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Volume 13, Issue 6 *Visit our online edition at www.thecreekline.com* June 2013

Facility to open in fall 2014

Ground broken for new K-8 school in Durbin Creek area

By Karl Kennell

Dignitaries perform the ceremonial groundbreaking for new school HH.

It was a busy morning Monday, May 20, at the locations of the newest schools in St. Johns County: one in Durbin Creek and the other in Nocatee. Both are K-8 schools. At 475 Longleaf Pines Parkway, the trucks were lining up as they brought loads of fill for the bulldozers to spread around the site. It was a very busy effort to make up for the delays due to the recent rains. The only event that could stop the rumble of trucks and the beeping of the bulldozers backing up would be a groundbreaking ceremony.

It was a busy morning also for members of the school board and other dignitaries as the groundbreaking at 9:00 a.m. for School HH on Longleaf Pine Parkway in St. Johns was immediately followed by a groundbreaking at sister K-8 School II at 105 Greenleaf Drive in Ponte Vedra.

The first ceremony at what is temporarily called School HH began with a hearty welcome by School Board Chairman Tommy Allen. The Presentation of Colors for the Pledge of Allegiance was made by the color-corps of Nease High School's Navy Junior ROTC followed by the National Anthem played by "The Power of Creekside" band. Tim Forson, deputy superintendent for operations made the introduction of the invited dignitaries and guests.

In his remarks, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Joyner outlined how changes in the financing situation has allowed the school board to build these two new schools to accommodate the over 19 percent growth the district has experienced in the last five years.

"Though these two K-8 schools may be the last for a while due to the economy," Joyner explained.

School Board member Beverly Slough, in whose district the Durbin Creek School (HH) is located, followed with

Groundbreaking cont. on pg. 19

Congratulations, Bears

BTHS boys' track back-to-back state champs!

By Megan Grant

Despite the poor weather conditions, the BTHS team prevailed at the state meet again!

As the saying goes, history often repeats itself. Last year, the boys' track team won the state championship, making history for their name and their school. This year, they conquered again the fight to the finals, becoming back-to-back state championship winners. From the 400m, 800m, 300m hurdles and 110m hurdles, to the 4x4 relay race, the Bears never slowed down. After racking up points from placing and winning races, the tallied results showed a win for Bartram yet again.

Preparation is key—these are the words that the track team lived by. Rain or shine, wind or humidity, practice went on.

Paul Nowicki, head coach of the boys' team, claims, "We were prepared well and got our share of luck. They were ready mentally and physically to compete in adverse conditions."

These conditions being the rain, wind and cold that the Bears faced during the state meet—for which no other teams appeared ready. Honor, respect and pride were the feelings shared between the teammates,

BTHS boys' track cont. on pg. 9

Mint juleps and funds raised for Hospice at Kentucky Derby party

By Karl Kennell

Karen Glenos and Ray and Linda Matuza, members of the a St. Augustine/St. Johns County Advisory Council and/or Board of Directors for Community Hospice, enjoyed the party.

On Saturday, May 4, Camilla and Allan Roberts opened the gates to their ranch on State Road 16 to more than 150 guests to raise a mint julep toast and show off their best hats at the inaugural Derby Run party for Community Hospice. This first annual event was hosted by the St. Augustine/St. Johns County Advisory Council of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Spirits were high at both the Derby Run party and the Kentucky Derby in spite of rain at both locations.

As the traditional "Call to the Post" sounded the start of the running of the139th Kentucky Derby, cheers from the crowd at the fundraising party grew louder. The rains surely didn't dampen the spirits at the party or in Louisville, Kentucky, as Orb ran the sloppy Churchill Downs oval to score a decisive two and one-half length victory.

"Despite the weather, the guests gathered under the enormous red barn to view the 139th Run for the Roses," Shelly Whiteman, event co-chair and advisory council member said about the day. "Proceeds from the Derby Run party benefit Community Hospice and stay in St. Johns County, providing quality hospice care for our friends and neighbors."

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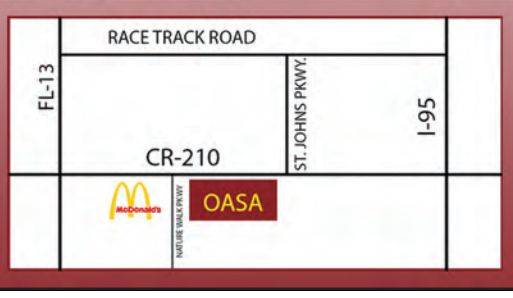

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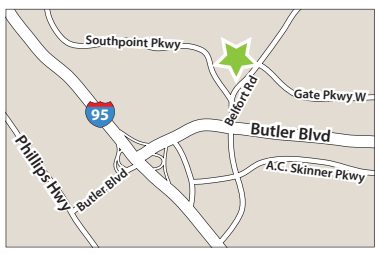

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What's New

Community Happenings

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

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Mandarin NewsLine
Players Journal

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The CreekLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32259 and selected routes in 32092 and 32095. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@rtpublishinginc.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of RT Publishing, Inc. Advertising Rates are available by request.

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Residents interested in providing input on the **St. Johns County library system's** long range planning, including desirable future services and programs, are encouraged to complete a brief survey available through September 30 at www.sjcpls.org or in person at any library branch or bookmobile location. Participant feedback on such topics as facilities, outreach, technology and service will help staff maximize the library systems' resources for the benefit of residents county wide. To learn more about the many services currently offered at your local library branch visit www.sjcpls.org/content/branches.

Applications are being accepted for the **2013 St. Johns County Master Gardener class**. The Master Gardener program recruits volunteers for horticultural activities of the Extension Service. In exchange for 50 hours of intensive horticultural education provided by the University of Florida, the volunteer commits to donating 75 hours of volunteer time to Extension Service projects. Examples of volunteer projects are arboretum care, demonstration vegetable garden, phone desk, plant clinics and educational outreach, to name a few. If you are interested in the program, please call 209-0430 for application forms. The deadline for applications is June 28, 2013.

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.

Did you know that all mosquitoes feed on plants for their survival? Understanding mosquitoes and their behavior, feeding preferences and dependence on native and non-native plants is key to controlling mosquitoes and protecting the natural environment. Explore mosquito ecology, control and current research with Ali Fulcher, biologist for Anastasia Mosquito Control District; Beverly Fleming, nature columnist and master gardener; and Renee Stambaugh of Native Plant Consulting. "Nectars for Vectors" will be held on June 20 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Windstorm Training Center, located at 3111 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. The program is free, open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. For more information, please visit www.nativeplantconsulting.com or call 209-0430.

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.

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, June 18 and Monday, June 24 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 Federated Republican Women invite you to join them the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Davidson Realty in World Golf Village. Men are always welcome. There will be no scheduled meetings for June, July and August, but we will resume our monthly schedule on September 16. For more information,

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The Sheriff Reports

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

Neil J. Perry Criminal Justice Complex dedication

For this month's column I would like to reflect on a very important ceremony that occurred last month during national Law Enforcement Memorial Week. Last month the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Criminal Justice Complex was renamed and dedicated in honor of Sheriff Neil J Perry. On hand for the ceremony were members of Sheriff Perry's family, his wife Syd, his son Keith and his wife Tammy, his daughter Michelle and her husband Doug, his daughter Missy and her husband Art, Neil's sister Dr. Ione Perry, Neil's brother Noel and his wife Cindy and Neil's brother Paul's wife Mary and all of Neil's many grandchildren and extended family.

The dedication, which resulted from a resolution passed by the St. Johns County Commission last year, was specifically designed to recognize one of St. Augustine's favorite sons, a friend to us all, a mentor to many and one of the brightest lights that has ever served the noble profession of law enforcement, Sheriff Neil J. Perry.

According to St. Johns County Resolution 2012-175, Sheriff Perry began his law enforcement career as a St. Augustine police officer in 1968, becoming a deputy sheriff in 1974. He was elected sheriff in 1984 and was re-elected four times before retiring in 2004. Sheriff Perry also honorably served his country for 39 years in the armed forces and retired as a colonel in the Florida National Guard.

It was altogether fitting that we dedicate our criminal justice complex to our friend Neil. Not because it is a sentimental endeavor, but rather because it will serve as a reminder to the generations that come after us what is possible for a man to accomplish who is born into a loving, modest family and who clearly understands, to use Sheriff Perry's phrase,

"Doing the right things for the right reasons even when no one is watching."

Though many of us will be forgotten by future generations, last month's dedication will stand as a strong testament to Sheriff Perry and what he created here on these grounds.

The buildings here were constructed by others. I and other former sheriffs certainly did our best to meet the demands of our community as we understood them, but Sheriff Perry created the culture here, a culture that endures today, a culture with the right mix of vision and action with only non-negotiable integrity leading the way forward.

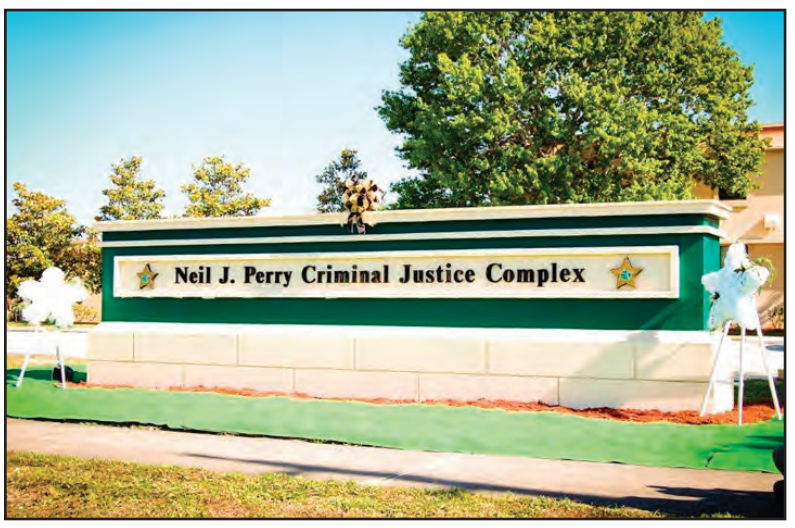
I remember after assuming office I told the members of this wonderful agency that I was, metaphorically speaking, entering the house that they built, that Sheriff Perry built; though I and my successors may rearrange some of the furniture, this is Neil's house and in my view, it always will be.

Upon assuming office I asked Sheriff Perry what the three most important things were that he wanted me to accomplish during my tenure. Sheriff Perry made three demands and believe me they were demands not requests! The first and most important one was to take care of the people that work here. You see for Neil it was always about others.

Some may view this dedication as a "legacy" and therein lays the irony; the only legacy Neil cared about was taking care of the folks that work here, taking care of our citizens and perpetuating outstanding law enforcement. He didn't aspire to leave legacies manufactured from steel, concrete and glass he only cared about what others have called "legacies of the heart."

There were many VIPs on hand for the dedication, but on that day, the only Very Important Person that we recognized and saluted was Sheriff Neil J. Perry. It was my privilege to be a part of the official dedication of the Neil J Perry Criminal Justice Complex and, for me personally, Neil will always be the only Sheriff of St. Johns County.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at my email address at dshoar@sjso.org. Thank you.



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What's New cont. from pg. 3

please contact sjfedrepublicanwomen@gmail.com

The MOMS Club St. Augustine-North 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 fourth Thursday of every month at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Of course, children are welcome at all of our meetings and activities. 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.

The next meeting of the **Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association** will be Saturday, June 15 at the Main Library in St. Augustine. Author, teacher and speaker Patricia Charpentier will discuss the many approaches to writing personal and family histories in a lively presentation. Library doors open at 10:00 a.m., the meeting begins at 10:15 a.m. and all are welcome to attend. Programs are presented in partnership with the Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association and the Friends of the Main Library. All book sales benefit the FOL. The Main Library is located at 1960 US Highway 1 in St. Augustine.

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.

The St. Johns County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your lawn and garden questions at the Bartram Trail Library, located at 60 Davis

What's New cont. on pg. 5

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School District Journal

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

Graduation celebrations for 2013 have just concluded and this year over 2200 students finished their public school educations. It was my honor to attend each of the ceremonies and rejoice with these young people as they were launched to their next steps in life. Most of them are college bound, either in state colleges or universities. We enjoy the distinction of graduating the most college ready students in the state, having prepared our students for the rigors of higher level education.

Others of our students will be headed directly into the work force. Because of our career academies, they are prepared for high wage jobs with many of them having earned certifications in various areas that will allow them to begin work above entry level. Still others will proudly serve our country in the military.

Whatever path they choose, I wish them the very best as they move on to successful and happy futures. Thank you, parents, for the enormous role you played in preparing your children for their next steps. Without you, their first teachers, none of them would be as ready and mature as they are for whatever lies ahead. Thank you, teachers, for your incredible labor of love as you instilled the knowledge base that they will need for success. You are truly the heroes of public education and I applaud you.

I was recently asked to serve on a state task force to enhance the employability of our students with disabilities. At the first meeting, I learned of a resource that may prove useful to parents of children with special needs. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has developed a resource directory with a wealth of information and resources for parents. It is constantly being updated by parents themselves as they discover resources that will enable their children to be successful. The website is APDCares.org\resourcedirectory. I hope this proves to be an avenue of support for many. As the task force continues to meet, I will continue to share information that may be helpful to you.

The governor has signed the budget for 2013-14. Contained within that budget is a provision for extra capital outlay funding for high growth districts. Because of the hard work of Senator John Thrasher to ensure this funding, St. Johns County School District will receive an additional $6 million for maintenance and renovation in our schools. This particular area has been of great concern to the School Board and we are grateful to Senator Thrasher for working closely with us to provide the needed funding to keep our schools in an excellent state. Should you see him, please thank Senator Thrasher for his good work.

As has been true for the past two summers, our school district will be observing a four-day work week this summer, operating on a 10-hour day Monday through Thursday. In addition, we will consolidate our feeder pattern schools at our high schools, allowing middle and elementary schools to be shut down to save on utility costs. The administrative teams from each elementary and middle school will be housed at the high school where the majority of its students will attend. Creekside High will host Durbin Creek and Julington Creek Elementaries, as well as Fruit Cove Middle and Liberty Pines Academy. Bartram Trail will be home to Cunningham Creek, Hickory Creek and Timberlin Creek Elementaries and Switzerland Point Middle. Pacetti Bay Middle and Mill Creek, Palencia and Wards Creek Elementaries will be at Nease High School. Ponte Vedra High will welcome Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley and Ocean Palms Elementaries and Landrum Middle School. Hours at the high schools will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the regular telephone numbers of each school will be transferred to the hosting high school. If you need to contact your school, please visit the high school where they are located or call the regular school number. Consolidating our schools saves us about $1 million per year, freeing up valuable resources to meet the needs of our students.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer. I would also like to challenge our students to keep reading over the summer. There is a suggested reading list posted on the homepage of the St. Johns County School District webpage, www.stjohns.k12.fl.us. Strong reading skills are the key to success in every academic subject, so fill some of those long summer days with a good book.

As always, thank you for your commitment to public education. If I may serve you in any way, please contact me at sloughb@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

What's New cont. from pg. 4

Pond Road at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. The clinics are scheduled for Saturday, June 15 and Thursday, June 20 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 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.

The NASJAX Skin and Scuba Diving Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, located on San Jose Boulevard. The club is open to all divers and those who are interested in diving (military affiliation is not required). For more information, please see the website nasjaxscubadivers.org or contact the club president, Dave Martin at 413-8773.

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.

The Northeast Florida Quit Smoking Now (QSN) Program offers free tobacco cessation classes! The classes meet once a week for six consecutive weeks and provide a free workbook as well as free nicotine replacement therapies (patch, lozenge and gum) to assist tobacco users in their quit attempt. Please call us today at 482-0189 to register for one of our upcoming "Quit Smoking Now" classes in St. Johns County. You will be glad you did!

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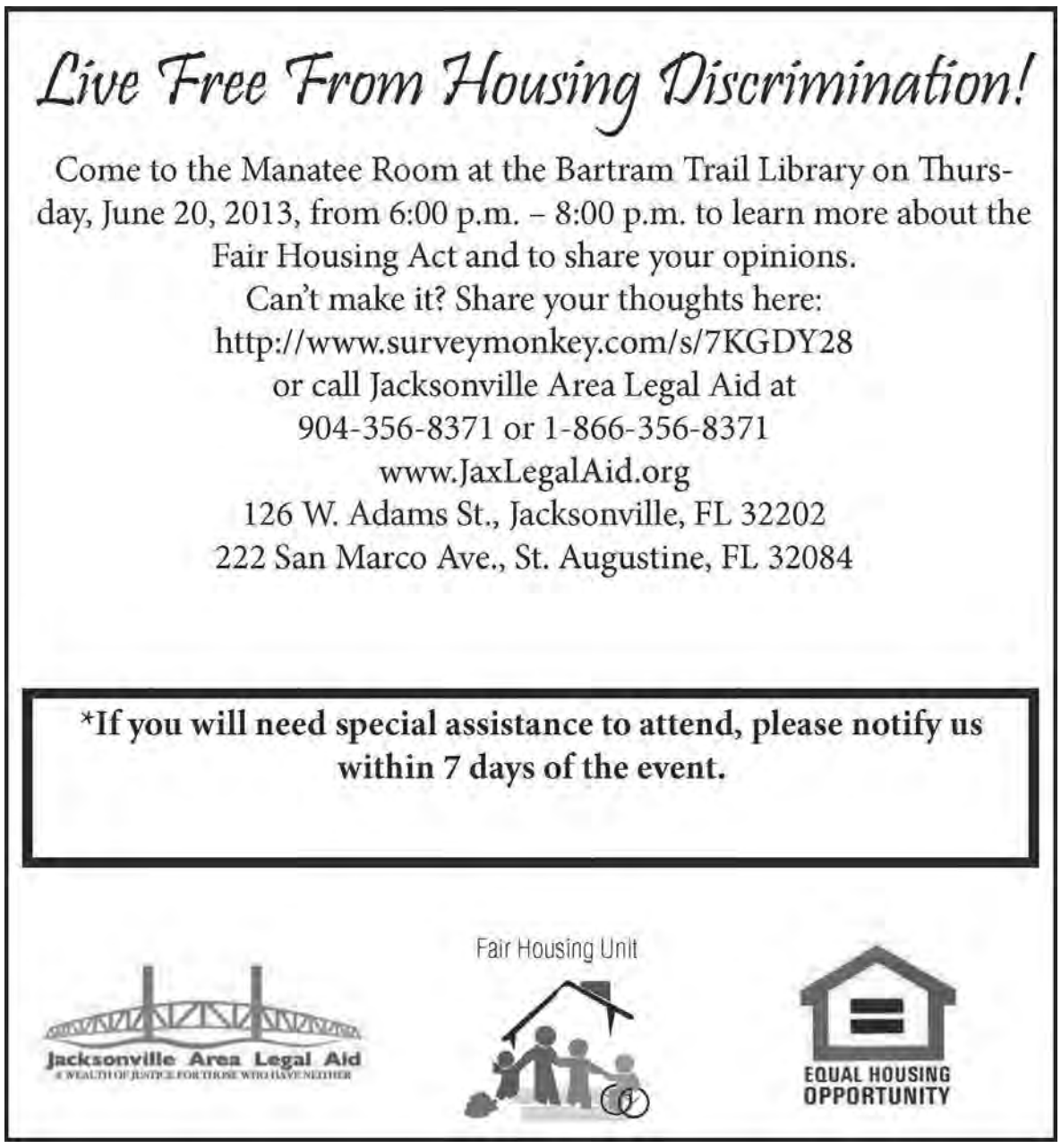

From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Cyndi Stevenson, County Commissioner, District 1

It's summertime and the living is easy in St. Johns County

It's summertime and your county commissioners and county staff are busy this season taking care of business. Work on the 2014 budget is well underway. The county operating budget is almost exclusively funded by property taxes. Since 2008, the county has experienced a cumulative loss of property tax funding of $166 million. This has left our growing county with deferred maintenance and lack of funding for capital needs, including fire stations and road improvements. The board was given a budget briefing in March 2013, which is posted on the home page of the county website www.sjcfl.us. I encourage you to take a look at it. The administrator's budget hearings are scheduled for June. Later in the year there will be several public budget hearings as the county considers funding and the setting of the millage rate. It is a long process and there is ample time for public participation and input. Check the website for specific hearing dates and times.

