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Help Citizens with Disabilities campaign

Knights of Columbus deliver donations

By Karl Kennell

Fab Durnin, Kristoffer Francisco and Curt Baker

On June 30, the Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council at San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church presented donations from the Help Citizens with Disabilities campaign. During the social affair, Grand Knight Fab Durnin along with Deputy Grand Knight Curt Baker presented Morning Star School a check for $2,100 and DOSA Camps (Camp I am Special and Camp Promise) was also sent a check for $2,100.

The Knights of Columbus thank you for stepping up to those fellows clutching vivid yellow milk jugs and outfitted in bright yellow vests emblazoned with "Help the Disabled" outside of your favorite grocery store each year. This would not be possible without you! One hundred percent of the dollar or two you put into those milk jugs goes to help those with intellectual disabilities, particularly children.

Kristoffer Francisco, director of development, received the donation for Morning Star School. The school is a special education school of the Diocese of St. Augustine. At Morning Star School, children with mental disabilities are given a meaningful educational experience. These learning-challenged students reap the benefits of an atmosphere of values, nurturing love, personal development and creativity. Judging from the looks upon the faces of the students, they have discovered a joy in learning.

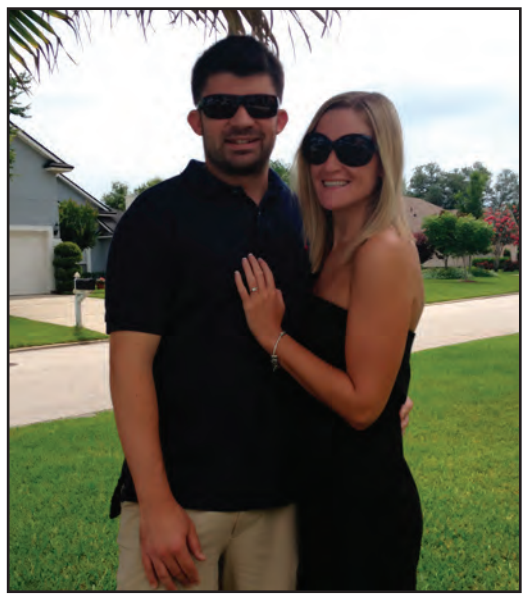
DOSA Camps is part of the ministry for persons with disabilities of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Camp I am Special and Camp Promise are particularly of interest to Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council as children of several of the Knights have attended the camps. The camps are held each summer at Marywood Retreat in the Switzerland neighborhood.

So when you see them in their bright yellow vests, please stop and drop a donation into the yellow jug. It all goes to help a local good cause.

Each coaches local high school

Lacrosse coaches engaged

By Donna Keathley



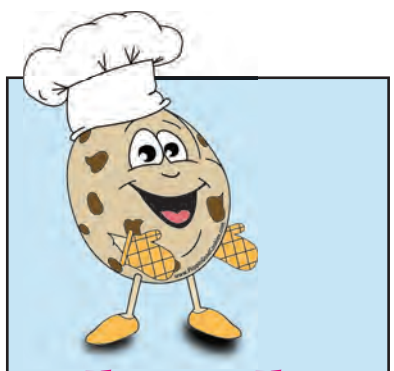
John Jackowiak and Megan Fanning

It was meant to be, but Megan Fanning and John Jackowiak had to both move to Jacksonville to make it happen.

Fanning and Jackowiak had played lacrosse all of their lives, as they both grew up in the Northeast. Jackowiak went to Drexel via a lacrosse scholarship and Fanning went to Marist College with a scholarship as well. Unfortunately, Fanning had to drop out and go home her freshman year due to illness, but when she returned to good health she went to Hofstra University on Long Island. There she played on the Women's Club team, where she served as captain both her junior and senior years.

Beginning her sophomore year, Fanning began coaching middle school teams and found she loved it. Upon graduation, she moved to Jacksonville Beach and substitute taught in Duval County schools. She landed an assistant varsity lacrosse coaching job at Ponte Vedra High School the first year it opened which was 2007. In 2011, she landed a full time teaching job at Bartram Trail High School and coached for two years as an assistant coach for their girls' lacrosse team. In 2012, she was promoted to head coach and took the team to the state finals for their first time.

Lacrosse coaches cont. on pg. 13



Wanna Win Some cookies?

Turn to page 7 to find out how!

SERTOMA Walk to Talk to help kids with Childhood Apraxia find their voices

By Karl Kennell

Jason and parents.

On Saturday, October 19, St. Augustine SERTOMA will be hosting a first-ever event they are calling "Walk to Talk on the Beach for Apraxia" It is being held in conjunction with the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA).

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a severe neurological motor planning speech disorder that affects a child's ability to clearly and correctly produce sounds, syllables and words. The most obvious thing that others notice is that the child has significantly limited or unclear speech. So, while children with Apraxia understand language and know what they want to say, they are unable to translate those thoughts into speech that is consistently understood by others. Basically, kids affected with it have a neurological roadblock that prevents the brain from communicating with their mouth.

"Imagine having so much to say but the words won't come out," is how event coordinator Melba Nolan described the effects of the disorder. Nolan has been a member of the SERTOMA club for 15 years and has dealt with and helped many kids and families with a variety of medical conditions; however, this event to help kids with CAS has become personal.

When her great grandson, Jason, was a little over the age of two, he was evaluated as having CAS. So she has a vested emotional interest in seeing that the greatest number of volunteers come

Childhood Apraxia cont. on pg. 18

What's Inside

Page 3 What's New
Page 4 From the Commissioner
Page 5 School District Journal
Page 6 The Sheriff Reports
Page 7 Community Education
Page 8 Budget request
Page 10 Vets' History Project
Page 11 Civics 101
Page 13 Meet Katherine Kincaid
Page 14 Nease Band new season
Page 17 PBMS Media Center
Page 18 CHS Eagle Scout
Page 19 Scott's Friends
Page 22 **Back to School Guide!**
Page 29 Faith News
Page 32 Guitar raffle
Page 33 Bonsai workshop
Page 34 July 4th parade
Page 35 Sea turtle volunteers
Page 37 Fishing Report
Page 38 12U Riverhawks

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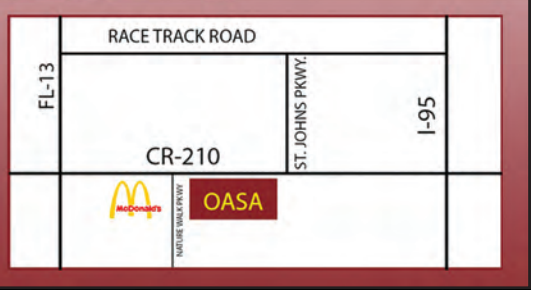

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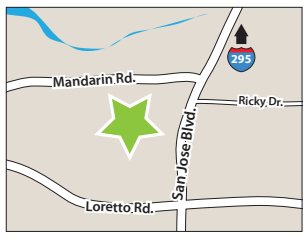

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What's New

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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Julington Creek Plantation CDD will be hosting **"Crafts on the Creek,"** a free outdoor craft and gift fair for the public on Labor Day weekend. This event will take place on Saturday, August 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at JCP Plantation Park (directly across from The Champions Club golf course at 875 Davis Pond Boulevard). This is an opportunity for vendors to exhibit and sell their work. We are still accepting vendor applications until August 18, so please do not delay. Go to www.jcpcdd.org and click on Upcoming Special Events to view the application online. If you have any questions, please call Jessie Ceccorulli, special events coordinator, at 821-3637 or email jceccorulli@jcpcdd.org.

EPIC Behavioral Healthcare is proud to support PACT Prevention Coalition's first annual **St. Augustine Summer Triathlon** to be held on Sunday, August 18, 2013 at the Vilano Beach Pavilion. The race, which includes a ¼ mile swim, 12 mile bike ride and a three mile run, begins at 6:00 a.m. when registration opens (Day of Race registration, if available) with check in and packet pickup. The first wave start begins at 7:30 a.m. and the awards ceremony will be held at approximately 10:00 a.m. For additional information and to register, please visit www.drcsports.com, call (352) 637-2475 or email info@DRCSports.com.

Discover how to **transform your home landscape into a haven for birds** on August 15 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. Plants and birds are inseparable. By incorporating native plants to attract, feed and shelter your favorite bird species, you provide a welcoming habitat for our feathered friends and enrich the lives of your family for years to come. Personal passion and extensive experience is provided by Beverly Fleming, nature columnist; Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant and several other Audubon Society members. The program is free, open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. Florida native plants are also available for purchase. For more information, please call 209-0430.

Cade's Carnival is an event, a true carnival in Jacksonville, whose focus is FUNdraising for charities that help kids with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. Please join us on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at San Jose Baptist Church, located at 6140 San Jose Boulevard, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for carnival games, face painting, good food and lots of fun! For additional information or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact www.cadescarnival.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. Please contact us at sanmoms@gmail.com or visit www.sanmomsclub.weebly.com for more information.

What's New cont on pg. 5

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Letters to the Editor policy

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

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From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Cyndi Stevenson, County Commissioner, District 1

Your County, Your Services, Your Taxes

I am pleased to report that the recommended Fiscal Year 2014 St. Johns County Budget is balanced and maintains a flat millage rate. For the near-term, we are on track, thanks to the hard work of administration and all county staff. Many hard decisions have been made and we continue to work to do things better and more efficiently.

Now is the time for us as county residents and stakeholders to begin a dialogue about how we fund necessary capital improvement or "infrastructure" projects. The funding sources that have helped the county meet their infrastructure needs in the past are no longer an option because of past decisions and changing economic realities. We must prioritize our needs and desired levels of service while also identifying funding sources that will sustain St. Johns County well into the future.

Past and Present: Historically, higher property taxes combined with other strategies enabled the county to sustain a robust, but sometimes uncoordinated capital improvement plan. Capital funding strategies included pursuing grant funding, bonding available revenue sources, developer contributions and impact fees.

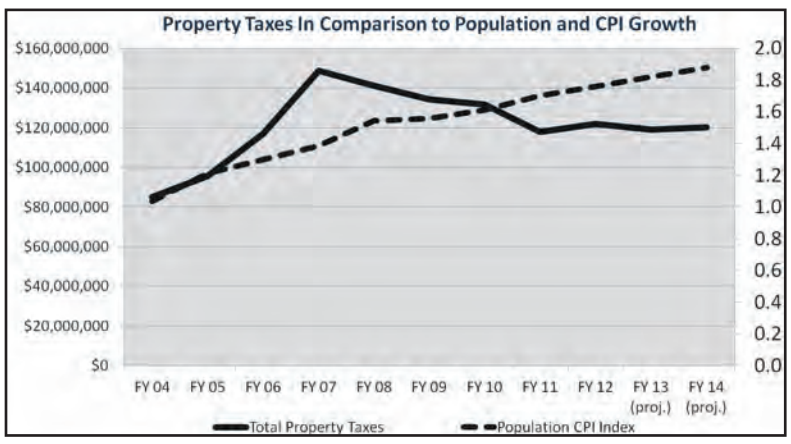
As the accompanying chart shows, the county's property taxes grew rapidly during the real estate bubble. The county used some of those funds to invest in roads and the conversion from a volunteer fire department to a professional Fire/EMS service.

