Coast became a reality.

Mark Spivak graduated from the Institute of Culture and Arts in Kiev, Ukraine as a teacher, choreographer and business administrator. Beginning a dancing career at age 12, he had performed throughout the Soviet Union and abroad with the Ukrainian Concert Organization, the Russ Concert Organization and was the principal dancer of the Red Army Ensemble. Alisa Spivak had achieved a degree in gymnastic coaching and physical therapy from the Academy of Physical Culture. Mark and Alisa Spivak married in 1976.

Upon Alisa Spivak's insistence, they made application in 1978 to leave the Soviet Union, as her lifetime dream was to live in the United States of America. After giving birth to their first child, Stacie, she wanted to see this dream come to fruition.

Their waiting period of over a year was a tough one with much persistence from the government to change their mind. But ultimately they were released to make application to fly to America. So here they came, but to Jacksonville, Florida?

"Yes," says Mark Spivak. "I had a cousin who lived in Jacksonville so here we came; we flew directly to Jacksonville!"

Mark Spivak continued, "My cousin helped us get an apartment in Jacksonville and he had met one of the greatest dancer teachers at that time, Dulce Anaya. He introduced me to Dulce who was born in Cuba and was an immigrant to this country also, so she gave me a few classes to teach and I was off and running! I needed some money to pay rent and buy a car."

Alisa Spivak also hit the ground running; she went to work as a physical therapist for a local physician. So their life in America began, but it was not so easy as neither spoke any English! Mark Spivak remembers that there was no time for speech classes and such. He relied on the International Dance language of French for his communications at work; what he could not say in French he would demonstrate by physically dancing it out.

In just a matter of three months the Spivaks opened their own dance school located in the Hendricks Avenue area; that was 22 years ago. They now have two locations in the Julington Creek area and one in Mandarin. They run nine dance floors all at the same time totaling 146 dance classes per week. They also give the community more opportunities to be physically fit by leasing out their space for other activities like Jazzercise, Zumba, cheerleading, etc.

Alisa Spivak recalls the day that they received their United States citizenship in downtown Jacksonville.

"It was a really exciting day, it was really big! But I also remember how fast I wanted to get home as I was on the verge of delivering my second child, Andrew," she said as she chuckled.

Mark and Alisa Spivak made their last move nine years ago when they moved from Mandarin into Julington Creek Plantation.

"Jacksonville has been very good to me and Alisa, it's the classic American Dream. America helps anyone who helps themselves!" Mark Spivak proudly states.

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The Marines have landed!

On June 30, Detachment 383 of the Marine Corps League, "Oldest City Detachment" of St. Augustine made a "Hot Dog / Hamburger Landing" near St. George Street and Cathedral Place. This is one of many events whereby Detachment 383 raises funds to support the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, Young Marines, scholarship programs, Canes for Veterans, Marine for Life programs and Wounded Warriors. It must be said, "Mission accomplished and the situation was well in hand" (and also on a bun). The Detachment wants to thank all of those who stopped by to support this event. Semper Fi!

Local scout earns Eagle Scout Award

By Contributing Writer Darlene Barrington

Ammon John Bennion, of Boy Scout Troop 180 sponsored by the Julington Creek congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Boy Scouting. The award was presented to him during a Court of Honor ceremony on Sunday, July 15, 2012.

For his Eagle project Bennion designed and built an after-hours donation box for the Haven Hospice Attic store located on Wells Road in Orange Park. Sales of donations from this store benefit those who need help paying for hospice services. Members of his scout troop, along with his family and several friends from the community, worked approximately 150 hours and completed the project on May 28. Zerorez Carpet Cleaning donated use of their trucks and labor to raise funds for materials.

Bennion is a 14 year old ninth grader at Creekside High School. Along with scouting, he enjoys basketball, surfing, rock climbing, reading and gaming. His future plans include college and serving a two year mission for his church. His three older brothers and his father are also Eagle Scouts.

Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, August 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. The Rippers from Sew Much Comfort will meet at 10:00 a.m. This volunteer organization will be working on their holiday project, Helping Heroes' Families. This holiday season the group will be adopting several local military families from bases located in the area. Anyone wishing to take a star with a child/adult name and purchase a small gift is encouraged to take one. The festive red/white and blue bows and stars will have age, gender, sizes and interests of person, even pets! The families that will receive these gifts endure long separations from their brave loved ones as they fight to keep our country safe. This is our way of saying thank you.

Patriotic trees will be located at Golf Club of South Hampton, First Florida Credit Union, Faith Community Church, St. Johns Golf and Country Club and at the Cascades. All gifts will be distributed by the chaplains at the bases. Any neighborhood association, business, girl or boy scout troop that would like to help by taking a few families are encouraged to contact jacqphil@aol.com. Last year with the help of the community, over 800 Stockings for a Soldier were sent to those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ladies from Helping Hands presenting new school clothes which members donated for Crookshank Elementary. Pictured are Rachel Johnson, Darlene Barrington, Lorraine Elliott, Sarah Bradley (of First Florida Credit Union which donated the bags), Bailey Benoit (guidance counselor at Crookshank School) and Terri O'Connell. Thirty-two children received clothing, shoes, socks, underwear and school supplies.

Also on August 30, Helping Hands members will be serving a meal through Dining with Dignity. All food donations for this meal were made possible by the Newcomers Club of North St. Johns. Last month the group with the help of its members, the Knights of Columbus at San Juan Del Rio, Boy Scout Troops 280 and 287 and their leaders, prepared and served a summer barbeque to nearly 100 in St. Augustine. All had a great time and enjoyed a fresh cooked meal. Thanks to all who helped or donated to Helping Hands for this project. Dining with Dignity provides a hot meal 365 days of the year to the homeless in St. Augustine.

Helping Hands is a volunteer organization that does a small project for the community once a month. They meet the last Friday of each month at Faith Community Church Community Center. The group is non-denominational and all are welcome. There are no dues, officers or stress. The group relies solely on donations of goods and services. Members come when they can and do what they can with what is donated.

For more information, please contact jacqphil@aol.com.

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The Lifestyle Guru

Summer's final fling!

By Joy Hartley

Before those yellow school busses start pulling through our subdivisions her in North Florida we should all execute a plan for a "final fling." This could be a short day trip around our area – not an expensive day but a fun one. So I pulled out my favorite planning guide out of the bookcase and I will share some ideas with you.

A fun St. Augustine thing to do is to go to the Lightner Museum. A morning can be whiled away in the cool air perusing the artifacts gathered there. Do not miss viewing the antiquated "spa" area with equipment dating back to 1889 when it first opened as the Alcazar Casino and Bath Hotel. Then lunch in the pool area is a must....where else can you partake of edibles in a sunken treasure!

If museums are your "thing" go to the Cummer where Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. are free! The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Avenue in Jacksonville. You could bind this trip together with a Saturday experience at the Riverside Arts Market just down the street. This would definitely be a day of fine arts, crafts, live music and good food!

If you have never been to the Ponce de Leon Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine there is no excuse not to visit! St. Johns County residents can tour for free. This is a legendary sport where old Ponce landed here in the New World. There are lots of history and Indian artifacts that older children love to see.

Another great trip is to spend the day a little south of St. Augustine down ole A1A. Make your first stop at Marineland for a new "hands on" marine experience to include swimming with the fish. Then turn left and pull into Washington Oaks State Park for a wonderful shady picnic spot under century old oak trees. Take the nature walk after lunch and see an old cistern, a gorgeous rose garden and beautiful fish ponds. A bonus with your entrance fee (a whopping $7 per car) is that you can park and swim in the ocean across the street in the park's beach area.

If vintage shopping is your thing there are many non-profit groups who have gently used items for sale in their thrift stores. An entire day can be spent leafing through stores from Beach Boulevard to Clay County. Don't forget the "upscale" Goodwill shop in Ponte Vedra called the Bluetique—it's fab!

Speaking of picnicking, here's my friend Mary's great Blonde Brownie recipe. It's easy—no mixer needed—and everyone loves them!

Blonde Brownies

1 cup butter, melted
1 cup packed brown sugar
Add 1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla

Stir in: ½ tsp. baking power, 1/8 tsp. baking soda, ½ tsp. salt and 1 cup flour. Pour mixture into 9x9 greased pan. Sprinkle top with M&Ms, Heath Chips or chocolate chips, Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

New autism support group to launch through grant

Liz Zurn, creator of The S.T.A.R. Group, recently accepted a $1,000 grant from Community First Credit Union's Investing in You contest to launch The S.T.A.R. Group, a support group for parents of autistic children.

Parents of autistic children will soon have a supportive environment in which to share their feelings, ideas and treatment options, thanks to a $1000 Investing In You grant from Community First Credit Union. The grant will help launch The S.T.A.R. group, named for the benefits the group will bring its members: support, teaching, advocacy and respect.

"Caring for a child with autism is an unknown territory for most parents," said The S.T.A.R. Group creator Liz Zurn. "My husband and I felt very alone when our son was diagnosed, but we made a pact that our family would adjust and provide him with the best opportunities to grown and learn. The S.T.A.R. Group will help other families do the same."

Zurn has partnered with Little Star Center, a non-profit school providing education and behavioral services to children diagnosed with autism and other developmental delays, to help her launch the support group. The S.T.A.R. group plans on holding its monthly meetings at Crosswater Community Church in Nocatee beginning this September. The grant will provide educational materials for parents and fund specialized training for childcare volunteers who will attend to the children during the support group meetings.

"Families with special-needs children have special needs themselves," said John Hirabayashi, CEO of Community First Credit Union. "The S.T.A.R. Group will provide these parents with a forum to discuss the challenges that come with raising an autistic child and give them the opportunity to lean on each other for strength."

The S.T.A.R. Group is the fifth winner of six grants that are available through the 2012 Investing in You campaign. The initiative launched in April inviting anyone with an idea to make the First Coast a better place to participate. The credit union awards $1,000 every two weeks for 90 days, with the last winner being chosen July 13. Semi-finalists are chosen based on which ideas receive the most "likes," with a panel selecting the winners that will receive grant funding from Community First. Learn more about The S.T.A.R. Group on the Community First Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/CommunityFirstCreditUnion or www.InvestingInYouContest.com.

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St. Johns County school grades released

School grades released in early July show that the St. Johns County School District has maintained its ranking as one of the top performing districts in the state. St. Johns County had 16 "A" schools, seven "B" schools and two "C" schools. Eleven elementary schools, four middle schools and the district's only K-8 school were "A" schools this year.

"With the constant changes in the criteria, school grades have become a much less reliable measure of school success," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "We are much more focused on the growth of each individual child. In spite of these changes, our students met the challenge and I could not be more proud."

The 11 elementary schools retaining their "A" status, include Cunningham Creek Elementary, Durbin Creek Elementary, Hartley Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary, R. B. Hunt Elementary, Julington Creek Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, PVPV/Rawlings Elementary, Timberlin Creek Elementary and Wards Creek Elementary. The four middle schools with an "A" status are Fruit Cove Middle, Landrum Middle, Pacetti Bay Middle, and Switzerland Point Middle. Also receiving an "A" is Liberty Pines Academy (K-8).

Schools receiving a "B" include Ketterlinus Elementary, Mason Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary, Murray Middle, Sebastian Middle and Gamble Rogers Middle. Schools receiving a "C" include Crookshank Elementary and The Webster School.

"The commitment and dedication of our students, teachers, parents, administrators and support staff is evident and I am very appreciative of their hard work," he added. "These high marks are proof that our focus remains on outstanding performance and as always we will continue to look for ways to improve. It is gratifying to see that our efforts are reflected in this year's grades."

High school grades are expected to be released later this year.

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AP scores and number of students taking exams increase

The number of students in the St. Johns County School District taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams last year increased by 14 percent and the number of exams taken by students increased by 17 percent. Students scoring high enough to qualify for college credit rose by 6 percent. This continues the district's and state trend of increasing numbers of test-takers and exams. The AP program enables students to take college-level courses while still in high school.

In spring 2012, 3,204 St. Johns County high school students took 6,248 AP exams. Of the total number taken, 58.5 percent received a grade high enough to qualify for college credit. The district also saw an increase in the participation of minority groups. There was an 8 percent increase in the number of African-American students taking AP exams and a 10 percent increase in the number of exams they took. In addition, there was a 13 percent increase in the number of Hispanic students taking AP exams and a 23 percent increase in the number of exams they took.

"Typically, a large increase in the number of tests taken would be accompanied with a drop in scores; however, we continue to increase our success rate," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "I am very proud of the number of students taking the AP exams and the number of exams they are taking. We continue to score above the state average both in the number of exams taken and in the amount of students scoring high enough for college credit. These numbers represent the dedication of our students as well as the efforts and vision of our high school principals, guidance counselors and teachers."

AP courses taken for college credit by St. Johns County students include Art History; Biology; Calculus AB and BC; Chemistry; English Language and Composition; English Literature and Composition; Environmental Science; European History; Human Geography; Languages including Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish; Macroeconomics; Microeconomics; Music Theory; Physics B; Physics C Electricity and Magnetism; Physics C Mechanics; Psychology; Spanish Literature; Studio Art Drawing and 2-D and 3-D Design, United States Government and Politics, United States History and World History.

Rotary Club of Bartram Trail welcomes new board

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail 2011-12 board: Thomas Carroll, vice president/president elect; Jason Mitchell, secretary; Frank Gwaltney, president; Rick Stobe, treasurer and Amanda Leahy, sergeant at arms.

The members and families of the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail gathered on Saturday, June 30 to celebrate completion of another wonderful Rotary year! Outgoing President Frank Gwaltney "passed the gavel" to incoming President Thomas Carroll. Pins were exchanged from Past President Jamie Mackey to now Past President Frank Gwaltney with enthusiasm. Gwaltney shared his appreciation for an active and committed board throughout the year and Carroll motivated the team to look towards the future and build on a solid foundation of service for our club. Carol Higley was recognized as Rotarian of the Year.

Several club service projects for the year benefited Hastings migrant workers, Mandarin Food Bank, Marine Toys for Tots, PolioPlus Eradication, St. Augustine Youth Services, St. Johns County Homeless Students, St. Johns County teachers, St. Johns County veterans, St. Vincent's HealthCare Mobile Outreach and Wags and Whiskers. Club members also host Rotary Youth Exchange Students from around the globe providing them with the opportunity to learn a new language and experience a new culture while living the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, in our community.

On behalf of everyone involved with the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail, we would like to thank Gwaltney for a fabulous year and wish Carroll the best as he takes over the reins for 2012-13!

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. For more information, please contact President Thomas Carroll at tfcarrollusmc@gmail.com.

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"Tools 4 Schools" supply drive kicks off

The St. Johns County Education Foundation (SJCEF) has started its two week long school supply donation drive. The Tools 4 Schools drive will run until August 15 with public and internal donation sites located at select businesses and organizations in the community.

Tools 4 Schools is an annual school supply drive that aims to offset teachers'a classroom costs. During these next few weeks, the public is welcomed to donate new school supplies through the use of collection bins around St. Johns County and neighboring areas. Monetary donations are also accepted, which will be used to purchase additional supply items that are of the highest demand.

All of the collected supplies will be delivered to The Bailey Group Resource Depot, the new permanent storage facility for all Tools 4 Schools donations. Teachers will go online to submit a supply request for items needed in their classrooms. The orders will be processed and filled through The Bailey Group Resource Depot and then delivered to teachers. The permanent

Tools 4 Schools cont. on pg. 28

St. Augustine Ballet announces Nutcracker auditions

Saint Augustine Ballet will be holding auditions for their 2012 production of *The Nutcracker* at Abella's Studio on Saturday, August 18, 2012. Dancers age eight and up who are currently studying ballet are invited to audition. Auditions are open to all students of ballet regardless of dance studio affiliations. Dancers must commit to the weekly rehearsal schedule. Visit www.saintaugustineballet.com for more complete audition information.