Hurricane season officially began June 1. I encourage you to visit the Emergency Management Department webpage (look under Departments at www.sjcfl.us). There are several important links that can help you make a plan for your family. You need to make a plan long before you need one. Three links will be especially helpful. The "SJC Emergency Management webpage" is where you can get information directly from the county emergency management team. During an emergency, this small department is expanded by county employees from various departments and organizations to provide communication, response and recovery. The "My Evacuation Zone" webpage is where you can find whether your home or business is in an evacuation zone. The final link you will want to review is the "My Family Disaster Plan" webpage. This link takes you to the state coordination web page. Scroll down and on the left hand side you will find the information you need to make a plan and a kit for your family, to ensure you are prepared for emergencies. Even if you are not in an evacuation zone, you will want to have a kit with supplies for your family. If you require assistance to be evacuated to a shelter please contact the St. Johns County Emergency Management Department. It is also very important that if you require oxygen support, that you register with them as well.

Please check the St. Johns County Public Library department and the Recreation and Parks department pages on the county website to find out about some of the activities planned for the summer. St. Johns County also has a public pool at the Solomon Calhoun Center, which is managed by the St. Augustine YMCA. Information is posted on the Recreation Page or you can call 471-9622. Information about beach access, parking and beach rules are posted on the county website as well. Some rules are to keep you safe; some are to protect our right to access and use the beaches. While the beach is our playground, it is also nesting habitat for turtles that are on the federal endangered species list as well as the Anastasia Island Beach Mouse, which lives in the dunes that provide them a home and help protect our shoreline.

Lots of people will be out walking and bike riding as soon as school lets out. Please be extra careful as you get out and enjoy our beautiful county. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful county that we call home. Please contact me at bccd1@sjcfl.us or 209-0301 if I can be of assistance or if you have any questions.

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"Know Your Zone" to prepare for hurricanes

In preparation for the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season which began on June 1, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) urges all Floridians to "Know Your Zone." Knowing your evacuation, storm surge and flood zone is an important step to ensuring you and your family are prepared for a hurricane.

"Knowing your evacuation zone and how storm surge or flooding may affect you is an important part of preparing for hurricane season," said FDEM director Bryan W. Koon. "When you plan for and mitigate these hazards, you can lessen the impact a storm may have on you and your family."

Evacuation zones are designated by local emergency management agencies and give guidance on when certain areas should or are required to evacuate prior to a hurricane making landfall. It is important that residents of coastal counties know their evacuation zone, as well as the route they should take should they need to evacuate.

Storm surge zones and flood zones show officials and residents how certain amounts of storm surge or flood waters may affect coastal or low-lying areas. Storm surge is extreme coastal flooding that can penetrate several miles inland. Storm surge and flooding are two of the most dangerous impacts of a tropical system and all Floridians should be prepared for possible effects to themselves and their communities.

Floridians can find their local evacuation, storm surge and flood maps on the public mapping page of floridadisaster.org. Maps are also available via the Division's geospatial mapping tool, GATOR, at floridadisaster.org/GATOR.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30. For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org. Follow us on Twitter at @FLSERT and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT and www.Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the May issue, Ms. Kelly Lorbeer put forth her "version of what is in the best interest of the CDD" and at the March 2013 meeting of the JCPCDD board of supervisors, she asserted that she speaks for 98 percent of the community. The 3810 residents (54.25 percent of voters) who supported Ms. Pat Jacob and not Ms. Lorbeer in the 2012 general election would probably take issue with this assertion.

I speak for myself and I am thankful for the service of Ms. Nina Kannatt-Gapinski and the JCPCDD board of supervisors in their efforts to provide balanced, reasonable oversight to our district in a way that supports the majority of homeowners. We continue to enjoy a host of quality services and amenities while our annual CDD assessments remain among the lowest in the region. I am delighted with the value that I am getting for my money which is why I selected this community and chose not to live elsewhere.

Catherine Pollitt

Palencia Elementary update

Company partners with school to make "wish list" playground a reality the first year

By Contributing Writer Kimberli Nalven

New playground under construction.

When the Palencia Pirates began their first year this past August as St. Johns County's first digital, STEM, green elementary school, their "wish list" of items that every newly opening school faces was extensive and daunting. Using the standard county elementary school budget, Palencia Elementary Principal Don Campbell found himself juggling and stretching a budget that required expensive technology needs in addition to all the furniture, media/art/music supplies and landscaping that traditional facilities require. That reality made the construction of a secure, on-site playground more of a dream than a possibility.

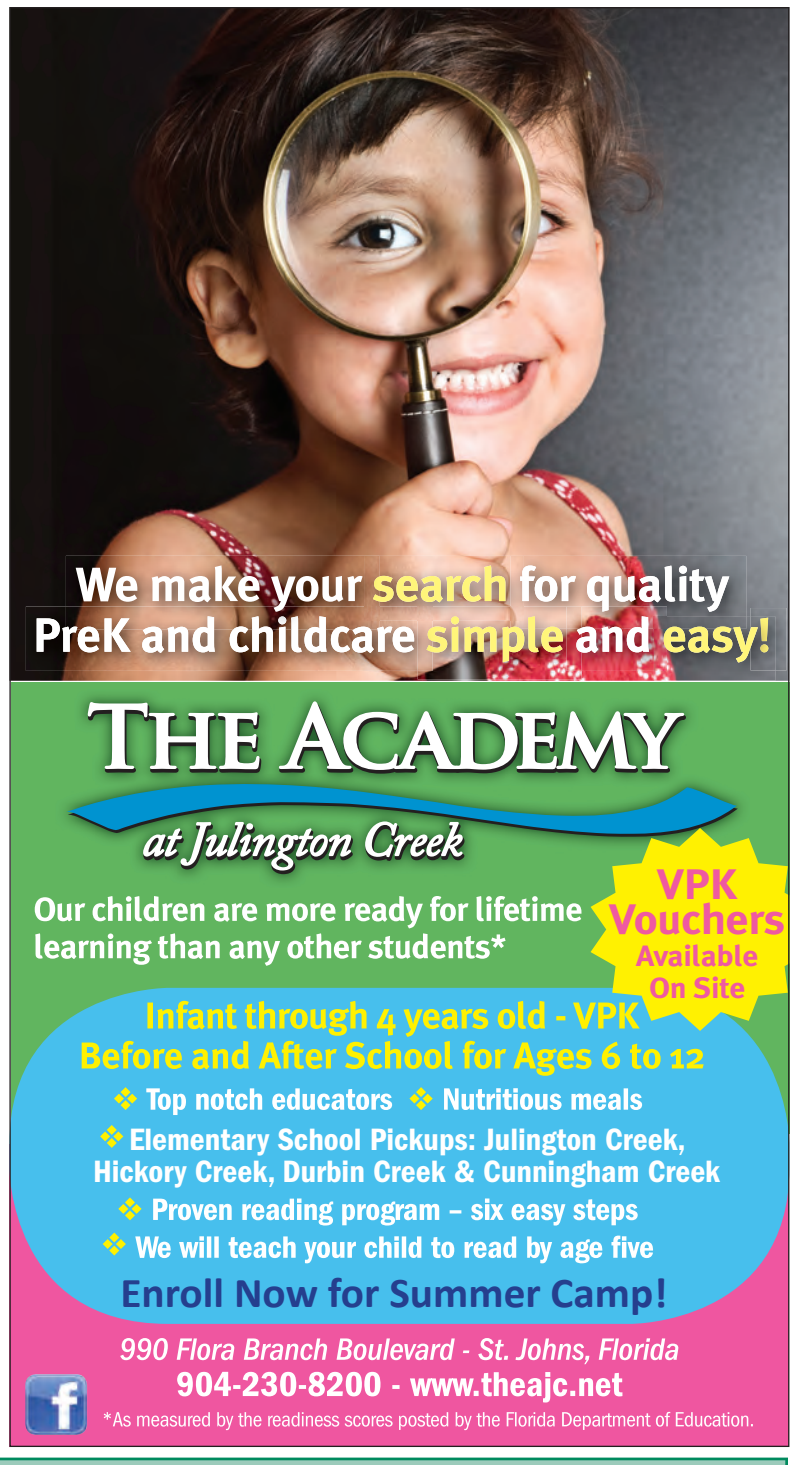
Teachers and students committed to utilizing the adjacent, county-owned Pirate Ship Park as a substitute while the newly-formed Palencia Elementary School PTO committed to fundraising to make the playground dream a reality as soon as possible. With school playgrounds ranging in price from $100,000 past $200,000, that dream seemed a distant possibility.

"Thanks to the cooperation of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department, we've been able to use the Pirate Ship as our playground this first year," said Campbell. "However, that playground's open to the public and beginning to deteriorate. The county plans to tear it down and build a new one in the near future. Therefore, for security and practicality reasons, the need to have our own playground on our own campus, made building a playground as quickly as possible a necessity."

With the unwavering commitment and efforts of the Palencia Elementary community, coupled with the can-do attitude of World Golf Village's own playground equipment distributor, BYO Playground, the Palencia Pirates saw construction of their playground actually begin on Monday, May 20, 2013 with completion on Friday, May 31 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (weather permitting).

"To achieve our three-year fundraising goal our first year is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our amazing community, parents, sponsors and PTO members," said Palencia PTO President Laurel Madson. "Knowing our children could benefit this year was a huge driving-force in bringing this to fruition! Thank you to all our PES Sponsors that helped us make this possible. Your generosity continues to make the dreams of our students a reality."

As the Palencia PTO marks this milestone accomplishment and celebrates the community support that made it possible, plans to attack the remaining wish list items have them already brainstorming for the future.



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Local author visits Julington Creek Elementary

By Contributing Writer Chloe Dresback, Second Grade Student, JCE

Larry Levy reading Harry the Hungry Frog

Larry Levy, a local author, came to visit Julington Creek Elementary to talk about what it is like to be an author. He was invited to speak to Mrs. Baker's and Mrs. Kirby's second graders about the writing process. He spoke about his work as an author and what it is like to be a children's author writing a series.

Levy has published two Harry the Hungry Frog books. The first is *Harry Goes to Mexico* and the second is *Harry Ventures Out*. Levy has already drafted his third book, *Harry visits Japan*. The children are anxious to see it come to print.

Jacob Goethe exclaims, "Larry Levy is an amazing frog author, because of his writing."

Levy showed the children his website, www.thehungryfrog.com and played a video showing how the book was published and prepared to ship.

Morgan Matejeck, a second grader, says, "I think it was very nice for Mr. Levy to come and read his books to us."

Mrs. Kirby, who is an author herself, agreed, "What a special treat having an author read their own work to us."

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New executive for United Way

The United Way of St. Johns County board of directors has appointed Jimmy Kelly to the position of executive director. Kelly started his new role on May 15. He brings over 35 years of experience in the areas of marketing, fundraising, public relations and management. The last seven years have been with children's nonprofit organizations.

"I have had a blessed life and I realized my passion was helping others. In this new chapter of my life, I have the honor of leading an outstanding organization that each day helps many residents in St. Johns County in need of food, shelter, clothing and other necessities we tend to take for granted," said Kelly.

Kelly is a life-long resident of Jacksonville, but has already moved to St. Augustine.

"I can't wait to get to know the great people of St. Johns County. I have been very active in the Jacksonville community serving on various boards including the West Jacksonville Rotary Club, where I was a 20 year member as well as serving on the board. I would like to be very involved in the community. The folks here have been some of the nicest people I have ever met. I have been very welcomed," he shared.

Kelly can be reached at 829-9721 or james.kelly@first-coastunitedway.org.

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Hurricane season tips available online

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

Hurricane season officially began June 1 and the St. Johns River Water Management District has added valuable information to its website to assist the public and local governments access resources before, during and after severe storm events. The web pages (floridaswater.com/storm) include links to flood statements and warnings, river stage and flooding data and local government emergency contacts. Also included are links to the National Weather Service, Florida Division of Emergency Management and the United States Geological Survey's interactive map of current conditions in the state.

Florida's many waterways and extensive coastline make the state especially vulnerable to floods. When hurricanes and other storms bring high volumes of rain in short periods of time, flooding can result.

The District works closely with local governments yearround to develop improved flood management plans, and to help communities establish and implement strategies to deal with floods once they occur. Local governments are the primary entities responsible for implementing state-of-emergency declarations, evacuations and rescue efforts during flood-related disasters. Partnerships between the public and government entities are necessary to minimize flooding impacts, protect personal property and assist flood victims during and after storms.

In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, the District assists local governments by issuing emergency orders that allow for the pumping of water to alleviate flooding when public health and safety are at risk.

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

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

E Pluribus Unum: Civics for one and all

By James A. Lee, M.Ed., Ed.D. ABD, Peer Teacher Evaluator, St. Johns County School District

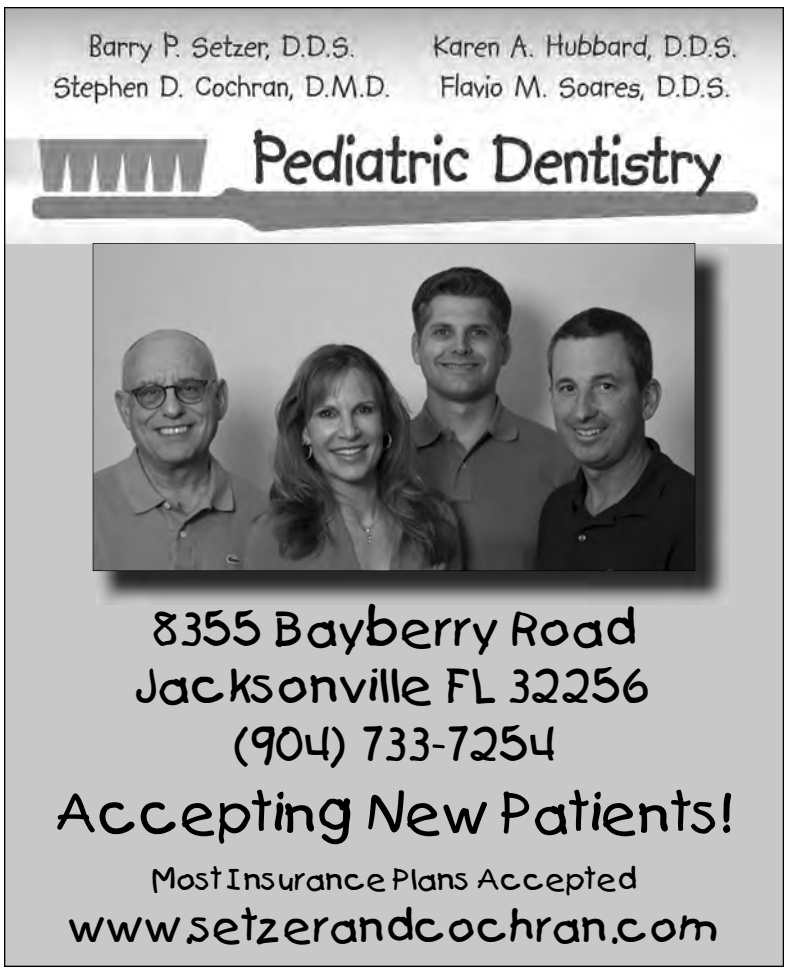
In our last discussion we began by comparing a few interesting situations involving international geopolitical issues. Let's consider this time an issue of much more local concern, the recent land-use dispute between St. Johns County and Anderson Columbia, Inc. In this dispute, the Florida legislature passed a law that supported the land owner, Joseph Anderson, by nullifying a county ruling against his development plan for the property. Among numerous other issues involved in this contentious series of events, we see a fundamental civic conflict between the authority of government and individual privacy rights.

As in the past several articles, we are using R. Freeman Butts' "Twelve Tables of Civism" as the foundational principles for our discussions of civics issues in our community. We have already considered his first four principles, justice, freedom, equality and diversity. Remember also that Butts structured these principles as countervailing ideas under two headings. Unum lists principles necessary for promoting the general social welfare. Pluribus lists principles necessary for protecting the blessings of individual liberty. This month we add authority to the Unum list and privacy to the Pluribus list.

Whether you have followed the events surrounding the Anderson land issue or not, we can easily see that at its core is a simple conflict between an individual's private property rights and the government's authority to determine what is best for the community. In its Preamble, the Constitution is ordained with the authority to "...promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty..." Anderson is a taxpaying owner of private land. The issue is not about public land. The controversial question is how would the proposed use of that private land (a housing development) impacts the public? The St. Johns County Commission declared it would lead to urban sprawl. More generally, when is government's responsibility to protect individual rights suspended in favor of its responsibility to promote the general welfare? In this case, when are private property rights suspended in favor of the regulation of land use guarding against potential urban sprawl?

Of course, the privacy versus authority debate is seen in numerous other local issues. Last August, Jacksonville City Council narrowly rejected a bill that would have expanded its human rights ordinance to include the protection of homosexuals from discrimination. Students have long questioned their school's authority to search their locker, book bags or cars. Many drivers have criticized the decision by the City of Jacksonville to install traffic cameras as a violation of their privacy. Even something as simple as the type of mailbox or the color of your front door can be regulated by a homeowners association.

Discussions of such conflicts between the responsibilities and limitations of government are often couched in the context of national policy, e.g. privacy of air travelers versus security from terrorist attacks. But we have to understand that fundamental principles like government authority and individual privacy apply to local community issues as well. Balancing the two is never easy, usually compromising, but always vital to democracy.



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BTHS boys' track cont. from pg. 1

coaches and Bear family after the big win on that exhilarating day.

When asked how it felt to have made it back to the title of "State Champs" for a second year in a row, Nowicki exclaimed, "Very fortunate!" He then declared, "There was tremendous senior leadership and superior coaching throughout the season."

Some people may think of track as solely an independent sport of personal records and self-discipline; however, one of the most important races is the 4x4 relay race. To be successful with this event, there must be an incredible amount of teamwork and trust. Nick Uruburu, Marcus Taylor, Gabe Davis and Jonathan Martin were the four boys that attained this teamwork and trust between each other.

"Our hard work paid off and I will never forget that moment for the rest of my life. I'm glad we ended senior year on a good note," said Uruburu, not only the anchor of the 4x4, but also the state champion of the 400m. "I fell in love with track and had success with it, while making life-long friends."

Next year, Uruburu will attend the University of Florida on a full scholarship for track.

As the only junior on the 4x4 team, Martin explained, "I look up to the other guys and enjoyed every race we ran. They have been such role models to me this year."

With this being Martin's first trip to the state championship, he said, "I felt honored to have achieved something not most high school athletes have. Hard work pays off when you're determined to achieve your goal."

The track classification in which Bartram is included has more schools in it than any other sport; the Bartram Trail boys' track team triumphed as the finest team at the state championship meet out of 163 schools. They evidently were, "citius...altius...fortius—faster...higher...stronger."

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Mark your calendars for Alpine Groves Park yard sale

The St. Johns River Farmer's Market has been operating every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. since last August at Alpine Groves Park (2060 State Road 13) in Switzerland to rave reviews!

The North Florida Vendors Association that oversees the market is committed to making the community a better place and has decided to partner with the Friends of Alpine Park to help them reach their goal of refurbishing the interior of the 1890s farmhouse located on the property at Alpine Groves, by holding a Community Yard Sale on June 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The yard sale will run at the same time as the market and will allow residents a chance to buy and sell while supporting a worthwhile cause. The cost to set up a booth is $10, with all proceeds going towards renovation. If you would like to participate, please email friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com for an application or more information.

The Friends of Alpine Park is an organization of concerned park-goers whose mission is to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and history of the Alpine Groves Park. If you would like to join, email friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com or "Friend" them on Facebook—"Friends of Alpine Park."