The funding sources of the past are either no longer an option or not sufficient to meet the needs of our county. Property taxes are limited by new laws and we are stretched to meet county operating costs. Available revenues have been bonded and developers are no longer lining up to build hundreds of millions of dollars of infrastructure up front.

While impact fees will continue to be part of the funding solution for the county, they cannot fill the infrastructure deficit that remains from tens of thousands of homes that were built with little or no contribution towards roads, fire stations and parks. They also cannot be used to repair and replace aging infrastructure.

Future: Most Florida counties protect their limited property tax dollars using them to deliver core services and to fund operating costs. They primarily rely on the seventh cent "infrastructure" sales tax or other funding sources to pay for long-lived assets or new "infrastructure" and to repair aging assets. These funding sources allow these assets to be paid for over time by those who benefit from them.

NW St. Johns County has a significant stake in this discussion. We have been the center of growth for a long time. We have large roadway sections that must be improved and connected to keep our traffic moving as we grow and enable growth in our commercial tax base. The Roberts Road Corridor improvements need to be completed and both NE and NW St. Johns County need a fire station, equipment and staffing. In the World Golf Village/Palencia area, they have transportation issues and report a need for ball fields.



In order to avoid the economic problems of communities being played out in headline news today, we must keep our eye on a strong, diversified local economy and we cannot afford to neglect our basic infrastructure and services. It is imperative that we begin this discussion before there is a crisis.

All property taxpayers will receive a County Budget Overview with their TRIM notice in August. This document provides a summary of the recommended budget and information regarding St. Johns County's current financial condition.

We encourage your participation in the budget process to ensure your tax dollars are invested wisely. Please do not hesitate to call if I can be of assistance. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your county commissioner. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 209-0301 or bccd1@sjcfl.us.

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School District Journal

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

School grades have finally arrived and as I predicted last month, St. Johns County, along with every other district, experienced some grade drops even though our students increased or maintained their performance. The reason for the discrepancy is that the proficiency bar was raised. In other words, it took greater performance on the part of students to achieve the same school grade. I am happy to report that all our northern schools still did very well. Most maintained their A grade, with only a couple dropping to B. It should also be noted that it is possible for only one or two students to cause a school to drop a letter in the grading. This is because a school automatically drops a letter if the lowest 25 percent of that school's population does not meet learning gains criteria. Therefore, the performance of just a few students can have a dramatic effect on the grading system.

In the last three years, 31 elements of the grading formula have changed. The constantly moving target makes it very difficult to continue to maintain an A rating. I am very proud of all our students, teachers and administrators for their hard work. One note: high school grades will not be received until December due to added elements in their grade calculation like graduation rates and numbers of students taking and passing advanced placement courses. Florida Department of Education requires more time to process these elements; therefore, the grades are delayed.

Celebration is in order once again for St. Johns County School District. For the fifth year in a row, we are number one in the state for student achievement. I believe this is possible because of the sharp focus we have on each child's learning and because of the measures we have in place to recognize and remediate children who are falling behind. Our administrators and teachers, partnering with parents, help to ensure that each child's learning needs are addressed, whether s/he needs a more challenging curriculum or needs additional help. Our formula for success has not only gained us the distinction of being number one in the state but has also resulted in a strong gap in our scores and those of the number two district.

Construction of our two new K-8 schools is on schedule, despite the rainy summer we have experienced. Both schools will open in August 2014. Selection of a principal and identifying of school zones will be complete before winter break. Opportunity for lots of public input on zoning will be provided after school starts this year. We will hold town hall meetings for face-to-face explanation of the "soup starter" plans that will be developed and we will receive comment at those meetings as well as providing the opportunity to comment online. I look forward to the process of zoning for the schools; however, this is probably the hardest thing we do as a school board. At the end of the day, some will not be happy with the decisions that are made. Please know that every effort is employed to be fair and equitable in the zoning process. Your participation is essential and I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

If you or your neighbor is new to our district and have not registered your children for school, please do so just as soon as possible. Understanding how many students we have in each grade level enables our principals to be prepared for opening day, August 19, with all staff in place. You may register by contacting the school to which your child is zoned.

Sunday, August 18, is the date of the semiannual prayer walk for all our schools. Anyone is welcome to participate as we gather at elementary schools at 2:00 p.m., middle schools at 3:00 p.m., high schools at 4:00 p.m. and, for the first time, colleges and universities at 5:00 p.m. This nondenominational effort is a time to ask for safety and success for our students.

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.

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What's New cont. from pg. 3

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.

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 Pond Road at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. The clinics are scheduled for Thursday, August 15 and Saturday, August 24 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.

For the third time in 10 years, the St. Johns County Utility Department has won Florida's Region II annual **Best Drinking Water** contest presented by the Florida section of the American Water Works Association. Contest participants are judged on their water's clarity, odor and taste. Region II, representing Northeast Florida, is one of 12 regions in the State of Florida. The award is a reflection of the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the St. Johns County Utility Department to provide the best, safest drinking water possible to St. Johns County residents and visitors.

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, August 13, Tuesday, August 20 and Monday, August 26 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.

On Friday, August 23 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the St. Johns County Extension Office will be holding a **rain barrel class.** The class is a "make and take" class with class participants leaving with a finished 55 gallon barrel. During the dry season, rain barrels can come in handy for capturing what little rain we do get. The cost of the class is $40. You must preregister to attend and do so by calling 209-0430. The class will be held at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine.

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.

What's New cont. on pg. 6

Correction:

In the article *BTHS Dreams Come True Club* which appeared in the July 2013 issue, the founder of the club was incorrectly stated. Although Brianna Warwick should rightfully be credited for building the club to its current level of success, the Dreams Come True Club was actually founded by BTHS students Abbie Forward and Morgan Jacobson in 2011.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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The Sheriff Reports

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

Back to school safety

This month I would like to remind all of our citizens as well as visitors that schools will be back in session soon, which means that our children are going to and from school daily. I would ask all of you to take extra time and be extremely careful in school zones as well as at bus stops. Motorists should plan on longer commutes and follow the speed limit in school zones. Deputies will be at school zones throughout the county to monitor those areas and to address any violations accordingly. Drivers should be advised that speeding fines are doubled if they occur in a school zone. Deputies will also be in unmarked vehicles seeking any motorists who pass stopped school buses while loading or unloading students. Remember all traffic in both directions must come to a complete stop for school buses that are stopped, displaying the "stop" signal. Motorists traveling in the opposite direction are exempt from stopping if the roadway is separated by a median of at least five feet wide. These infractions will be strictly enforced.

Motorists are also reminded to take extra precaution at school bus stops where eager youngsters, many riding the bus for the first time, may dart into the street as the bus arrives. Here are some safety rules to pass along to children that ride a school bus:

Arrive at your bus stop at least five minutes early and stand at least 10 feet away from the roadway. Be sure to wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the bus driver says it's all right to enter before stepping onto the bus. Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus. Pedestrians should always walk in front of the bus, never behind the bus. Remember if you can't see the bus driver, he or she cannot see you. After getting off the school bus, stop at the edge of the bus and look both ways before crossing. If you were to drop something beside the bus, make sure to you tell the driver before attempting to pick it up.

Students who walk to school should do so on a sidewalk if it is available. If there is no sidewalk, students should walk against the flow of traffic and be sure to cross at marked crosswalks. Those who ride a bicycle should remember to ride with the flow of traffic and follow all traffic signs and signals. Remember students are required to wear a bicycle helmet. As schools open for another year, please take the extra time needed and watch out for our most precious resource, our children.

As I close this month, I would like to remind you that there is a wealth of information that you can obtain by visiting our website at www.sjso.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about your Sheriff's Office or if you have any topics for my monthly column. My email address is dshoar@sjso.org. I look forward to hearing from you and it is the hope of all of us who are part of your Sheriff's Office that our children and teachers have a successful school year.

What's New??

Share your community announcements with your neighbors!

Submit your 100 word blurb about your civic or neighborhood group's activity to editor@southsidenewsline.com for FREE! Deadline is the 15th of each month.

What's New cont from pg. 5

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 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, please contact sjfedrepublicanwomen@gmail.com.

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!

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.

The next meeting of the **Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association** will be Saturday, August 17 at the Main Library in St. Augustine. "The Keys to Bestseller success: Titles, Covers, and Back Cover Copy Blurbs" will be presented by Rik Feeney, author, publisher and marketing/promotion specialist. Feeney has authored more than 60 books, reports and CDs on the sport and business of gymnastics. 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.

The St. Johns County Extension Office would like to invite local venders with home and garden products to participate in the **2013 St. Johns County Home and Garden Show and Datil Pepper Festival.** It will be held the weekend of October 5 and 6 at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center, located at 3125 Agriculture Center Drive. Consider participating in this local event. It may expose your business to a broader audience and make individuals aware that you support local community activities. If you would like to reserve a space in the show, please call 209-0430 for further information.

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Credit union supports local artists at Mandarin branch

Jax Federal Credit Union (JAXFCU) is calling local artists to display their art work—for free! In its newest branch, located at the intersection of San Jose Boulevard and Mandarin Road, there is a five foot by 10 foot wall space for artists to display their work.

Currently, the work of Scott Sumner is being featured in the branch. Sumner is a Mandarin resident and current member at JAXFCU whose passion for photography started in high school. The photographs he chose to display at the Mandarin Branch feature locations from around Northeast Florida.

"My photographs are based on evoking emotion through use of color and lighting," said Sumner. "I was really for grateful for the opportunity to share my work in the community."

How can you become the next featured artist and share your talent with the rest of Jacksonville? Just call JAXFCU at 475-8000, stop by our Mandarin Branch or send an email to market@jaxfcu.org expressing your interest! It's as easy as that.