The Nutcracker performances will take place on Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A Sunday matinee will be performed on December 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College (formerly known as Flagler College Auditorium.)

Dancers must wear proper ballet attire: black leotard, pink tights with hair in a bun for females and black pants and a white shirt for males. Auditions for female solos will be done on pointe.

All dancers must bring a headshot. Female dancers should also bring a photo in First Arabesque. A non-refundable $25 fee audition will be charged at the time of registration. Please bring cash or make checks out to Saint Augustine Ballet.

Audition results will be available at www.saintaugustineballet.com by Tuesday, August 21. The August 18 rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Eight to 10 years old: Registration from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. You must be eight years old by September 1, 2012. The eight to 10 year old audition ends at 10:30 a.m.
- 11 years old and up: Registration is from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Dancers must be 11 years old by September 1, 2012. The eleven and up audition ends at 12:30 p.m.
- Mother Ginger Tumblers: Females should come dressed in leotard and hair pulled back. Boys should wear black shorts and white t-shirt. Registration will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the audition time is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Audition registration forms are available on the website at www.saintaugustineballet.com. If you have additional questions please contact staugballet@yahoo.com or call 824-1746.

The St. Augustine Ballet is a 501(C)3 nonprofit arts organization. Their mission is to offer St. Johns County dancers the unique opportunity to perform in full-length classical ballets productions. St. Augustine Ballet strives to involve community members of all ages in meaningful dance experiences, whether as a participating dancer or audience member.

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Girls Inc. announces fall season's Daddy Daughter Dance

It's that time of year! Girls Inc. of Jacksonville's Fall Daddy Daughter Dance will be held Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village. Special dads and daughters have enjoyed this extraordinary event for many years and now it has become a tradition in the Northeast region of Florida.

"Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is proud to be able to offer such a remarkable event to Northeast Florida," said president and CEO of Girls Inc., Beth Hughes Clark. "We are thrilled to see how much the event has grown and how it is become a tradition in many families."

Girls Inc. is looking forward to hosting over 500 dads (or special men in their lives) and daughters. The event is $80 for each daddy-daughter couple and $30 more for any additional daughters. The festivities will include a delicious dinner, DJ, professional photographs, a silent auction and raffle prizes that will make for a sensational night.

"I'm sure I speak for many fathers that were in attendance and say 'thank you, Girls Inc.' for your efforts and we as fathers support your labors in helping our daughters achieve their potential and realize their individual gifts, talents, uniqueness, strengths and beauty that they possess," said Girls Inc. dad, William Jackson.

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preparing girls, ages five through 18, to be self-confident, responsible and well-rounded individuals. All proceeds from this dance will be put back into the programs that Girls Inc. girls benefit from all year round. They deliver the Girls Inc. national curriculum through their Outreach, After-School, Literacy and Summer programs in Northeast Florida.

For more information on the Girls Inc. Daddy Daughter Dance, please visit www.girlsincjax.org or call 731-9933. To register for the Fall Daddy Daughter Dance, please visit www.girlsincjax.org.

SEA community dinners cont from pg. 1

SEA community members select items donated by Brother Knight of Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council.

care items. The groups who have committed include Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council, the Ponte Vedra Rotary Clubs, Shepard of the Woods Lutheran Church, Shores United Methodist Church, Bartram Trail Rotary, Switzerland Community Church, Fruit Cove Baptist Church and St. Johns County United Way.

On July 16, a special addition to the dinner occurred when over 30 children in Bible studies at the Baptist church joined in to have some fried chicken and of course the delicious homemade cookies. The atmosphere during each of the monthly dinners is a strong affirmation for the charities of their purpose and the joy it brings to others as well as themselves.

Now is the time to tell the rest of the story. This fall is a major milestone for this humble little community—established in October 5, 1912, it will celebrate its 100th anniversary. To celebrate, the ladies of the SEA Community have prepared a festival of events during October.

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Congratulations Crushers

Congratulations to the 10u Creeks Crushers All Star team for earning a berth to the Southeast Regionals in North Carolina. They are the 2012 Florida State Champion runners-up! They won first game 21-6 but lost their second game in a heart breaker and had to enter the losers' bracket very early in double elimination play. They dug in deep and won six games in a row, averaging a 13-3 score per game before eventually losing the "if" game to Winter Springs after beating them 12-4 one game earlier to force a third game on that final Sunday. Congratulations this group of 10u girls from Creeks Athletic Association!

Rotary Club of Bartram Trail proud of Exchange Students

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

Rotary International is the world's oldest and most international service organization, with over 1.2 million members in 32,000 clubs in almost 200 countries. Each year, over 8,000 high school students participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange program worldwide, learning a new language and experiencing a new culture, through the efforts of Rotary volunteers around the globe.

Over the past eight years the Rotary Youth Exchange program has had the privilege of sending 49 Bartram and Creekside high school students to study abroad. These students have traveled to Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey.

Kaylin Burgess, Kendall Hale and Sarah Wiegreffe are the Rotary Youth Exchange students sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail for the 2012-13 year. Burgess, a rising senior at Bartram, will be spending the next year immersed in the Swiss culture as she heads to Zug, Switzerland. Hale, a recent graduate from Creekside and former vice president of the Creekside Interact Club, is spending her foreign exchange year in Warsaw, Poland. Wiegreffe, a 2012 graduate from Bartram, will have the opportunity to put her years of studying the French language to use as she spends next year abroad in Strasbourg, France. We wish them well as they represent Rotary and the United States of America in their respective foreign countries.

The other side of this exciting program is that we are also able to introduce students from around the world into our schools and our local community. For more information on Rotary Youth Exchange Florida, please visit www.ryeflorida.org/.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. For more information, contact President Thomas Carroll at tfcarrollusmc@gmail.com.

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Julington Creek Plantation Club Porpoises take championship

Congratulations to Head Coach Tracy Reed, Assistant Coach Christie Matlosz, the parent board of directors, the Julington Creek Plantation Club Porpoise swimmers and their families for winning the 2012 St. Johns Summer Swim League's Championship Meet on Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21 at Cecil Field Aquatic Center. The Porpoises, with 182 swimmers ages five through 18, competed in 78 events to defeat the seven other teams in the league. It was an exciting couple of days and in the end it was the Porpoises who were victorious. Congratulations to Coach Tracy and the entire Porpoise family for such a fantastic and successful season.

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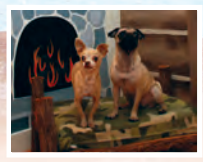
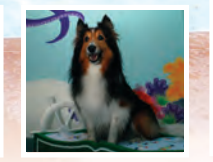
- Gift Boutique
- Bone Appetreats Pet Bakery
- Dog Training
- Web Cams

Your pet will find a welcoming retreat at our 9-acre, fenced, off-leash dog park featuring a bone-shaped swimming pool and our **NEW paw-shaped, small dog pool**.





Affordable small dog luxury oasis. Please call for details.

Julington Creek ANIMAL WALK

Veterinarian Owned and Operated

NE Florida's Premier Luxury Pet Resort, Dog Park and Spa

12075-300 San Jose Boulevard • 338-9480 • www.julingtoncreekanimalwalk.com

Conveniently located next to Julington Creek Animal Hospital Julington Creek ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Stop by for a tour and receive a coupon for a free daily park pass

Service with a smile

Honoring the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily," the 11-year-old scouts from Troop 180, sponsored by the Julington Creek congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, spent one morning in July volunteering at Christ's Cupboard Community Food Bank. The boys sorted, checked expiration dates and shelved non-perishable food items. The food pantry, located at 810 Roberts Road in Fruit Cove, serves those in the surrounding area. Pictured are Cade Bedell, Troop Committee member JoAnn Danson, Branson Bennion, Matt Bailey, Assistant Scout Master Clark Bailey and Tyler Danson.

8u Venom brings home Cal Ripken State Championship

On Sunday, July 8 at Palm Beach Gardens, 13 eight-year-old baseball players beat out the home team of Palm Beach Gardens for the state championship title in the Cal Ripken Rookie B Division. Since their first all star tournament in Atlantic Beach in May, the JCB Venom have been undefeated. In their division, the Venom also won the all star tournaments in Julington Creek, Oakleaf, Ocala state qualifier and finally the state tournament in Palm Beach Gardens.

From the start, Christian Braum, Coleman Bullard, Daniel Cebulko, Parker Cox, Kyle De-LaGrange, Ben Heisner, Declan Hollobaugh, Luke Kaelin, Kylan McClune, Shane Mc Laughlin, Rees Pinto, Jacob Vermeire and Ian Wolcott worked and played hard each and every game, sometimes coming back from deficits of more than eight runs.

"Mom, we are state champs!" yelled Braum as he hugged his mom while holding the trophy that was half his size. However, even without the trophy, these hardworking boys deserved each and every win as they gave 100 percent at all times and never let the steep competition scare them away.

Head Coach Scott McLaughlin said, " I cannot digest what these boys have done in the last few months. They have overcome every obstacle thrown their way and beat a great array of quality teams locally and at the state tourney level."

Assistant coaches Phil Braum and Bryan Wolcott were instrumental in bringing home the state title as well, along with Tim Cebulko, Gerry Vermeire and Josh Bullard.

For more information on JCB Venom and Julington Creek Baseball, contact Scott McLaughlin at scott.mclaughlin@ubs.com or 540-2598.

TRUST

Just five little letters but a really big word.

Why do we have more than 30 full-time agents, many of whom have received the prestigious "5 Star Best in Client Satisfaction" award multiple times? Why do we back up those agents with a comprehensive support staff, ready and waiting to do everything it takes? Because trust isn't something you're given, it's something you earn. Time and time again, year after year, the team at Davidson Realty has earned that trust from our clients—through good markets and bad. Now we'd like the chance to earn yours.

904-940-5000 | DavidsonRealtyInc.com

DAVIDSON Realty, Inc.
"TRUSTED REAL ESTATE ADVISORS."

Campers have fun with arts and crafts at Geneva Presbyterian Church's recent Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Sun TIRE

Now open in Julington Creek!

45 MINUTES OR LESS...
• New Tires (in stock) Installed*
• Flat Tires Repaired*
• Tires Rotated & Balanced
OR
$20 CASH TO YOU TODAY!
* The 45 minute time frame applies to installation of in-stock tires, rotate and balance, and flat repairs. Vehicles with TPMS and 18" or larger wheels require additional time.
Fast Lane

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

STORE HOURS:
Mon - Fri: 7am - 6pm
Sat: 7am - 5pm
See store for details

Oil Change & Rotation $19.99
$20 Off All Alignments
$30 Off any Brake Job
Free Inspection of Vehicle's Major Systems and Tires

You Can Depend On Us!
2660 RACE TRACK ROAD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32259
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Receive $25 towards your purchase with a minimum purchase of $50
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Don't Forget

Elected local boards are important in this primary election

By Karl Kennell

Each election cycle we are solicited by prospective candidates with road signs, commercials and interviews as they seek offices as State Representatives, County Commissioner, United States Congress Representatives and United States Senators. What we are usually lacking is information on the races for the less recognized local boards that oversee the resources we as residents of St. Johns County often take for granted. To help you in making your decisions on the candidates that are seeking positions on these various boards, following is some information about each board.

The St. Johns Soil and Water Conservation District (SJSWCD) was begun in 1955 under the authority created by the Soil Conservation Act, passed by the Florida Legislature in 1937. SJSWCD was organized to help the landowners and users of St. Johns County to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related resources of the county by concerned citizens in St. Johns County. The mission of the board was established to deliver natural resources conservation technology and education to local landowners and users and to promote the wise use of land and best management practices that will conserve, improve and sustain the natural resources of the county.

The SJSWCD board of supervisors is a group of elected officials tasked with the job of addressing the issues that challenge the conserving of the natural resources of the county. It consists of five supervisors who are non-partisan members. In this election the candidates vying for seats on the board are James Visser and Henry C. Warner for District 3 and running unopposed is Craig Hartwig for District 4.

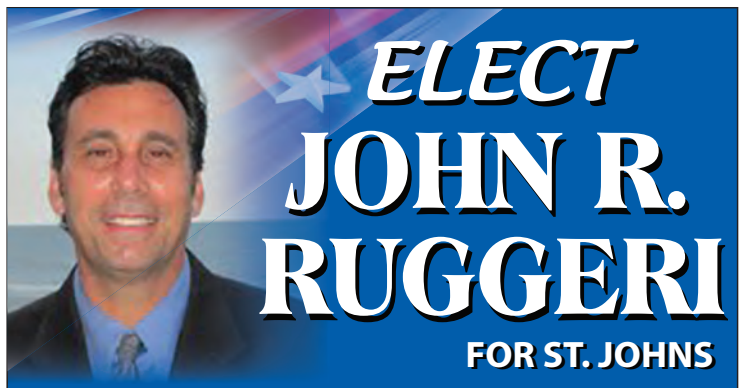
Back in 1955 the impacts on the local resources generally went unnoticed. However today it is difficult to travel anywhere in the county and not observe the challenges facing our natural resources due to growth and technological advancements. These are the observations that make it important that you as an informed voter become familiar with the candidates that are seeking your support to oversee the future of county's natural environment.

The St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District was originally established in the late 1930s to fulfill the requirements of local sponsor for the Army Corps of Engineers' St. Augustine Inlet project. The district was enabled by the Florida Legislature and approved by a vote of the citizens of the county. The enabling legislation gave the district ad valorem taxing authority as well as a broad range of authority for building warehouses, wharfs, bridges and other structures for the commercial development of the port. The district has title to a number of submerged parcels mostly in and around the St. Augustine harbor area.

In 1993 a master plan was established identifying a number of areas that the district should be involved in as to maritime issues. It has become a funding source for a number of important projects, among them: the guide to St. Augustine Waterways, installation and maintenance of channel markers in Salt Run, the harbor patrol in cooperation with the City of St. Augustine Police Department and comprehensive Inlet Management Plan, boat mooring issues, initial studies identifying problems with the Matanzas Bay seawall and repair of the St. Augustine Lighthouse lens.

The board is composed of

Local boards cont. on pg. 23



Janice Bequette
Anastasia Mosquito Control Seat 3

Proven Leadership
Proven Fiscal Responsibility

Advocate for the environment, health and safety for you, your family, your animals and the visitors to our beautiful County.

I ask for your vote
Election Day November 6th

www.janicebequette.com
Political ad approved and paid for by Janice Bequette AMC 3

2012 Election Dates
Polls Open 7 AM – 7 PM

Primary Election: August 14, 2012

General Election: November 6, 2012
(Register by October 9, 2012)

VOTE FOR McCLURE ON THE BALLOT FROM AUGUST 4TH - 14TH!
Don't Wait

BILL McCLURE
is the only one to propose a solution to STOP the dependency on taxes to fund governmental services.

- Independent thinker who is ready to lead.
- Not endorsed or trained by those leaders who voted to raise taxes and raise salaries during a recession.

A COMMON SENSE VOTE
ELECT BILL McCLURE
353 Brantley Harbor Drive
St. Augustine, Florida 32086
(904) 417-8234

"I will NOT raise the sales or property tax, a message Ray Quinn cannot state; and I will NOT vote for a "golden parachute extension" of ANY executive during a recession, such as was voted for by Ray Quinn."

VOTE McCLURE

VOTE FOR McCLURE
He will find new ways of raising revenues through utilities and infrastructure and WILL NOT raise taxes . . . a promise his competitors will not make!

VOTE FOR McCLURE
He will implement local hiring policies to put people back to work while his competitors endorse the same policies from before, bringing in jobs from other regions!

VOTE FOR McCLURE
He will implement fiscal accountability for all departments, just like a successful busines. While his competitors endorse the ever increa ing the budget.