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4:30pm – 5:30pm: Google Maps: Google Maps is much more than a tool to look up an address. Learn how to get turn-by-turn transportation directions, street view, how to create your own private maps, and how to access maps on your mobile device.

6:30pm – 7:30pm: Intro to Excel 2010: Whether you're new to Excel or converting from an older version, this is the class to come to if you can't find that button Microsoft hid this time.

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Julington Creek Plantation CDD report

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

After serving two years on the Julington Creek Plantation CDD Board of Supervisors (BOS) it appears to me that your BOS has been and continues to be comprised of champions of special interests rather than champions of all JCP taxpayers. For example, rather than ensuring the various teams that use our facilities, private lessons provided at our facilities and food/beverage operations generate enough revenue to cover their expenses, the BOS forces everyone to pay for the entitlements of a few.

For those who may not know, three swim teams currently use our facilities for their training and meets. The Porpoises and the Piranhas (which I understand are non-profit ventures) are mostly younger children, who use the old Aquatic Center lap pool. The Loggerheads (comprised of about 113 residents and 81 non-residents) are a "competitive" level team who now use our lap pool at the Recreation Center. The Loggerheads are sponsored by our CDD, but the Porpoises and Piranhas are not. The CDD sponsorship of the Loggerheads includes paying the salaries and benefits of on-staff coaches, as well as the team expenses for meets. The CDD does not provide the Porpoises or Piranhas coaches or other benefits – only use of our pool. So, the Loggerheads are "our" team and as you can see from the following chart you subsidize the activities of each Loggerhead swimmer by about (from my calculations) $1,700 yearly.

Swim Teams 2013 CDD Fees for Service (estimates)

	Loggerheads	Piranhas	Porpoises
Avg registration per swimmer per year	$ 224	$ 0	$ 0
Avg fee per swimmer per year ($98*12months)	$ 1,176	$ 0	$ 0
Avg total paid per swimmer per year	**$ 1,400**	**$ 0**	**$ 0**
Avg total CDD expense per swimmer per year	$ 3,100	$ 781	$ 781
Net expense to the CDD per swimmer per year	**$ (1,700)**	**$ (781)**	**$ (781)**

At its March meeting, our BOS approved a proposal by the Loggerheads swim team for the CDD to begin heating the Aquatic Center lap pool to allow expanded use of that pool by the Loggerheads and presumably others. For that expansion the Loggerhead parents raised about $22,000 and all residents will be responsible for about an additional $13,000 in start-up costs. All residents will have to pay for the additional expenses of heating that pool and other expenses of extended use, such as lifeguards. Unfortunately, I have not heard any discussion of increased fees to the Loggerhead parents or others to cover the additional operating expenses. They have stated that heating the old pool will result in greater use and increased revenues to the CDD, but I haven't seen any hard numbers to verify that will in fact occur.

I believe the pool heater and Loggerheads expansion could be a profitable deal for the JCP taxpayers by increasing the non-resident swimmer fees. But as it stands and as it was negotiated, all JCP taxpayers will assume the additional expenses. Moreover, the money spent on the pool expansion and continuing operating expenses could have been returned to all resident taxpayers in the form of a tax reduction.

I am an ardent supporter of all our community swim teams. Yes, the Loggerheads pay dues and registration costs to participate, but many JCP residents believe they should – somehow – more fully cover the cost of the services they enjoy. And yes, the Piranhas and Porpoises don't currently pay any fees to use our facilities, but the vast majority of the members of those teams are JCP residents who pay annual assessments.

Some believe their CDD should not subsidize any team. But considering how we currently handle our swim teams, is it fair for the CDD to subsidize the Loggerheads with taxpayer money at a much higher level than our other swim teams that also make us all very proud? Does this reek of "special interests;" why the disparity?

Feel free to contact me day or night via email or phone at SLansdale@jcpcdd.org or 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.

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"There are local students that can really use the help of those willing to give just a bit of their time," said Cheryl Freeman, RSVP director. "Assistance from community volunteers can go a very long way in helping them succeed. If a person gives just two hours once per week, it can make all the difference."

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Congratulations to Miss Bartram Trail 2014

On February 9, 2013, in a standing room only filled auditorium at Bartram Trail High School, Alexis Anderson was crowned Miss Bartram Trail in this year's pageant. With 29 contestants vying for the title, it was the largest competitive field in the pageant's history. Against some serious contenders, she won awards in the Best Interview and Best Talent categories. Her charity of choice is Inheritance of Hope which provides final vacations for parents of terminal cancer children. She now moves on to compete this fall for the Miss Northeast Florida Miss Senior High which is the preliminary competition for the Miss Florida pageant.

Alexis Anderson

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As much as 80 percent of our exposure to the sun happens before we're 18 years old. Sun Safety Week is part of a campaign to reduce the incidence of skin cancer in the United States. Sponsored by the Sun Safety Alliance: **www.sunsafetyalliance.org**

Notes from the Pacetti Bay Media Center

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

SSYRA Book Battle 2013

Our district held the Middle School Battle of the Books on May 13. Our team consisted of seven sixth-graders: Taylor Stroud, Corey Taylor, Mira Menon, Zach Hunt, Alexis Dillon, Isabella Snider and Samantha Fortin. We had a wonderful time and our team did a great job working extremely well together. Go Wildcats! I have heard they have a plan for next year already in place. Swiss Point Middle School took the trophy home once again. Congratulations to all the Book Battle participants. The Sunshine State list includes all different genres with a total of 15 books. The 2013-2014 SSYRA list is on the FAME website, www.floridamedia.org/?page=ssyrahome

I have now read a few more from the upcoming SSYRA list and I do have to say I really enjoyed *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer. It is definitely a futuristic fractured fairy tale! I can see both girls and guys enjoying this book with its unexpected adventures and the cool futuristic society. I found the sequel took me a little longer to get hooked but then was unable to put it down. I finished *Scarlet* in two days. Unfortunately, Meyer is releasing *Cress*, Book 3, in February 2014. This wait is going to be very painful with the ending of *Scarlet* leaving you desperate to know what's next. There will be a fourth book that won't come out until 2015. That is a long way off! I also picked up *Starters* by Lissa Price. My initial reaction was the Dystopian genre is out of control. I need a change. Left with having read through what I had at home I picked it back up again and wow! It is nothing like any of the other Dystopian books I have read. It has some familiar elements but overall the whole concept is very scary as a potential futuristic possibility. Starters are the children and teenagers, Enders are the old people who want to live through the young. The last book I tried to stick it out and it was just too creepy for me. *Dead Boys* by Royce Buckingham starts out with a middle school age boy who moves in with his mom to a new area and is quickly pulled in by the tree across the street from their house. Good luck with this one.

Last month I mentioned *Operation Orleander* by Valerie O. Patterson. I loved it! It is a wonderful story and gives many realistic glimpses of military life during deployments. One of the books I have had on my reading pile has been Wonder by R. J. Palacio. I finally started reading it on my flight from Virginia back here to Florida and though I was exhausted and needed to sleep with school the next day, I just could not put it down. The thing I love about it the most is all the different points of view. This is another book that everyone from elementary age to retired should pick up and read. I can guarantee that it will tug at your heartstrings.

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Dvorak named School Nurse of the Year

Kristi Dvorak, a school nurse within the St. Johns County School District (SJCSD), has been chosen by the Florida School Health Association (FSHA) as the 2013 School Nurse of the Year. The announcement was made at the FSHA Awards Luncheon held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando on May 9.

Dvorak has worked in the nursing field for over 10 years and has been with the SJCSD for six years. Over the last two years, her role as a school nurse has been unique as she travels to work at different schools on a daily basis. She works at all the schools in NW St. Johns County and actually started her career with the district at Durbin Creek Elementary. She has been responsible for implementing plans of care throughout the SJCSD that have ensured safety in the school setting for students with chronic medical conditions and is seen as a leader in responsible organization and skill mastery by her colleagues.

"Kristi has been a part of the Health Services Department since its beginning and her leadership skills have been invaluable to the program's success," said Melissa Petty, BSN, RN, Health Services coordinator. "She places organizational interest ahead of personal convenience and works tirelessly to enrich the lives of students both academically and socially. Kristi exemplifies professionalism and commitment to the nursing profession."

Dvorak will be recognized for her accomplishment at the School Board's monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 11. For more information on FSHA, visit www.fsha.net.

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Nease Happenings

Class of 2013 reflects upon memorable year

By Samuel Wright, Nease Student

The 2012-2013 school year at Nease High School has finally drawn to a close and while most students will return next August, the Senior Class of 2013 have officially said their final goodbyes to the school. Despite the passing of graduation and the chance that some students may never visit the school again, the 2012-2013 school year has planted memories in the minds of the former seniors that they will never forget. For most of the seniors it was a fast-paced, bonding and fun year that was certainly one to remember.

"It went by super fast; I can't believe it's over. It was a rollercoaster ride of events and emotions," said senior Melissa Latronico, summing up her final year of high school.

Latronico wasn't the only one to think the year went by in a flash. Olivia Bence summed up her entire year by saying simply, "It felt like it was going in fast forward."

In light of this, the seniors will be wondering how such a fast-paced year could have produced so many memorable and valuable experiences.

"At the beginning of the year I was really excited to start senior year because it's what everything built up to. I had a really good senior year; I played basketball and went really far with my team and I made a lot of good friends that I wasn't really close to in previous years," Bence reflected.

True to Bence's statement, many students met new people who they had never associated before in high school, despite being in their senior year.

"I made some good memories, had fun and even though it was senior year I still met a lot of new people and made good friends," Johnathan Dobbs shared.

Senior year was incredibly unique for the class of 2013 in comparison to their other high school years, with new opportunities and unique experiences around every corner. Richard Espinosa described senior year as "the best year that there was in high school; a lot of bonding moments. Senior year is really as fun as possible."

"Senior year was a big weight lifted off my shoulders; the expectations were more relaxed and I could have fun. It was a blast; compared to the other years, it was easier because there weren't super high expectations and the teachers really trusted us," said Latronico.

After the conclusion of their senior year, the Nease Class of 2013 will look to the future in hopes of guiding themselves independently to a successful post high school life. Latronico, for example, is hoping to excel in culinary school and Dobbs is looking to study engineering. Whatever the students' plans are, the community will bid farewell to the class of 2013 and wish them the best in their future endeavors as the school year comes to a close.

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William Bartram Scenic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@bellsouth.net

We're pleased to say our Antique Appraisal Fair fundraiser on May 11 was a smooth event and successful from the viewpoint of attendance and funds raised. Thanks to everyone that attended and we look forward to next year and another successful fundraiser. The RiverTown management team were great hosts in helping us stage this fundraiser at their beautiful facility. The people attending the fair were impressed with the location and look forward to coming back next year. Our volunteer appraisers echoed the same sentiment

All things considered we've been very busy pursuing new members and hosting special guests who have been keeping us abreast of developments at the county – things that potentially affect the many existing intrinsic resources in NW St. Johns County and the scenic highway.

In April we hosted a county planning manager and heard the potential for a new "temporary" sign ordinance for the Scenic Highway. We are concerned about the definition of "temporary" and who will monitor compliance, design, placement etc. The suggested change in sign ordinance can create issues related to clutter and detracting from the scenic beauty of our area.

The revised sign ordinance being developed is apparently intended to make it easier for commercial entities to "advertise" their business, but it potentially creates a monster program if St. Johns County does not change its code enforcement ordinance. Today the county code is complaint driven – no complaint no enforcement. If a new sign ordinance is enacted the county must include better means of enforcement.

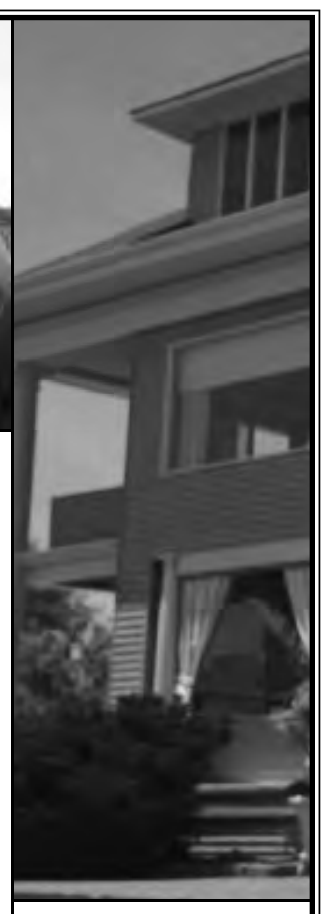
At our May 9 meeting we heard from a D.R. Horton manager and attorney and their proposed request of St. Johns County to approve a land use change of a previously approved development 28 single family homes. The change will ask the county commission to permit changing an approved (but not built) PRD development of 28 home sites to a PUD development of 196 homes. In our opinion, this change creates more urban sprawl and definitely impacts traffic on State Road 13. The county continues to approve additional developments/homes on and around the Scenic Highway (State Road 13) corridor and affects the scenic highway.

Continued approvals of developments in our area increases the potential for more and more traffic on State Road 13 and could eventually lead to a developer or politician to suggest the road be widened. The William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway is presently a "protected" scenic roadway but - make no mistake - all it takes is a political act to change this designation. The Scenic Highway Management Council intends to ask the PZA and Board of County Commissioners to reject the D.R. Horton project.

We need your help in keeping the Scenic Highway beautiful and encourage your membership in our efforts to keep State Road 13 scenic and historic.

The William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway did not oppose the original low density development of 28 homes but expansion to 196 home sites is likely to be a different matter.

Our next meeting is on June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the NW County Annex, located at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard.



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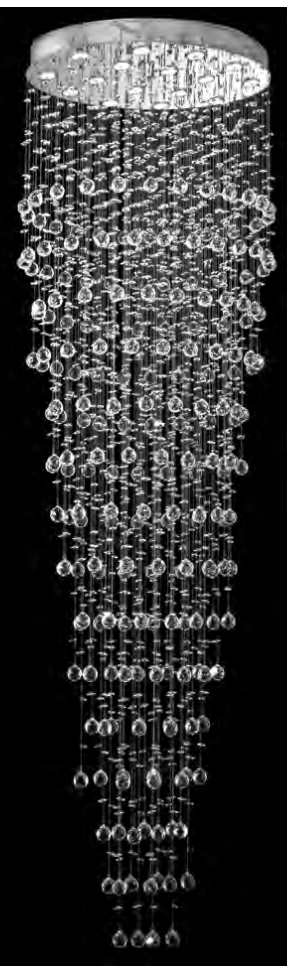

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The Lifestyle Guru.... discovers some play days on the county line

By Joy Hartley

School is out and vacations now begin! The new wave "staycation" theory is still popular in our house, so my research has begun for Summer '13. I have found enough things to do to stay entertained for several days down at the county line—that's the St. Johns/Flagler County line I am talking about.

The old Marineland with Nellie as the big show is gone. Here now is a new Marineland with exciting things to see and do. There are all kinds of levels of interaction you can order up to enjoy the bottlenose dolphins that live in this marine heaven. You can do The Immersion, a 30-minute playtime in shallow water with the dolphins and their trainers; for this you wear masks and life vests. The Discover Dolphins series is a 20 minute playtime with the fish. You can experience a Dolphin Design art session as the dolphins can paint with up to three different colors on a canvas that you hold over the water.

If you really get into the experiences, Marineland will let you be a trainer for a day. From morning till night you aid the training crew in preparing meals, feeding sessions, tracking all the dolphins and record keeping for the crew. The ultimate is to spend a week going to Marineland for summer camp! A little slower pace down there is their kayak tours in the sundown of the evenings. The tours take you through the waters of Pellicer Creek, the Faver-Dykes State Park area and Princess Preserve.

Speaking of Princess Preserve, I had never heard of the area until a local native tipped me on it. This is a Flagler County Park area which has a lot to offer! They offer camping facilities for individual and groups, equestrian camping, kayaking, canoeing and fishing. There are nature trails to hike and equestrian trails to ride. There is a wonderful picnic pavilion complete with restroom facilities. Young couples are encouraged to use the site for weddings!

The name comes from the marriage of widow Angela Mills Cutting Worden to Boris Scherbatoff, an exiled Russian prince. Angela assumed the title of princess and it was then that the once named "Cherokee Grove" came to be known as "Princess Place."

Of course when you are on A1A that far down it's a "must" to picnic under the canopy of old oak trees at Washington Oaks State Park, which is actually located in Palm Coast. The park is located on the Intracoastal Waterway with awesome views to go with your meal. After lunch you can enjoy a walking tour of the old estate's gardens. The Rose Garden, which is carefully maintained by a group of volunteers, is the highlight of the tour! And at the end of the afternoon, enjoy a swim in the ocean just across the street. All of this fun just costs $5 per vehicle; what a deal!

Speaking of picnicking, here's a fresh, different salad. It's a really different combination of ingredients that mix well for a summer lunch addition.

Fresh Broccoli Salad

1 head broccoli, chopped
½ cup chopped pimento-stuffed olives
¼ cup finely chopped onions
4 hard cooked eggs, peeled and chopped
mayonnaise
salt and pepper to taste

Toss all together and enjoy!

CHS Happenings

Looking back and forward: Class of 2013

By Sarah Schreck, CHS Student

It's that time of year again! Finals exams are over, textbooks have been returned and the House Cup has been awarded (go Ravenclaw!)... And now comes the hardest part. As the year comes to a close, parents and students alike face the difficult task of saying farewell to the Creekside Class of 2013. After four years of AP classes, football games, homecomings, concerts, lunch tables, lockers and everyone's fair share of homework, the senior class is graduating!

"I think being here at Creekside has just made me into a more confident person," shares senior Kaitlin McMillan, who has spent a great deal of time at Creekside "joining clubs and having to interact with all types of people."

Cody Kimmel, a senior as well, also feels his experiences at Creekside have "changed [his] personality for the better." Like many others, he's taken away a lot from his past four years at Creekside.

"I've met many new friends, become stronger both physically and mentally and I've made a ton of great memories," he shares.

Many Creekside students are spreading across the United States to further their academic careers, from local colleges to some in the farthest corner of the country. The future holds infinite potential for our seniors, who feel like they have been prepared by their lives as Knights.

Kimmel feels ready to "step my game up when doing public speaking, such as in presentations, if I really want my ideas to be heard."

McMillan also wants to explore the unfamiliar. "In the future, I'm going to have to be willing to meet new people and step out of my comfort zone, so I think Creekside has prepared me for that," she shares.

After four years of experiences, many seniors can look back on their freshman year with new insight, with some helpful advice. Kimmel and McMillan decided to have a little conversation with their freshman-selves.

McMillan urged her freshman self that she wouldn't be the "new kid" forever. "Don't beat yourself up too much, kid. You're going to meet some of the best people in your life, people that understand you." Looking around at graduation, it's hard to not feel that camaraderie with their classmates.

While daunting at first, our seniors can see that the journey through high school became one of the greatest learning experiences of their entire lives- in more ways that one.

Offering a piece of advice to his past self, Kimmel reassures, "Bro, you don't need to feel awkward and new here. Yes, the next four years will become more challenging than the last, but in the end, you're going to turn out to be a better person. You're gonna meet tons of new people, make lasting memories and discover talents you didn't even know you had."

And those lasting memories go with the graduating class as they leave the halls of high school and begin the rest of their lives, with their legacy at Creekside in their wake.

Best of luck, Graduating Class of 2013!

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Summer program at FCMS filling up fast

Registration open for Passages

By Contributing Write Denise Lewis

If you have not registered your rising sixth grade daughter for the Girl Scout-sponsored Passages program, there is still time, but open slots are filling up quickly. The two-day "Everything you need to know about middle school" workshop, which will be presented in two sessions the first part of August, has become so popular that nearly every rising sixth grade girl over the past four years has attended.

"Our goal is to have 100 percent participation, so that every incoming sixth grade girl at FCMS starts the school year with the advantage of being familiar with the school, comfortable with the middle school routine and confident about navigating the hallways, working the combination locks and changing out for P.E.," said Passages facilitator Kerry Hale.