Community Education offers new fall courses

By Contributing Writer Tommy Bledsoe, Community Education Coordinator

St. Johns County School District offers a variety of Community Education courses at school locations throughout the county. In northern St. Johns County, courses are offered at Cunningham Creek, Mill Creek and Palencia elementary schools. In the St. Augustine area, courses are held at R. B. Hunt, St. Johns Technical High School and the Fullerwood Learning Center. In the south, classes will convene at Gamble Rogers Middle School.

Classes will be posted for registration on the website on August 16. Classes will begin in September, including Microsoft Office, painting and drawing, watercolor, photography, memoir writing, yoga, sewing, American Sign Language, conversational Spanish and French language, and bluegrass string band. A course on Microsoft Excel will start in October. Classes are held in the evening and last from one to two hours. Most classes are appropriate for all ages, including young learners.

The School District offers the classes as part of their commitment to lifelong learning in the community, with proceeds going to support extracurricular programs at the host schools. Courses are geared for leisure hobbyists and those who are workforce bound. Community education teachers bring broad, practical experience in their vocational fields and, in many cases, as educators.

Classes meet weekly for six- to nine-week sessions. Prices range from $7.50 to $10 per class hour. Please visit the Community Education website at www.sjccommunityed.com/courses for full class descriptions, prices and registration or call 547-7565 or 547-7510 for information.

County supports designation of St. Johns River as paddling trail or blueway

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted on July 16 to support the St. Johns River Alliance's initiative to designate the entire St. Johns River as a paddling trail or blueway.

Paddling trails raise environmental awareness, create a sense of place, promote good health through outdoor recreation, boost eco-tourism and encourage young people to experience the outdoors. Recognizing the importance of this significant natural resource, St. Johns County has already designated the St. Johns River as a blueway in the St. Johns County Blueways, Greenways and Trails Master Plan.

The alliance's petition to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails for the designation would help with future state grant applications. The title would not require additional funding at publicly owned boat ramps, launching facilities or parks along the St. Johns River.

For additional information, please contact the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department at 209-0324.

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For more information:
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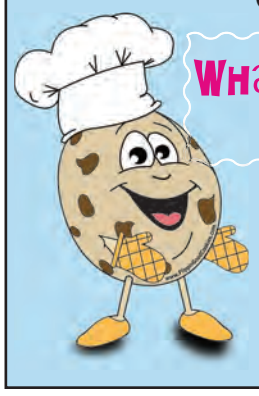

What is our Mascots Name at Flippin' Good Cookies?

Go to www.FlippinGoodCookies.com for the answer!
Simply fill out and submit the form located on page 32 in this issue.
* Delivery/Shipping is extra.
Two winners will be randomly chosen

County celebrates new public safety radio system

St. Johns County hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 15 for the new county-wide 800 MHz public safety radio system. The event was attended by more than 85 participants and featured several speakers, a multi-agency interoperability demonstration, and facility tours of the new system. The speaking agenda included Jay Morris, chairman of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners; Carl Shank, St. Johns County Fire Rescue Chief, David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff; and Marshall Wright, Motorola vice president and director of sales.

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Commissioner McClure requests comments on proposed county budget

By Contributing Writer Bill McClure, St. Johns County Commissioner, District 3

I would like to express my thoughts to you on the upcoming 2013 – 2014 budget, in hopes that you will share yours. The county commissioners will not raise the property taxes and this decision has already been made. However, how and where we spend those dollars is up for debate. As such, I am asking for your comments via email at my county email address: bccd3@sjcfl.us.

To avoid a tax increase, I am proposing a shift in the use of funds we do receive. You see, most of your tax dollars, a whopping 81 percent, is used to fund the schools and safety (sheriff, fire, etc.) and I agree with that. The remainder of money collected gets put into a county wide fund to be used for county expenses. Current county administration has proposed no change from last year as to where we allocate the funds. However, there is a huge annual shortage of funding for roads and I would like to see increased funding for roads, road improvements and sidewalks. It's important to note that over the past five years, transportation funding has been decreased by over $10 million, while increasing our reserves to $47 million over the same period.

In order for me to propose additional funding for transportation using the same dollars, I must be able to look at decreasing funding in other areas. So, in an effort to get your opinions, I am giving you the following facts and opinions about those areas and welcome yours. After all, it is your money!

1.) Fore the people? Are you willing to continue to subsidize a county golf course or is it time to sell or lease the entire facility. The county, using your tax dollars, purchased the golf course and improvements that totals $8.7 million as of today. In addition, the golf course lost another $832,234 over the past five years through an operational deficit each year. This upcoming year, administration recommends another $250,000 be spent on golf carts. It might be time to weigh the benefits versus the costs. The net book value of the course is $6.5 million. You have spent $10 million and growing. You owe $1.2 million in debt from 2005 Revenue bonds. Sell? A guaranteed lease to a professional company which can guarantee we will have no loss and perhaps gain revenue? Does it value all of the people who either reside or shop here? Are you willing to continue to subsidize this business?

2.) A horse is a horse, of course? Are you willing to continue to pay for a county equestrian center? The Equestrian Center in Hastings was purchased through a court ordered county seizure for failure to pay fines and you spent $1.4 million dollars building a ring and stalls through sales tax bonds. In addition, the center lost $132,000 in operating deficit over the last five years and continues the steady loses at about $26,000 per year. The annual deficit equals the amount of the debt service so the monthly maintenance costs are covered. Should we pay off the debt making it a net zero budget effect? Sell to recoup our investment? Lease to a professional company which can guarantee we will have no loss and perhaps gain revenue?

3.) Amp'd for the Amphitheatre? Although the Amphitheatre is operating at a loss, it is my belief that it is a vital part of our community bringing in many overnight tourist and even more beer and gas sales. The center is losing money, although it is expected to have its lowest operational deficit at only $80,000 for 2013. Add that to the fact that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) has agreed to pay the debt service of up to $260,000 annually is a good thing since the debt service is at almost $210,000. If that agreement goes away, you are in the hole for about $290,000 instead of the $80,000. If the debt were retired, I might be convinced this venture will be profitable by 2015 and will become a steady new source of revenue for us into the future. We cannot sell it, because we are just leasing the land from the State of Florida, but perhaps a guaranteed lease to a professional company which can guarantee we will have no loss and perhaps gain revenue.

4.) Animal Control? You fund just shy of $1 million each year for animal control. If it costs us this much because we have so many stray or unwanted animals, then maybe a two-year campaign to "Spay and Neuter your Pet" in the hopes of spending a bit less in 2015? Can we get a grant each year to offset these costs? I don't even know if there any private companies who even provide this service, but there might be.

5.) County Ambulance Services? There are private Emergency Services companies that operate in this county. Many of those make money. You are in this business too and you don't make money. In fact, over the last five years, you have spent over a whopping $20 million to subsidize this business. In fact, many of the people who use this service never pay their bill. Last year you were stuck with over $1.7 million in bad debt on revenues of $5.4 million. We need ambulances and they need us. Our Fire Rescue and Sheriff's Office do a great job, but is it time to cut our losses in this particular business? Can we outsource this service to a local company for less?

6.) Continued Government Building and Debt? The new HHS Building will house mostly non-county staff, yet will cost you $12 million dollars, rather than pay down your debt. In addition to that, administration has submitted a proposal to build a building for a new Veterans Affairs Clinic, which competed with local builders who also submitted a bid and could cost another $5 million. Don't misunderstand me here. We need all of the services we provide in the HHS building, but in the business world, new buildings are built for expansion. The county exited the mental health and primary care business and will save you over $600,000 a year by 2015. Our State Health Department has exited the children's pediatric business. It seems everyone is reducing scope while private entities pick up the business and they are happy about it. Would you rather fund crucial operational expenses or capital projects such as a new building that will house other businesses?

7.) Sales Tax Increase? Administration has pointed out that an increase in sales tax will generate an estimated $22 million per year, which we can use to offset the $14 million deficit needed for roads each year. Advocates say tourist will pay most of it. Actually, the latest report I saw said locals will pay 55 percent of it, so that argument doesn't fly with me. In addition, before I would endorse this tax hike, the county would need to change its economic development incentive programs to include the businesses that actually attract tourism, which would pay the sales tax. Right now, there is no incentive so let's not put the cart before the horse.

With a few small changes, I feel we can add another $8 million dollars to the annual transportation trust fund for roadway improvements. After all, I hear from many of you who complain about the traffic, condition of the roads or street flooding issues! This will help us control urban sprawl and incentivize commercial projects where those are needed most and potentially divert a financial crisis in the future.

What do you think? There are no wrong answers here. Every opinion counts. Please email me your thoughts: bccd3@sjcfl.us.

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DECEMBER 12, 2013 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER & SOCIAL

DECEMBER 15-18, 2013 ANNUAL NEW YORK TRIP 4 DAYS | Enjoy New York at its finest during the holidays

FEBRUARY 8-11 VALENTINE/SHORT Cruise 6 DAYS | To get to where the weather is warmer in the winter, why not join us for a short getaway to the aboard a Cruise Ship. Great meals, entertainment, and time to relax and have some fun on this 5 night cruise.

MARCH - ANDERSONVILLE, & YODERS 2 DAYS | Enjoy lunch at the Mennonite Restaurant of Yoders in Montezuma, followed by a narrated tour of historic Andersonville, the infamous prison site during the War Between the States. Visit Plains, home of President Jimmy Carter with an overnight in the area before another highlight.

MARCH 11 & 13 – BINGO SOCIALS

APRIL 21-28 - A TEXAS "FIESTA"& LOTS MORE 8 DAYS | One of America's most interesting cities is San Antonio, with its history along with the beauty of its River Walk. The city's annual "Fiesta" celebrates the heroes of the Alamo and Texas Independence with festivities through out. Our hotel for 2 nights is located centrally in the heart of all the activities, next to the Alamo and near the River Walk. While in Dallas we will visit Texas Stadium and South Fork. Our group also takes a Bayou Cruise in Louisiana, a special Cajun Meal, and lots more ...

MAY - THE OLD SOUTH 2 DAYS | Join us as we travel to the Old South in Savannah, the first city of Georgia. We will have lunch at the famous Pirate's House before boarding a sightseeing boat that will take you around the lovely islands of the coastal area on a Dolphin Watch. Dinner and tonight enjoy a Branson-type Show. Next day features a trolley tour of the historic downtown, Lunch at Mrs. Wilkes, and before leaving town, we stop by Byrd Cookie Company for some samples and souvenirs.

JUNE 7-19 - MEDITERRANEAN & THE GREEK ISLES 13 DAYS | Join us on this exotic cruise from Barcelona to Venice as our group flies out for an extra night in Spain before boarding the beautiful REGAL PRINCESS for a 10 night journey.