VOTE FOR McCLURE
He will NOT give a golden parachute to ANY County employee and will always put this County's Issues first, not self proclaimed entitlement!

VOTE FOR McCLURE
He will make sure the County can operate like a business, expanding and contracting, creating a more efficient government.

VOTE FOR BILL MCCLURE ON YOUR BALLOT TODAY!
Join us at BillMcClure.com

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY BILL McCLURE, REPUBLICAN FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

Local boards cont. from pg. 22

five at-large commissioners, each serving four-year terms. Election of commissioners occur on staggered election dates, with two commissioners elected for four-year terms in one election year and three commissioners elected for four-year terms the next election year. This year, running in Group 2 are Barry Benjamin and P. Brendan Burke. Running in Group 4 are John Carl Blow, Chuck Hennessey and Robert Kee. If you enjoy the many nautical activities that St. Johns County and St. Augustine have to offer this should be an elected board you should support by becoming familiar with and voting for those who have a direct impact on preserving these amenities.

An often overlooked resource in St. Johns County is the Northeast Florida Regional Airport. It is easy to not realize just what an impact it has on our community. The airport is owned and operated by the **St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority.** In the 1930s the St. Augustine City Commission purchased the initial segments of the current airport location, north of Araquay Park along U.S. Highway 1. As with many other airports, it was taken over by the federal government during the years of World War II for the support of naval aviation activities. Upon the war's end, the facility reverted back to local control. In 1964 a special purpose governmental authority was created by the Florida State Legislature and approved by local voters. At the time, it was named the St. Augustine Airport Authority, but the name has subsequently been changed to the St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority.

In addition to the busy activities of Northrop Grumman at the airport, multiple aviation support companies operate from the facility, including several fixed-base operators and repair companies. Recently there has been construction of a new general aviation terminal, an air traffic control tower and several new corporate hangers. In addition to these activities the airport plays host to the Aerospace and Science and Aeronautics programs which St. Augustine High School has partnered with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to offer to 10th and 11th grade students.

The airport authority's board of commissioners is composed of five elected positions. In the upcoming election, seeking the board seat for Group 4 are Matt Mercer and James S. Werter. Running unopposed for the Group 5 seat is Carl A. Youman.

This next district board sometimes confuses with its name. **The Anastasia Mosquito Control District** (AMCD) comes from a humble beginning to combat one of mans' worrisome pests encompassing the whole of St. Johns County. Its mission is to preserve and protect the people from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases by reducing and controlling mosquito populations through environmentally-friendly and cost effective integrated pest management methods, thus minimizing the negative impacts on people and other living things.

The integrated mosquito management methods currently employed by AMCD are comprehensive and specifically tailored to safely counter each stage of the mosquito life cycle. These methods currently include: larval and adult mosquito sampling, source reduction, biological control using native or introduced predators and parasite of mosquitoes, larviciding and adulticiding, resistance monitoring, disease surveillance in mosquitoes, birds, horses and humans. And most importantly to AMCD is public education with the goal of educating residents of St. Johns County on mosquito biology, ecology, control and prevention. AMCD offers public outreach programs and presentations, school, programs, on-site tours and field trips, community service hours, science fair project assistance and paid internships.

The overseeing board is composed of five members. During this election, Faye Armitage, Vivian Browning and Robert T. Smith are vying for Seat 1. District Seat 3 is being sought by Janice Marie Bequette and Edward Randy Covington. Vying for Seat 5 are Gary Howell, Paul Linser and Vernon Tyrone Stroman, Jr.

As you familiarize yourself with the big name candidates and races in the upcoming election, don't overlook these important district races. After all each one of these boards oversees aspects of our local lifestyle that help make St. Johns County a great place to live.

Voter Responsibilities

- ★ Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
- ★ Maintain with the office of the Supervisor of Elections a current address.
- ★ Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
- ★ Bring proper identification to the polling station.
- ★ Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
- ★ Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
- ★ Respect the privacy of other voters.
- ★ Report any problems or violation of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
- ★ Ask questions, if needed.
- ★ Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

Vote
Cyndi
Stevenson
For St. Johns County Commission ◆ District 1 ◆ Republican
Paid by Cyndi Stevenson, Republican, for County Commission District One.
Your Voice of Reason
www.vote4cyndi.com
904.230.4784

Vote for
Professor Paul Linser, Ph.D.
for Mosquito Commission seat 5

*Professor, University of Florida Whitney Lab
*Long-time Mosquito Research Scientist
*30 years of service to Florida and St. Johns County
*Member of the Florida Coordinating Council for Mosquito Control (appointed by Lieutenant Gov.)
Statement: "The mosquito commission must ensure that the health and well-being of our citizens and animals are safe from mosquito disease, that we use wise fiscal planning to achieve efficiency and that we safeguard our natural resources"
Visit: https://sites.google.com/site/plinser074/
Paid by Paul Linser for Mosquito Commission seat 5
This is a county-wide, non-partisan elected position

Did you know?

Registered St. Johns County voters as of August 2, 2012:

Republican: 80,134
Democrat: 38,479
Other: 32,043
Total: 150,656

Source: www.votesjc.com

Promises Made ★ Promises Kept!

COUNTY BUDGET: Practicing Fiscal Responsibility, reduced the county budget by $158 million per year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Continuing to expand on the 8 new commercial businesses established to create new jobs.

SBDC (Small Business Development Center): Initiated a contract with a SBA to open a full time office which resulted in 44 new small businesses and hundreds of jobs.

TDC REORGANIZATION: Updated the tourist development council plan to more effectively promote tourist-related activities and functions to enhance economic activity and increase annual revenues by $1.5 Million with no additional cost to taxpayers.

HEALTHIEST COUNTY: Worked on the health improvement council, health dept. and other agencies to attain recognition of having the healthiest county in the state.

RECREATION/SPORTS: Continuing to be a supporter and advocate for youth and adult recreation and sports programs.

Contact Ken at (904) 461-4536 or Visit: WWW.VOTEKENBRYAN.COM

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Ken Bryan, Republican for St. Johns County Commission, District 5

PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 14, 2012

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY

Vicky Oakes
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

ARE YOU ELECTION READY?

Voting Assistance/Accessible Voting Equipment

All polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities and are equipped with accessible voting equipment with an audio ballot feature.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

You must completely fill in the oval for your vote to count. Any other mark may not be read by the scanner.

CORRECT

INCORRECT

INCORRECT

VOTER Information Lookup

Visit www.votesjc.com to prepare. Confirm your address before voting. If your address has changed, please contact the Elections Office at 823-2238 to update your address **BEFORE** going to vote.

ON OUR WEBSITE www.votesjc.com

- Voter Information Lookup
- Check the status of your voter registration
- Track the mailing and receipt of your absentee ballot
- Sample Ballots – view and print ballots
- Candidate profiles and campaign reports

FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

- Democrats receive a Democratic ballot
- Republicans receive a Republican ballot
- Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party receive a nonpartisan ballot
- School Board and municipal candidates are nonpartisan and appear on all primary ballots within their respective districts

UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST

Although Florida is a closed primary state, if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office.

There are 2 Universal Primary Contests on the August 14th ballot.

State Attorney

County Commission District 3

These races will appear on all ballots in the Primary.

The winners will be determined in the Primary Election.

Vote your Way: Absentee, Early or Election Day!

★ **VOTE BY MAIL**~Any registered voter may request a ballot by calling the Elections Office at 823-2238 or by visiting our website www.votesjc.com.

★ In order for an absentee ballot to be counted, it must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day. Voted absentee ballots cannot be turned in at the polls.

★ **SIGNATURE UPDATE**~Any time there is a change in your signature or identifying "mark" you must complete a new Florida Voter Registration Application and submit it to the Elections Office. If your signature on your voter record and the signature on your absentee ballot do not match, your absentee ballot will not count.

★ **EARLY VOTING**~Voters may cast their ballot at ANY early voting location.

★ **DATES & TIMES~August 4th -11th Saturday – Saturday Hours: 8 AM – 6 PM (Except Sunday August 5th Hours: 11 AM – 5 PM)**

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Supervisor of Elections Office 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095	**St. Augustine Beach City Hall** 2200 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32080	**Southeast Branch Library** 6670 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32086
Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	**Julington Creek Courthouse Annex** 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	**Hastings Town Hall** 6195 S. Main Street Hastings, FL 32145

REMINDER

Please have current & valid Photo & Signature ID ready when voting.

If you don't have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot.

VOTE on Election Day at Your Precinct – Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM. When voting on Election Day you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

REMEMBER – As a result of the changes necessitated by redistricting, your precinct number may have changed and you may be voting at a new polling location.

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

For additional information visit our website by scanning the QR code with your smart phone, visit www.votesjc.com or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238.

St. Johns County voter tips

The following tips are provided by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections, www.votesjc.com.

The date of the **Primary Election** is Tuesday, August 14, 2012. Registration closed for this election on July 16, 2012. Early voting will occur from August 4, 2012 until August 11, 2012.

The date of the **General Election** is Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Registration for this election will close on October 9, 2012. Early voting will take place from October 27, 2012 until November 3, 2012.

Check your voter information. Use the link on the website (www.votesjc.com) to check your voter information, including your voter registration, polling place and absentee ballot status.

Registration books close 29 days prior to an election. You must register by this deadline to be eligible to vote in the election. To register you must fill out a Florida Voter Registration Application form and submit it to the Supervisor of Elections Office. Receive an application by visiting these locations:

- Supervisor of Elections Office
- Online at www.votesjc.com
- Florida Driver's License offices
- Public libraries
- County governmental offices
- Armed Forces Recruitment offices
- State agencies that provide public assistance and serve persons with disabilities.

Update your voter record. All updates to a voter registration may be made on a Florida Voter Registration Application or by providing information by phone, mail, email, fax or written signed notice that includes your date of birth or Voter ID number.

Acceptable forms of identification at the polls:

- Florida Driver's License
- Florida ID card
- United States passport
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Debit/Credit card

Vote your way: Absentee, Early or Election Day

Vote By Mail: Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot by calling the Elections Office at 823-2238 or by visiting the website www.votesjc.com. It is imperative that your signature be kept current at all times, especially if you vote by absentee ballot.

In order for an absentee ballot to count, the Supervisor must compare the signature on a voter's record with the signature on the absentee ballot and the two must match, according to section 101.68, F.S.

To update your signature, provide the Supervisor of Elections Office with a Florida Voter Registration Application indicating a signature update.

Early Vote: Early voting begins 10 days prior to each election. All eligible, registered voters may cast their ballot at any Early Voting Site. In NW St. Johns County, the early voting site is the Julington Creek Annex – Conference Room, located at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard. For more information on dates, times and additional early voting locations, contact the Elections Office or visit www.votesjc.com.

Election Day: Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. On Election Day, you must vote in the precinct of your legal residence. Polling locations are listed on your Voter Information Card or check the precinct locator on the website www.votesjc.com.

Confirm your address: If it is different than the address listed on your voter information card, call the Elections Office at 823-2238 before going to vote.

Be sure to take current, valid photo and signature ID with you when you vote. If you do not have the proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot. (F.S. 101.043)

Sample ballots. Sample ballots will be mailed to all registered voters approximately three weeks prior to each election. They are also posted on the website www.votesjc.com and available prior to each election.

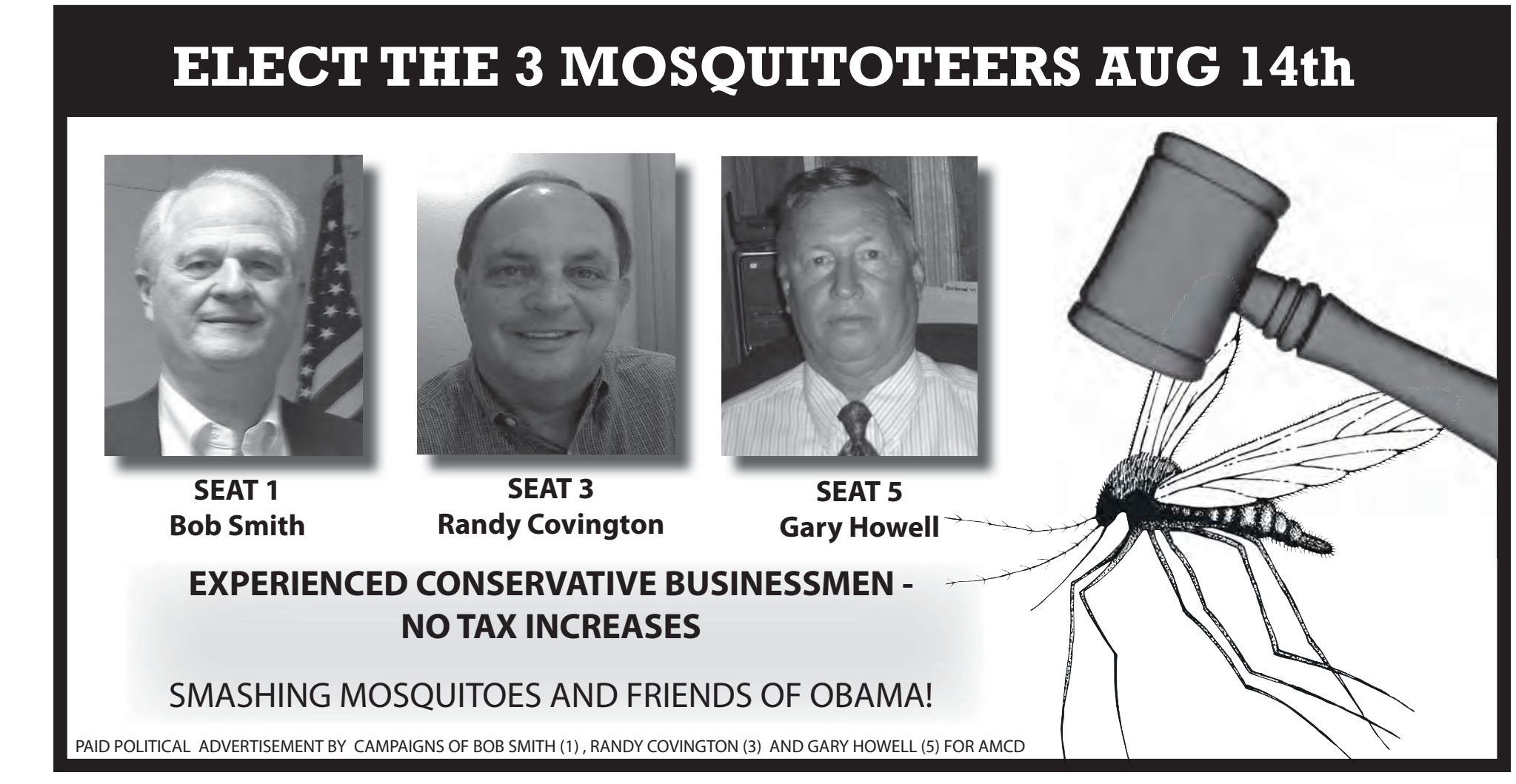
Voting System: The Elections System and Software DS200s digital scan tabulators are used to count ballots at each precinct and early voting location. Voters receive a paper ballot, mark their ballot by completing an oval to the left of each of their choices and place it into the DS200 for immediate tabulation. Voters are notified of improperly marked ballots and given an opportunity to review their ballot and obtain a replacement when necessary.

The Elections Office also provides touch screen voting which allows persons with disabilities to vote privately. Persons who are visually impaired may access the system's audio feature. One iVotronic is provided at each precinct and early voting site.

Absentee ballots are counted on a high speed tabulator at the Elections Office. Results from early voting, precincts and absentee ballots are combined at the Elections Office. After the polls close, the election results are released to the public and posted on the website www.votesjc.com.