Along with Hale and an adult co-facilitator, the program is aided by enlisting former Passages participants in grades seven through 12 as youth volunteers to help as group leaders and mentors to the attendees.

In addition to familiarizing the students to their new surroundings, all participants will meet the principal, assistant principal and several other important staff members. They will also take part in scavenger hunts, school tours and a "What Not to Wear" fashion show starring their youth leaders.

To obtain a Passages registration form, please contact Kerry Hale at 5hale@comcast.net. The cost is $40 and the two session dates are: August 5 - 6, and August 8 - 9. Both sessions are held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at FCMS. For additional information regarding Passages Programs in other locations, call Girl Scouts of Gateway council liaison Rita Stokes at 388-4653 or email her at www.girlscouts-gateway.org.

For information about a similar program (called Journey) for rising sixth grade boys, please check the FCMS website www.fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us.

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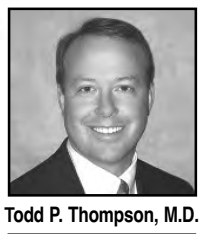
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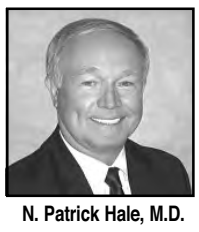
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End of school year at LPA

By Contributing Writer Stephanie Bradford

Erin Dooley's class had the most pledges for the entire school for this year's Boosterthon Fun Run.

Liberty Pines Academy is very excited to offer you a variety of camps this summer during the week of August 5 through 9 at LPA. All camps are $100 for the week per camper and this includes a camp T-shirt. Contact Janine Bowker (cj9bowk@sjgcc.com or 806-0660) with any questions or to receive a registration form. Remember to register early as our camps tend to fill up quickly.

Drama Camp led by Brad Segal (two sessions with each being limited to 30 campers) First session – rising fifth and sixth graders from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Second session – rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Basketball Camp led by Coach Eisenhuth (two sessions with each being limited to 60 campers) First session – rising sixth through eighth graders from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Second session – rising third through fifth graders from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cheer Camp led by Heather Newmans, LPA cheer coach For rising first through fifth graders from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

LPA Kindergarten Camp led by Kathryn Kasik and Natalie Gitto (limited to 30 campers) For incoming kindergarten students only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

LPA students and families take to the highway—the LPA Highway to Good Choices with the Boosterthon Fun Run. What a great success for LPA! Thank you so much to the parents and students at Liberty Pines Academy for their tremendous support of this year's Fun Run and for helping us increase technology at LPA. This year was a huge success and funds raised through Boosterthon are going toward a new computer lab at LPA. This includes purchasing 30 new computers, Ethernet switches and a new tech cart! Way to go LPA Wolfpack, howling toward success!

As the school year came to a close, Meet the Artist (MTA) completed its final art session which focused on sculptures. Each grade learned something different about sculptures. Kindergarteners learned about Alexander Calder, first graders studied assemblage, second graders created organic sculptures, while third graders made gargoyles and fourth graders used their imaginations to create wire sculptures. LPA fifth graders made soap sculptures after learning about stone sculptures. Although this was the final project of the 2012-2013 school year, MTA will be ready for next year's students. Each grade level will learn about different artists from the previous grade levels. The students of LPA have a unique, wonderful and fun opportunity to learn about art through the MTA program. Teresa Luce and Melisa Sharpe will take the reins for the 2013-2014 school year. They will be looking for parent volunteers. Please check the LPA PTO website often for volunteer information.

Plan ahead and get "LPA Spirit" ready for the 2013-2014 school year. Orders placed now will be available for pick up during Wolf Greeting for the upcoming school year. LPA Spiritwear is available on-line now. All new colors, designs and fabrics are available now for pre-orders!

Check out these new items:

- Guys: Dri-Fit tees (including dad sizes) in navy and green color combinations
- Girls: Two designs - "surfer design" and LPA "girl" logo in pink and turquoise
- Mom: Classic designer style "Liberty Pines Mom" logo in pink, black and heather grey
- Team LPA: Available in ladies and men's sizes in black, navy and pink
- Updated basic tee: Sports theme with "Responsible Respectful Ready to Learn" featured in the design, a must have in navy, pink and white
- On-line exclusives: drawstring back packs, soccer chairs, golf shirts and hats (for men and women), tennis visors.....and more!

To view our new styles and place your orders please visit: www.crowleyprinting.com.

Liberty Pines Academy PTO would like to thank our wonderful Wolf Family for all of their support throughout the 2012 – 2013 school year! We have had an amazing year with many great events. A fabulous Gala fundraiser in the fall, four quarterly Coffee with the Principal, a Parent's Night Out, Red Ribbon Week, Boosterthon Fun Run, fall and spring Book Fairs and Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. This year we have shown that we are "Growing Stronger Every Year" at LPA! LPA PTO is looking forward to another great school year in 2013-2014!

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Hospice Derby party cont. from pg. 1

The event raised more than $7,000 in ticket and auction sales during an afternoon that included live bluegrass music from St. Augustine-based band The Driftwoods, complimentary mint juleps courtesy of Theresa and J.B. Coomes and a buffet dinner catered by Culinary Outfitters. In the spirit of the derby, many ladies wore stylish hats while the men showed off their best attire.

Community Hospice of Northeast Florida was established in 1979. Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is the first and only locally-based, nonprofit hospice provider to serve residents of the First Coast. The organization helps approximately 1,300 patients and their families to live better with advanced illness. During its 34-year history, Community Hospice has served more than 85,000 adults and children in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties—at home, in long term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its six inpatient care centers conveniently located throughout the area. The organization is committed to improving the quality of life for patients and their families and to be the compassionate guide for end-of-life care in our community. No one is ever denied care due to an inability to pay.

To learn more about the support and services of Community Hospice, visit www.Community-Hospice.com.

Ron Dixon, event co-chair and community support committee chair for the St. Augustine/St. Johns County Advisory Council of Community Hospice member, with the winner of the Best Hat contest.

Book Discussion at the Bartram Trail Branch Library!

Monday, June 17
7 pm

This month's selection is "Forgotten Country" by Catherine Chung. All are welcome to join us for this discussion.

Did you know? June is Cataract Awareness Month

Cataracts are very common, affecting roughly 60 percent of people over the age of 60, and over 1.5 million cataract surgeries are performed in the United States each year.

A cataract is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens. Looking through a cataract-clouded lens is often like looking through a foggy window. Cataract development is typically a very gradual process of the normal aging process and as such, many people are unaware that they have cataracts because the changes in their vision are so gradual.

According to Donald Downer, M.D., cornea and cataract surgeon, "If you find that your vision is changing and images seem dimmer or blurrier or you have an unusual glare or a reduction in color perception, you may be experiencing the onset of cataracts. A comprehensive eye exam is imperative, to determine your diagnosis."

He continues, "Once the cataract diagnosis is made, the decision to treat a cataract is based on the degree to which the cataract is impairing vision and the effect of the impairment on the patient's quality of life."

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Angie's list 2012

CHS senior awarded Rotary scholarship

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail (RCBT) is proud to sponsor Creekside High School's Interact Club, a service organization facilitating local, community and international service projects. We are pleased to award a $500 scholarship annually to one deserving, graduating senior in the spring of their graduation year. This scholarship is intended to assist the student with furthering their education while reinforcing their long term commitment to Rotary's motto, Service above Self.

After careful and considerate deliberation the RCBT awarded this year's scholarship to Riley Theis, a fourth year Interact student at Creekside. Not only is Theis ranked in the top 10 of her graduating class, while working a part time job and maintaining active church involvement, but she selflessly gives of her limited spare time to mentor teenagers diagnosed with cancer at Nemours Children's Hospital and tutors fellow students to help them improve academically. After becoming a member of Interact her freshman year and recently as Creekside Interact Club's president during her junior and senior years, Theis embraced the club's motto "Service above Self."

Riley Theis, Veronica Celis-Mata, Aletha Dresback, Haley Neel and Megan Cromwell.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail takes great pride in providing scholarships to our leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations to Theis on her many accomplishments to date and best wishes as she transitions to the next stage of her service-oriented life.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail typically meets at 7:30 a.m. on Thursdays at Westminster Woods in Julington Creek. For more information, please contact club president, Thomas Carroll at tfcarrollusmc@gmail.com.

Raiders: 2013 Battle of the Books champs!

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) is a program co-sponsored by the Office of Library Media and the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) for students in grades three through eight designed to entice students to read high interest, contemporary literature for personal enjoyment.

St. Johns County holds annual district wide SSYRA competitions commonly known as the "Battle of the Books" at the elementary and middle school levels. This year's middle school competition was facilitated by Lou Greco, director for instructional technology and media services, on Monday, May 13 at the Fullerwood Training Center in St. Augustine. Five team members and two alternates from participating middle schools were coached by their school's media specialist in preparation for the district competition.

During the event, brief quotes were read and projected as students rallied to collectively determine which of the 15 books contained the displayed quote within 30 seconds. Throughout the inspiring competition, Switzerland Point Middle School Raiders led the way and ultimately took home the trophy! Congratulations to Jane Phillips, SPMS media specialist and Raider team members, Emma Geiger, Alexandra Hudson, Maxwell Bustamante, Alexia Smith and Amanda Higley on this exceptional literacy accomplishment.

For more information, please visit www.floridamedia.org/?page=ssyrahome.

School awarded special recognition for pre-K

By Karl Kennell

Coleen Lupinski, VPK instructor; Lou Pereira, principal; Dr. Tony Bennett, Commissioner of Education; and Kathleen Robinson, VPK instructor.

On May 10, San Juan Del Rio Catholic School received the 2013 Gifts of Service Award for Exceptional VPK Program. The annual award was presented by the Child Development Education Alliance (CDEA) at its third annual Christian-Ministry awards dinner. The award recognizes Christian VPK programs in Northeast Florida for their outstanding VPK performance. This year there were 80 nominees for the award.

San Juan del Rio Catholic School was awarded the "Outstanding VPK program" by citing, among other things, the 100 percent kindergarten readiness score of the program. Present at the dinner were retired Senator Stephen Wise, Commissioner of Education Dr. Tony Bennett and James Herzog of the Florida Catholic Conference. Former Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. The dinner was attended by around 150 who serve in the area of early childhood in a faith-based program.

SJDR School Principal Lou Pereira and his wife Kim were joined at the award ceremony by two of the school's VPK teachers, Kathleen Robinson and Coleen Lupinski. In his brief two years as principal of the school, Pereira has demonstrated his tremendous support for early childhood educational development and has encouraged the growth of the program. Robinson has been part of the early childhood program for five years and Lupinski been part of the program for the past three years.

The awards dinner was titled "Gifts of Service." The CDEA strives to provide the highest standards of educational excellence within Christ-centered child care, kindergarten and preschool programs. Principal Pereira described the efforts of the schools VPK team as, "To be a teacher at our school is a vocation. These very talented and dedicated professionals have certainly earned this recognition. I applaud them and join with them as we celebrate excellent service to our community."

San Juan del Rio Catholic School is a ministry of the San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church and educates children in grades pre K3 through eighth grade.

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BTHS grad is now a Naval Academy graduate

United States Navy Ensign Christopher A. Dendor, son of Edwin and Patricia Dendor, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland on May 24, 2013 and was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Navy.

Ens. Dendor successfully completed four years of intensive academic, physical and professional training, resulting in a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in oceanography/meteorology. As a graduate of the Naval Academy, Ens. Dendor completed a four-year, total immersion program where a strong, balanced academic program, focused on the educational needs of the Navy and Marine Corps, is superimposed on a strict, professional military training environment emphasizing the development of leadership skills. Following graduation, Ens. Dendor will proceed to Mayport, Florida where he will begin service aboard USS Gettysburg.

Considered one of the top educational institutions in the country, the United States Naval Academy was founded in 1845 and has graduated more than 60,000 men and women as Naval and Marine Corps Officers. Its graduates include 4,000 admirals and generals, one president, 200 members of Congress, three governors, 73 Medal of Honor winners, one Nobel Prize winner and 40 astronauts. The Naval Academy currently has more than 4,000 students who comprise the Brigade of Midshipmen and who come from every state in the union.

Ens. Dendor is a 2009 graduate of Bartram Trail High School.

JCE's Coach Aspinwall inducted into Flagler College Hall of Fame

Julington Creek Elementary's Glenn Aspinwall was one of five new members were inducted recently at the 10th annual Flagler College Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner sponsored by Carrabba's at Flagler's elegant dining hall. This year's class also included Chris Barnwell '08 (baseball), Melody (Milton) Coggin '80 (women's basketball, volleyball and softball), John Randolph '04 (men's basketball) and Dorothy Stansel '77 (women's basketball, volleyball and softball).

Aspinwall was Flagler's third baseball coach in its history. He took over for Darwin White during the 1978 season and went on to coach through the 1987 season. Aspinwall had a winning percentage of 67 percent and won over 250 games at the helm of the Flagler program. In each of his nine seasons, the Saints finished with a winning percentage over .500. In 1983, he coached Flagler to a 4-3 upset of Florida State University. In 1987, Aspinwall coached the Saints to their first-ever district championship and area appearance.

Photo by Zach Thomas Photography.

The Flagler College Sports Hall of Fame was established in 2004 to honor student-athletes and administrators who made a major contribution to the intercollegiate sports program while at Flagler, as well as a significant impact in their community after graduating and since then 45 people and one team have been inducted, including this year's class.

WCE End of Year Happenings

By Contributing Writer Ricke Ricciardelli

School is over the summer and the halls are empty. Our fifth graders are now going to middle school and we will have wide-eyed cuties coming in the fall for kindergarten. We couldn't help but shed a little tear the last day of school—not sure if it's because the children will be at home for three months or if we'll miss our friends.

However, our last month was busy but fun. WCE PTO sponsored the Leadership Festival on May 17. This is our end of the year celebration. We had inflatables, clowns, glitter tattoos, face painting, rock climbing and our teachers sat in the dunk tank. (Dunking a teacher was fun!) We also had 48 awesome baskets for the finale drawing and had 48 happy winners.

In addition we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with our annual teacher appreciation luncheon held at the on the veranda of the Fairways Café. A taco bar was served with door prize drawings. The food was delicious and the company fun.

The PTO also wants to congratulate all the new Safety Patrol Leaders for the 2013-2014 school year.

We hope all our Wards Creek teachers, staff and families have a wonderful, fun and very safe summer.

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News from Palencia Elementary's media center

Congratulations to the Palencia Elementary Battle of the Books team for winning the 2013 SJCSD South County Battle. The winning team included Maya Albold, Emily Stanley, Michael Xidea, Malcolm MacEwan and Heba Haq. Alternates for the team included Caroline Hunt, Adam Bernstein and Augusta Rose. All eight of these students spent the entire school year reading all of the books and practicing together with the help of Melanie Tahan, Palencia Elementary library media specialist.

The battle took place on Thursday, May 9 at Sebastian Middle School. The competition involved students having to show their knowledge of the books by recognizing quotes from each of the 15 titles. It was a very close match with Mason Elementary and The Webster School tied for second place. In all, 10 schools competed against each other in the South County Battle.

The Sunshine State Young Reader's Award (SSYRA) Program is a statewide reading motivation program in Florida for students in grades three through five. The program, cosponsored by the School Library Media Services Office of the Department of Education and the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME), began in 1983. The purpose of the SSYRA Program is to encourage students to read independently for personal satisfaction, based on interest rather than reading level. Sunshine State books are selected for their wide appeal, literary value, varied genres, curriculum connections, and/or multicultural representation. Sunshine State books are also Accelerated Reader books. Together these two programs create an extended independent reading program to help students improve their reading enjoyment, fluency and comprehension.

This annual literacy event was an exciting win for Palencia Elementary School in its very first year as a school.

The CreekLine
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Sunday, June 16

Nease IB students clean up

By Contributing Writer Karen Blackwell, PR Committee Chair

Visitors to St. Johns County beaches on a recent beautiful Saturday morning saw teams of students canvassing the beach sporting brightly colored teal "IB Life" t-shirts. Before having fun in the sand and sun, about 130 members of the freshman and sophomore classes of the Allen D. Nease High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Program first set about cleaning all 39 miles of St. Johns County shoreline for their sixth annual beach clean up service project. On Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. students hit the beach equipped with garbage bags, gloves, Ocean Conservancy data sheets and lots of enthusiasm. Their efforts resulted in cleaner beaches and provided an invaluable opportunity to record a complete snapshot of the condition of the entire St. Johns County coastline captured on a single day.

This Nease IB freshmen and sophomore students' annual volunteer effort began six years ago as an environmental initiative aimed to reduce the deterioration of the condition of our shoreline environment. Every spring, Nease IB students perform the cleanup of our community's beaches at the end of the spring break period when our beaches see greater numbers of visitors and larger quantities of trash. The students collect garbage and debris along the entire stretch of shoreline in St. Johns County, analyze the data on the collected garbage and present their findings to biologists at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Education Research Reserve (GTMNERR). The beach cleanup findings are ultimately used to document the scope of the problem of waste as a part of a larger study on how humans impact coastal and marine ecosystems and the environment. The local Students Working Against Tobacco organization asked the IB students to "Bag the Butts" in an effort to bring the second most prevalent litter found on beaches, cigarette butts, to citizens' attention. This year students collected over 1800 cigarette butts. They were easy to find, as most of the butts were spread out over only three miles of shoreline.

Nease High School's IB program is one of 2,871 programs worldwide in 138 countries with over 794,000 IB students. The program is widely known for creating intercultural and challenging programs to create a better world through education.

This was the second year that sophomore Hayden Fleming, participated in the beach clean up saying, "This was the most interesting experience this year."

Lucas Sanders, also a sophomore, called the beach clean up, "An excellent opportunity to help the community."

"The beaches of St. Johns County are a precious resource," said IB Coordinator Kim Hollis. "I'm proud that our students have undertaken such an important environmental project. The water that touches our shore washes to other parts of the world. Cleaning our coastline is a global concern."

Advanced Disposal and the IB Booster Club were the title sponsors for this event, helping supply cleanup materials for the student volunteers. Debra Tewey, Pre-IB biology teacher, is the faculty advisor coordinating the student presentation. Log sheets created by The Ocean Conservancy were used to tally and record the types of debris found.

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Groundbreaking cont. from pg. 1

remarks about the importance of these schools to St. Johns County. They are only the second and third schools to follow the K-8 concept—a concept that School Board Chairman Allen credits with helping keep families together by not splitting up siblings as they transition from grade to grade until high school.

Both schools are scheduled to begin classes in the 2014-2015 school year.

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Hickory Creek second graders learn about interesting career choices

By Contributing Writers Amy Mendheim and Laurie Argott

Autumn West, Royce Turner, Rolondo Turner, Heather Borders, Avery Mendheim and Tyler Patterson.

Family members of Gilbert Naft's second grade class at Hickory Creek Elementary recently participated in a two-day Family Career Expo. Students learned about the education, training and day-to-day responsibilities of several different career paths. Presentations were kicked off with introductions and brief overviews of the family member's biography by their second grade relative.

Students welcomed Heather Borders, aunt of Avery Mendheim. From her experiences as an astronaut trainer with NASA, she shared about the space shuttle program, International Space Station program and different NASA careers. She explained that some jobs require a lot of math while others require a lot of science. She even launched two model rockets in the large fields behind the school.

Next, Deborah A. Montana, RN and Ross Kovalcik's grandmother talked about her experiences as a nurse for more than 30 years. Currently working as a post-op nurse at a local surgery center, she talked about her responsibilities and handed out goodie bags filled with nursing supplies.

Rolondo Turner, father of Royce Turner, then explained about various communities within the Department of the Navy. He spoke about services such as the Coast Guard and Marine Corps. Students were shown a video, military pictures and Navy command coins. The second day brought in Dennis Ginder, father of Landon Ginder. He is the owner and managing partner of Landon Homes. After starting the business just two years ago, he and his two partners should close around 100 homes this year. Students learned the process of building a home. They had many questions ranging from where the homes are built to what is the difference between town homes and condos.