Ports include BARCELONA, TOULON in France (Provence), ROME & NAPLES in Italy and a chance to visit Pompeii, SANTORINI & MYKONOS of the romantic Greek Isles, KUSADASI (Ephesus), and an overnight in VENICE.

JULY 22 & 24 – BINGO SOCIALS

AUGUST 3–12 - FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA | A deluxe motorcoach drive across America as we witness the beauty of our "Great Land". Start with Memphis for a visit to Graceland, home of Elvis. Across the west we travel to Oklahoma City & its famous Cowboy Museum, and on to historic Santa Fe for a 2 night stay. Continuing to Sedona & the Grand Canyon of Arizona we also visit Las Vegas. Into California, and our group sees the Giant Redwoods in Sequoia National Park, takes the Valley Floor Tour in Yosemite, before ending in San Francisco for 2 nights.

SEPTEMBER 7 – 14 - CANADIAN ROCKIES & MORE | The most beautiful scenery in North America as you travel to Seattle, ferry to Victoria for 2 nights, cross the Rockies by motorcoach to Banff, Alberta for 3 nights. You will drive the Ice Fields Parkway, have lunch along the shores of beautiful Lake Louise, ride a snowcoach on a glacier, explore lovely Butchart and Minter Gardens .. so much to see & do.

OCTOBER - GRAND NEW ENGLAND BY MOTORCOACH 10 DAY | This wonderful New England Tour highlights so much of this unique and historic area during foliage season. Visiting the quaint village of Woodstock in Vermont, walking along the coastline of Maine and staying in Booth Bay Harbor, admiring the White Mountains of New Hampshire, cruising on Lake Champlain, and watching maple syrup being made are just some highlights of this lovely autumn adventure. But, as a bonus feature on this wonderful tour, we ride the foliage train ride on the Ethan Allen Express from Saratoga Springs, NY to Manhattan. Join us for the romance of New England on this grand motorcoach tour.

OCTOBER - NEW ENGLAND CRUISE | Step aboard the M/S CARIBBEAN PRINCESS for a relaxing cruise to Halifax, NS .. St John, NB .. Bar Harbor, ME .. Boston, MA .. Newport, RI. We will motorcoach roundtrip to New York with overnights in Virginia, (Breakfast & Dinner included), and embark from the "Big Apple". Group can also fly to New York with roundtrip transfers.

NOV 30–DEC 3 - MAGICAL LIGHTS & HOLIDAY SHOWS 4 DAYS | Visit the grandest light display in Georgia around Lake Lanier as you stay in a lakeside resort; enjoy special meals and the decorations for the season. Then continue into the mountains for some fantastic Entertainment on a 2 night stay in Pigeon Forge. Enjoy "Christmas in the Smokies" in Dollywood, Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Show, as well as the Smoky Mountain Opry Christmas Show, and many other highlights.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing you to address our friends working in other counties, but who live in wonderful St. Johns County. I have recently been appointed the executive director of the United Way of St. Johns County. First, let me say that United Way, throughout the world, provides support for those that are in the greatest need and provide positive reinforcement. For those that live in St. Johns, work in other counties and support that United Way, I applaud you. You have made the first step in helping others in need.

However, if you or your neighbor were to need the services in St. Johns County, your donations would not support these services. Yes, we would still help, but we believe you should Give Where You Live! When you support the United Way through your employer, designate the United Way of St. Johns County as the main beneficiary. Go to our website www.firstcoastunitedway.org to view the agencies we support. If you were to donate to another United Way, you would support your employer's campaign. If you were to give $1000 through your employer, UW that supports your employer would receive your total pledge, but if you designated UW of St. Johns County, we would receive the bulk of your gift. This can make a huge difference in the lives of those living in our county in need of help. Give Where You Live and Live United.

Here's wishing all agencies throughout the world, the best campaign ever.

All the best,

Jimmy Kelly
Executive Director, United Way
of St. Johns County Florida
829-9721

Health and Human Services Center... a good idea

By Contributing Writer Ron Sanchez, St. Johns County Commissioner, District 2

Construction on the new county Health and Human Services Center has begun and should be completed a little ahead of the deadline for us to be out of the old location. A few people thought this to be a terrible idea; it passed our board 4-1. You decide!

The old location on U.S. Highway 1 South purchased by the county in 1999 needed repairs in excess of $4.5 million and was considered functionally obsolete per a recent appraisal report. This would be to a building 40 years old so you still have an old building. The board agreed on a sale to Lowe's for $8 million. Keep in mind that this would return a property to the tax base that had been tax exempt since the county took ownership in the 1990s. This would be an increase to the commercial tax base, the county's number one priority. They would have around 140 employees that would increase jobs and more tax money to the county. The store would also pay sales tax to the county. All of this commercial tax money would be new to the county, helping to reduce the tax burden on residential properties. Lowe's did not request incentives, another plus for the people of our county because the dollars would start coming in earlier. They will pay impact fees as required.

Tax money in the amount of $3.5 million would be joined with the $8 to build the new building on property we already own, with no reduction in taxes because it is already off the tax rolls. The location is just south of our county administration building and more centrally located in our county. Bus service is available from Sunshine Bus to that location. This would place most county services in a general location.

In case you are wondering, we do have an obligation to furnish this service and the housing of this service. We will spend $1 million less of your money to build a new building that will be paid for in 15 years (The $3.5 million would be a loan). Lease space was not available to satisfy our needs unless we separated all of the departments all over the county. This would be a real bad and expensive decision for you, the taxpayer. Does it make sense to pay a lease with your money so we can increase your revenue from the person who owns the property? In 15 years, we would have nothing but a higher lease. We have a large number of people that use this service from all over the county.

The building now houses the following state agencies: Department of Health and Children's Legal Services. County agencies: Family Integrity Program (CBC), Social Services, Veterans Services and Sheriffs Sub-Station. Federal agencies: Veterans Administration Clinic, Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral and Rural Healthcare (Azalea FQHC). We receive lease dollars from some of these agencies at the current market price. The Veterans Administration Clinic is of course a federal service and we are negotiating with them to house their office in a separate building from the Health and Human Service Complex. We would construct that next to the HHS Building. The lease dollars would offset the cost, not you the taxpayer.

Hospital ranked No. 1

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center South, which share a license, were again ranked No. 1 among metro Jacksonville hospitals in the *U.S. News and World Report* annual Best Hospital rankings. The hospitals also ranked fourth in Florida, up from fifth last year.

U.S. News evaluates hospitals in 16 adult specialties. In most specialties, it ranks the nation's top 50 hospitals and recognizes other high-performing hospitals that provide care at nearly the level of their nationally ranked peers.

Baptist Jacksonville and Baptist South were recognized in 11 of those 16 specialties, earning a national ranking Diabetes and Endocrinology.

The hospitals were also ranked as high-performing in the following specialties:

- Cancer
- Cardiology and Heart Surgery
- Gastroenterology and GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Gynecology
- Nephrology
- Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedics
- Pulmonology
- Urology

Of the more than 4,800 hospitals evaluated, only 147 were nationally ranked in one or more specialty.

"We pride ourselves on innovating to offer the latest evidence-based care for our patients, connecting them to all of the services they need and coordinating everything seamlessly to provide the best patient experience," said Michael Mayo, hospital president, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. "These rankings are again a reminder that we are truly changing health care for good in Northeast Florida."

"This is a tremendous honor and speaks volumes about the high-quality, compassionate care our physicians, nurses and staff provide every day," said Ron Robinson, hospital president, Baptist Medical Center South.

U.S. News publishes Best Hospitals to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health problems or age. Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, the adequacy of nurse staffing levels and other data largely determined the rankings in most specialties.

"A hospital that emerges from our analysis as one of the best has much to be proud of," said Avery Comarow, *U.S. News* Health Rankings Editor. "Only about 15 percent of hospitals are recognized for their high performance as among their region's best. Just 3 percent of all hospitals earn a national ranking in any specialty."

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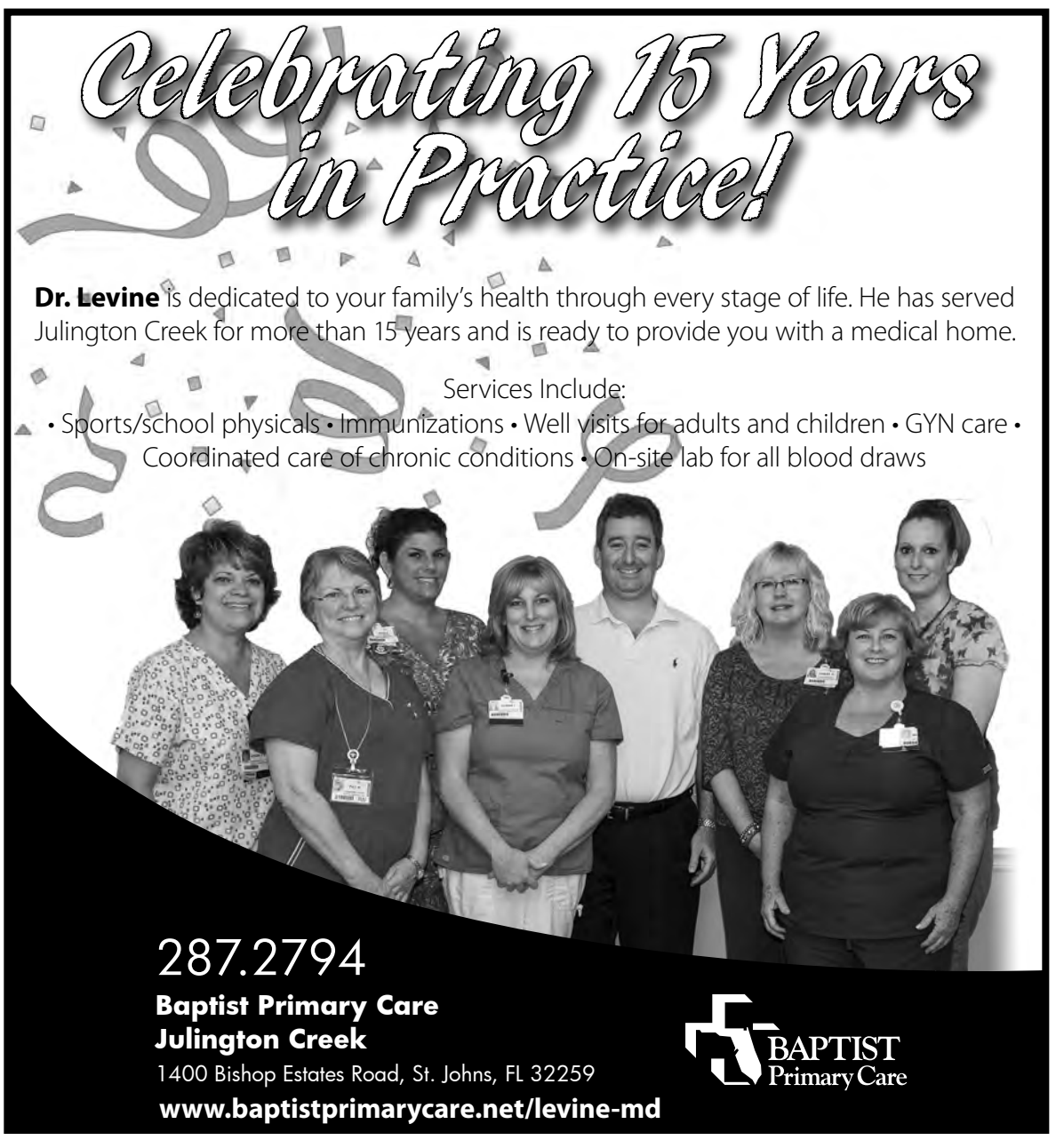

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Veterans History Project now at St. Johns County Libraries

Veterans who have a story to tell and who would like to record it for future generations are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Public Library System and participate in the Veterans History Project.