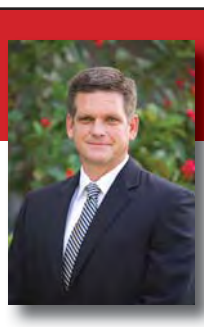
Voter's Bill of Rights

★ Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
★ Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
★ Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
★ Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
★ An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
★ If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
★ Written instructions to use when voting and upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
★ Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
★ Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.



Mike Davis

A Conservative Businessman - A Dedicated Family Man



"One lesson I have learned is to make a living with one hand and give back to my community with the other. I will take my experience as a community leader and career small business owner to Tallahassee to serve a community that has given so much to me. I would be honored to have your support on August 14th."

ELECT MIKE DAVIS REPUBLICAN for STATE REPRESENTATIVE

★ ★ ★ ★

www.ElectMikeDavis.com

Mike@ElectMikeDavis.com

★ ★ ★ ★

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mike Davis, Republican, for State Representative District 17.

VOTE

...it's your right!

New voter information cards sent to all registered St. Johns County voters

Voters in St. Johns County should have received new voter information cards by mail in the past few weeks. St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes said the cards were sent to all registered voters to reflect changes made during the recent redistricting process.

Redistricting has affected every voter of St. Johns County. Florida re-draws its districts for Congress, state Senate and House districts every 10 years. The County Commission and School Board also are required to redraw their district lines. The process ensures that the same number of people live in each district and, as a result, each person is equally represented in our government.

District numbers and boundaries have changed. Some precinct boundaries have changed. We have also combined some polling locations and re-numbered some precincts to better serve you.

Voters, please review the information on your new voter information card when you receive it and contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at 823-2238 if any changes are needed. Address changes can also be sent by email to elections@votesjc.com. Name, date of birth and address information are required in the email.

Interested voters who don't have their new cards yet but want to know if there are any changes can visit the Supervisor of Elections website at www.votesjc.com and use the Voter Lookup tool. The voter lookup allows a voter to enter their name and date of birth to check their voter status, locate their polling place, view their sample ballot or track the mailing and receipt of their absentee ballot. Once the voter's precinct is located, the voter can view the voting districts and their polling place.

A voter information card is not required when voting in person. The law requires photo and signature ID to be presented when voting in person. Any voter without proper ID can still vote, but is required to vote a provisional ballot.

If you have any questions, visit our website at www.votesjc.com or call us 823-2238.

As always, we look forward to serving you.

Your Vote Counts!

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

The August 14 Primary Election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County. This is a very important election, as several of our elected officials will be elected August 14. The State Attorney, County Commissioner-District 3 and School Board Member-District 2 will be elected during the Primary. It is possible that other offices may also be elected such as School Board Member-District 5 and other Nonpartisan offices such as Anastasia Mosquito Control District Commissioners, depending upon the turnout and votes cast during the election.

County Commissioners are voted on countywide and elected by all voters in the county, but the School Board is different. They are single member districts, and are elected only by members of their respective districts. If you reside in District 2 or 5, a School Board race will appear on your ballot in the Primary.

Know where you vote before you go! This year, due to redistricting a number of precincts boundaries, precinct numbers and polling places have changed. You should have already received your new voter information card with your districts and election day polling place.

Sample ballots are being mailed by household for this election in order to save taxpayer dollars. You should have already received one in the mail. If not, visit our website and use the voter lookup to view yours or print additional sample ballots if needed.

Voting on election day is different than Early Voting as the law requires you to vote at the precinct of your legal residence when voting on election day. Save time, save money! Check your new voter information card, visit our website www.votesjc.com or call 823-2238 to verify your polling place before going to going to vote on election day to ensure your reach the correct location.

If you have recently moved to St. Johns County and are registered to vote in another county, you simply need to change your address. It is not too late to make the change and participate in the Primary. Address changes are accepted through election day and can be made at the polls; however, I encourage everyone to update your address before going to vote. Voters moving into the county and making addresses changes while early voting or voting at the polls on election day are required to vote a provisional ballot.

If you missed the registration deadline for the Primary, you still have time to register and participate in the General Election. Registration books close on October 9 for the General Election.

Please see our ad in the this issue of The CreekLine for additional election information and details on early voting. If you have any questions, please call the office at 823-2238. We hope your voting experience will be a pleasant one. We look forward to seeing you during early voting or at the polls on election day. Remember – Your Vote Counts!

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Secrets to super steaks: Great grilling tips and techniques

(ARA) - Why is it that a steak from a restaurant just seems to taste better than what you make at home? Often, it's because the chefs in the restaurant know the secrets of great grilling.

"Steak is a summer staple for many home cooks when the weather permits, but things can go awry if you're not clued in to the secrets of how to prepare a great steak," says John Li, senior vice president of research and development for Outback Steakhouse. "As veritable steak experts, and with summer grilling season upon us, we want to help people preparing to try their hands at grilling steak."

Li offers some advice for grilling successful steak meals this summer:

- Start with the right steak. Build a relationship with your local butcher - either at your grocery store or, if you're lucky enough to have one in your neighborhood, the area butcher shop. Learn where they source their meat, if it's aged and for how long. Many cuts lend themselves to grilling, but sirloin, filet, strip and rib eye remain the most popular. Sirloin and strip steak are usually the best options if you're feeding a large group, as they provide abundant flavor and are usually less expensive than other cuts.
- Prep the grill properly. Once you've got the right meat, ensure your grill is ready to cook it to perfection. Start with a well-cleaned grill and preheat it. If you're using a charcoal grill, wait until the coals are white. For gas grills, use a thermometer. Many newer models have built-in gauges on the lids that indicate when the grill is hot enough to use.
- Add some seasoning. While the grill is preheating, prep the steak by patting it dry. Removing moisture allows for optimum surface contact with the grill and creates a wonderful seared flavor. Rub with the seasoning of your choice; there are many, but keep in mind simple salt and pepper works well if you're starting with an already flavorful cut.
- Get grilling. Once the grill and steak are ready, place the meat on the grill. You can achieve a fancy diamond-shaped grill pattern by rotating the meat 45 degrees when you turn it, but the meat will taste just as good without it. Cooking time will vary depending on the cut of meat and the grill itself. Generally, thinner steaks (about one inch thick) will need about four minutes per side to be rare, five for medium and seven for well done. Thicker steaks (two inches or more) will need about six minutes per side for rare, eight to 10 for medium and 12 for well done.
- Let it rest. Overcooking is a sure-fire way to dry out steak. As soon as the steak has reached your desired level of wellness, remove it from the grill and let it rest for about five minutes before you serve or cut it. This allows the juices to set well in the meat before you dig in.

Not sure where to start? Try this recipe from Outback Steakhouse:

Ingredients:

4 rib eye steaks, 12 to 14 ounces each

4 teaspoons Kosher salt

2 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Directions:

Evenly season each steak with a teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Coat each steak with a half tablespoon of vegetable oil. This may be done up to three hours prior to grilling, storing in the refrigerator. Remove from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before grilling.

Start the grill. Place seasoned steaks over the hottest portion of the grill and cook on the first side about four to five minutes, rotating 90 degrees after three minutes to achieve restaurant-style "cross marks." Turn steaks over and cook for an additional three to four minutes to achieve a medium-rare doneness. Remove from grill and allow to rest for five minutes before topping and serving.

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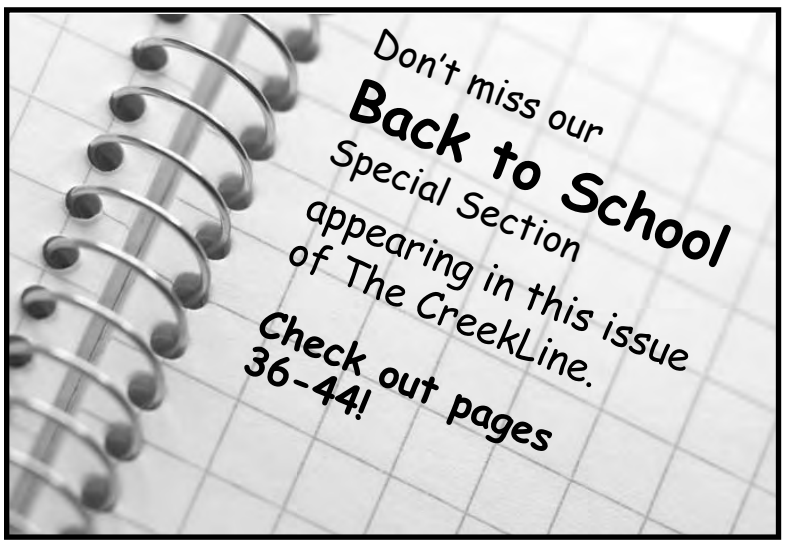

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary update

Coast Guard Auxiliary announces boating course

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

Flotilla 14-7 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced its public boating course schedule for the remainder of 2012. 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 Safely – 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 Aids; Boating Problems; Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat; Waterskiing and River Boating.

The eight-hour course will be given on September 8 and November 3, 2012.

Students must register prior to the classes by contacting Vic Aquino at 460-0243.

Highway Work Zone Safety Tips
from the FDOT

1. Stay alert: Expect anything to occur when entering a work zone.

2. Pay close attention: Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.

3. Turn on your headlights: Workers and other motorists must see you.

4. Don't tailgate: Unexpected stops frequently occur in work zones.

5. Don't speed: Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.

6. Keep up with traffic flow: Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you.

7. Don't change lanes in the work zone: The time saved just isn't worth the chance.

8. Minimize distractions: Avoid changing radio stations and using cellular phones while driving in the work zone.

9. Expect the unexpected: Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.

10. Be patient: Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

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New sign for local church

People driving down State Road 16 may have noticed a new church sign going up over the last three months. About 10 parishioners volunteered many of hours of their time over a two week period. Volunteers pictured are Charlie Hunter, Richard Stypula, Larry Rogari, Fr. Guy Noonan, Tony Perillo, Tom Kissell, John Carter and Guy Maltese. Volunteers Richard Young and Keith Kirker are not pictured. Our Lady of Good Counsel was founded in 1875 when the first parochial buildings in the Mill Creek and Elkton area were built under the guidance of Fr. Stephen Langlade, a native of Le Puy, France. In 1902 the church building was disassembled, moved and rebuilt in Bakersville some three miles south of Mill Creek, on Pacetti Road. At this time, the name of the church was changed to Our Lady of Good Counsel for unknown reasons. In November 1999, the present building on State Road 16 was opened. Until recently, Our Lady of Good Counsel remained a mission church of St. Ambrose, Elkton and the pastor of St. Ambrose served both communities. On July 1, 2008, Our Lady of Good Counsel was given the designation of a parish of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Fr. Guy Noonan was assigned as pastor.

Travel: Riding camels here and there

By Contributing Travel Writer Debi Lander, www.bylandersea.com

Digital age dromedaries!

Camel riding isn't a popular means of transportation in the United States, but a method I've always wanted to try. As luck goes, I was blessed with two diverse opportunities within one month.

The first came when I traveled to Jordan and spent two nights in a Bedouin tent camp. The desert at Wadi Rum reigns as an ideal location for a camel trek. Lawrence of Arabia described the landscape with, "red sands that stretch like seas between mountains of crimson sandstone. The rock monoliths sculpted by nature resemble the drippings of candle wax on a monumental scale."

On the morning of my ride, owners in long flowing robes crossed the dunes and walked alongside their herd. The scene looked like it a sepia-tinted photograph from a history book, except the two Bedouin were talking on cell phones.

Okay, I thought—digital age dromedaries.

They cushed the camels (lowered to a kneeling position) and covered their basic saddles with blankets. Stirrups are not part of a camel's gear, so one grips the tufts of hair atop the hump. To get on, I flung one leg over the beast, feeling my yoga class stretches coming into use. I casually shimmied my butt into place and hunkered down.

Suddenly, my camel erupted upward nearly tossing me off its back as it leaped to its fore-knees. Then, in a two-stage process, its back legs extended and I was nearly catapulted forward over its head. I then found myself riding at the height that would guarantee a slam dunk into a basketball net. Woo-hoo!

The first few minutes gave me a bumpy, disconcerting ride, as my body jostled to and fro. But soon I began to adapt and enjoy the feel of the gentle compression of my camel's hooves into the sandy sea. The view on camelback is spectacular; you're about twice as high as when riding a horse and the desert scenery is gorgeous.

Later in the month, I found myself at the Safari Wilderness Ranch in Central Florida. Believe it or not, I mounted a camel here for another ride. They use an easier method to get on and off, but honestly it's not as much fun nor as hair-raising as my original. Polk County camel riders step up onto a platform at the dromedary's height. Then, riders simply toss a foot over. The camel does not rise or descend. In Florida, the saddles had metal frames which guarantee a secure ride.

Once beyond the loading zone, the sensation of riding is identical, except the safari traverses grass instead of sand. While riding through Wilderness Park I saw zebras, lemurs, wart hogs, cattle, deer, antelope and Water Buffalo. Safari Wilderness Ranch is not a zoo or theme park. There are no crowds and no lines; it's a natural adventure with guides who explain the herds of exotic game. Safari vehicles fitted with shade canopies offer an alternative tour.

I highly recommend a trip to Jordan; the country is safe, the people are friendly and the archeological ruins outstanding. A camel ride across the desert is a cherished memory, but I have to admit, a three-hour car ride gave me a similar, close encounter with the humped beasts.

If you go:
www.jordantours-travel.com/cms/ or www.SafariWilderness.com.

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Tools 4 Schools cont. from pg. 18

Depot allows Tools 4 Schools to be a year round resource for teachers, instead of just a one-time handout.

"Tools 4 Schools is the only county-wide supply drive in the area that directly benefits the teachers and students of the St. Johns County School District," explained Donna Lueders, the executive director of the SJCEF. "We are excited about the opportunity to offer supplies for teachers year-round, but need the community's help to stock our Depot!"

Numerous businesses around the county and neighboring areas are serving as drop-off locations for the school supplies. These donations will go to all kindergarten through 12th grades and subjects, as well as the schools' clinics that currently receive no state funding.

A full list of drop-off locations, as well as more information can be found at www.sjcef.com. Just click the Tools 4 Schools button on the left side of the home page. If you are interested in volunteering or being a drop-off location in the future, please email Katy Hoffstatter at katy.hoffstatter@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

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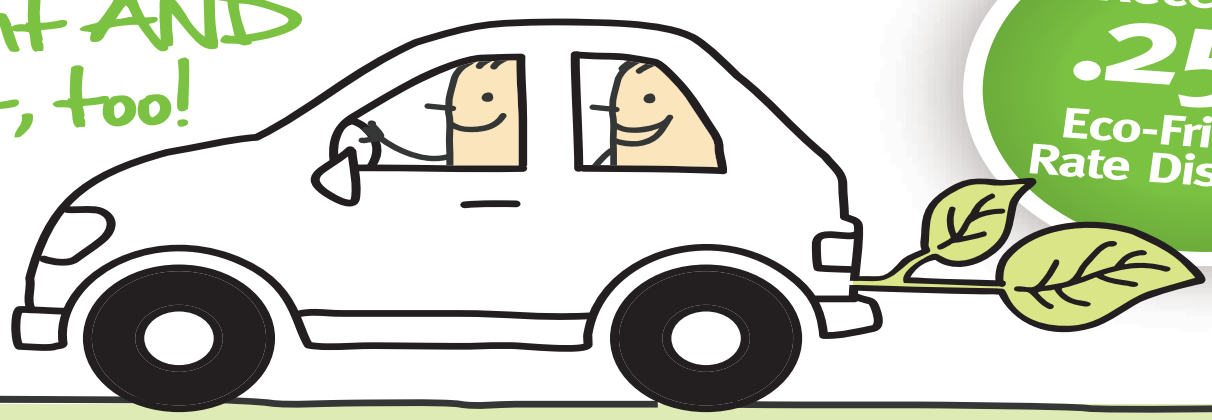

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‡ For new vehicles only: minimum loan amount $25,000. Other loan terms (up to 72 months) are available for new and used autos. Qualifications and some restrictions apply.