Russ Ashenfelder, father of Owen Ashenfelder then talked about being a police officer. He stressed the importance of written communication. He explained how he needs to accurately describe events that he observes and events that he is told.

Presentations closed with Heather West, mother of Autumn West. She brought in blueprints, sketches and color boards to share the avenues of interior design. She explained how many aspects go into building and how each item needs to be thought out. She showed real life drawings of a kitchen design that was created.

At the end of the expo, the students were quite educated about the different career choices. Thank you to everyone who made this a special learning experience for all!

Dr. Joyner sports a new look!

Dr. Joseph Joyner, superintendent of St. Johns County Schools, is sporting a new look! He accepted a challenge from the Bartram Trail Relay for Life team, "Creeks Lax Battles Cancer" that if they could raise at least $250 during Saturday, May 4's event he would graciously allow Dominic Ruscetta of Angelo's Barbershop in Mandarin to shave his head on stage at Relay. Guess what? They raised the money, plus some and now Dr. Joyner has a bald head. Dr. Joyner's unselfish kindness has truly supported the battle against cancer.

TCE wins again; grows greener and greener!

For recycling plastic bags and overwrap, Timberlin Creek Elementary won a fifth playground bench in a contest sponsored by the Trex Company! Trex makes wood-alternative decking and railing from recycled plastic. Trex makes each playground bench with 10,000 plastic bags. Timberlin has won a bench every year it has participated in the Trex contest by submitting the most plastic bags in the district to Winn Dixie on County Road 210. Timberlin won with the help of its youngest students. Daisy Troop #804 collected plastic bags and made posters encouraging recycling.

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Newcomers participate in charity funding

By Contributing Writer Marcia Smith

Newcomers of North St. Johns has once again provided some donations to various charities at the end of their 2012-13 season. In addition to giving women an opportunity to meet at their monthly meetings and luncheons and participate and become better acquainted in their multiple choices of different kinds of monthly activities, the club is involved in giving back to the North St. Johns County community.

Being a newcomer to the St. Johns area or having a new life change and wanting to make some new friends, Newcomers of North St. Johns has welcomed many new members this past year. With successful members' participation in the 50/50 raffles and the used-book sales, the board voted to provide their charity donations to:

1. The Donna Foundation, to provide funds to help women obtain mammograms and assist women who are fighting breast cancer in our area.

2. St. Johns County School District ASSIST Program, to provide for homeless children in St. Johns County this summer with books, journals and other items to keep their young minds active, along with toys and non-perishable food items.

3. St. Johns County Public Library, because of budget cutbacks, to provide funds dedicated to the purchase of new books for the children's section.

4. St. Augustine Humane Society, to provide funds that will assist families, in the face of financial difficulty, who want to keep their pets.

And during the year, Newcomer members have contributed food at their monthly meetings that is collected and delivered to Second Harvest. Breast cancer postage stamps are used for all their mailings, where a part of the cost is designated for research. Newcomers of North St. Johns truly emulate their club motto, "Friendship is a gift to be shared with others."

Finishing the 2012-13 season for Newcomers of North St. Johns are Executive Board members: Vice-President Linda Beard, Treasurer Ann Palmieri, Secretary Terri Mendez and President Alexa Endes. All the members thank them for their excellent service in planning this year's meetings, luncheons and programs. It was a fun and busy year and we will meet again next September!

Gardening

Summer pastimes

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

Even though there is no escaping the hot summer weather, there is always something to be done in the yard – from the detailed work of hand-picking caterpillars off the tomato plants, to the more strenuous tasks like mowing that lawn!

Take some time to browse through seed and nursery catalogues for inspiration for fall, where you might find that intriguing new vegetable you can't wait to try or that beautiful fall-planted flowering bulb that you admire. And of course check out the latest *New Leaf* newsletter from the Extension Service for timely tips: http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafMayJune.13.emailversion.pdf

As you know, the Jacksonville Public Library has a wealth of information available. One of my more recent reads is "Weeds" by the British author Richard Mabey. It might sound rather an odd topic, but he describes how the world's most ubiquitous weeds have circumnavigated the globe and become residents, with varying degrees of virulence, in so many countries. And this has been happening here since the very first settlers arrived.

Andrea Wulf writes a fascinating account of the founding fathers and their gardening exploits in "The Brother Gardeners – Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession." She describes how important the founding fathers believed gardening and, by extension, farming, to be to the health and wealth of their new country.

Of course, both these books are descriptive and not about gardening practices. If you need practical advice the library certainly doesn't fall short.
Why not browse the shelves or the on-line catalogue, where you can find a wide range of material to suit all tastes in gardening?

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The Ancient City Lions Club meets to plan for the coming months

The Ancient City Lions Club met recently to discuss plans and events for the coming months. Items on the agenda included a September golf tournament fundraiser with proceeds going to support the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, among others. Lions Club president Chris Draughon explained, saying, "The Ancient City Lions Club is proud to be associated with FSDB. We are fortunate to have this type of educational facility in our community and want to do all that we can to support their important work and extraordinary efforts." To learn more about the Ancient City Lions Club, please visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ancientcitylions or call 501-9129.

Principal at Palencia Elementary named

Allen Anderson, principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary School, has been selected by Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner to be the principal of Palencia Elementary School. His nomination will be presented to the St. Johns County School Board at their June 11 meeting. Anderson will replace Principal Don Campbell, who has announced his retirement following this school year. Campbell will stay on as a principal on assignment until September 15 to assist with district level projects.

"Allen is a perfect match for the skills and attributes identified by the school community," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "He is a strong supporter of technology in the classroom which will further Palencia Elementary's integration of digital instruction. I know that he will do an outstanding job."

Anderson has more than 17 years of experience in the St. Johns County School District and has served as the principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary since 2010. Prior to this appointment he was an assistant principal at Mill Creek Elementary and Durbin Creek Elementary schools, a curriculum coordinator at Switzerland Point Middle School and a teacher at Cunningham Creek Elementary School.

"While I am grateful for my time and experiences at Cunningham Creek, I am honored to have been chosen as the new principal of Palencia Elementary School," said Anderson. "I have had the pleasure of visiting Palencia Elementary and am in awe of the students, staff and community. I am excited about this new opportunity and look forward to developing new relationships as a Palencia Pirate."

New principal for Cunningham Creek

Randall Jud Strickland, chief of elementary schools for Duval County Public Schools, has been selected by Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner to be the principal of Cunningham Creek Elementary. His nomination will be presented to the St. Johns County School Board at its June 11 meeting. Strickland will replace Allen Anderson, who was selected the new principal of Palencia Elementary earlier this month.

"Jud's experience and leadership ability align perfectly with our district," said Joyner. "We are very fortunate to have him join us and I know that he will be a great addition to our team."

Strickland has more than 20 years of experience within the Duval County Public School System with 10 years spent as a principal where he was responsible for opening Bartram Springs Elementary School. He also held the position of executive director for elementary turnaround schools and most recently served as the chief of elementary schools where he was responsible for leading and managing 53 elementary and two K-8 schools with more than 30,000 students. Strickland has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership both from the University of North Florida.

"I am overwhelmed with excitement about joining the Cunningham Creek Elementary School family," said Strickland. "The school has a rich history of success and I look forward to being a part of a faculty and staff that put children first."

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Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou

Members of Helping Hands and representative from The Betty Griffin House, Sheilah, Teddi, Lisa from Betty Griffin, Terri and Laraine.

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, June 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center. The "Rippers" will meet at 10:00 a.m. This month, the group will be collecting new underwear for the homeless folks at St. Francis House and for Home Again St. Johns. Any new underwear for men, women or children is appreciated. Donations may be made by contacting jacqphil@aol.com or brought to the church that day. Helping Hands appreciates any donations or help from the community.

There were a lot of happy faces for Mother's Day at The Betty Griffin House in St. Augustine. Helping Hands members filled purses which were donated, full of makeup, wallets, socks, costume jewelry, hairbrushes and combs and health and beauty aids. This annual collection of gifts for women has provided The Betty Griffin House with over 275 Mother's Day baskets or purses since 2008. Thanks to everyone who helps make this project a success!

On April 30, several members had the pleasure of touring the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. The group got a firsthand look at all the wonderful opportunities the children have at the school so close to home. The "Rippers" presented the school with 100 fabric cane cases which they have sewn over last few months. The cases will be used by the students for their folding canes. Helping Hands' holiday project this year will be providing gifts for the children at the school. More details will follow.

At the May meeting, 25 Splash Pacs were assembled for the children going to swim camp through the Salvation Army. Each beach bag (handmade and decorated) contained a bathing suit, towel, flip flops, sunscreen and visor or cap. What a great way to start the summer!

Helping Hands is a volunteer organization that meets the last Friday of each month at Faith Community Church Community Center on County Road 210. It is non-denominational and all are welcome. There are no dues, officers or stress. Members come when they can and do what they can with what is donated.

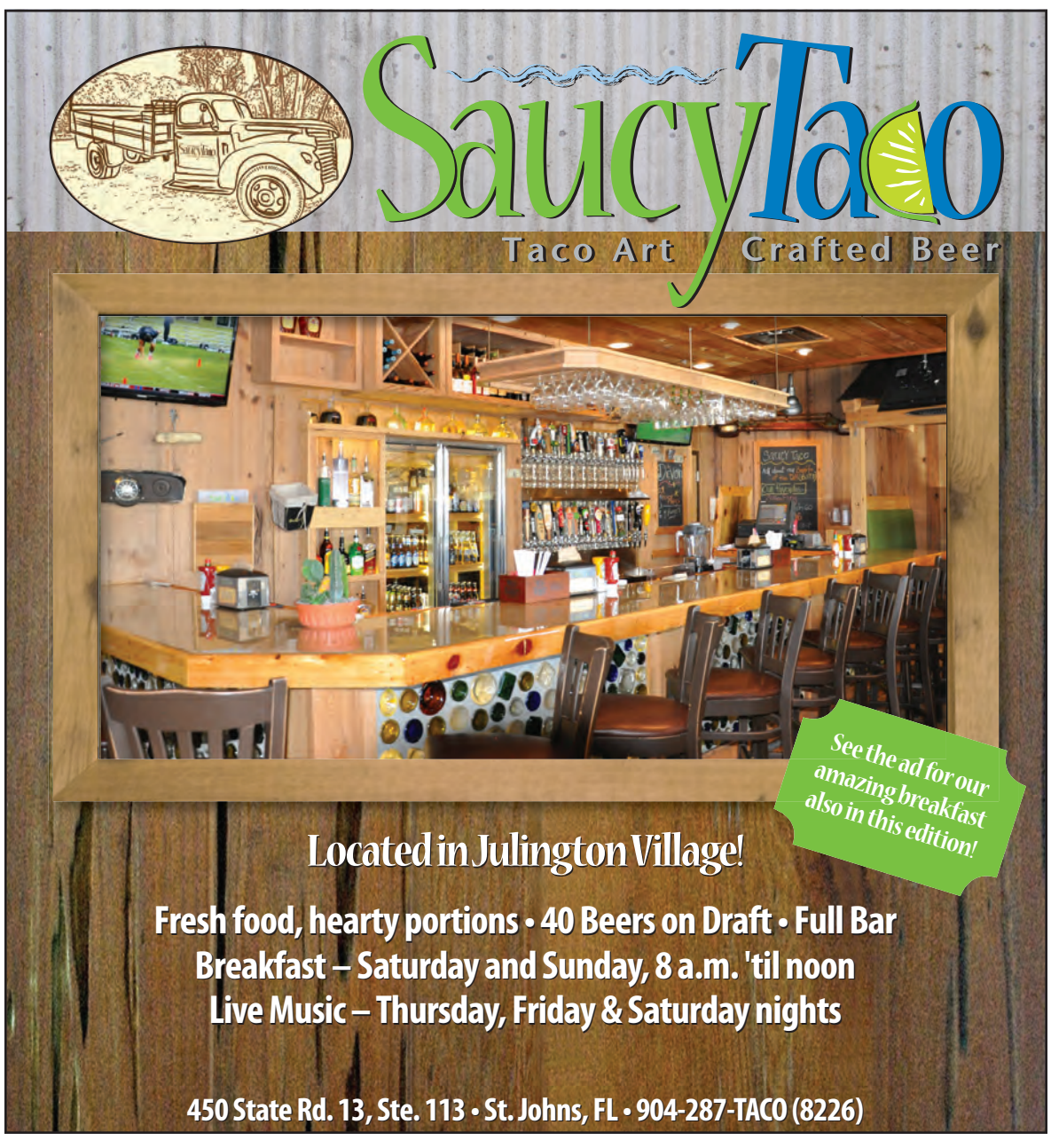
For more information, please contact jacqphil@aol.com.

State park to host battle re-enactment

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Fort Mose Historic State Park is partnering with Fort Mose Historical Society and Florida Living History, Inc. to host the Battle of Bloody Mose 273rd Anniversary Commemoration on June 22, 2013.

This historical re-enactment will include demonstrations of 18th century colonial and military life, children's activities and the only side vs. side battle re-enactment in St. Augustine at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. This event is free. There is a $2 museum entry fee for visitors six and over.

Fort Mose Historic State Park is the site of the first free African settlement in what is now the United States. For more information, please visit www.floridastateparks.org/fortmose.



Effective August 1, 2013, Glenn W. Knox, MD of Mandarin Hearing and Balance Center will become the Chief of the Otolaryngology Division at UFHealth Medical Center in Jacksonville. At that time, his current practice at 12276 San Jose Boulevard will close.

Patients may obtain their medical records by completing a records release form. Please return it by July 15, 2013. If you choose to have these records mailed to you, please enclose a check for $5.00. If you would like to pick up your records, they will be available for pick up from July 24 to July 31, 2013 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at 12276 San Jose Boulevard, Suite 516.

You may continue to see Dr. Knox at UFHealth by calling the ENT appointment line at 904-383-1017. Please take your records to any future appointments.

Thank you for your support at our Mandarin office for the past thirteen years. Dr. Knox looks forward to seeing you at UFHealth (formerly known as the University of Florida Shands-Jacksonville), 653 West Eighth Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209.

Mandarin Hearing and Balance Center

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Durbin Creek celebrates reading success

By Contributing Writer Judy Revels

Durbin Creek Elementary School celebrated a resounding success of their year-long Accelerated Reading program with a gooey finish at a school-wide assembly this month as the children slimed a favorite resource teacher – Sir O (media specialist Matt Ostrowsky). Racking up a cumulative yearlong goal of over 45,000 accelerated reading points, the students were treated to a royal sliming as promised in the beginning of the year by Queen Frostine of Candyland fame (Amanda Bergamasco, instructional literacy coach) and in conjunction with the school's family game night theme.

Six students were honored with the opportunity to slime Sir Ostrowsky with sticky, gooey blue slime in a school-wide production. The students were the top readers in each of the six grade levels at the school. Combined, the top winners added almost 3,000 points to the total alone!

The winners were as follows: Rahee Singh (kindergarten), Ander Nordin (first grade), Samantha Hechler (second grade), Aleah Baxley (third grade), Sophia Nguyen (fourth grade) and Hannah Do (fifth grade). In addition, top classrooms for grade levels were awarded with a special prize. These classrooms represented 25 percent of the school total.

Great job to Jennifer Draper's kindergarten, Allyson Killian's first grade, Jennie Jones and her second grade students, the students of MaryAnn Atwood's third grade class, Shelby Rogerson's fourth grade and Jana Rice's fifth grade class! An abundance of sweet Durbinland reading happened in those classrooms!

Accelerated Reading is an incentive program that allows students to earn points for books they read both in and out of school. After reading a book on their level, students take a short comprehension quiz and earn an assigned point value.

A message from the St. Johns River Water Management District...

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During Eastern Daylight Time, **residential lawn watering is limited to two days per week:**

- Homes with ***odd*** number addresses: Wed./Sat.
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- Nonresidential properties: Tues./Fri.

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Mill Creek Elementary School News

By Contributing Writer Wendi Brothers

Angela with her two sons, Brian and Ethan, at the Mother-Son Corn Hole Tournament

At press time, the 2012-2013 school year is quickly approaching the end. The fifth grade was introduced to Pacetti Bay Middle School during a school tour and then all parents were invited to attend the orientation during the evening. The excitement was spilling over as the wide-eyed students looked over the different classrooms they would be going to through out the school day.

"I am sure I will get lost the first day!" exclaimed one student.

"I am sure you won't be alone" was the response from a nearby parent.

The youngest of Mustangs at Mill Creek Elementary enjoyed a field trip to the zoo. This is always well attended by parents as the young students claim this as being their favorite field trip of the year! Second grade had their own adventure into the land of butterflies. The IMAX Theater presented the movie to the students this year with an added twist – popcorn and soda was included! Each day students could be seen in the hallways wearing their class t-shirts as end of the year field trips took place in every grade.

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) will be looking to fill outgoing positions for the next school year. This group typically meets once a month and is made up of parents, teachers and staff. If you would like to take part in SAC please contact the front office and Mrs. Harris can direct you.

Thanks to all the mothers and sons who came out to MCE's first annual mother/son corn hole tournament last Friday! A great time was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Dave and Heather Myroup for all of your planning and hard work. The rain storms required all the games to be moved inside but the turnout was still amazing. This looks to be a fun activity enjoyed at Mill Creek for years to come.

Mill Creek Elementary will have new hours during the summer months. Please check the school website for information regarding the new hours.

Julington "Hats" visit Westminster Woods!

By Contributing Writers Chloe Dresback and Sabrina LaVopa, JCE Students

Party! Let's Party! Take it from the top! Julington Creek Elementary students had a special field trip to Westminster Woods to perform a play about...you guessed it....Hats! Everyone enjoyed the play, but they got the message once lead character, Ima Millner, finally got her special hat. She learned that her hat may be a great work of art, but what counts is what's in your head and your heart.

"It had a terrific moral and it proved its point," declared student Priya Schramm.

Mrs. Baker's second grade class performed both at Westminster Woods and at the school.

Jillian Cote says, "I thought the performance was warm and welcoming and teaches a lot about hats."

The children loved their performance that was directed by Kathe Isabelle, music teacher at JCE. The original plans were to perform at the Relay for Life event but due to heavy rains, the children's performance was canceled.

Sabrina LaVopa explains, "I was disappointed because we didn't get to raise money for cancer awareness. I would have loved to help, but they never set it up again. It was still exciting to perform at the school and Westminster Woods."