It is through personal narratives, correspondence and visual materials that the Veterans History Project is able to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American veterans so future generations can better understand the realities of war. The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The St. Johns County Public Library System partnered with Haven Hospice in 2012 to offer this oral history service to local veterans.

The project collects first-hand accounts of United States veterans from World War I (1914–1920), World War II (1939–1946), the Korean War (1950–1955), the Vietnam War (1961–1975), the Persian Gulf War (1990–1995) and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001–present), as well as those serving in the armed forces during the years between these conflicts.

After veterans are matched up with a volunteer interviewer for approximately an hour, they not only will obtain their own personal copy, but they can elect to send their recorded account to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. If desired, the veteran can request a copy be kept in the St. Johns County Library System, have it posted online for others to easily access or both.

The Veterans History Project relies on volunteers to interview, record, compile and donate materials. Veterans, civilians, adults, young people, scholars, students, amateurs and experts are all encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact the Bartram Trail Library at 827-6960, the Main Library at 827-6900 or Haven Hospice at 810-2377.

Credit union to host kids' savings event to benefit the World Wildlife Fund

From now through August 24, First Florida Credit Union will host a free savings event for kids. The event, "Savings Safari," will be held at every First Florida branch and is open to the community.

First Florida will have many activities for the kids to enjoy, including pin the tail on the zebra, games and a prize wheel. The kids will also have a chance to win a 12-pack of movie tickets. In addition to the festivities, for every child that makes a deposit into their First Florida savings account, the credit union will make a donation to the World Wildlife Fund in their name.

First Florida Credit Union, headquartered in Jacksonville, operates several branches throughout the state of Florida. Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*

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Julington Creek Plantation CDD report

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

On August 20 at Fruit Cove Middle School, the JCPCDD will consider and adopt the 2014 budget. Each year I recommend reductions in expense items that are consistently over-budgeted, ways to provide our services more efficiently and potentially do more with less. I believe CDD operational costs could be better managed by your Board of Supervisors (BOS). The CDD should be dedicated to provide selected services at the least cost reasonably possible and push the "user-paid" programs to generate revenues sufficient to at least cover the expenses required to provide such services. This year I presented a plan that would reduce operating costs by over $580,000 (about $93 per single family property) while providing pay increases to the employees and without reducing the level of service. If you feel this is a good thing, please let your CDD supervisors know because most times my budget proposals are not considered.

In March, 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. However, all residents will have to pay the long-term continuing expenses of heating that pool and other expenses of extended use, such as lifeguards. Unfortunately, only a few months later, the proposed 2014 budget indicated the March projections were underestimated by about $15,000. I have not heard any discussion of increased fees to the Loggerhead parents, or others, to cover the additional operating expenses. So, as it stands, all JCP taxpayers will assume additional yearly expenses.

I continually hear from Loggerhead parents that they should not be responsible for any overhead expenses. To me it is reasonable that some portion of overhead costs for administration, office building use, housekeeping, pool-maintenance, property expenses and capital reserve funding should be applied to the Loggerheads' budget. Let's consider if the Loggerheads became a private organization. The Loggerheads would be free of the political wrangling of the CDD, allowing them to be controlled by people who understand swim team issues, set their own fees, keep any profits, staff and pay what they please and recruit any swimmer they choose. However, they would be responsible for their own overhead expenses, including the approximate $200,000 in coaching costs. I would even support a very favorable lease agreement for Loggerhead pool use, just like the other local summer swim teams. The Creeks Athletic Association and the Piranhas and the Porpoises, in fact most youth athletic teams, seem to do pretty well with independence rather than dependence on their fellow tax payers.

Someone once said that taxes are the price we pay for civilization. That may have been true many years ago, but today JCP CDD taxes are mostly the price we pay so CDD supervisors can play Santa Claus with your money.

Feel free to contact me day or night via phone or email, 509-4902 or SLansdale@jcpcdd.org.

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.

Orientation for Prospective Foster Parents scheduled

Residents interested in becoming a foster parent and providing temporary care for St. Johns County children whose families are experiencing crisis are invited to participate in an orientation session and pre-service training classes hosted by the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program (FIP).

Those who want to help children and families residing in St. Johns County by becoming a foster parent, or desire to help in another way, are encouraged to attend an interactive orientation session about foster care arranged by the FIP from 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9 at the Health and Human Services building, 1955 US-1 South, St. Augustine (just south of the State Road 312 and US Highway 1 intersection).

Every child deserves a safe, nurturing home and to be cared for by someone dedicated to meeting all of their essential needs. Getting teens out of group homes and into family foster homes is a state and county child-welfare goal

Foster parent pre-service classes will begin at the same location starting September 16 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and continue on consecutive Mondays through November 25, with the exception of Veteran's Day on November 11. These interactive classes will offer participants a variety of educational material delivered through an engaging and challenging format. Please contact Joy Meyerpeter at 209-6131 or visit www.sjcfl.us/fip for more information or to request a brochure be sent by mail.

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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

Often teachers and parents have to intervene between two youngsters scuffling in some dispute. The situation commonly involves one child's claims that a toy was taken by another child or one claims that the other said something mean or untrue about the first. So, the intervening adult must find a just solution. Few such decisions will be satisfactory to all. In fact, comedian Bill Cosby tells a story of such a situation with his children when, after a screaming back-and-forth between two children, the parent's only concern is to quiet the screaming child. Justice, he says, is of no concern.

Whose toy was it? Who had it first? Who should rightly have it? As any parent and teacher know, each child will have his/her own perspective in answering these questions. The circumstances don't change as the children become adults. I'm reminded of my one opportunity to serve on a jury. The case involved a dispute over a very small tract of land in rural Calhoun County, South Carolina between two elderly neighbors. We on the jury were provided two days of mostly anecdotal evidence, such as the story of one litigant's grandfather's mule and cart that had fallen in the ditch beside the land many years before. In deliberation, we, the jury, determined that because the anecdotal evidence from both sides was unverifiable, the fairest solution was to track their claims to the earliest available property records.

Involved in both of these circumstances are property and truth, two fundamental principles of democracy as set forth by R. Freeman Butts in his book The Civic Mission in Educational Reform. The concepts of property and truth are so fundamental that our understanding of them begin to form as infants. However, the lines between "yours" and "mine" and between the various manifestations of truth and untruth are grayed with the complications of social interaction. Who had it first? Whose word is more verifiable? What is property? What is truth? These and many other legal/philosophical questions must be addressed.

In its corrupted form, property rights are elevated superior to human rights. Such corruptions in the United States are not only historical. One need only note the increased revelations of human trafficking in recent news. Truth in its corrupted form becomes what we are all too familiar with in business, media, politics, etc.: opinion posed as truth, beguiling half-truths, spin, talking points and well-choreographed press conferences.

Determining whose word is truth, whose claims are more valid and what decisions should be rendered is a constant struggle for practitioners of democracy, whether they are the elected or the electorate. To settle for a Cosby-like solution of merely quieting the children, although seemingly desirable at times, would be foolish, of course. However, determining the truth between opposing views and contending interests in a diverse pluralistic society is as daunting as... well... as daunting as forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare and securing the blessings of liberty.

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Teen driver learner's permit classes offered

Will your teen be at least 14 ½ years old this school year and attending a local public high school? If so, he or she may be eligible to a take a free driver education course. Register your student now to take a free course offered at the local high schools during the 2013-2014 school year.

St. Johns County Tax Collector Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC, with the support of the St. Johns County School District, will offer classes at all St. Johns County public high schools to aid students in successfully completing the road signs and road rules exams required for issuance of a learner's permit.

Classes are conducted prior to school, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., for 12 days. On the last day, students will be administered both exams in class, at no charge. Upon passage of both exams and completion of the four-hour substance abuse course, students will be eligible to go to any location of the St. Johns County Tax Collector and receive their permit, provided they are at least 15 years old. The mandatory substance abuse course is available online or through the Northeast Florida Safety Council in Duval County only.

Class size is limited and advanced registration is required. For additional information, including the course schedule at the different high schools, please visit www.sjctax.us. Once you have decided on a first and second choice for the class dates, you can then follow the online instructions for registering.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in opposition to last month's letter to editor. I would personally like to thank all of my JCP resident neighbors for buying my soft pretzel and soda the other day at the cafe. According to the letter last month that is what is being implied. In reality, I actually paid for the items. I do have my receipt if anyone would like to reimburse me.

In addition, I wanted to get a soft drink at 7:00 p.m. on a Thursday evening, but I was unable to get the soda or anything else for that matter, because it was closed. Where are the facts of selling alcohol from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.?

It is important for the residents to have facts, not opinions. JCP residents need to attend the CDD meetings held monthly to make their own judgments about what is going on in the community and to not listen others who may be giving their opinion trying to state it as fact.

Respectfully,
Jacalyn Morton

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Book Discussion at the Bartram Trail Branch Library!

Monday, August 19
7 pm

This month's selection is "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom. All are welcome to join us for this discussion.

Be sure to learn to surf safely for physical and mental fitness

By Contributing Writer Sina Kasraeian, MD, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine

As surfing as increased in popularity, especially in states such California and Florida, the incidence of surfing-related injuries also has increased. As a surfer myself, I believe that surfing is one of the best sports or activities to get you physically and mentally fit. Not only is it a great reason to spend time outdoors, but it is also great exercise and a good way to relieve stress. To some, it is a form of meditation. Just like everything else, however, there are risks and just like everything else, there are ways to do it safely and minimize those risks. Most experienced surfers already know most of this; however, for those who are starting out, here are a few tips on how to learn safely and hopefully stay out of the doctor's office.