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Preparing for the fall vegetable garden

Soil preparation should be done four to six weeks before planting a production bed, so it is time to plan and prepare for the fall vegetable garden.

On Thursday, August 16 the St. Johns Extension Office will be conducting a class on this topic. It will be held at the St. Johns County Extension Office and run from 10:00 a.m. until noon. In the class you will learn about amending the garden plot, vegetable varieties to grow for fall and winter and gardening techniques. If you have not had a soil pH analysis done in several years you may also want to bring a soil sample to submit for free testing.

You must pre-register for the class. There is a $5 registration fee or bring three nonperishable food items to donate to the St. Johns County Social Services Division of Health and Human Services Food Closet.

To register for the class, please call 209-0430.

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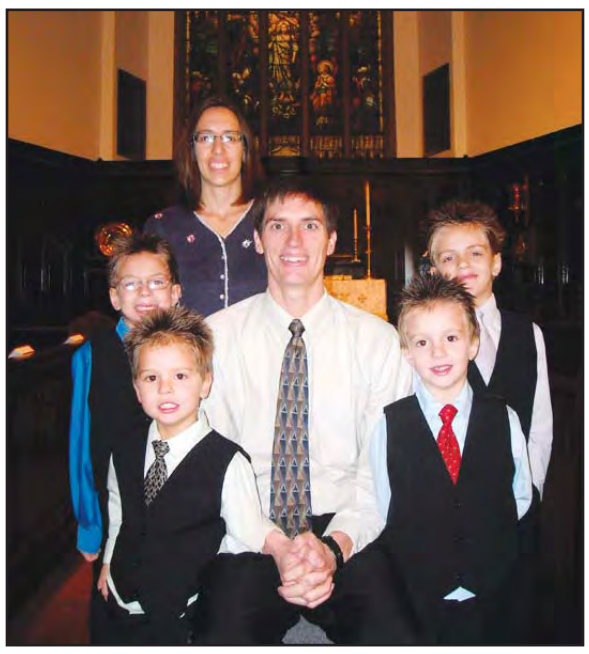

After a very lengthy search, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome Father Mike Snider to our parish and the community of St. Johns. Father Mike comes to us from Christ Episcopal Church of Bluefield, West Virginia, where he was a rector for five years. Father Mike is married to Penelope (Penny) and they have four sons: Robby, age 10; Eli, age nine; Christopher, age six; and Matthew, age five.

He and his family are excited to join the community. He has been a coach for his sons in coach pitch baseball and T-ball and sees the importance of being active in schools and the community as well as serving the parish of St. Patrick's. Fr. Mike seeks to find the passions of the parishioners of St. Patrick's and match it to the needs of the St. Johns community.

Father Mike and his family's first Sunday will be September 2. We invite the community to join us in welcoming Fr. Mike and his family and stop by to introduce yourself.

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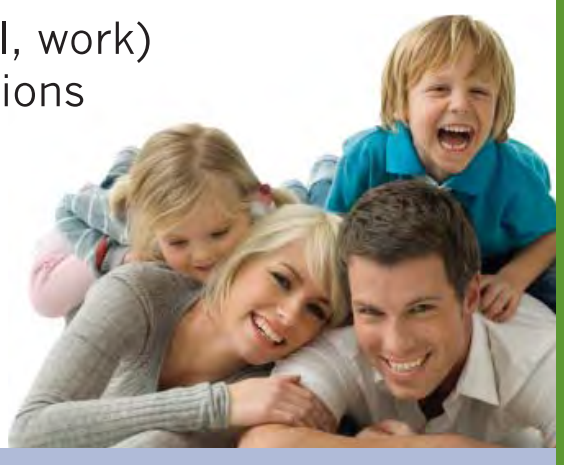

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Hometown hero cont. from pg. 1

United States Army First Lieutenant Ryan Timoney

she came to thank the Mandarin/St. Johns community, as well as the volunteers of St. Michael's Soldiers, a ministry of St. Joseph's Catholic Church that raises money to send "home-sweet-home" care packages to deployed military members. Diane Timoney

Hometown hero cont. on pg. 31

Faith News

Fruit Cove Baptist Church's Military Support Ministry, serving the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of any military wife will be offering a new Bible study entitled, "My so Called Life as a Proverbs 31 Wife" by Sara Horn. It will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., beginning on September 4 in the ROC Room 201. Childcare is provided by reservation. Please call Debbie Stoutamyer at 230-8413 with questions or to register.

On August 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church will be having their **"All You Can Eat Chicken"** fried chicken dinner. The dinner will include a salad bar, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned vegetables, bread and butter. Homemade desserts and beverages will also be available for a donation. The cost of an adult dinner is $10 and a kid's dinner (and seven and under) is $4. The church is located at 5950 State Road 16 (one mile northwest of Pacetti Road and World Golf Parkway) in St. Augustine. The dinner is being sponsored by the OLGC Men's Club and the Ladies Guild. All proceeds will go to the future use of the various ministries and continued church development.

Please join us on Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Vilano Beach in St. Johns County. A free lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Parking is on the beach. The fee is $5. **The Julington Creek congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** is hosting the party and providing lunch. Look for the "LDS Party" signs. If you need more information or have questions, please call the Barringtons at (904) 217-3308. Hope to see you there!

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** can help. Let us share our experience, strength and hope. Join us every Monday night from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Jacksonville, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard or visit us at www.jaxafg.org.

Single Moms Hope and Help is a Bible Study and support group designed by a single mom for single moms. It encourages you to flourish while in the midst of overwhelming circumstances and begins on September 5. Childcare is provided. Please call Linda Warne at 287-0996 with questions or to register.

St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church is offering a parent's Morning Out program for the 2012-2013 school year. If your child(ren) are between 12 months and four years old they can be enrolled in our program. The program runs on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The children are taught different prayers and bible verses and do this while having lots of fun. The goal of the program is to help develop and increase their Christian beliefs while giving parents a few children-free hours. The staff has been highly trained and many of them belong to St. Francis. Please consider having your little one(s) participate in what we believe is a great program. Please contact the church at 615-2130 for more information.

River of Life UMC, located at 2600 Race Track Road, will be opening its **My Morning Out** program to the public. With the addition of our new facility, our program is ready to expand. The program will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning on September 4. We will follow the St. Johns County 2012-13 school year calendar. Registration begins August 1, 2012. Please call 230-2955 for additional information.

River of Grace Christian invites you to join us at 6200 State Road 13 North in St. Johns County. We are located between the Shands Bridge and Pacetti's Campground on State Road 13. Our Sunday morning begins with a teen Bible study at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Praise and Worship service at 10:00 a.m. We strive to live out our name and be a River of Grace to our community! We love the Lord Jesus and want to share His message of love and hope with everyone. Please come and worship with us soon...we would love to have you!

Grief Share is a faith-based support group at Fruit Cove Baptist Church for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This is a 13-week DVD driven program designed to take you from mourning to joy. The program begins on August 29 at 6:15 p.m. and childcare is provided. Please call Cecille Hammond, 230-6221, with questions or to register.

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Hometown hero cont. from pg. 30

thanked the crowd for their prayers, positive thoughts and get-well wishes, even citing the cards from the children at St. Joseph's School, where Ryan Timoney attended as a youngster, as a source of comfort and inspiration.

The Hoedown's activities included both a live and silent auction. During the live auction, auctioneer Ricky Brooks engaged the crowd in bidding on sports and rock-n-roll memorabilia. One man won the bidding for a New York Jets football, signed by quarterback Mark Sanchez and immediately handed the prize to Diane Timoney for her son. Rock-n-roll's Van Zant brothers, Johnny of Lynyrd Skynyrd and Donny of .38 Special, donated two autographed electric guitars for auction and also sent along another autographed guitar just for Ryan Timoney. Ten percent of the evening's proceeds will aid Ryan Timoney in his recovery.

The evening included bluegrass music by One Mandarin Road, The Playing Cards DJs, and line-dancing led by Larry Bass. A buffet of barbequed pork, sausages and chicken with baked beans, green beans, corn-on-the-cob, cole slaw and potato salad were catered by Jax Pit BBQ, special events catering and local chef Gerry Serfilippi.

"The Mandarin and St. Johns communities have been extremely generous in supporting our efforts to serve the deployed men and women of our military forces," said Kathy Signorile, St. Michael's Soldiers founder and president. "We are so grateful to the businesses who donated items for our auctions and food for the event. We couldn't do it without them. Our volunteers work tirelessly to fill and ship boxes of goodies to our deployed men and women."

When asked what we can send our soldiers, United States Army Specialist Chris Tumlinson loudly told the Hoedown crowd, "Snacks! We love snacks."

For more information on how you can help or volunteer, please call 599-7855 or visit www.stmichaelssoldiers.org

Boy Scout Troop 280 summer news

By Contributing Writer Contributing writer Justin Barthel, First Class Scout

During the week of June 16 through 23, Troop 280 adventured off to summer camp at beautiful Camp Powhatan, nestled in the mountains of Virginia. After a long 10 hour drive from St. Johns, the troop arrived safely and ready to take on the many adventures which included hiking, swimming, fishing, rafting and more. At an elevation of 655 meters above sea level, Camp Powhatan is home to a variety of wildlife and many spotted deer, skunks and even a black bear. Scouts attended classes daily, providing them with the opportunity to complete merit badges required for rank advancement. The types of classes offered included horsemanship, environmental science, emergency preparedness, nature and orienteering (just to name a few).

The campsite had tents and cabins. The tents are basically wooden frames that stand up in a triangle formation with a canvas tent over the frame. There is a mattress and wooden bedframe which is where the scouts slept. It wasn't as comfortable as it sounds. The cabins are wooden buildings with bunk beds. These were a little more comfortable.

Scouts had several opportunities to raise money to pay for all or a portion of their camping expenses and many worked very hard to do this. What better way to live out the Scout Law of thriftiness! At the end of the week parents were ecstatic to see their kids. The troop had a great time at summer camp.

The Friday evening after returning, several scouts from Troop 280 also participated in a special community service project. In conjunction with the Helping Hands organization, scouts and parents came together to assist cooking and serving food to the homeless community of downtown St. Augustine. Thanks to Ms. Jackie and the ladies of Helping Hands for allowing us to work with them on this evening. It was a project many of the boys have expressed wishes to repeat again.

Troop 280 is a Boy Scout Troop located in the heart of Julington Creek, sponsored by River of Life United Methodist Church on Race Track Road. The troop was founded in 2009 and has grown from five original members to now over 60. The Scoutmaster is Brian Miller.

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615-2130
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(September - May)
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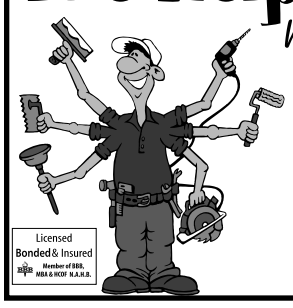

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary encourages boating safety

By Contributing Writer Robert A. Schultz, Public Affairs Officer, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7

St. Augustine Flotilla 14-7 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is encouraging increased boating safety for the 2012 season and beyond through public education courses, Vessel Safety Check stations and public information exhibit booths. Members of the boating public and the public at large should visit one of our booths which will be located throughout the local area, to obtain informational pamphlets, to discuss matters of boating safety and the security of our waterways with our knowledgeable personnel and to sign up for a Safe Boating course.

Knowing how a boat handles can help avoid collisions.

"I've been piloting boats since before I could walk!" Maybe so – but no matter how experienced you may be as a boater, it's worth paying attention to the handling characteristics of every boat you own or operate. Every boat – even boats of the same type, from the same manufacturer – handles differently. Your own boat responds differently from day to day as a result of weather, current, temperature, load and other factors. The boater who ignores handling characteristics is risking his safety. Coast Guard data show that "collision with another vessel" is the number one type of recreational boating accident; "collision with a fixed object" is second.

If you're interested in the technical factors that influence handling characteristics – things like side force, frictional wake current and drag – a review of one of the many boat handling and seamanship publications or the specifications supplied with your boat, will provide a wealth of useful information. But in the meantime, there are simple steps that the United States Coast Guard recommends that every boater – including experienced boaters – go over as a matter of routine.

Drill it in. Whether you've been operating a particular boat for three years or three minutes, it's a good idea to try some drills related to boat handling. Pick an open area on a calm day. Practice turning, stopping and reversing course at various speeds and pay attention to your turning radius, stopping distance and maneuverability when the boat has more or less momentum.

Later, try the same drills in rougher water, with more wind and with more or less weight in the boat. You may be surprised how much these variables can change the way your boat handles. At a minimum, these drills should be conducted on an annual basis, especially if you live in an area of the country where your boat is stored during the winter. Once your boat has been launched for the summer boating season, take some time to reacquaint yourself with your vessel's handling characteristics.

A weighty issue. Do you know how much you weigh? Not trying to ask personal questions, but as the boat owner or operator, it's important that you know the total weight of the equipment and persons you bring on board and make sure that it's within the limits listed on your boat's capacity plate (if one is provided). You must take into consideration everything you've taken on board, such as fishing gear, a cooler, water (eight pounds per gallon), food and fuel (six pounds per gallon). Exceeding your boat's capacity is dangerous and can severely affect safe handling.

Even if you're within the appropriate weight limit for your vessel, that weight must be properly distributed. Power trim and trim tabs are useful tools – but it's better to carefully balance weight fore and aft, port and starboard, to avoid listing or "porpoising" – both of which make handling a vessel more difficult.

NOAA News is good news. Finally, check the weather before you go out – and not just to find out whether or not you'll need a sweater. Wind and waves, in particular, can drastically change a boat's handling characteristics. Take a few minutes to listen to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine forecast on your VHF radio, even if it's currently bright and sunny. You'll be much better off making the conscious decision not to pilot your boat in 30-mile-per-hour winds than accidentally finding out you're incapable of it. For further information on NOAA, check out http://www.noaa.gov.

Yes, you may be an experienced boater, but even if you were born with tiller in hand, it's worth taking a little extra time to make sure you've mastered the handling of this boat on this day under these conditions.

Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

The St. Johns River seems to be recovering nicely from the heavy rains we received earlier this summer. At one time what looked like a washout for this summer's fishing and shrimping may have ended up being the correction the river needed after several years of below normal rainfall. Our fishing and shrimping forecast is starting to look like what we would expect most years with normal amounts of rain. Usually by late July or early August indicators are in place giving us an idea of what to expect the rest of the summer.

What we need to be looking for first is how the weather has been affecting the salinity of the river. If the salinity is right, the shrimp should begin to show. Smaller shrimp are common early, gradually getting larger as the season progresses. With the arrival of the shrimp we can expect the croaker bite to catch fire all over the river. Yellowmouth trout (weakfish) will be in the deeper holes, with reds under docks and sea trout at the ends of docks.

Currently smaller shrimp have begun to show in their usual locations indicating favorable conditions for this summer's migration of shrimp. The croakers have been biting strong from downtown Jacksonville to Green Cove Springs. Yellowmouth trout are abundant, reds are under docks and sea trout are at the end of docks. Our indicators are indicating and by all indications we can expect the rest of this summer's shrimping and fishing to be outstanding again.

Fishing Report: Look for all fishing to get better as shrimp make their way downstream. Shrimping will continue to improve. Shrimp from docks or shallow water at night with a bright light and shrimp meal. Old Shands Bridge (Orangedale and Green Cove) and County Dock (Mandarin) are open to the public for shrimping. Look for drop-offs and moving water if you are daytime shrimping from a boat.