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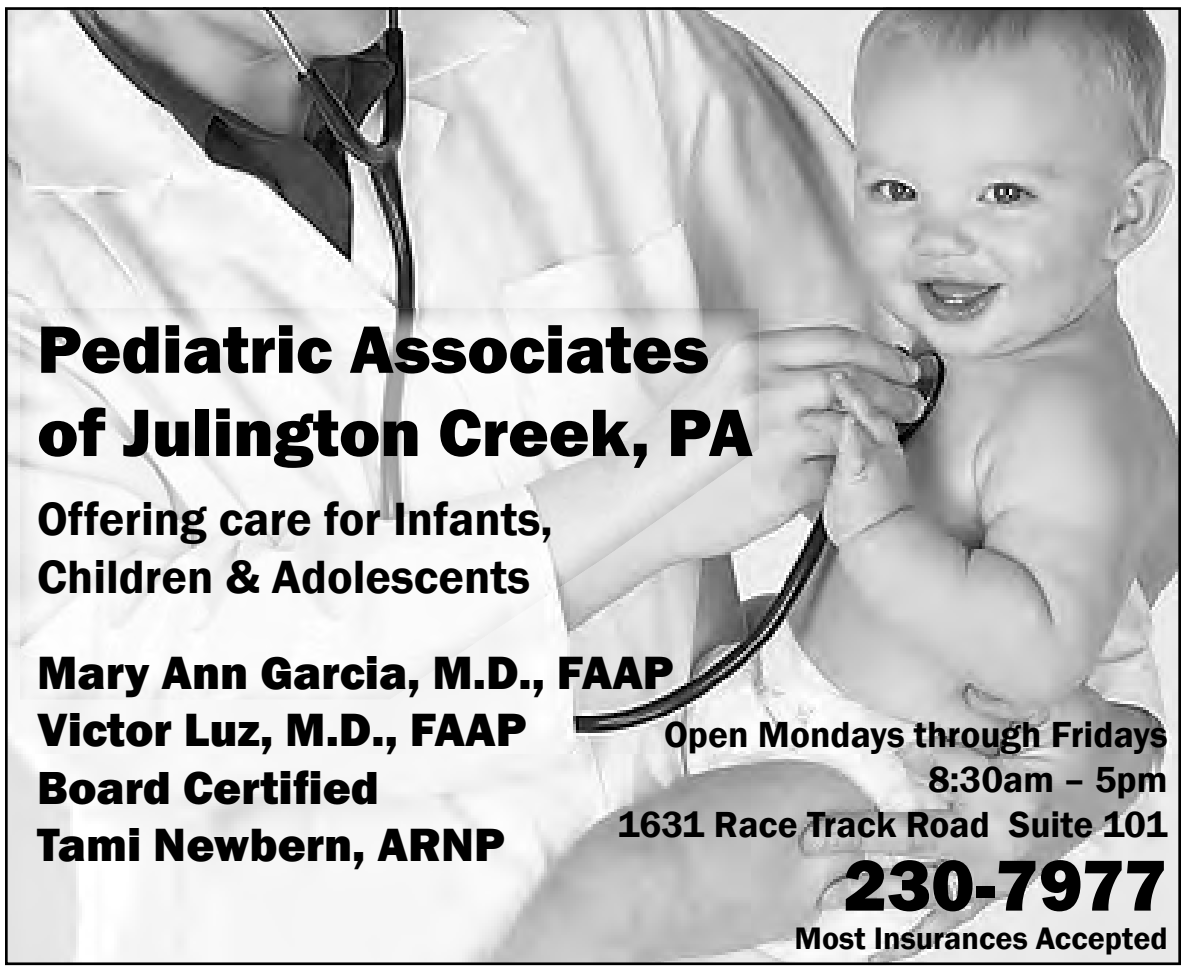
Teen Financial Literacy Series coming soon to library

The St. Johns County Public Library System is teaming up with the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants to offer another installment of the free Teen Financial Literacy Series. A one-day seminar designed specifically for individuals ages 15 to 20 will be held at the Bartram Trail Branch on June 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and the Southeast Branch on June 22 from10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The classes will be taught by the St. Johns River Chapter of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Subjects will include careers, income, spending and budgeting, savings and investing, credit cards, autos and college. The Teen Financial Literacy Series is ideal for recent high school graduates, those starting a first job, students heading off to college or any teen who wants to learn about managing money.

The St. Johns County Public Library System has been offering this successful program annually since 2008 and the program has served as a model for other Florida libraries. Class sizes are limited, so call each branch to register. Lunch will be provided at each location by the Friends of the Library.

For more information, please visit www.sjcpls.org or contact Library Administration at 827-6925.



BTHS Happenings

Parting words of wisdom from Class of 2013

By Kelly Boyer, BTHS Student

The 2012-2013 school year has finally come to a close and many students rejoice as they begin their long-anticipated summer. But many other students have different priorities. For the graduates, a new life begins: college. But before the graduates left their alma mater of BTHS, they let a few "Parting Words of Wisdom" for the rising seniors and underclassmen.

"Just be yourself. Don't waste your time trying to fit in. It's not worth it." – Sydney Ballard, head editor of the Oracle

"High school is a bubble; it's not real life. So please try to graduate." – Sam Lewis, librarian for the Voice of Bartram.

"Stay determined. Everything is going to work out and you have a great future ahead of you." – Olivia Crews, member of ITS Troupe 6174

"Senior year isn't as easy as you think it is, so plan accordingly. There are tons of deadlines, so don't be afraid to invest in a calendar!" – Allison White

"Don't get so caught up in everything that you forget to relax. Have some fun!" – Cathy Ruiz, member of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society

"It's not your ability that show who you are, but your choices." – J.D. Rees, valued member of ITS Troupe 6174

"Join a club. It's fun." – Tyler Hodge, member of the Quill and Scroll Honors Society

"Use quizlet and finish strong!" – Jonathan Niera

"Make good memories. Time will fly by faster than you think." – Daniel Oropeza

"Don't skip. When you start skipping, you'll fall into the habit of it and your grades will suffer." – Daniel Li, member of the Voice of Bartram

"Make the most of it! Get involved with the sports games, the concerts, the action. You'll find yourself in the school spirit and having a ton of fun." – Caitlin Irene, drum major for the Spirit of Bartram

"People usually say you won't talk to your high school friends after 10 years. But it's up to you to keep those relationships strong because it's possible and it's totally worth it. So go out there and prove them wrong!" – Lainey Edens, valued member of ITS Troupe 6174

And that's the latest from the Home of the Bears! Students, enjoy your hard-earned summer and have a great Bartram Trail day!

Encore! Happy 25th Birthday, JCA

By Betty Swenson Bergmark, Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville University

Some exciting things are happening at the JCA in celebration of its 25th birthday! The occasion is being recognized by a year of special programming to commemorate its contribution to the community. Most of the events are open to the general public, many at no charge. In April the time capsule buried at its inauguration in 1988 was unearthed and in May a new time capsule was buried. It will be unearthed in 2038! From its inception, the intention of the founders of the JCA was to create a secular centre that would serve the whole community. There are now more than 2400 memberships representing a broad spectrum of the community.

As one drives by the facility on San Jose Boulevard, it seems as though the parking lot is always jam packed. One wonders if all these people can be participating in the exercise programs for which it is recognized. Then one notices the red electric sign that can be seen from the road and which flashes information about current events and one realizes that the JCA offers a wide range of activities of interest to a broad segment of the community. During the summer months, the main focus of the JCA is the outstanding summer camp for young people, but there is still much for us all to enjoy.

For instance, the Vandroff Art Gallery features an ever-changing exhibit of art work which one can enjoy when walking to almost any part of the facility. It is currently presenting works by Ted Head. Originally a commercial artist, Head decided in 2001 to try painting again—a change after so many years of pen and ink drawings! The result can be enjoyed in this exhibit.

Thelma Nied, director of Cultural Arts, who has been a prime mover with the JCA since its inception, plans many exciting programs in the concert and film series. These are all open to the public at no cost. As always, there is also an excellent selection of art classes which will continue through the summer. In addition, Sandy Oasis, the director of the Mature Adults programs, will continue offerings as varied as her recent presentations by noted podiatrist Dr. Philip Adler and First Coast weatherman Mike Prangley.

A very special program, "The Day of the Bull: Picasso Style" will be offered in August. It will include a private a bus trip to St. Augustine for a docent-led tour of the Picasso exhibit followed by a Dutch treat lunch at the Columbia restaurant. The exhibit pays tribute to the Spanish roots of St. Augustine with a unique exhibit of works by renowned Spanish artist Pablo Picasso featuring bulls and bullfighters. Reservations are required.

There is just not time nor space to cover all the special offerings; however, for information on all the exciting programs and especially on the birthday events that will resume in the fall, as well as times and costs where applicable, you can call 730-2100 or visit www.jcajax.org.

Happy Birthday JCA!

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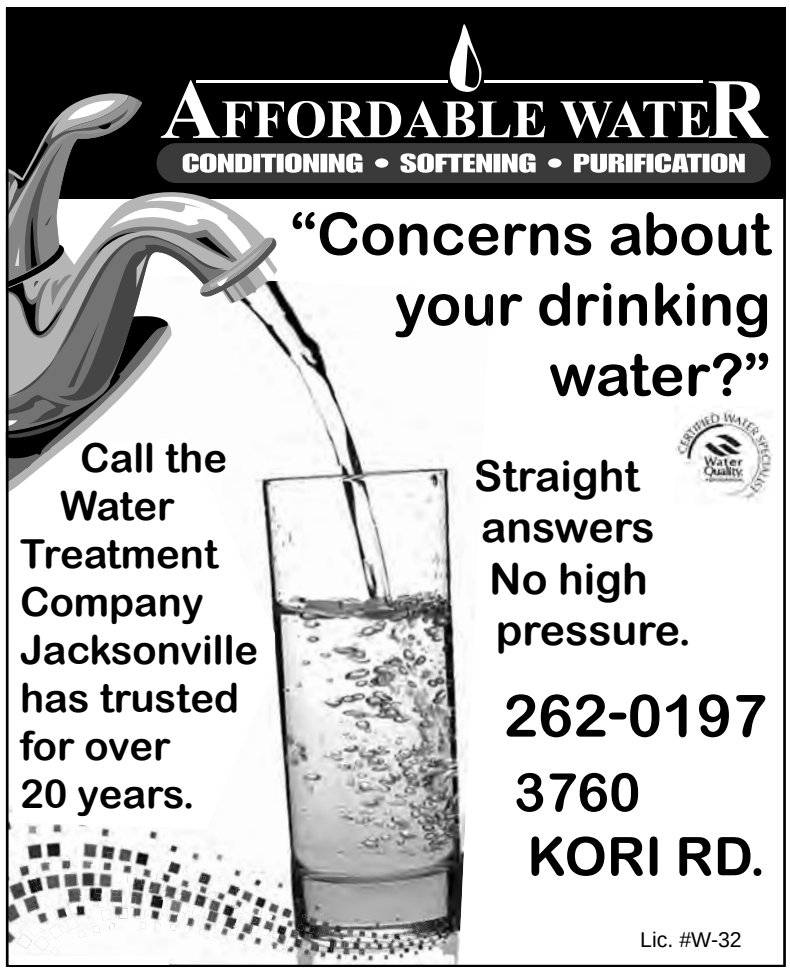

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The good kind of summer reading

By Contributing Writer Devyn Fussman, Intern, Bartram Trail Branch Library

As summer break looms closer, parents may be wondering what in the world they're going to do with their kids for two and a half months. To their delight, there is one place that is free, educational and appeals to all age groups: the library. Even kids who may not be big readers or are too young to read are guaranteed to find something enjoyable to do at their local library. It's amazing how even in the recent wake of declining budgets, the St. Johns County Public Library System (SJCPLS) still manages to fill up their calendar with an impressive span of interesting events, the latest being a team effort with the St. Augustine Garden Clubs to host "Nature Detective Workshops for Kids." Every week there are programs that encompass story times, book discussions, computer classes, arts and crafts, movie matinees, etc.

There are only seven youth librarians in SJCPLS, but they've all been working hard to ensure a successful summer. Most of them have worked for SJCPLS long enough to watch the kids grow up in addition to meeting and getting to know their families.

Lisa Darenberg, the children's librarian at the Bartram Trail Branch, describes a day in the life: "I remember I ran into a few kids at the grocery store and they called out, 'Miss Wisa! Miss Wisa!'"

"When school lets out for the summer, Florida Library Youth Programs (FLYP) kicks into high gear to encourage children, teens and adults to 'Dig Into Reading' with prizes just for reading!" Darenberg says. "Weekly FLYP events are so enthusiastically attended by so many people that the library can't hold them all!"

But while the goal of FLYP may be to get kids to read more, this program offers much more than just books. Every Thursday morning at Switzerland Community Church there are special events ranging from reptiles to magic shows, along with a performance by the Saltwater Cowgirls and an appearance by the Jacksonville Zoo.

The other benefit of these programs is the social opportunities.

Teacher and former library assistant Mary Taylor says, "What happens inevitably is that the moms take the kids to FLYP and then they end up at the library en masse."

The moms can take advantage of adult conversation while the kids get to hang out with their friends.

"Even the adults can get in on the fun," Darenberg comments. "They can write short reviews of what they're reading and enter into free drawings for books and gift cards."

Programs like FLYP help to foster the belief that the library is a cool place, not a boring and restrictive one.

Taylor claims this is a nice change: "I was scared to death of librarians as a kid," she says. "When I was growing up the library was a very somber place. But now I tutor here and check out movies for my family and me. We love it."

More information on events can be found at all branches or on the county website, www.sjcpls.org.

got news?
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FCMS: End of Year!

By Contributing Writer Maddy Ross, FCMS Student

All of the end-of-course-assessments are over! Algebra and Geometry students had their exams May 14 through 16 and on May 21. May 27 was Memorial Day so students got a much needed break after testing. May 28 through June 3 were the final exams for all students. No more tests, hooray! June 4 was the last day of school for students. It's amazing how fast the year has gone by. I know I'm going to miss all my wonderful teachers and the staff at Fruit Cove over the summer. It's been a great year.

Good luck to all our rising sixth graders! Rising sixth grade information can be found on the Fruit Cove website. To welcome these future flyers to FCMS, we held a rising sixth grade dance on May 24. I hope you guys all had loads of fun!

Also on May 24, the eighth grade Celebration Day was held. On May 31, the school held the annual eighth grade formal. For rising high school families, high school PowerPoints, videos and parent guides are available online at the FCMS website. It's going to be sad having the eighth graders not here next year. I've made friendships this year that are going to last a lifetime. See you in high school, guys!

Some exciting new changes were made to the schedule for students at Fruit Cove this upcoming year. Now each student will have three electives instead of two, like this current year. The block scheduling will continue; however, classes will be shortened from 105 minutes to 90 minutes to allow for four class periods each day. Students will have one class they attend every day for 48 minutes. With this new edition, there will be seven classes total for students with three being electives. After semester one, at least one elective will change based on how many full year or half year electives a student chooses. Supply lists for sixth, seventh and eighth graders are available on the school website. Proof of Tdap vaccination is required for all seventh graders. If you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Cindi Tranquellino, at 547-7887.

Current sixth and seventh grade students are selected for Pre-AP courses based on FCAT scores. Students selected for this program will get an invitation letter mailed to them on July 18.

Going out on a good note, the school board approved the FCMS Jazz Band's trip to New York to attend the 2014 New York City Jazz Festival! They were selected as one of 12 middle school bands in the country to perform at the Lincoln Center. This is an amazing accomplishment. A big thank you to Don Isabelle for contributing his time, effort and skill to make our band sound so wonderful. I know he's really proud of his students for achieving this honor. I hope you all came out to the Jazz Band's spaghetti dinner. All proceeds will go towards the New York trip. Anyone who would like to make donations to the Jazz Band's NYC trip may contact Isabelle directly.

Have a great summer everyone!

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Nease honored as a most challenging school

The Washington Post has been ranking "America's Most Challenging Schools" for almost 20 years. Their list is nationally recognized as a benchmark measuring system for schools and was designed to identify schools that have done the best job in persuading average students to take college-level courses and tests.

Allen D. Nease High school was ranked #70 of approximately 22,000 total schools nationwide.

The Post ranks the high schools by college level tests administered, such as the Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) tests. The AP, IB and AICE are important because they give average students a chance to experience the trauma of heavy college reading lists and long, analytical college examinations. The list also considers the percentage of graduates who passed at least one of these tests and the total number of students graduating.

Nease has hovered in the top 1 percent of America's Most Challenging Schools for over seven years. They boast a 90 percent graduation rate with 88 percent of graduates attending four year colleges.

The CreekLine
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We are saddened to report that *The CreekLine's* original "spokesdog," Abby, passed away on May 30, her 14th birthday. Abby was much loved by everyone who knew her and she will be greatly missed.

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Teachers, staff appreciated at Hickory Creek

By Contributing Writer Laurie Argott

In early May, Hickory Creek Elementary School celebrated Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Families showed how much they appreciate all the hard work and extra effort given by the teachers and staff who love and educate their children.

The celebration began with a salad and dessert luncheon sponsored by the PTO. Everyone seemed to take pleasure in building their own salad and tasting the delicious homemade desserts. On the following day, the administration brightened their morning by hosting an appreciation breakfast. A waffle station with an array of toppings was set up for all to enjoy.

Later during the week, the teachers and staff were showered with an assortment of desserts and drinks brought in by families. Volunteers made it easy by collecting donations in the morning during drop-off line. After all the items were collected, they were loaded up on a cart and taken around the entire school so everyone could pick their favorites. Each class in the school gave their teacher a gift card on Friday to help show their appreciation.

The events continued on into the following week. The PTO hosted an offsite luncheon one day after school at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club. During the luncheon, the announcement was made for the winner of a front row parking space. The spot was given away to the teacher whose class brought in the most money to support the activities held during the week. Congratulations to Gigi Lewis for winning.

To add to the festivities, there was a surprise drawing for another front row parking space. It was awarded to Torrey Ford. Six other names were drawn and those winners got to take home a floral center piece. For staff unable to attend the luncheon, box lunches from the club were delivered to them at the school.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the families and to everyone who helped make this a special celebration. Hickory Creek Elementary School teachers and staff are truly appreciated.

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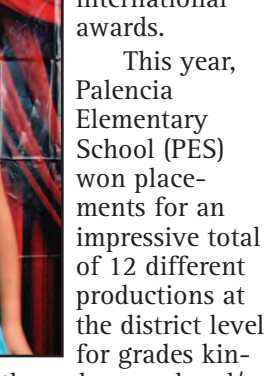

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Palencia students win district Jim Harbin Awards

The Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) created the Jim Harbin Student Media Festival in honor of Jim Harbin, a former consultant with the Florida Department of Education. The festival encourages students in kindergarten through 12th grade to create original student-generated film productions in a variety of categories.

Entries are submitted to the SJCSD district competition and any first place winners are then eligible for further competitions in the State of Florida as well as with the possibility of national and international awards.

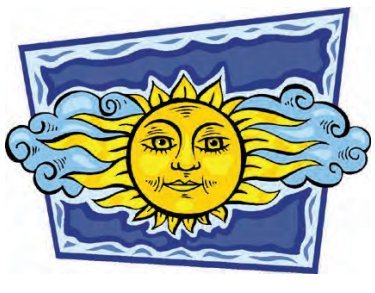
This year, Palencia Elementary School (PES) won placements for an impressive total of 12 different productions at the district level for grades kindergarten through second and/or third through fifth grade. Entries submitted by PES included the categories of: book trailer, comedy, documentary, drama, instructional, music video, public service announcement and news show.

Students were guided this year through the production process by Melanie Tahan, Kristin Harrington and Janine Beaulieu. To highlight the many student productions and their awards, students and their families were invited to celebrate at the PES Film Festival Night.

Summer Solstice

June 21

Longest Day of the Year



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Pacetti Bay Middle School PTSO 2012-2013 school year wrap up

By Contributing Writer Sharon Davis

PTSO celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week May 6 through 10. The week included breakfasts, goodie bags and an appreciation lunch including a gift card raffle. We received outstanding support from PBMS families and community businesses for this event and we thank each of them for their contribution. We are blessed at PBMS to have a wonderful group of teachers and staff and we were happy to be able to show them our appreciation for all they do.

On May 9, PBMS faculty and PTSO welcomed rising fifth graders and their parents for orientation. This was a chance for the future students to learn all about PBMS and the PTSO. Many families took the opportunity to stock up on PBMS spirit wear and join the PTSO. Membership is $15 per family and includes a copy of the school directory. Keep an eye out for more membership information this fall when students return.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch was enjoyed by all!

Congratulations

to the

Class of 2013!

from your friends at

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The second PBMS school musical, *High School Musical,* was presented on May 7. It was an outstanding evening of singing, dancing and acting by the performing arts classes led by Laura Adkison. It was a fun-filled evening enjoyed by a packed auditorium. Bravo to all those who performed and those behind the scenes.

At May's PTSO meeting a new board was voted in. It includes Debbie Adams-President; Kary Zicafoose-Vice President, Fundraising; Nancy Killian-Vice President, Non-Fundraising; Mary Jane Beeson-Treasurer; Deborah Serrahn-Recording Secretary; Alexis McDaniel-Corresponding Secretary; Bev Downs-Parliamentarian; Tracie Wilson- Business Partner Liaison; and Lorrie Contreras/ Barbara Nguyen- Volunteer Coordinators.