1. Leash it up! Use a leash when you are first beginning. Not only will it save you a lot of time and energy swimming back and forth chasing after your board, but it can also act as a floatation device in case you get tired or get stuck in a current.

2. Take cover! When you wipeout – and you will wipeout (it's just part of it) – protect your head and neck from impact by covering them with your arms. You would much rather have your arms take the hit as opposed to your head or neck, which can cause serious damage. Making yourself roll up into a ball during a wipeout should cause you to naturally cover your head and neck – therefore a good instinct to develop.

3. Protect your head! After a wipeout, make sure you keep your hands on or above your head as you are coming up for air. You usually won't know exactly where your board is and if you come up quickly, having your hands there can prevent you from knocking your head on the board – avoiding a cut, headache or more seriously, a concussion.

4. Respect your fins – they are sharper than you think! They can easily cut you and the people around you, especially when you have been marinating in water for a while (making your skin more vulnerable).

5. Learn surfing etiquette. And respect it. It makes it more fun and, more importantly, safer, when people know how to behave or react in certain scenarios. Each break may have variations on etiquette and style, but overall you should know the basics concepts of who gets priority on a wave and know how to safely get out of someone's way when they are enjoying a wave.

6. Respect the ocean. Know your environment. Each peak, break and shoreline has its own potential hazards. It's smart to be aware of your surroundings and know what to avoid. If you find yourself at an unfamiliar break, sit there and watch the other surfers before you get in so you get a better feel of the place and how it behaves.

7. Know your limits. You don't want to end your career before it even begins. As you gain more experience, you'll be able to do more challenging stuff, and handle bigger and faster waves; but just like everything else, you have to learn to walk before you can run. Be patient – you'll get there, but you have to put in the time.

8. Buddy up! Not only is it fun to have a buddy to surf with, but it's also safer. Remember that the ocean has its hazards – you never know when you may need a little help from a friend.

9. Don't forget the sunscreen! Just like any other outdoor activity, it is important to protect yourself from the sun.

There are plenty of books, websites and other resources out there to read more about surfing, but the only way to learn is to get out there and do it. There are lots of board options out there to accommodate different styles and skill levels; one may consider starting on a foam board as they are softer and more forgiving during a wipeout – making them a safer alternative for beginners. They are also usually reasonably priced (to accommodate the beginner).

So get out there and enjoy the water. Be safe and more importantly, have fun! If you get in with the right mindset, it can change your life.

Obstacles
are the things we see
when we take
our eyes off our
goals.
~Zig Ziglar

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Palencia Club partners with PES to support education

By Contributing Writer Kimberli Nalven

On Monday, September 16, The Palencia Club will welcome FORE! The Kids Golf Tournament, Palencia Elementary School's (PES) first golf tournament, supporting education. Partnering with the PES Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Palencia Dental and Bozard Ford Lincoln, The Palencia Club has generously donated the use of their pristine, Arthur Hill's designed 7,071-yard masterpiece golf course and banquet room to host a day of golf and fun—all created to support the staff and students at PES. The donation is valued at more than $10,000.

"Partnering with the families and residents of our local community is what Hampton Golf is all about and that's what we're bringing to the FORE! The Kids Golf Tournament with PES," said David Shaffer, general manager of The Palencia Club. "Education is such a crucial part of our community and to be able to make a difference for this school that sits right here in our neighborhood is an opportunity we definitely wanted to be a part of."

"Having The Palencia Club partner with PES in such a big way really gives us an opportunity to make a significant impact on this new school in the 2013-2014 school year," said Laurel Madson PES PTO co-president. "Meeting the demands of a green, digital, STEM school that's still pretty new in the district is a daunting task. But with the collaboration of truly supportive business partners like Bozard Ford Lincoln, Palencia Dental and The Palencia Club we can set and reach those higher goals."

In addition, Hampton Golf and The Palencia Club has donated a one-year Palencia Club membership to be raffled off during the tournament's awards celebration.

"The Palencia Club's generous partnership with our PES family for FORE! The Kids Golf Tournament really demonstrates the kind of impact our community business supporters can make for education when they join us to make these key events a tremendous success," said Nicole Sawyer, PES PTO event chairperson.

The awards dinner features a Caribbean menu prepared by Tasha Peters of By Design Catering and PRP Wine International has donated all of the wine for the event. Local business sponsors like Smoothie King will welcome players to registration with smoothies while during-play appetizers will be provided by Donovan's Irish Pub, Zaxby's and The Mellow Mushroom.

Exclusive welcome bags will include a Bozard cooler bag, Palencia Dental chill towel, golf tees from Hazel Partners, golf balls donated by the Craig Dewhurst State Farm Agency and a 20 percent discount certificate for The Palencia Club Pro Shop. Festivities will feature extravagant team prizes, raffles and a silent auction.

"This is a rare opportunity for non-members to have the chance to play this private course and at the same time really make a difference for these kids," said honorary tournament chairman and vice president/general manager of Bozard Ford Lincoln, Jeff King.

The tournament is limited to 30 teams and registration closes in mid-August so interested players or teams should contact The Palencia Club Pro Shop at 599-9030 or visit the PES PTO website at www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com/ to download an application. Sponsorship opportunities are available and include bundled pricing for play. Please contact Nicole Sawyer at Nicole.sawyer@comcast.net with inquiries.

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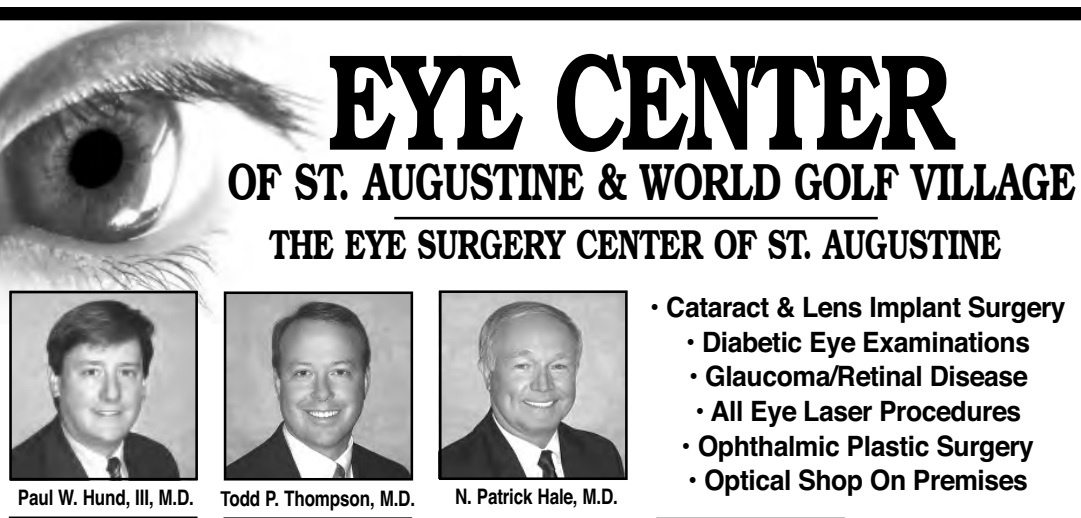

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NW St. John County girl releases first album

By Donna Keathley

Katherine Kincaid, who has lived in Julington Creek Plantation since she was three years old, has been a music phenomenon all of her life. She started taking piano lessons at five years old and continues now taking classical piano lessons. She started playing the flute in the fourth grade and played in the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra from 2009 until 2012. At age eight she bought herself a little pink guitar and taught herself how to play using a book that came with the guitar. This led her to start writing her own songs.

This spring her parents, Pam and Michael Kincaid, gave her the opportunity to produce her own album. She spent a week in Columbia, Tennessee, working with musicians and a band in R. Tech Studios. They utilized 11 songs that Katherine Kincaid had written over the last couple of years. When she returned home, she continued to work with the staff on her MP3 to finalize the album entitled, "Killin' Time."

Kincaid says, "My songs are not from experiences; I write positive messages in my songs. I think it's important to be who you are, not who someone else thinks you should be. I also think it's important to live life to the fullest."

Now the young singer, who is homeschooled and takes classes through the Florida Virtual School, is learning how to market the album.

"I am playing in public arenas and am trying to get bookings to make a name for myself. You can purchase my album on iTunes or Amazon and other online music providers, " she shares.

Kincaid says, "My plan is to continue working on my music through college. Music will take me somewhere in the future. I may be a writer, producer, entertainer or something in the industry!"