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

Highway Work Zone Safety Tips from the FDOT

1. Stay alert: Expect anything to occur when entering a work zone.

2. Pay close attention: Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.

3. Turn on your headlights: Workers and other motorists must see you.

4. Don't tailgate: Unexpected stops frequently occur in work zones.

5. Don't speed: Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.

6. Keep up with traffic flow: Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you.

7. Don't change lanes in the work zone: The time saved just isn't worth the chance.

8. Minimize distractions: Avoid changing radio stations and using cellular phones while driving in the work zone.

9. Expect the unexpected: Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.

10. Be patient: Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

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Movie Review

Rock of Ages

Directed by: Adam Shankman. Starring: Julianne Hough, Diego Boneta, Tom Cruise. Review by T. G. Stanton

Okay, But Could Have Waited for Cable (3 out of 5)

This month's movie review belongs to the film *Rock of Ages,* a musical film with comedy and drama for adults and teens.

Los Angeles in 1987 was a blast. Big-haired rock and roll bands on any corner in Hollywood were the norm. Young men and women flocked to the city to pursue their dreams. And so, the musical begins. Sherrie Christian, played by Julianne Hough, comes to Hollywood and outside the famed Bourbon Room, a fictional club that has launched and supported rock and roll since its beginning, she is robbed and now in need of a job. She is soon rescued by Drew Boley, performed by Diego Boneta, an aspiring singer dreaming of his chance for stardom. Through their budding romance, the club is floundering due to the changing music scene throughout the country. Their dreams rely on a sellout performance by Stacee Jaxx, portrayed by Tom Cruise. A hard drinking, womanizing and half-naked star, he is on the downside of his career and looking for a revival. Bumps and roadblocks are thrown in the paths of the budding romance and the success and careers of all involved.

Throughout this film, directed by Adam Shankman, a former dancer and choreographer, the music of the '80s is the star of the show. The majority of music is sung by the actors themselves and very credible performances are delivered. There are of course energetic and enjoyable dance scenes with most of the music and any action is an excuse to break into song. There is drama in the political movement to denigrate rock and roll; business troubles, career troubles and romance could be on the rocks. The comedy comes in the presented changing morals, attitudes and costumes.

The movie is definitely longer than necessary and the story is simple and uninspired; this has been done before. However, the chosen music is the star and Tom Cruise's performance is enough to keep you watching. Who knew he could be a rock and roll star too? Unless you hate the music of the '80s or are looking for Tolstoy in a movie, you should enjoy this film.

Farmers, arts and crafts vendors needed for new NW community farmers market

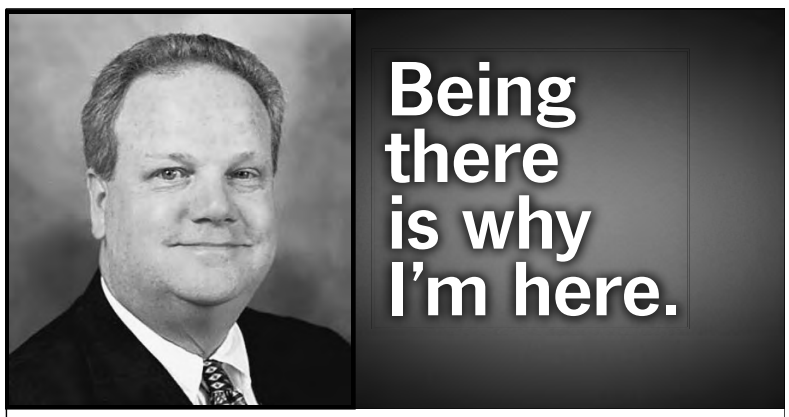
The North Florida Vendors Association (NFVA) has announced the opening of a new weekly community farmers market in Alpine Groves Park, located at 2060 State Road 13

in NW St. Johns County; the Grand Opening of the St. Johns River Farmers Market is set for Saturday, August 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"This area is full of people looking for close-by family entertainment, as well as farmers, artists and artisans looking for a venue for their wares," said NFVA president Arthur Glaser. "We plan to provide a Saturday destination-market for the community, in the tradition of the old-time Market Day, which served as a commercial center and gathering place for entertainment, socializing and education."

The NFVA is welcoming interest from local farmers, artists, crafters and volunteer organizations seeking exposure.

For additional information, please email nfva.org@gmail.com.



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Gardening

Looking forward to fall?

By Contributing Writer Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale with Duval County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS

This summer has been brutal at times, which hardly needs saying. Torrential rains and high temperatures make for less than ideal conditions for gardening.

However – fall is on the way and it's a great time to consider what cool season vegetables you'd like to enjoy. For greens and cruciferous vegetables, good choices might be Swiss chard, cabbage, broccoli and that ubiquitous southerner, collards. While none of these are exotic, they are fairly easy to grow and all vegetables can be more valuable straight from the garden as the freshest vegetables are the tastiest. Stir-frying in a little canola oil or steaming lightly, will help retain vitamins. Broccoli can become a cut and come again crop—once the main head has been harvested you can look forward to weeks of smaller, tender side shoots, looking just like miniature broccoli heads. Just don't discard the plants before giving them a chance to develop.

The University of Florida is a great source of information on vegetable gardening. Check out http://solutionsforyourlife.com/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/veggie_gardening.html.

Photo by Peggy Greb (www.ars.usda.gov)

Fall is also a good time to review your flower and shrub plantings. By August there may be casualties you want to replace and overgrown spring-flowering perennials that need dividing. Plan to tackle these tasks when the weather is really cooling down and you'll have greater success than trying to do so in the heat of summer. If disease has been the problem, particularly root rot, it might be prudent to replace that plant with one from a different family. The disease may be lingering in the soil and could simply attack the replacement .

For more detailed information on topical gardening, I can recommend the bi-monthly newsletter from our Duval County Extension Service, "A New Leaf." (http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafJulyAugust2012.pdf)

The monarch butterflies will be more evident in the weeks to come, as they prepare to migrate south for the winter. If you have plenty of blooms such as pentas, this will lure them into the garden and a bonus for them would be to find members of the milkweed family on which to lay their eggs. It's always fun for kids – and adults! – to see the metamorphosis of the caterpillar to butterfly. If you are handy you can simply use an old cardboard box with a mesh lid as a caterpillar house. (Or you can buy a ready-made version.) Give it plenty of fresh milkweed to eat and it will very quickly grow and transform into a beautiful green and gold chrysalis. Once that stage is reached the caterpillar within is undergoing its transformation and it won't be many days until the new butterfly splits the chrysalis and emerges, wet and crumpled, from its confines. The wings take several hours to plump up and become functional. Once the monarch is ready to fly, carefully shift the box outside and place it near some flowers. Remove the lid and watch. Who knows, your hatchling may be one of the millions of monarchs that will make its way to overwinter in Mexico!

Purposeful Parenting

They grow up fast

By Allie Olsen, www.gracefullmom.com

Luke, our neighbor, just graduated. He was just a skinny little kid (sorry, Luke) when we moved next door. It's already been seven years; he's quite the man and holds a real conversation (with eye contact!) when speaking to me now. We never invited him over for dinner; I always thought it'd be a little less busy "next week." I don't really know him.

Luke, I'm sure, doesn't feel slighted. But the realization that he became a man right before our eyes really hit me! Ben, our oldest, will be graduating in five years. Five years! I swore I'd never say this, but... Wow. They sure do grow up fast.

The bright side is I'm realizing this now. I know the song *Cat's in the Cradle* and how things can turn out when we don't have our priorities right. That's one reason we decided to homeschool—we didn't want to be so busy getting ready and going places that we didn't have time to enjoy the ride. After eight years homeschooling, though, I know I have to be intentional to develop a relationship with my kids even when we're together 24/7!

It's back-to-school time. Most St. Johns County mammas have updated the kids' wardrobes, bought school supplies, maybe even pinned new lunch ideas on Pinterest. I'd like to encourage you to plan some "can't you just stay little" time with preschoolers as well as teens. You know what will be most memorable for your family, but in case you're tired of thinking, I'll share a few ideas that are fun and easy on the budget:

Sunset picnic at Alpine Groves: Some of our favorite family pictures are from last minute picnics at this park! The playground is cool, but we usually drive past it to the riverfront and pack some balls, bubbles and lots of snacks.

Take the littles to the merry-go-round: St. Augustine has plenty of noteworthy attractions, but you can't beat a $1 ride on a carousel! Our friends grab pizza from downtown and make it a cheap, fun family night. For more St. Augustine ideas, check out www.SimplyStAugustine.com

Hit up Redbox: Popcorn and a movie may be standard, but what about coordinating your snack with the flick? Some memorable combos we've done are Kung Fu Panda and sushi, Happy Feet and ice cream, Tin Tin and doggie treats. (That's my hubby's bad humor. Ha!)

Relax by the water: Utilize your neighborhood pool or head to the beach. We live in Florida—make the most of these long summer days!

Have a good time now. Make some memories you and your kids can look back on in those five short years!

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Ten steps to conquering heart disease

(ARA) - You may already know that heart disease is the number one killer in America, and that factors like obesity increase your risk of developing it. But of all the shocking things you know—or believe you know—about heart disease, here's the statistic that you might find the most eye-opening: 80 percent of all heart disease is preventable.

"It's important that everyone understand as much as possible about heart disease prevention, as 80 percent of heart disease can be avoided," says Dr. Martha Grogan, medical editor-in-chief of the new book "Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!"

Heart disease claims the lives of 600,000 Americans each year and another 12.7 million suffer from heart attacks. One in three women is diagnosed with heart disease and 50 percent of men are at risk of heart attacks before age 65. Those statistics may make you feel like you, too, are in the cross-hairs for developing heart disease. Some lifestyle changes, however, can help you greatly reduce your risks.

In the new book, available now online and in bookstores nationwide, Mayo Clinic experts discuss risk factors for heart disease, how to recognize the symptoms, and what lifestyle steps you can take to help reduce your risk. The catchphrase "Eat 5, Move 10, Sleep 8" sums up the approach Mayo experts advocate to minimize heart disease risks. The slogan reminds you to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, do at least 10 minutes of moderately intense physical exercise daily and get at least eight hours of sleep per night.

In addition, Mayo experts say, 10 simple steps can help you minimize your risk of heart disease. Here's a sampling of the steps that you'll find in the clinic's new heart healthy book:

- Eat healthy: Adopt simple dietary changes such as eating at least five fruits and vegetables each day, switching to whole grains and lean proteins, and eating a healthy breakfast every day.
- Be active: A sedentary lifestyle is as deadly as smoking, experts say. Exercising just 10 minutes a day can deliver significant heart-health benefits. Have trouble sticking with an exercise plan? Finding something you enjoy doing, whether it's playing a sport, running, tai chi, yoga or extreme house cleaning, can help you maintain your commitment to exercising.
- Sleep well: Sleep deprivation has serious health repercussions, including increasing your risk of heart disease. Conversely, getting adequate sleep can actually have a restorative effect on the heart. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says sleep deprivation has become a national public health epidemic. Creating a bedtime routine and a relaxing sleep environment can help you get the eight hours of sleep per night that your body needs.
- Plan for emergencies: A heart emergency can happen at any time, so it's important to know the warning signs of a problem. Learn to recognize symptoms of a crisis, and act quickly to get medical help.
- Enjoy life: A positive attitude, supportive network of family and friends, and good management of your stress not only improve your heart health, they can improve your overall enjoyment of life, as well.

In addition to offering solid advice and the 10 steps to heart health, the "Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!" also discusses how the heart functions, what can go wrong, tools for ongoing heart health and tips on how to keep your whole family heart healthy.

"Following these steps can help you dramatically reduce your risk of heart disease, even though it can't be completely eliminated," Grogan says. "If you've done everything in your power to prevent heart disease or live with it as effectively as possible, then you have, indeed, conquered it."

Enjoy outdoor activities while keeping bugs away

(ARA) - While warmer weather brings many opportunities to enjoy outdoor living spaces, it also ushers in unwanted pests like ticks and mosquitoes. A mild winter often triggers an early emergence and larger populations of these insects. Frequent accounts of tick sightings and bites have been documented in many states, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports a steady increase in the prevalence of tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever each year.

About 75 percent of all reported Lyme disease cases are acquired from ticks picked up during activities in backyards and around the home, according to the CDC website. The site also notes that homeowners can reduce the population of ticks that can cause Lyme disease and the like by 68 to 100 percent with as little as one application of an appropriate outdoor insecticide spray.

Another pest-spread illness, West Nile virus, is transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes. West Nile

Enjoy outdoors cont. on pg. 35

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Enjoy outdoors cont. from pg. 34

poses health risks to humans and pets alike during the warm summer months. While incidents of West Nile virus have declined over the past 10 years, the CDC reports it to be an established seasonal epidemic that can cause severe illness and result in permanent neurological damage.

The best way to prevent an outbreak of the disease, according to the CDC, is through the use of an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to control both adult mosquitoes and their larvae before they can hatch and mature.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes IPM on its website, www.epa.gov, as "an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices." The EPA points out that the IPM approach, which takes insects' life cycles into consideration as well as currently available pest control methods, is a good way to manage pests economically and with the least health and environmental hazards. In addition to the efforts and community education by organizations like the EPA, there are many simple, preventative steps that individuals can take to ensure their own lawns, gardens and patios are a safe environment for summer fun.

"Keeping grass cut short and eliminating standing water in and around the home are two easy, effective ways to reduce the prevalence of menaces like ticks and mosquitoes," says Aaron Hobbs, president of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) - a national organization representing the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of pesticide and fertilizer products. "The applications of insect repellents and thorough skin checks after spending time outdoors also serve as important safeguards for adults, children and pets.

"Pesticide and repellent products can provide significant protection, and it is important to note that these products are rigorously tested and approved by EPA and your state to ensure they will protect you and your pets from harmful pests," Hobbs continues.

Reading pesticide and repellent labels and following directions for proper application and storage are ways to ensure that your outdoor living spaces remain a healthy, pest-free summer haven.

To learn more on how to protect your family, friends and pets from insects, rodents and weeds, visit www.DebugTheMyths.com.

Back to School Guide

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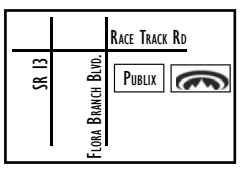

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Five ways to help kids boost their brain power

(ARA) - Everyone is born with about 100 billion brain cells. We form new connections between these cells throughout life, but the rate is particularly high when we're young. Since those connections facilitate thinking and learning, parents who want to help give their children an intellectual edge should consider the brain-healthy choices they make each day.

"Making the effort to nurture your child's brain with both proper nutrients and varied experiences, especially when they are young and developing at such a fast rate, is crucial," says speech pathologist Lauren Zimet, founder of Early Insights, LLC and an expert on childhood brain development. "The connections in brain circuitry can be enhanced through the environments and activities a child is exposed to, and participates in, as well as the nutrients a child consumes."

Zimet offers five tips to help parents enhance healthy brain development in their children, positioning them for success in school today and well into their future:

1. Select a rainbow. It's no secret that the benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables are numerous, but thanks to the results of ongoing research, you can confidently add brain health to that list. Encourage your children to eat a colorful array of produce (organic when possible) each day so they get the antioxidants, vitamins and minerals needed to nourish and protect their growing brains. If your child is resistant to eating produce, encourage them to come shopping with you and select something new to try. Kids are more likely to eat what they have selected themselves.

2. Relax the right way. While it's true that exercise boosts brain power, it's also important to teach children how to relax. Balancing activity with relaxation is important so that kids don't get too stressed, which can impact the brain's development and lead to learning and behavior problems. Teaching children early on the benefit of setting goals, working towards those goals and giving their brain and body time to relax are important life skills. When it's time to relax, skip the TV and teach your child that taking a walk in nature, reading a book or drawing are great ways to unwind. Deep breathing is also an excellent practice to teach children of all ages.