The PTSO was privileged to be able to support PBMS in several ways this school year. Projects sponsored by PTSO included a reading improvement plan and new projectors and computers, as well as contributions towards the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. There are still many more ways the PTSO can assist PBMS. If you are interested in helping the PTSO make the upcoming school year as successful as possible, please consider volunteering. Contact Debbie Adams at dadams2@att.net or visit our website at http://www-pbm.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ptso/ for further information.

Have a great summer and see you in August!

Celebrate Viva Florida 500 with visit to Mission San Luis

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

Costumed reenactments and a statue unveiling highlighted Viva Florida 500 celebrations in April. These events commemorated the first European discovery of "La Florida" in 1513 by Juan Ponce de Leon. The glistening new statue of the Spanish explorer stands in the northern parking lot of Guana State Park off State Road A1A, near Ponte Vedra Beach.

Apalachee Guide at Mission San Luis

A redesigned Colonial Quarter in St. Augustine opened in March and now encompasses three centuries of Florida history (www.colonialquarter.com). To accomplish this, the area was broken into four quadrants. The Spanish area includes the 16th century First City, 17th century Fortified Town and 18th century Spanish Garrison Town. The 18th century British area is called The 14th Colony and features a print shop, candle maker and Public House, a pub like restaurant.

Visitors can climb the 35-foot high watchtower earning themselves a fabulous view over the Castillo de San Marcos (fort) and waterfront. The tower is similar to one the earliest settlers would have built for defensive purposes.

Pat Croce, entrepreneur and owner of the Pirate Museum who backed the project, said the area was designed as "Epcot meets Williamsburg; the difference being instead of countries it's centuries." He also said the goal was to allow visitors an opportunity to make memories.

Viva Florida 500 events will continue throughout the year and take place at various locations around the state.

One of those places to explore is Tallahassee. A visit should include the new La Florida interactive displays in the Florida Museum of History—admission is free. In addition, a trip to Mission San Luis will entertainingly educate you on the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. The living history museum, a National Historic Landmark, is reconstructed on its original 63-acre hilltop site and includes native and Spanish guides in period dress, colonial buildings, a museum and archaeological ruins. It is the only Florida mission with living Native American descendants.

I admit my grasp of Florida history doesn't earn the highest marks, but I was surprised to learn that more than 1,400 Apalachee Indians and Spaniards co-existed at this site. San Luis was the Spaniard's westernmost military, religious and administrative headquarters and home of powerful Indian leaders. The settlement's location allowed for easy access to the St. Mark's River, which was used for trading and supply acquisition. Today you can stroll around the central plaza and grasp how it acted as the hub of activity for both communities.

Also tour the church where more than 5,000 Apalachee were baptized and the friary compound. Apalachee rulers asked Spanish friars for help and support when epidemics and the threat of attacks caused them to forgo their tra-

Mission San Luis cont. on pg. 27

Movie Review

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone

Directed by: Don Scardino. Starring: Steve Carrell, Steve Buscemi, Jim Carrey and Olivia Wilde.
Review by T.G. Stanton

Should Have Waited for Cable (2 out of 5)

This month's movie review belongs to the film *The Incredible Burt Wonderstone,* a comedy for adults and teens to enjoy.

Burt Wonderstone and Anton Marvelton, portrayed respectively by Steve Carrell and Steve Buscemi, are headlining Vegas magicians and have been friends since childhood. This friendship and their careers are tested by an up and coming street and internet performer Steve Gray, performed by Jim Carrey. For many years, Wonderstone and Marvelton have wowed crowds; now audiences are older and fewer and technology and street acts are changing the dynamics. One disastrous act and the friends part ways and the act has to find a new direction or sink into oblivion. Through his rise to stardom, the incredible Wonderstone has had his way in many things from the way he lives and the relationships he hones and those he shuns. When the bottom drops out, he finds support from Jane, played by Olivia Wilde, one of the many assistants for his act. Surprises come in many packages and in learning from his past, Wonderstone may just learn to deal with his future.

Vegas and magicians, who knew? Well, obviously, not the director of this film. With this group of comedy actors, Don Scardino should have been able to direct a phenomenally funny movie. This did not happen; the dialogue and jokes were stale and tired. Steve Carrell's character was played as a self-involved womanizer with concern for no one but himself, while Steve Buscemi was a barely visible sidekick—his character and his performance. Jim Carrey's street performer was little more than a self-abusing shockster, who was too obnoxious for his very minimal magical abilities. While Olivia Wilde's character was underplayed, though supportive to Wonderstone's eventual transformation, many other performers were also under-used. All of the acts were far from incredible, yet the ridiculous was in ample supply and all-in-all this was just one of the poorest films this year. Listed as a comedy, but a tragedy would perhaps be a better description.

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CHS Interact Club holds Pinning Ceremony

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

Rotary Interact (commonly called Interact, short for "International Action") is a high school service club founded in 1962 by Rotary International. It is a student-led, non-profit organization in which 239,000 young people ages 14 through 18 currently participate worldwide. These students, referred to as Interactors, comprise over 10,400 clubs in 108 countries and model themselves after Rotary International's motto "Service Above Self" and Four-Way Test:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Rotary International established Interact as its service club program for youth on October 28, 1962 with the intention to not only serve youth but also empower them to serve others as well.

Creekside Interact began in September 2009 and has continued to grow in membership under the leadership of teacher Aletha Dresback. The club now boasts close to 100 student members fulfilling the Rotary motto by serving their school, local and global communities. The 2013 Interact Pinning ceremony was held in the Creekside Auditorium on Monday, April 29 to welcome new members and celebrate an amazing year of service accomplishments.

Mission San Luis cont. from pg. 26

ditional customs and faith. The reconstructed church standing 50 by 110 feet is equal in size to the Basilica in St. Augustine, but seems larger—perhaps because it is sparsely decorated. Every year De Soto's first Christmas Mass is re-enacted here.

A replica of the thatch conical shaped council house can accommodate up to 3,000 people and stands five stories high; however, during the height of the Mission most of the Apalachee lived in the outlaying areas near their fields.

Kids especially enjoy a stop in the recreated Spanish fort with live gunfire demonstrations. The original fort was burned by the Spaniards and Apalachee themselves, as they fled the area from attacking British. Once they left in 1704, they never repopulated their traditional homeland again.

Admission to Mission San Luis is only $5 for adults, $2 for children aged six through 17 and $3 for seniors 65 and over. Military free with ID. www.missionsanluis.org.

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News from Troop 280

By Contributing Writer Gabe Munoz, Troop 280 Scribe First Class

This month, the scouts of Troop 280 have been gearing up to go to summer camp. This year we are going to camp Daniel Boone in the Great Smoky Mountains, which is situated on the foot hills of the infamous Cold Mountain in North Carolina. Camp Daniel Boone offers merit badges courses ranging anywhere from cinematography to wilderness survival and high adventure offerings from white water rafting to 25 mile backpacking treks.

Some of our scouts will spend the week in base camp, where they will take a wide variety of different merit badge classes that they have selected from a list of over 50 merit badge offerings. Some of our scouts will be spending the week in Boonesboro, where they will be transported back in time to live as the American settlers did in the 18th century. There they will get to make their own pocket knives, learn to use lashings and a lot more. We even have some spending the week going white water rafting, rock climbing and trekking on a 25 mile trail through the mountains. In total, there are 47 people from our troop that will be attending this great adventure!

Boy Scout Troop 280 is located in the heart of Julington Creek. The troop was founded in 2009 and is sponsored by River of Life United Methodist Church on Race Track Road. It has grown from an original group of five scouts to well over 50 presently. The Scoutmaster is Brian Miller.

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Jacksonville Ice and Sportsplex is looking for positive and enthusiast employees who are comfortable working with children. Now hiring Birthday Party Hostesses, Skate Guards and DJ's. Skate guards must be strong ice skaters. $8.00 plus tips. Contact Wendy Williams @ 399-3223.

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The Nease IB Junior Class shined through rain and wind to help support The Betty Griffin House, a local abuse shelter touching thousands of families in our community. Over 60 students worked hard to coordinate collecting of funds to provide a new freezer for the shelter facility. Over 30 students showed up to work on a rainy Saturday to provide 320 cubic feet of pine bark to mulch, which they spread at the playground at the facility. They also helped clean the facility and sorted, delivered and stocked donated toiletries and shelf stable foods which they collected to help benefit residents at the shelter. In total more than $2000 were provided to the shelter and more than 300 service hours were performed by IB Students.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary update

United States Coast Guard releases 2012 recreational boating statistics report

The United States Coast Guard released its 2012 Recreational Boating Statistics recently, revealing that boating fatalities that year totaled 651, the lowest number of boating fatalities on record. From 2011 to 2012, deaths in boating-related accidents decreased from 758 to 651, a 14.1 percent decrease; injuries decreased from 3,081 to 3,000, a 2.6 percent reduction; and the total reported recreational boating accidents decreased from 4,588 to 4,515, a 1.6 percent decrease.

The fatality rate for 2012 of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels reflected a 12.9 percent decrease from the previous year's rate of 6.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. Property damage totaled approximately $38 million.

"We're very pleased that casualties are lower and thank our partners for their hard work over the past year," said Capt. Paul Thomas, director of inspections and compliance at United States Coast Guard headquarters. "We will continue to stress the importance of life jacket wear, boating education courses and sober boating."

The report states alcohol use was the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 1.7 percent of the deaths. Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, machinery failure and excessive speed ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Almost 71 percent of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, with 84 percent of those victims not reported as wearing a life jacket. Approximately 14 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received boating safety instruction. The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats, personal watercraft and cabin motorboats.

The Coast Guard reminds all boaters to boat responsibly while on the water: wear a life jacket, take a boating safety course, get a free vessel safety check and avoid alcohol consumption.

To view the 2012 Recreational Boating Statistics, go to http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.aspx.

For more information on boating responsibly, go to http://www.uscgboating.org/.

Captain David's Local Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

Now that summer has arrived, we have reached the time of year that we can expect St. Johns River fishing to really pick up. From downtown Jacksonville to Green Cove Springs, a variety of species of fish will begin to show and make their presence known. Yellowmouth trout, which are now referred to as weakfish, are one of those species you can look forward to catching all summer long.

Yellowmouth trout and weakfish have become one and the same. Whether you are fishing for one or the other in the St. Johns River, you are fishing for the same species of fish. The reason is that it has become too difficult to distinguish the difference between yellowmouth trout and other similar species of trout because of crossbreeding. Thus the yellowmouth trout and the others have all been grouped into a single species of weakfish. With this current categorization, the weakfish (yellowmouth) come with no minimum size limits and a bag limit of 100 pounds per person.

Weakfish have always been great fun to catch for the whole family. Fishing dead bait on a moving tide in about 20 to 25 feet of water or bouncing jigs around bridge pilings can both be productive. Shrimp is usually the bait of choice, but on certain days nothing can beat cut croaker. Any outfit with 10 to 15 pound test line, a one ounce egg sinker and a number 2 worm hook will work to boat the smallest and largest of weakfish.

When cleaning weakfish, put them on ice first. This firms the otherwise soft meat, making them easier to filet and skin. The filets can be kept fresh if covered with water then frozen solid. They can be cooked any number of ways, but lightly battered and deep fried is always a favorite.

If fishing for weakfish or any other species of fish, always check the fishing regulations for the area you are fishing. Fishing regulations can vary greatly throughout the state. In Nassau County there is a 12 inch minimum size with a limit of one fish per person for.....weakfish.

Fishing Report: Look for croakers and weakfish at channel markers and deeper holes in the river. Reds on docks and largemouths in creeks.

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

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BTHS Sports Roundup

A Year in Review

By Megan Grant

As the end of the school year has arrived, bittersweet feelings fill the air with seniors bidding their goodbyes and underclassmen anxious for the summer break ahead. Looking back on the 2012-2013 school year, the athletics at Bartram Trail have a great deal to show for their hard work and determination.

Some of these achievements include boys' basketball and girls' tennis finishing as district champions; girls' basketball and volleyball reaching the final four; boys' and girls' weightlifting and boys' and girls' golf advancing to states; girls' track finishing as sixth in the state; cheerleading finishing as third in the state; girls' lacrosse finishing as state runners up; and finally boys' track dominating as back-to-back first place state champions.

The girls' lacrosse team made a particular accomplishment this season, creating history not only for the Bears, but also for all of North Florida. They became the first North Florida lacrosse team (boys' or girls') to make it all the way to the state championship game. Although there were a few bumps in the road on the way up, the girls were unstoppable in the end from reaching their goal.

They had a tough season of games, playing mostly out of region teams from South Florida. Their teamwork was tested, along with their true desire to win. The loses they incurred brought them closer together and prepared them for the play off games that they so proudly won. While they may not have won the state championship game, second place just gives these strong-willed Bears more motivation to get that win next season.

Bartram Trail High School, as a whole, has won the Saint Johns River Athletic Conference title this year for the fifth time out of the seven years it has been presented. Points that are added up from wins at conference tournaments throughout the school year determine the winner of this award. As seen from the spirit-filled teams of black and blue that fill the stadiums, fields, courses, pools and courts at Bartram, successes are deservedly earned in return.

Much should be expected from the Bears of the 2013-2014 class, as we wait for the next school year to arrive. School may be out, but the work never stops! Until next time, Go Bears!

Nease Sports Roundup

By Elena Castello, Nease Student

School has ended, which means different things for the athletes at Nease. For some, a break from the rigors of training will be much appreciated; for others, summer brings time for extra training and skill development, as well as time for tournaments and other competitions. During the entire year, Nease has seen victories in all sports: on the court, on the field, on the track and in the water. Through setbacks, trials and tough competitors, the student-athletes have pushed themselves hard to be the best they can be.

Nease has seen the second fastest male in the nation, Ceolamar Ways, and over 15 seniors have signed with colleges to continue their dreams in their sport. Although we will all miss the seniors, the rising class has big shoes to fill and much responsibility. The rising seniors will be the new leaders of the school and role models of the younger students. Finally, even though during the seasons some athletes were injured or faced personal challenges, they all were determined to the end to reach their goals and make it to victory.

The Nease Panthers football team had their spring game, against Yulee High School, in which varsity plays the first three quarters, and then junior varsity plays the last quarter. For the varsity players, the game went to Yulee with a close score of 14-10. Junior varsity tied 7-7. The Panthers are ready, though, to make this a fantastic season and are ready to go for the fall.

This summer will allow the Nease athletes a time to relax and recover from the 2012-2013 school year and get ready again for their next season!

Creekside's Running of the Knights a big success

By Contributing Writer Deborah McKernan, Creekside High School Athletic Booster Club

On Friday evening, May 10, Creekside High School hosted their third annual fundraiser, "The Running of the Knights." The school's staff, coaches, student athletes, families, friends and members of the community, totaling more than 500 people young and older alike came out to support this year's race. The largest number of participants to date and most successful yet offered runners several different race options such as the 5K, one mile fun run or as a member of one of the nine centipede groups. The proceeds from this event will be used for baseball/softball/tennis and stadium enhancements as well as help with swim facility fees, field maintenance and the purchase of a band equipment trailer.

Awards for the fastest centipede went to Ray's Fiesta and Most School Spirit was Synchroknitzed Swimmer. The top overall male finisher was CHS senior Al Gubitz with a time of 17.09. The top overall female finisher was CHS alumnus Maggie Booher with a time of 21.31. Complete race results can be found at www.runningofthek-nights.com.

A special thank you for the generous financial support of community business sponsors: Jacksonville Running Company; The Center for Health and Sports Management, Dr. Ross Osborn; Dream Finder Homes; Law Offices of Anne Marie Gennusa; Law Offices of Beller and Bustamante; Occupational and Rehabilitation Center, Dr. Jackson Tan; Test Prep for Success, Ralf Ingwersen; Tuffy's Auto Service Center (Julington Creek); Blackstone Grille; Family Resource Connection; D.S. Ware Homes; Dennis Homes; Sun Tire (Julington Creek); Firehouse Subs (State Road13); and Pinnacle Physical Therapy.

A special thank you also for the support of the following business sponsors and people who donated their services, products, time, and talents: The Vivid Agency; Ultimate Racing, Inc.; Crown Trophy; Chris Navarro; Panera Bread (The Shoppes of Bartram Park); Marsha Jagemann; The UPS Store (Julington Village); Hawaiian Snoasis; Brucci's Pizza (State Road 13); Evans Rowing Company; Publix; Premier Designs (Linda Nelson); Laura VanCleave Graphic Design; Lisa Sophia Jewelry (Stephanie Hall); Danielle Walker Photography; Camille's Creations (Camille Lastrapes); James Scribner; CKABC Apparel; Wearworks, Inc.; Body by Vi (Jeanne Goldman); Atlas Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine; Ambrosia Designs (AnnDee Beckerman); U.S. Army; Focus Real Estate Group (Mike Williamson); U.S. Marines; Shape Your Nutrition (Virginia Smith); U.S. Navy; Fun and Fit; LLC Daily's; Yofrodipity; Williams Athletics; RPM Automotive; and REMAX Specialists (Gina Betbeze).

This event could not have taken place without the time, dedication, energy and talents of the Running of the Knights planning committee: Michelle Clark and Susanna Vance co-chairs, Anne Marie Gennusa, Stephanie Collins, Heidi Hess, Laura VanCleave, Maria Petow, Jennifer Bias, Kerri Murphy, Phyllis Guthrie, Luke Guthrie, Hunter Clary, McKayla D'Ingianni, Owen Shott (Jacksonville Running Company), Susan Wyatt, Guy Harris and Tina Northcut.

A huge thank you also to each and every participant, the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club and the Creekside Band Boosters for their enthusiastic support!

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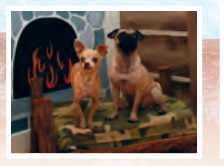
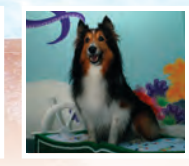

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Faith News

River of Life UMC will host a blood drive on Sunday, June 23, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the church, located at 2600 Racetrack Road in St. Johns. For additional information, please contact Dale Upchurch at 477-1579 or register online at www.igiveblood.com.

If you ever spent time in the **Catskills,** you know that those memories stay with you forever. Believe it or not, there are many people in Northeast Florida who have a Catskills' connection. Some grew up in this unique New York state area, others vacationed or worked in the famed hotels or bungalow colonies, still others attended summer camp in one of 50 small hamlets. Are you connected to the Catskills? If so, please contact us so we can let you know of our upcoming activities. A nostalgic program is in the works and volunteers are needed. To be placed on the mailing list or serve as a volunteer for the next program, please contact Mimi Kaufman at 880-4014 or Isabel Balotin at catskillgal@comcast.net or join us on Facebook: "I had the time of my life in the Catskills."

Daily Bread Food Pantry is now open at Mandarin Presbyterian Church every Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The pantry aims to service neighbors in the 32223, 32257, 32258 and 32259 zip codes. Families may visit the pantry once every two weeks. No one will be turned away on their first visit, but thereafter you must have evidence of your current address. Mandarin Presbyterian Church is located at 12001 Mandarin Road.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversations about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. The discussion topics in June are: June 11 and 12: "Prayer" – could a conversation with God change your life?; June 18 and 19: "How to Stop Doing What You Hate" – The power of the subconscious mind explored; June 25 and 26: "Imperfect Parents: Making peace and moving on;" July 2 and 3: "When He Becomes She" – A transgender's journey will be shared. Come join the conversations. Lifetree Cafe is held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. at Mandarin Senior Center (limited to those over age 60) and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church (open to everyone). For additional information, please contact George Treiber at 731-0731. Admission is free. Check us out at www.LTCHopeJAX.com

For three years the **Jacksonville Jewish Center** has been involved with Operation Isaiah, because one in six people suffer from hunger and one in four children do not know where their next meal is coming from. The next time you go to the grocery store and see the "Buy One Get One" items, please pick them up and bring one of them to the Center, located at 6332 Crown Point Road and drop them off in the carts in the front lobby. Every can or package of food will serve a person one meal. All foods are delivered weekly to the Jewish Family and Community Services Pantry. By everyone pitching in, perhaps we can wipe out hunger in our own community.