Lacrosse coaches cont. from pg. 1

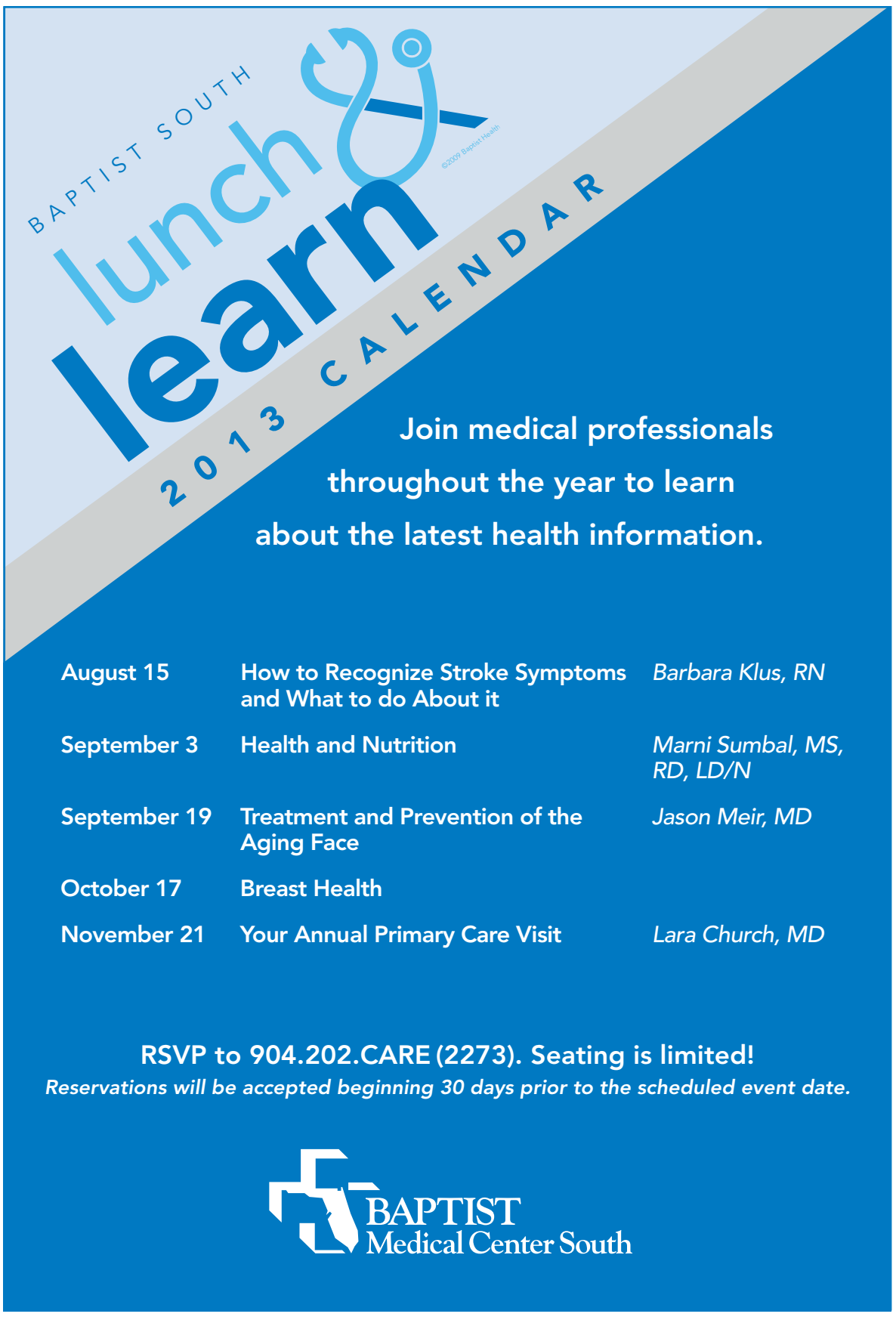
In 2013 the team went to the final four.

Meanwhile, Jackowiak's parents moved to the Julington Creek area in 2005 and after Jackowiak graduated he came south to join them. He started coaching the boys' youth league lacrosse and then went to work full time for the PGA Tour in Ponte Vedra. He began coaching the Creekside High School boys' lacrosse team in 2009 when the school opened.

Fanning opened a side business called the North Florida WAVE Lacrosse Club. This is a traveling girls' lacrosse team that competes in local and state games. The older girls go to national recruiting tournaments; some of the girls are currently playing in Virginia this summer. This gives the girls exposure to northern area college coaches for scholarship possibilities.

So, the two lacrosse coaches finally met in March of 2010 through mutual friends and began dating. They became engaged in June of this year and plan to marry next summer. They have purchased a townhouse in Julington Creek as their starter home.

Best wishes!



Helping Hands update

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

Helping Hands of St. Johns County invites you to a baby shower at their August 30, 2013 meeting! The baby shower will be held to provide expectant mothers and newborns, for current and deployed military families at Jacksonville Naval Station, with gifts for their babies or newborns. Any new baby item, including clothing, bottles, rattles, toys, blankets, wipes or diapers will be gladly accepted. The chaplain's office and Family Services will be present along with some of the expectant moms to accept the gifts. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church, located on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone Golf Club The "Rippers" will meet as usual at 10:00 a.m. There will be light refreshments, games and door prizes. Please contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

Helping Hands has had another busy month. In June the group mailed toys to children in Oklahoma who were affected by the tornadoes. Children at Tinker Air Force Base were given the toys through the chaplain at the base and member Debbie Duggins, who now lives in Oklahoma, helped to distribute them. Over 350 families at Tinker were displaced so the toys were given to those children. Over $2,000 worth of toys and clothing were sent through Helping Hands members. Thank you!

Mothers for TBI Hope also received items that had been donated for the special totes they distribute to provide an oasis of hope to help members of families who have someone in the hospital with a traumatic brain injury at Florida Trauma Centers. These totes not only provide blankets and comfort items to families waiting at the hospital, but a visit and vital information from Tracy Porter, founder of the group who lives in St. Johns. For more information on this organization, please visit www.800tbihope.org.

Twenty-five children at Crookshank Elementary School in St. Augustine received a new outfit for the first day school in August. Children received a tote with sneakers, clothing and socks. This is the third year the group has provided the kids with special first day clothes. Helping Hands works with the school's guidance counselor to provide clothing for the neediest children. All donated items were most appreciated.

Helping Hands is a volunteer group that meets the last Friday of each month at Faith Community Church Community Center to do a small project to benefit the community. There are no dues, officers or stress and the group relies solely on donations of goods and services. Members come when they can and the group does what they can with what is donated. Membership is always open and the group presently has over 150 members. The group is happy to accept new items that might be of use to someone. Please contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

Debbie Duggins at Tinker Air Force Base

The Pride of St. Johns looks forward to new season

By Contributing Writer Sarah Hansen

Whether competing at local marching band competitions or performing at a state and national level, Nease High School's "Panther Pride" marching band and color guard knows how to captivate their audiences and represent the talent of St. Johns' musical education. The Panther Pride band is a 140-member marching band which includes a world-class color guard taught by Michael Johnson. Supported through student fees and community sponsorships, the band is currently looking for local businesses to place advertisements on the band's equipment trailers. These advertisements not only help to satisfy the travel expenses that allow the Panther Pride to attend their state-wide competitions, which includes the FMBC state competition in St. Petersburg, but also impact the personal accounts of the students, as a portion of the money received by advertisements is added to each account.

Currently, the Panther Pride marching band is busy preparing for this year's marching season, where they will perform at both football games and competitions. The band also hosts their third-annual "First Coast Marching Invitational" competition, where they expect over 15 marching bands from both North and Central Florida in attendance. They will be partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank and FoodiesUSA, Inc. for their annual food drive. The FCMI competition takes place on October 19.

Additionally, the Nease Band program plans to put on a 5K run in early September, which they call their "First Annual Nease Band on the Run event." The event will take place in Nocatee on September 7 and the goal is to have 350 runners participate. Please contact Ron Mott at neasefundraisers@gmail.com for further details.

Have a Nease high school student who is looking to join the Panther Pride band? If so, please contact Band Director Michael Johnson at musiceducator@gmail.com.

Companies looking for more information for advertising and fundraising opportunities should contact Ron Mott at neasefundraisers@gmail.com.

For more information about the Panther Pride marching band and color guard, please visit their website at www.neaseband.org.

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Cut for a Cure benefits Arthritis Foundation

On June 23, Poise Salon held their second annual "Cut for a Cure for Arthritis." The at Poise stylists are not only talented at what they do, but they are truly inspirational. They not only donated their time on this day to find a cure, they donated all of their tips—raising over $500 for a cure!

Shannon Baker and friend!

Shannon Baker, St. Johns resident and owner of Poise Salon, is very committed to raising funds and awareness for local children with arthritis. The funds that they raised will help send our local children to arthritis camps and the National JA Conference for children.

According to Wendy Smith, community development manager for the Arthritis Foundation, "We were all so excited when Sharon Wilbur, The Face of Fox 30 stopped by and got her hair done! Sharon, we love you so much and thank you for always supporting the Arthritis Foundation! And her hair, which she had done by Master Stylist, Ben – looked amazing!"

"It is so important to me to 'give back,' especially to our Florida children. The children I have met with arthritis really are so amazing to me; they live in pain every day and no child should live that way. I want a cure for them!" shared Shannon Baker, owner of Poise Salon.

For more information about the Arthritis Foundation, please visit www.arthritis.org.

2013~2014 School Bus routes now online!

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

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TV vs. activity: Key choice for kids

By Contributing Writer Haley Brittingham, Human Resources and Community Relations Intern, Baptist Medical Center South

Summer is here and it is time to get up and get out of the house! Not so long ago, when school was out and the weather was nice, kids were always outside, climbing trees, swinging or playing games. These days, you're more apt to find kids inside, in front of the TV or the home computer. The average child watches three to four hours of TV every day – leaving much less time for a game of tag or hide-and-seek.

Researchers show that children need to be active to help them grow and develop properly and to prevent health problems, such as obesity and heart disease, associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Activities can be aerobic, muscle strengthening, and bone strengthening. Also, it is important for children to see their parents active. Studies have shown that if both parents are active, the children are much more likely to be active.

"Regular physical activity can prevent and delay the onset of Type 2 Diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Program reported that intensive lifestyle interventions can decrease the incidence of Type 2 Diabetes by 58 percent. Studies have shown that when physical activity is accumulated throughout the day in short bouts, it can have similar gains compared to a single prolonged activity. Allowing kids to choose activities that are enjoyable and convenient to them will help them create and sustain an active lifestyle. I encourage participation in enjoyable play-time activities, school physical education classes, recreation leagues, school sports, active family outings, and dancing with music," explains Heidi Brown, RN, certified diabetes educator at Baptist Medical Center South.

What can you do as a role model?

- Be active with them!
- Make activities fun and enjoyable, not stressful or forced.
- Give your children toys or gifts that encourage physical activity, such as a soccer ball, bicycle or basketball.
- Go places where the children can be physically active, such as a public park or basketball court.
- Develop a family routine that encourages activity; instead of watching television after dinner, go for a walk.
- Always provide the right safety equipment for the sport, such as helmets, wrist pads or knee pads.
- Be certain the sport is age-appropriate. Check with your health care provider.

As parents, you try very hard to protect your children. Making physical exercise a routine part of your children's day is an important and easy way to protect their physical and emotional well-being. So start today – talk to your children about what exercises they enjoy and help them start moving!

St. Johns District board votes to reduce tax rate

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

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board approved a tentative budget on July 9 that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers while continuing to fund the district's priorities, including new initiatives to protect the region's springs and the Indian River Lagoon. The tentative 0.3283 millage rate is about a 1 percent decrease from the current year's millage rate and would result in $80.6 million in property tax revenue. The total $135.5 million proposed budget is slated to be funded with the property tax revenue, and state, federal and other sources (including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings, permit fees and fund balances).

Under a 0.3283 millage rate – 32.83 cents for every $1,000 of assessed property value – the owner of a $200,000 house with a $50,000 homestead exemption would pay $49.25 in the coming year in property taxes to the district.

"This proposed budget ensures that our priority water resource protection projects are sufficiently funded," said Board Chairman Lad Daniels. "By focusing our work on core missions and strategic priorities and leveraging our resources through partnerships, we are able to reduce the burden on taxpayers and continue to enhance our effectiveness."