3. Eat omega-3 brain food. Omega-3 essential fatty acids are critical to a child's brain development. They are called "essential" because we need them for optimal health. The problem is that our bodies cannot manufacture them and we can only get them from the food we eat or supplements we take. While fish, nuts and seaweed are good omega-3 sources, kids typically don't gobble down these foods. That leaves many parents worried that their kids aren't getting enough, and with omega-3 deficits linked to ADHD, dyslexia and other behavioral and

Boost brain power cont. on pg. 40

Liberty Pines Academy August update

By Contributing Writer Stephanie Bradford, Liberty Pines Academy PTO

Liberty Pines Academy PTO is excited to announce our 2012-2013 executive board: Cathy Richter, president; Karen Taylor, vice president of fundraising; Kim Delaney, vice president of membership and volunteers; Janine Bowker, treasurer; and Erin Gulden, secretary. We have many new members on the board this year who are anxious to jump in and help out and many returning members ready to share their experience.

We've been working hard this summer preparing for some great events and fundraisers. This year the LPA-PTO is offering summer camps to St. Johns County students. We are offering a basketball camp the week of August 6 through 10. There will be a morning session for rising third through fifth graders and an afternoon session for rising sixth through eighth graders. The week of August 13 through 17, we are offering a cheerleading camp in the morning for kindergarten through fifth grade. All camps are $100 per child; for more information, please visit our website (www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us).

Please join us at Wolf Greetings, to be held August 15 through 17. Come meet your child's teacher and while there come by and visit the PTO tables. We'll have lots of information and would love to talk to you about our school. You will be able to pick up your pre-ordered spirit wear as well as purchase additional items. If you pre-ordered school supplies these will be available for pick up as well.

Entertainment Books are back; however, this year we will be sending them home the second week of school. And as always we will have some great prizes for top sellers and even if you just buy one you're still a winner. You get a book full of coupons and Liberty Pines gets the profits!

Liberty Pines Academy is pleased to announce their fifth annual Fall Gala on October 6, 2012 at St. Johns Golf and Country Club, starting at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Tailgating for LPA!" It will be a fun evening packed with delicious food, fabulous live and silent auction items, including celebrity items. Attire will be country club casual and there will be football fun and games you and your friends will not want to miss. Tickets are available for purchase now and you can purchase tickets at Wolf Greeting for a discount. Join us for a great time and to support Liberty Pines Academy! Childcare will be available during the event. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, donating auction items or helping with this great event, please contact the event chairs: Jennifer Ferguson at jenniferferguson1@gmail.com or 571-7701 or Farrah Orr at orrfamily@litestream.net or 342-3056.

Another great project we have been working on this summer is our PTO Discount Card. Our business partner committee has secured 13 local businesses to be a part of this new program. Every LPA family will be receiving a discount card at no cost. The card is valid for the entire school year. If you know a business interested in partnering with LPA either by offering our families a discount or by being a business partner please contact Christy Beebe at stlouis21@yahoo.com.

Finally, kindergarten parents – please join us for our annual Tissues and Tea on August 24 at 8:30 a.m. This is a great way to meet other kindergarten parents and find out all about PTO.

Dates to remember:
Wolf Greetings:
K-2nd: Wednesday, August 15, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
3rd -5th: Thursday, August 16, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
6th -8th: Friday, August 17, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
First Day of School for Students: Monday, August 20
Tissues and Tea: Friday, August 24 at 8:30 a.m.

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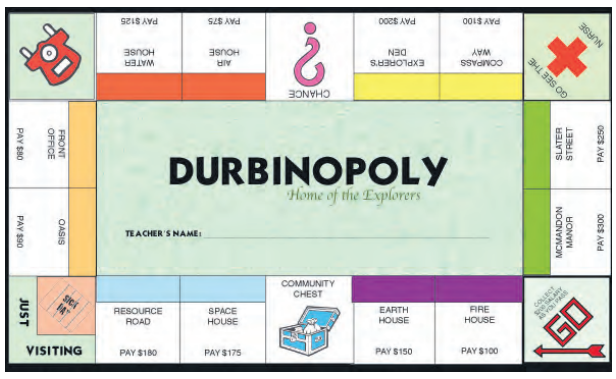
Back to School Guide

Welcome back to Durbin Creek Elementary!

By Contributing Writer Sheila Caballero, Correspondence Secretary, Durbin Creek PTO



Durbin Creek Elementary PTO would like to welcome back our explorers to a new school year. Though we have said good bye to many good friends and great teachers, we are starting on an exciting journey.

A new year brings new ways to have fun and create lifelong memories, so please join the PTO in our Bingo-style learning game. Each family will receive a Bingo card when they join the PTO. You can complete activities to fill your card and rack up exciting prizes. Once filled, your family will be entered to win a great Disney gift basket.

L	E	A	R	N
Donate a book to DCE Library	Visit a Business Partner	Attend a PTO event	Share a life lesson with your family	Give PTO an Hour of your time
Have a Game Night at HOME	Give PTO an Hour of your time	Join us at a PTO meeting	Bookmark the DCE PTO web page	Eat lunch with your child
Make your teacher feel special	JOIN PTO	Free Square	Attend a Spirit Night	Wear Durbin Colors
Attend a PTO event	Have a Family Made dinner	Give PTO an Hour of your time	Visit a Business Partner	Share a Picture of a FNO w/ PTO
Buy Your Spirit wear	Join us at a PTO meeting	"Like" our FB Page	Give PTO an Hour of your time	Visit the Book FAIR

The teachers will be playing a form of monopoly called "Durbinopoly" where they can earn properties to complete a game board of their own. Once filled, they will be entered into a drawing to win an iPad for their classroom.

The school year is also packed with new events and some oldies but goodies. We will be having a Family Game Night, a Casino Night (Parents Only), Space Night (old classic) and a new twist on an old favorite Durbin Snow Bowl charity event. Don't miss these events; not only will you be earning a spot on your game boards but you will be enjoying yourself and sharing your times with friends and family.

If you would like the dates for these events or any more information about the DCE PTO please visit our website at www.dcepto.org. If you have some suggestions or would like to help with any of these events we would love to hear from you!

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Julie Wright and her class of fifth graders show off their tie-dye talent at Geneva Presbyterian Church's VBS held in July.

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Back to School Guide

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Julington Creek 12U Sharks are state champions!

The JCB Sharks All Star team went undefeated in the 12B State Tournament in Ocala Florida and brought home the state championship title. The Sharks opened tournament play with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Orange Park and went on to beat Atlantic Beach 13-0 and then MAA 14-5 to secure the title. Daniel Gajewski, Ethan Renaud and Alex Wicker all pitched great games. Josh Schievink led the team with five hits followed by Andrew Dziwulski with four hits. Sam Shaffer and Ryan Peterson both homered in the tournament.

Overall this summer the Sharks went 15-2, winning two local tournaments and the state championship.

Congratulations to Coach Shane King, Manager Paul Chouinard, Coach Mark Peterson, Jackson Lein, Josh Schievink, Alex Wicker, Ethan Renaud, Sam Shaffer, Daniel Gajewski, Ryan Peterson, Andrew Dziwulski, Ian Craven, Colton Basham, Kyle Chouinard and Griffin King.

Pencil us in!

Our Back to School sectionappears again in the September issue!

sales@thecreekline.com

Wiesner repeats as AAU Taekwondo Champion

Bobby Wiesner, a 10-year-old St. Augustine resident, kicked and punched his way to the first place podium to become the 2012 AAU USA National Champion in Taekwondo forms and sparring. The national tournament took place from July 2 through July 7 and drew about 2,000 competitors from throughout the United States.

After winning gold at nationals in 2010, Wiesner returned to the tournament scene again this year. He qualified for the 2012 national tournament with first place finishes at both the Wisconsin State Championship in March and the Florida State Championship in April.

An articulate A-student, Wiesner is quick to credit his successes to several area taekwondo instructors including Master Jose Delgado, Master Greg Olipendo, Titus Durojaiye and Shari Toregrossa.

Bobby Wiesner displays his championship form.

FCTC joins school district to offer evening classes

The St. Johns County School District has offered a broad range of Community Education evening courses since 2009, providing opportunities for workforce preparation, personal growth, and lifelong learning at area school sites. This fall, First Coast Technical College will also open their doors for fee-based evening classes covering technical and community interest subjects. Leon Mungin, Community Education coordinator at FCTC, notes that this is a reinvigoration of a program that was on the campus in past years. "Because we specialize in technical training, including computers, mechanics and culinary arts, for instance, we have facilities and equipment that is available after our students leave the campus. We also have teachers who want to share their knowledge with a broader audience. Community education is a perfect forum and we are excited to get the classes started," he states.

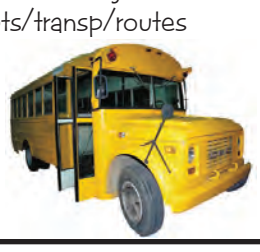
The first class at FCTC is a free two-hour seminar on Microsoft Power Point program from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on August 14 in Building A. Enroll on line at www.fctc.edu; class space is limited.

A full menu of classes will be available at FCTC and at many St. Johns County School District school locations beginning in August and September. Courses will include photography, basic and advanced computer programs, social networking, acting, yoga, dance, exercise, art, crafts, sewing, Spanish, American Sign Language, bluegrass string band, folk guitar and others.

For information on course prices, dates, times, locations and registration, please visit the website www.sjccommunityed.com or call 547-7565 or 547-7510. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your resume, meet new people and keep learning for life!

2012~2013 School Bus routes now online!

To view your child's school bus route, including pick up and drop off times, please visit the St. Johns County School district website: http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/transp/routes



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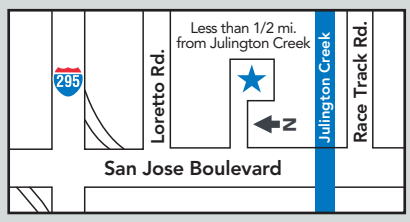

Back to School Guide

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, and Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons would like to education the community on prevention.

"A complete eye exam by an ophthalmologist that you know and trust literally sets the stage for the next 80 years," says Dr. Levine, pediatric ophthalmologist with Clay Eye. "Strong vision can be a life-changer for children. I encourage parents to give your child the best chance for success with an eye exam when they're ready to start school at four or five years old."

Dr. Levine, who has extensive experience in pediatric ophthalmology, joined the Clay Eye team in July 2011. He is the only pediatric ophthalmologist within the eight physician practice and one of the few pediatric specialists in the region. He's a resource that parents now have access to right in their own community.

"Good vision is such an important part of a child's development and is the foundation for education. I suggest if there is a concern, that you get an honest opinion from someone with experience. I have over a decade of experience in pediatric ophthalmology and emphasize a strong connection between doctor and child. While I specialize in kids, I'm happy to see patients of any age."

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons offers comprehensive eye care in the following specialties: cataract surgery, cornea surgery, medical retina, diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration, glaucoma surgery, Lasik surgery, cosmetic eye procedures, pediatric ophthalmology, and pediatric eye exams. In addition, they offer routine eye exams, contact lenses, and boutique eyewear for the entire family.

Look for their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

FCA Baseball
Fall Tryouts

Saturday, August 18th at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville (Jax Suns field)
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For more information contact Cheney Robinson, at crobinson@fca.org or go to: www.fcajaxbaseball.org

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Register your new or kindergarten student early for St. Johns County public schools

The St. Johns County School District is encouraging parents to register kindergarten students and new students to the county and/or the public school system before school starts on August 20.

Parents may contact schools at their regular phone number to register their children. The schools are currently operating Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To be eligible for kindergarten, 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 successfully completed kindergarten.

The child's certified birth certificate is required at the time of registration and only the legal name is acceptable on student records. In addition, parents should bring two proofs of residency: current utility bill, lease, and/or mortgage statement. Florida law also requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of certain immunizations and physical examinations.

A physical examination that has been performed within one year prior to enrollment in school will be accepted. Physical examinations can be acquired from either a private physician or from the county health department.

Parents should visit the individual schools' websites for registration information. Additional information on registration and school attendance zones can be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

Questions?

Visit the St. Johns County School District's website for everything you need to know about the upcoming school year!

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

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Local business partners with high school to raise scores and raise funds

The goal for many high school students after they complete high school is to attend college. Grade point average, SAT/ACT scores and extracurricular involvement/leadership are all factors that play a role in a school's decision to admit a student. St. Johns County Schools have ranked above other schools in the state, academically, for several years and it is the goal of Tutoring Club of St. Johns to keep our schools at the top.

Owner/director, Elizabeth Loeser, is a parent and veteran teacher in St. Johns County who understands the process for college admission as well as the difficulties associated with funding programs at the schools due to budget cuts. For students, one of the most difficult parts of the college admission process is achieving the SAT scores they need to be competitive among their peers. Preparing for this test is a key to their success. This is a difficult test; and many kids are completely blind-sided the first time they take it.

Tutoring Club of St. Johns is offering students an opportunity to take this test in a simulated testing environment without the pressure of the score being reported. They then receive a complete analysis of that score, with a personal consultation with the parents to help explain what the scores mean, how the scores are used, and what the student needs to do to completely prepare for this test and be successful. The event will be held at Ponte Vedra High School on September 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Parents pay $35, of which $25 will be donated back to Ponte Vedra High School PTO and Booster Club. All high school students are welcome to attend, with advanced registration.

Please call 230-2855 for more information and to reserve your seat.

Get Ready!

The first day of school is Monday, August 20, 2012

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Back to School Guide

Switzerland Dance School

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St. Johns County Medical Alliance announces 2012 scholars

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance recently awarded academic scholarships to four St. Johns County high school graduates pursuing an education in a medical related field of study.

This year, a total of $3,500 in scholarships were awarded. Rebeca Siguenza, a graduate of Pedro Menendez High School and Rachel Appelo, home schooled, each received $1000. Raj Sikaria, Nease High School and Jared Freitas, Bartram Trail High School, each received $500. Emma Domingoes and Jacob Sambursky, students who received scholarships last year, were each awarded $250 for continuation of their studies.

Each year, the St. Johns County Medical Alliance, in conjunction with the St. Johns County Medical Society, offers academic scholarships to graduating St. Johns County high school seniors pursuing an education in pre-medicine, nursing or allied health. Scholarship applicants are evaluated on academic ability, school involvement and community service.

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance is comprised of 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.

Jared Freitas

For more information about the Medical Alliance, go to www.sjcma.blogspot.com.

Don't miss our
Back to School
Special Section
appearing again in the September issue of The CreekLine.
Make a note of it! 287-4913

Notes from the Pacetti Bay Media Center

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

The last days of summer are here and school is right around the corner. This summer, while in Virginia, I learned first-hand of a storm system I had never heard of before, the Derecho. Nothing like a storm to bring on simple living. Trees were down everywhere. Power was out for almost a week. Then of course there was record heat for the area. We hauled water and read. Not much else we could do!

I loved reading *The Queen of Water* by Laura Resau. As I mentioned in last month's edition of *The CreekLine*, it is a global read in October and I hope to participate in the author's video conference. *The Queen of Water* gives insight to a culture that is not readily found in books for young people and is a fictionalized account of a true story. I found myself unable to stop reading it until I finished because I kept hoping Virginia would be able to break free. Her perseverance and strength was inspirational. I was pleasantly surprised as I read *Theodore Boone: The Abduction* by John Grisham. I had not been very impressed with his first one in this series but decided to try this one. I am going to get the third one to read too. My favorite so far has been *Robbie Forester and the Outlaws of Sherwood St* by Peter Abrahams. I just assumed the protagonist was male from the title and was really surprised to find out Robbie is female. The story was fast moving and I highly recommend it for any student.