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New bus routes

The St. Johns County School District's (SJCSD) bus routes for the 2013-2014 school year were approved by the School Board at its meeting on May 14.

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

"By providing this information prior to the end of school, parents and caregivers are better able to plan and prepare," said SJCSD Director of Transportation Joe Purvis.

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

The Transportation Department will operate 166 bus routes and be transporting approximately 19,350 children twice a day when school starts on Monday, August 19.

For additional questions or information, call the Transportation Department at 547-7810.

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Purposeful Parenting

Staycation

By Allie Olsen

I tell the children they can choose to have fun no matter where they are. Art projects, sprinklers in the backyard, lemonade stands and reading can easily fill most days. When you must get out of the house, there are countless options within 30 minutes of home! Summer vacation can be amazing without leaving town.

This would be much harder if we lived in, say, the desert of Nevada. But, really, we have a huge advantage living on the First Coast! On my blog, www.SimplyStAugustine.com, I'm posting "31 Days of Summer" where I share free and inexpensive things to do in St. Augustine and nearby. I'll share some of my favorite discoveries here; for more join me online!

Picasso: Art and Arena. I just learned that the Picasso exhibit at the Visitor's Center in downtown St. Augustine offers free admission for St. Johns County students (bring ID if you have one)! Families from Duval County and other areas can all see Picasso's work firsthand for a group price of $20. This will be most students' first encounter with fine art—take advantage of it being in our own backyard.

Lightner Museum: Free for St. Johns County Residents. Lightner Museum is sometimes called The Smithsonian of the South. The fun, quirky collection is transformed into an attraction that can hold children's attention with the help of their scavenger hunt. You'll look for a shrunken head, snow owl, a unique stein and other antiques that the kids could otherwise walk right by.

Alpine Groves Park: So you've probably been to Alpine Groves by now. But in case you need a reminder, here it is: Go to Alpine Groves! Park in the first lot and enjoy the meandering walk back to the river to make a morning of it. Don't forget a picnic lunch—there's nothing nearby to buy a quick lunch—and please remember bug spray! Frisbees, bubbles, binoculars and Florida's Fabulous Birds or Florida's Fabulous Trees books are optional but highly recommended.

You could fill two or three summers enjoying all St. Augustine and Jacksonville have to offer. Our family made a long list of everything the kids want to do, from beach dates with family to cotton candy making and sleepover dates with friends and even some unique opportunities to serve others as a family. Peppered in there are attractions the kids really want to see; I hope to make a lot of memories here at home without blowing the budget!

Have a fun, safe and happy summer!

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editor@thecreekline.com

Jehovah's Witnesses invite all to attend "God's Word is Truth!" convention

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Jacksonville area are making plans to attend their annual convention. The "2013" theme of the convention is "God's Word is Truth!" In addition to other conventions being held around the earth, there will be one held at the Veterans Memorial Arena on July 5 through 7, each day beginning at 9:30 a.m. Jehovah's Witnesses recognize the value in the family arrangement and this year's theme draws attention to a core family value for each of us. The Bible is valued as a trustworthy guide and it provides sound advice that each member can apply in these troubled times. All those who attend this convention will benefit from the scriptural encouragement that will be given.

The program will include a talk entitled "What is Truth?" This talk will examine why we can trust God's Word, the Bible. There will also be presented two dramatic plays, which will bring Bible stories and their lessons to life. In addition, new resources will be provided that will aid individuals and families in their personal Bible study, which is a priority for Jehovah's Witnesses.

The public is welcome. There is no admission fee and no collection plates are passed. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations. An estimated 11,000 attendees are expected to attend each day to hear the Bible-based programs. Although the program begins on Friday, delegates will gather on Thursday, July 4, to thoroughly clean and make minor repairs to the facility in preparation for what is viewed as a most sacred event. The pre-event "work day" was attended to by over 600 volunteers last year with a similar number expected this year.

Worldwide, there are over 7,782,000 Witnesses in more than 111,000 congregations, each eagerly anticipating this convention in their area. Additional information can be found on the Witnesses' official website: jw.org.

Sports in Brief

Villages Football Association (VFA) is currently accepting registrations for our fall tackle football and cheerleading season. VFA is a member of the St Johns River Youth Football Conference, a United Youth Football affiliate. We offer age based, unlimited weight football where "Everyone Plays!" We also have a national award-winning cheer program. Hurry, space is limited! To register or for more information, please visit vfapanthers.org or contact info@vfapanthers.org.

Creekside High School announces its **girls' lacrosse camp**, to be held Monday through Thursday, July 15 through 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. each day. Girls in first through ninth grade of all experience levels are invited to attend! The cost of the camp is $60 if registered by June 15 or $70 after June 15. The camp will be held at Creekside High School, in the practice fields behind the school, past the stadium. For more information, please contact Amy Purcell at creeksidegirlslacrosse@gmail.com or 410-905-7643 or Jeff Greenert at jeffgreenert@gmail.com or 861-4503.

Switzerland Point Middle School will soon be hosting its annual **summer basketball camp** for boys and girls ages six through 14. The camp will have three one-week sessions: June 10 through 13, July 29 through August 1 and August 5 through 8. This is a fun-filled camp where "Teaching Never Stops." Don't be left out of this year's camp because the camp fills up fast. Please check your child's school for a brochure or visit Coach Terrance Singleton's website at Switzerland Point Middle School. For questions, please contact Coach Singleton at singlet@stjohns.k12.fl.us or 287-2626 or 547-8650. Also, the camp is seeking donations or prizes for the students. (For example, gift certificates, t-shirts, coupons, drinks or candy). If any area business would like to contribute, it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!

The Knights Dancers and professional dancer and choreographer Coach Nelson-Armstrong invite you to the second annual **Knights Dance Camp**, to be held July 29 through August 1, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Creekside High School. Participants will learn dance skills based on their ability while having heaps of fun! Knights Dance Camp caters to dancers of all levels. Parents will be invited to a dance Showcase on the fourth day of the camp and all campers are invited to dance with the Knights Dancers at a varsity football game this fall! The cost of the camp is $95; please visit www-cshs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ or contact the school at 547-7300.

Creekside High School will be hosting their fifth annual **girls' volleyball camp** from July 8 through 11, from 9:00 a.m. until12:00 noon. The camp is for rising fifth through ninth grade girls and the cost is $85. Forms can be found online at http://blogs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/athletics/summercamps.

Upward Flag Football and Cheer is coming soon!

Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading is registering participants for the fall season at Fruit Cove Baptist. The co-ed league is for children in grades one through eight (entering fall 2013); Cheerleading is for children in grades K-5 through fifth grade (fall 2013). Flag football players are grouped by grade levels and equal playing time in a positive environment is offered to all.

Football evaluations, uniform sizing, practices and games will be at the Fruit Cove Baptist ball field at the back of the Fruit Cove campus, located at 501 State Road 13 (behind the church parking lot). Jerseys, shorts, flags and belts and other items are included in the $80 fee; after July 21, the cost is $90. Cheer top, skorts, pom poms and megaphone are provided for cheerleaders.

Orientation/evaluation/sizing (attend any one event) will be held on Thursday, August 8 (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), Saturday, August 10 (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or Monday, August 12 (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.). Cheerleading sizing will be at the same times in Building B. Have your player wear a T-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes (cleats are even better for football). Practices are early evenings, usually Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, beginning on September 9. Games are on Saturdays, from October 5 through November 23. Each team has a one-hour practice per week and a one-hour game per week.

Register and pay securely online at www.fruitcove.com/sports.php starting July 1. Payments by cash or check are also options; scholarships are possible. You must have your child registered, evaluated and paid for by August 12 to secure a spot on a team.

Please contact Lisa Sheffield at 287-0996 x6872 or via email at lsheffield@fruitcove.com with any questions.

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Participants may not be engaged in business related in any way to the housing industry (i.e. financing, insurance, realtors, landlords, leasing & sales agents, property managers, builders, architects, developers, etc.).

Applicants accepted into the program will work on an "on call" basis according to our needs and your schedule. Participants will be compensated for each assignment. There are no set hours or days, so you work when you have spare time.

To Register, or get additional information, please contact Katherine Hanson, Fair Housing Testing Coordinator, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. @ (904)356-8371 Ext. 370 or Katherine.Hanson@jaxlegalaid.org.

If you are a qualified individual with a disability, you can request a reasonable accommodation/auxiliary aid to participate in this event, at no charge to you, by contacting the JALA ADA Coordinator at 904-353-1320 V/ TTY or 904-245-1121 Video Phone with a minimum of 5 business days notice prior to the event. The ADA coordinator has no information as to this event; please do not call the JALA ADA Coordinator for event specific information.

The next Tester Training is Friday, June 28, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m. at the St. Johns County Main Library – 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to become a tester, make some extra $ and help your community at the same time.

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JCE second grade students learn about sea turtles

Contributed by Ingrid Jones, Julington Creek Elementary School

As part of Earth Day Awareness week, second grade classes at Julington Creek Elementary School recently welcomed Dan Evans from the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) in Gainesville to our school. Evans serves as the technology and research specialist and sea turtle grants program administrator for the Conservancy. He is responsible for STC's educational activities, public presentations, organizing volunteers to help with STC's sea turtle monitoring research programs and is the principal investigator on STC's sea turtle tracking research program.

Some of the second grade classes have "adopted" a sea turtle through the Sea Turtle Conservancy. These sea turtles and others have been rescued and then released with a harmless transmitter attached to their shell. This allows students to go online and be able to track the journey of their sea turtles as they travel the ocean waters. Students keep written records of the number of miles traveled, directions taken and locations of their sea turtles as they swim from place to place. Sea turtle tracking provides students an opportunity for learning about aspects of ecology, science, mathematics, geography, map skills and much more. Evans is closely involved with rescuing and releasing some of these sea turtles and was able to provide a great deal of fascinating information to help students understand how to preserve and protect this endangered species.

Dorothy Kirby, second grade teacher at JCE, along with student Ashlee Stanaback visit with Dan Evans from the Sea Turtle Conservancy in Gainesville.

Loggerheads start season with record-breaking swims

By Contributing Writer Lorraine Herreros

JCLA Loggerhead Aquatics swimmers are breaking long course team records at a record pace this spring. In just the first two long course meets of the season, Loggerheads set an awesome 15 new team records. With this amazing start, the Loggerheads' 2013 long course season promises to be their most successful yet!

Two top times were surpassed in the 13-14 age group. Ben Aufdenberg is the new team record holder in the 13-14 boys 50 meter freestyle and the 13-14 girls 200 meter IM record now belongs to Lauren Trummel.

There were five Loggerhead swimmers in the 11-12 age group who smashed the previous team records. Megan Arnold set five and Michael Morton set four new JCLA records with their incredible performances: Arnold in the 400 freestyle, 200 breaststroke, 200 butterfly and 200 and 400 meter individual medleys and Morton in the 200 backstroke, and 100, 200 and 400 meter freestyle events. Tatiana Brown turned in two top swims making her the new record holder in the 50 and 100 meter breaststroke. Summer Stanfield raced to a record time in the 100 meter butterfly and Abbey Ellis shattered the JCLA record in the 200 meter backstroke.

One new record was set in the 9-10 age group. Anna Moore's speedy swim in the 100 meter backstroke eclipsed the previous top time for Loggerhead 9-10 girls. Congratulations to all JCLA record breakers!

In addition to this record-breaking news, at these first two long course meets, Loggerhead swimmers made 41 new "cuts," which qualify them for the Florida Age Group (FLAGs) or senior championship meets in July. Age groupers whose times qualified include Tatiana Brown, Anna Gapinski, Anna Moore, Summer Stanfield, David Gapinski, Ethan Howell, Michael Morton, Robbie Rait, John Ryan, Carter Strickland, Nicky Tayag and Isaiah Thompson. Senior swimmers with new qualifying times are Dani Gordon, Ben Aufdenberg and Phillip Stevens. Way to go, Loggerheads!

The U-11 Creeks Clash White team victory at the recent Bazooka Tournament was hard fought and well deserved. Clash tied two games and won a third securing the team's place in the championship game. Following 60 minutes of regulation time and 10 minutes of overtime, the score was tied 1-1 forcing the teams to go to penalty kicks. In a dramatic finish, the team's determination and desire for the gold prevailed. The Clash goalkeeper was able to save a kick and all five Clash kickers were able to convert for a narrow 5-4 championship win. Congratulations to Callie Beyer, Katelyn Crici, Cassie Duez, Amanda Gervais, Ashley Hagadorn, Amber Librizzi, Abby McKnight, Jessica Parker, Katie Scott, Halia Smithley, Hannah Zona, Coach Mike Holzemer and Assistant Coach Michelle Holzemer.

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St. Johns 4-H youth compete at districts

Submitted by Geralyn Sachs, 4-H Agent

St. Johns County 4-H members competing at districts.

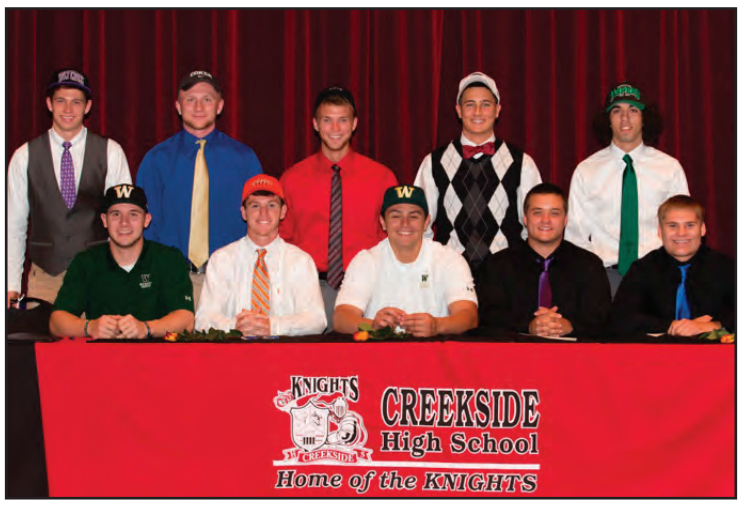
Over 50 4-H youth from six counties gathered at West Nassau High School in Callahan Florida on Saturday, April 27 for 4-H District VI Events Day. This annual event brings 4-H members ages eight through 18 who qualify at the county level to compete at the district level in Public Speaking, Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks and Share the Fun talent performances. District VI includes youth from St. Johns County, Duval County, Nassau County, Clay County, Putnam County and Flagler County.

4-H Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks are a "show and tell" presentation in a specific 4-H project area that use posters and visual aids to communicate the presentation's content. St. Johns County 4-H members who presented a 4-H demonstrations/illustrated talk at the District level were Kenzee Brown with "Goat Breeds and Feeds," Emmalani Peterson with "Titanaboa: The Monster Snake," Miguel Bermeo and A. J. Kulpa on "How to Assemble an Aquarium," Gretchen Bradley with "Table Setting and Manners," Robert Wibbing demonstrated "How to Present a Photograph," Ashley Wibbing on the "Butterfly," Jared Smith demonstrated all about "Potatoes" and Amira Kennedy and Delany Bolton presented "A Rose of Many Colors." Kennedy, Bolton and Wibbing will represent St. Johns County when they compete with their demonstrations at the state level this July in 4-H State Congress at the University of Florida.

The 4-H Public Speaking project provides youth with the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills to prepare and present public presentations. Youth also develop improved intrapersonal communication skills (speaking, writing or listening) and demonstrate creative ways to communicate ideas and information. Youth competing with speeches at the district level included Corey Banks' speech "I'm Learning Here," Javier Bermeo with "Aquariums" and Jeremy Smith's "History of 4-H." Senior members Laura Bradley with "Fatherless to First Lady" and Abby Kulpa with "What 4-H Has Taught Me" will represent District VI at the state 4-H Public Speaking competition this July in Gainesville's 4-H State Congress at the University of Florida.

The 4-H Share the Fun Program is designed to help 4-H members discover their talents, develop them and have opportunities to share those gifts with others. It is part of the 4-H recreation program and is conducted at county, district, and state levels. The objective of the Share-the-Fun program is to enhance the following areas: appreciation of talent, leadership, confidence, interest in special training and the ability to discover opportunities for wholesome recreation. St. Johns County 4-H youth who participated in district competition included Felicity Bland and Jenna Pearrow with their vocal act "Two Voices" and Anthony Bland's performance on the piano "Minecraft Music."

Enrollment in the 4-H Youth Development Program takes place each September and is for youth ages five through 18, as of September 1. Anyone interested in enrolling in the St. Johns County 4-H program for the 2013-2014 4-H year may do so by going to http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H.shtml to enroll online after September 1. Caring adults interested is working with youth should contact the St. Johns County 4-H Office to learn of the many volunteer opportunities with in the 4-H Youth Development Program.



Ten Creekside athletes signed their National Letters of Intent on Wednesday May 1, 2013 at a celebration with family and friends in attendance: Shane Carpenter (wrestling, Coker); All American Nick Eccher (lacrosse, Holy Cross); Cody Etze (football, Webber International); Michael Gray (football, Mercer); Academic All American Ryan Jennis (lacrosse, Florida Tech); All American Kevin McKernan (lacrosse, Florida Tech) Gian Noto (lacrosse, Manhattan); Ty Patterson (football, Mill Saps); Glenn Richards (football, Webber) and Adam Sandin (football, Berry). Creekside High school also honored two 2012-13 individual state champs: Meghan Haila (swimming) and Shane Carpenter (wrestling).

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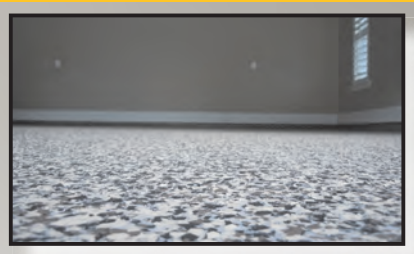

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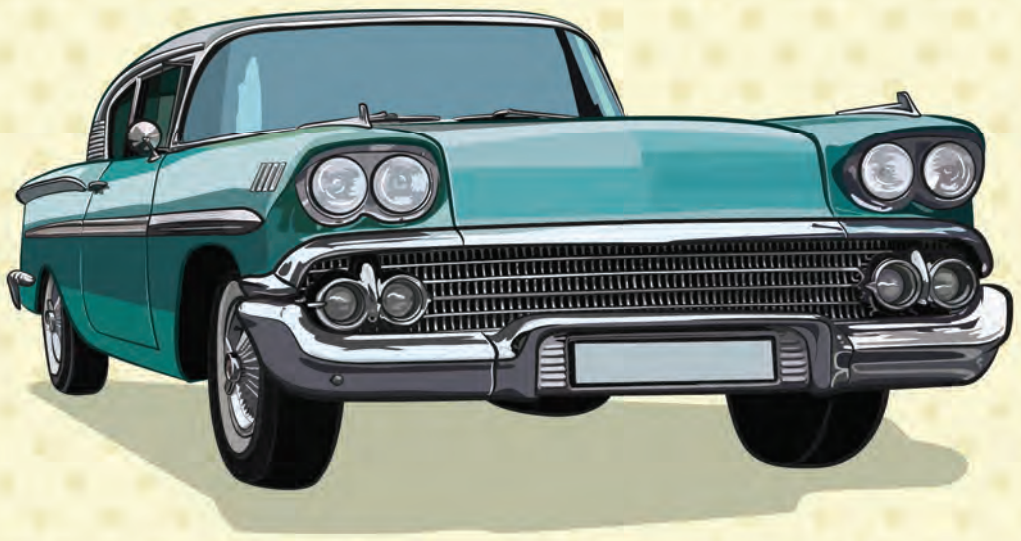

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