I enjoyed reading *Reasons to be Happy* by Katrina Kittle. Just a fun quick read for girls. I finally read another one of the SSYRA books, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. This is another story based on the true life of a Sudanese boy as he grows up. Very eye opening and another opportunity to learn about other cultures. It is short so a very quick read. You can't help but hope he will stay strong and persevere. Last but not least of the ones I have read this summer and recommend is *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* by Ibtisam Barkat. It is non-fiction and reads like fiction. It is Ibtisam's story through her eyes as a child. It is amazing to me how resilient children are that grow up in the war torn countries. I find myself reflecting on our freedom here in the United States.

I highly recommend the two discoveries I made this summer in my quest to keep Felicity and Miles, my oldest grandchildren reading. They are good choices for any elementary age student. I remembered that *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney had been on the Sunshine State Young Readers list years ago so I picked it up for Felicity. She loves animals and she had it read in a day she loved it so much. This is the same person who was burned out from reading all the SSYRA books for school and hadn't finished a book so far this summer. Now I have ordered the rest of the series and she is off and running as a reader again. My pick for Miles ended up being perfect too: *Justin Case: School, Drool and Other Daily Disasters* by Rachel Vail. Miles is going into third grade and had just finished reading all of T*he Diary of a Wimpy Kids* books. He was a hard sell but he has asked me to buy the next book in the series.

Be sure to keep an eye out for all the new fall releases and keep reading.

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Boost brain power cont. from pg. 36

psychological disorders, many are turning to supplements for their children. Experts agree that the safest, most reliable source of the most important essential fatty acids (EPA and DHA) is a high quality fish oil supplement.

4. Happy brains are hydrated brains. Staying hydrated is important for growing brains and bodies. Water can improve energy, increase mental and physical performance, remove toxins and waste from the body and keep skin healthy and glowing. Based on the trillions of cells in the body that need water to function, most nutritionists agree that children need more, not less H20. To estimate how many ounces of water your child should drink daily, divide his or her weight in half and aim for that number of ounces per day.

5. Be a positive support system early on. Learning is a complex process, but children will be more open to trying new things when they know their parents believe in them. Acknowledging effort, instead of the outcome, strengthens a child's belief in himself or herself. Teaching goal setting, prioritizing activities and working off of check lists exercises the prefrontal cortex (PFC) in the brain. Experimentation through trial and error is the way the brain learns best.

"Giving your child's brain what it needs to grow strong can help him or her at school and in all social situations," adds Zimet. "Utilizing these tips is a great way to help position your child for success in the coming school year, and beyond."

Back to School Guide

Academy students restore oyster reefs

By Contributing Writer Tammy Hardin

St. Johns Technical High School's Academy of Coastal and Water Resources and summer school students worked this summer in a partnership with Guana Tolomato Matanzas Estuarine Research Reserve to restore oyster reefs along 1,000 feet of shoreline. Although the entire project will take time to complete, students and community volunteers made an initial deployment of recycled oyster shells from local restaurants on June 28.

With Common Core Standards upon us, this restoration project provided students with a total immersion opportunity. Students performed observations, conducted research and analyses in an estuarine environment, utilized scientific tools and learned how to measure and interpret data. In addition, students wrote about their experiences in a natural environment and reflected on their learning.

Academy students are looking forward to continuing the restoration project this upcoming year and are gearing up to collect spartina grass seeds from the Guana Reserve. Once collected, academy students will cultivate the seeds into grass plugs to be used at the restoration site to complete the living shoreline.

According to Linda Krepp, academy coordinator, "The beauty of the project is that not only does it entail restoring valuable shoreline, but it is a true community effort in recycling."

If any student is interested in the St. John Technical High School's Academy of Coastal and Water Resources, please contact Linda Krepp at 547-8500.

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History in the making: Team heading to the World Series

There's a first time for everything and for the first time in history, a Creeks Athletic Association softball team has qualified for the Babe Ruth Softball World Series. This August, the Creeks 16U Softball All-Stars will head to North Carolina to compete against other 16U teams from across the country.

Thirteen girls from our local area, under the leadership of Manager Tom Borys and Coaches Jason Smith, Russ Monahan, Jon Sotomayor and Julie Lawson, qualified to compete in the World Series in Wilson, North Carolina, August 9 through 14. Team accomplishments for the season include: (Champions) Greatest Show on Dirt Tournament, Orange Park, Florida; (Runner-Up) District Tournament, Jacksonville; (Runner-UP) Creeks Shoot Out Tournament, St. Johns; (Third Place) Florida State Tournament, Ocala, Florida.

The players, parents and coaches would like to thank their sponsors, the community and the Creeks family for the ongoing support of their efforts this season. Anyone who would like to support them as they travel to the World Series and compete to earn the championship title may contact Manager/Head Coach Tom Borys at tborys@homeplacere.com.

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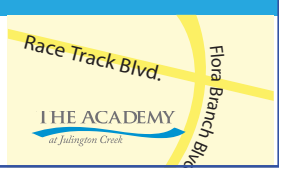

Congratulations to the 8U Creeks Crushers All Star team for earning a berth to the Southeast Regionals in Greenville, North Carolina! They were District 1 champions, defeating Ponte Vedra Beach 25-1 in the championship game. This team of exceptional girls finished third in the 2012 Florida State Championships and earned a berth in the Regional Championships. This group also defeated the eventual state champion team from Longwood 12-3 to claim the Creeks Shootout championship and Ponte Vedra 18-6 to win the title at the Greatest Show on Dirt. Congratulations to this group of 8U girls from Creeks Athletic Association!

Bear Cub Camp leads to full-fledged Bears

By Contributing Writer Ashley Allen

Bartram Trail Dance Team at the 2012 NDA summer camp at Rollins College in Orlando.

Two of this year's newest members of the Bartram Trail Dance Team (BTDT) started their journey by signing up for Bear Cub Camp as elementary school students. Emily Allen, a rising freshman and new member of BTDT, attended the cub camp as a second grader and after performing with the dance team during the homecoming football game, a dream was born. She decided that night she was going to be a member of BTDT when she got to high school.

Allen took dance classes at Mark Spivak's Dance Institute, where she met Kendall Gast, also a rising freshman and BTDT member. The two soon found that in addition to being good friends, they shared a passion for dance and a common dream. They both dreamed about making the BTDT. In middle school the girls tried out and make the North Florida All-Stars (NFA) dance team, where they competed in jazz and hip hop. For three years, Allen and Gast danced with the NFA team and took studio classes at Mark Spivak's, each year growing as dancers and learning to handle the demands, pressure and emotion of being on a competitive dance team.

Both girls talk about the rush of excitement they felt running out on the field at halftime, seeing the glare of the lights and the crowds filling the stands and the hush falling over everything right before the music started. One can see the joy fill their faces as they talk about the dance and getting it right and how much fun it was to be surrounded by girls of all ages who love to dance. Of course their smiles get a little bigger and their eyes sparkle as they describe the roar of the crowd as the Bear Cub Camp ran off the field. It is obvious these girls love to dance, love to perform and love to do that with other girls.

This year's Bear Cub Camp is Saturday, August 25, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Bartram Trail High School. The performance on the field is Friday, August 31, 2012 during Bartram's first home football game. The campers will be broken into two age groups: kindergarten through fifth grade will meet in the Ninth Grade Cafeteria, Room #N130. The sixth through eighth grades will meet in the Dance Studio (Room #N126). The camp costs $40 per participant and includes t-shirt, poms, participant's entry to BTHS varsity football game on August 31, dance instruction by the Bartram Trail Dance Team and a performance you'll never forget! Registration at the door will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the ninth grade building.

Please contact Coach Lindell with questions at Bartram-dance2004@gmail.com.

The Bartram Trail Dance Team had a successful season this past year. They placed second in the nation at the NDA national competition in Hip-Hop this past March and won the Innovative Choreography Award. Even more impressive and meaningful, the Bartram Trail Dance Team was chosen out of the entire competition to be the recipient of the 2012 Sportsmanship Award given and presented by NDA for their outstanding Sportsmanship and respect towards the other teams. It is BTDT's goal to not only strive for a winning season, but to represent St. Johns County to the highest degree with their actions. The new team of 15 girls is gearing up for another successful 2012-2013 season.

Back to School Guide

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Back to School Guide

Appearing again in our **September Issue!**
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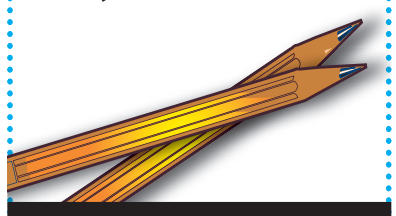

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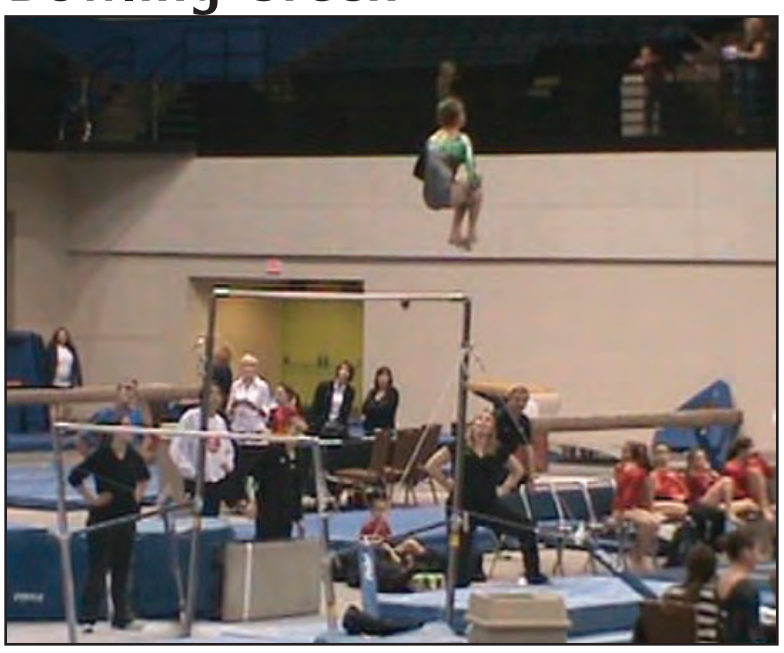
One mile South Julington Creek Bridge	*Corner Race Track Road & Flora Branch*	*One block N. of Crown Point*

Local gymnast commits to Bowling Green



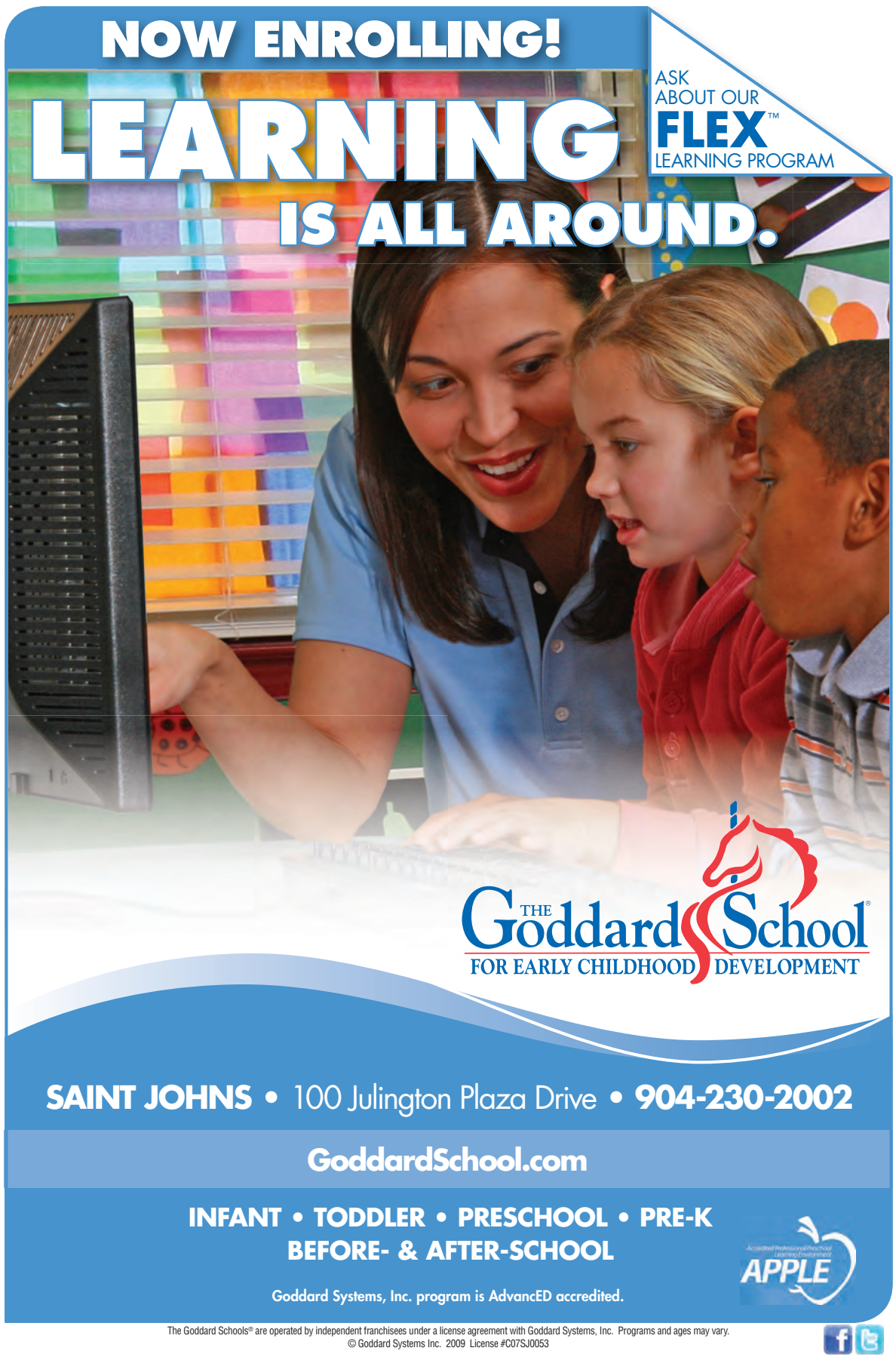
Rachel Reis, a rising senior at Allen D. Nease High School, has made a verbal commitment to compete for Bowling Green State University (BGSU) women's gymnastics team for the Class of 2013. The Division 1 team competes in the Mid-American Athletic Conference in the Great Lakes region. Reis' decision to go to BGSU was driven by a number of factors. Although she received multiple offers she chose BGSU because she felt the school was a good fit for not only gymnastics but academically and socially.

Reis said, "The reason I picked BGSU was a combination of the coach and the facilities. But the coach was definitely the main reason; I bonded quickly with Coach Kerrie. It's going to be exciting competing at the college level and being a part of the team."

Kerrie Beach, BGSU women's gymnastics head coach, stated, "I can tell you that Rachel was chosen out of a large pool because I firmly believe she is the right person to join this team. She will contribute as a gymnast and she will excel in the classroom. I would not make the offer unless I was sure she is the right fit for our program."

Reis is the 2012 Senior B uneven bars champion for the State of Florida as well as placing fourth on the uneven bars at the 2012 Region 8 Championship. Region 8 is a highly competitive eight-state region including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. In addition Reis placed second on uneven bars at the 2011 Junior Olympic National Invitational Tournament in Long Beach, California. Although uneven bars is her specialty, Reis is also very accomplished on the balance beam. She placed fourth on that event at the 2011 Region 8 Championship.

Reis trains at TNT Gymnastics and Fitness in Jacksonville. Reis is the highest-recruited athlete to come out of TNT's program. BGSU is located in Bowling Green, Ohio. Recruits for the class of 2013 cannot make their commitments binding until National Signing Day in November.



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