The proposed budget includes at least $13.3 million in cooperative funding for 22 reclaimed water and water conservation projects, springshed nutrient-reduction projects, and enhancements to wastewater treatment and water distribution systems with local governments and other entities.

Some of the major projects to be funded in the budget will focus on springs protection, the North Florida Water Supply Partnership, the Central Florida Water Initiative and minimum flows and levels prevention and recovery. The tentative budget also includes funding for:

- Construction of the Fellsmere Water Management Area and the second phase of the Canal 1 Rediversion Project in Brevard and Indian River counties, which are among the final components of the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project.
- Projects to reduce nutrient pollution in Lake Apopka in Orange and Lake counties and Lake George in Putnam and Volusia counties and downstream water bodies by removing "rough fish" species, primarily gizzard shad.
- On-farm and regional water management cost-share projects that reduce nutrient discharges to the St. Johns River, improve water conservation, and result in more efficient farm management in the Tri-County Agricultural Area of Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties.
- Expanding data collection to support priority district initiatives.

Public hearings on the tentative budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 10 and 24. Final budget adoption will occur at the September 24 meeting.

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

water less

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

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

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Districtwide Orientation

The St. Johns County School District is hosting a districtwide orientation on **Friday, August 16 from 8 a.m. to noon.** Orientation is an opportunity for students and parents to get supply lists, receive class schedules and meet teachers.

While many schools have orientations on other dates and times, staff will be available at all schools on Friday, August 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. Parents are encouraged to call or visit their school's website for any additional orientations scheduled.

Additional information on registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

The first day of class for the 2013-2014 school year is Monday, August 19.

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Award-winning executive director to lead creative practice

St. John and Partners recently named Executive Creative Director Peter Herbst to head the agency's creative department. A 15-year industry veteran who wrote and produced his first Super Bowl spot during college, Herbst has developed award-winning creative campaigns, many resulting in new business wins, for billion-dollar brands at some of the largest agencies in the country. Herbst, a native of New York City, brings a diverse resume to the Jacksonville agency. His experience at boutique and multi-national agencies includes a brand portfolio with heavy hitters like Lincoln/Mercury, Sharpie, LG Electronics, Burt's Bees, NBA, Pella, Twinings Tea, Lego, American Express, Nike, SanDisk, Campbell Soup, Pillsbury and Frito Lay.

"We talked to candidates across the country and from our first conversation with Peter, we knew he would bring not only creativity and leadership to SJ&P, but also a real strength in his ability to work side by side with clients and staff outside of creative," said Jeff McCurry, president and COO at St. John and Partners. "Everyone who knew Peter referenced his ability to inject creativity across idea platforms in media, digital and social. Today, that's a skill you need in creative leadership."

Most recently a creative director at Young and Rubicam in New York, his second stint with the agency, Herbst led the creative direction for the Green Mountain Coffee and Valvoline accounts. Previously he was creative director at Brand Buzz in New York, working on an account list that included Nets Basketball, LG Electronics, British Aeronautical Equipment and Davidoff. During that time period, Herbst was a London International Awards Finalist (2007) and won awards for Graphic Design (GD GOLD) Package Design (2008), Effie David V. Goliath (2009) and Best Beverage (2010).

"I was drawn immediately to St. John and Partners on several levels – the size of the shop, the fact that it is inclusive of all disciplines under one roof, the straight forward approach of its executive team and I could drive to work for the first time in 19 years...a big deal for a car guy," said Herbst. "I've always felt the best part of my job is solving the problems and puzzles presented by clients in a range of industries, whether they're long-time partners or part of new business pitches. St. John and Partners offers plenty of opportunities to do what I love with a talented group of people."

Newcomers of North St. Johns begins 10th fall season

By Contributing Writer Mona Jensen

Mark Tuesday, September 17 at 11:00 a.m. on your calendar for the meeting/luncheon of Newcomers of North St. Johns. We will begin the 2013-2014 season at Amici's Restaurant, located at 1915 A1A South in St. Augustine. We welcome back all our members! We also invite any resident of North St. Johns County who has moved here recently, is experiencing a life change or would like to get acquainted with some new friends. Please come and join us.

Our program will feature a fabulous fashion show by Patchington's St. Augustine Boutique. Patchington's is a fun and exciting boutique offering the newest fashionable looks. Their fashions are colorful and casual, range from classical to contemporary styling and are available in a flattering missy fit. All attendees will receive a 10 percent discount. Our lovely Newcomer members will model several outfits and Filthy Rich will provide jewelry to complement each ensemble.

The menu for our luncheon includes a salad, a choice between Chicken Marsala or Herb Crusted Salmon served with green beans and mashed potatoes, bread and butter and Tiramisu for dessert. The total cost is $22, including tax and tip. A cash bar is available. Door prizes and raffles will be offered. All reservations must be received by September 6 and there are no refunds. Please address checks to NNSJ and mail to Laraine Walpole, 824 Ifield Road, St. Augustine FL 32095. Please email Carolyn at cglover1962@att.net for additional luncheon information.

Our club offers a wide variety of activities for you to get acquainted and have fun, such as Canasta, golf, wine socials, volunteer projects, Bunco, book club, crafts, knitting and needlework, Let's Do Lunch Bunch, jewelry making, watercolor painting, movie and lunch group, special event outings and day trips. Mark your calendar for the third Tuesday of each month from September through May for our meetings/luncheons (except the second Tuesday in November and December) and request our newsletter to receive information about other upcoming events. If you are interested in membership information, please contact Sue at sjaird@comcast.net.

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My name is Smokey. I am a 7 year old, female charcoal short hair cat. I am current on all of my vaccines and have been spayed. I am a very affectionate cat who loves attention and to sit in your lap. I play well with my fellow feline friends and my favorite toy is a jingle bell.

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

209-6190

Notes from the Pacetti Bay Media Center

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

Summer is almost over according to the school calendar. The days of reading and relaxing are almost over for students and teachers and I look forward to all the Summer Reading Café menus that will be turned in our first week back to school. I know everyone is getting excited about coming back to school and seeing friends and finding out their class schedules.

For me, it is going to be bittersweet. Leaving the country with my chickens and amazing mountains views will be hard. I do look forward to hearing everyone's reading highlights though as I return. This summer I was reintroduced to the author Bill Wallace when my granddaughter Felicity and her cousin Max picked the book *Goosed!* to read aloud. It was such fun listening to the book each night while Max slept over with us. Though Max is four, he sat patiently and listened, asking that Felicity read the whole thing rather than taking it home for his dad to read aloud. He has a wonderful collection of titles. I actually read *Snot Stew* to my classes when I was teaching elementary and we laughed often through his book. He usually has animals and humor which are both attractive to students of all ages. I remember when *Earthquake Terror* was on the Sunshine State list years ago. He is definitely an author to choose to read.

Felicity also chose to read *Gentle Ben* by Walt Morey. This is another author that has been around for a long time and has quite a few books himself. This book is the story of a bear and a boy which is a change from all the dog and boy books.

Checking on Roland Smith's *I, Q: Alamo* (which is finally out!) I found out that he has a new book coming out in September 24. You are going to need to go back and read both *Tentacles* and *Cryptid Hunters* to be ready for *Chupacabra* which is the sequel to those titles. Those will be my first reads once I am back at school! The newest 39 Clues book is out: *The 39 Clues: The Cahill Files: Spymaster*. I have ordered this one and I know Shawn Ryan will ask for it as soon as we start back to school. My recommendation for this month is because of mr. terupt by Rob Buyea. He is a teacher and this is his first novel. I hope to be able to add this to our collection as an electronic book.

Rick Riordan's *House of Hades* will not be out until October, I honestly thought it was coming out sooner and am very disappointed. Amazon says the release date is October 8; we will order it immediately as I know this will be a popular book. I thought the Ranger's Apprentice series was finished and I just found out Book 12, *The Royal Ranger,* will be out in November.

I will include lots of recommendations from our students' summer reading for the September issue. Be sure to check out the next issue!

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 records by submitting a request at mandarinhearing@live.com.

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.

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Walter Jones Park benefits from Eagle Scout project

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society recently removed a small shed in the woods at Walter Jones Park because it was falling down and was a safety concern. In doing so, an area was opened up that looked like a nice area for a sitting space.

While working on another scout's Eagle project in the park, Jackson Lazor of Troop 473 of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, approached museum volunteers about doing his project there. The museum volunteers showed him the empty space in the woods and Lazor liked the idea of making a nice sitting area that would be conducive to listening to the birds, reading or reflecting. His plan, which was submitted and approved by the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department, was to make a subtle and natural path into the area and clear out all of the invasive vines and plants. In doing that, the existing magnolia trees, a cedar, some oaks and an orange tree would be able to thrive and be seen.

In the area where the old shed had been, it was decided to install three benches and cover the area with mulch. On June 15, Lazor, a team of 20 scouts, scout parents and Tracey and Sandy Arpen, showed up at 8:00 a.m. to transform what was an eyesore into a beautiful spot for visitors to sit in peace and quiet and enjoy the gifts of nature in the park. Their work was made more difficult by a hard rain the night before, but they pressed on through the muddy areas and had created this new park space by 1:00 p.m.

The City of Jacksonville and Mandarin Museum and Historical Society are grateful to Troop 473 for their ongoing support of projects within Walter Jones Historical Park. These projects require exactly what an Eagle Scout project demands—a vision, planning, coordination, fundraising and execution. Lazor and his team performed and fulfilled all of these requirements and the result is a wonderful gift to the community.

Lazor will be a senior at Creekside High School where he is enrolled in the Academy on Environmental and Urban Engineering. He is a life-long scout, loves the outdoors and all things about nature. He will be attending the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia this month. The community is encouraged to come out and enjoy the fruits of this environmentally friendly project. We know it will be appreciated for generations to come.

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Childhood Apraxia cont. from pg. 1

out for the "Walk to Talk on the Beach" to help CASANA.

For these kids who have CAS, life is having the answer in your head but not being able to say it; wanting other kids to know that you want to play but you can't tell them; being afraid someone will ask your name, but you can't make it come out; scared that others will tease you. These are things that kids with CAS face every day. There is no cure, there is no pill, but with early intervention and years of intensive therapy kids with Apraxia can learn to talk.

So come and join the St. Augustine SERTOMA at the beautiful St. Augustine Beach Pier and Pavilion on Saturday, October 19, 2013 for an afternoon of fun and sharing to help bring awareness to this neurological disorder and help kids like Jason overcome CAS by supporting CASANA. Help these kids find their voices.

Nolan reminds you, "Register by Sunday, September 22, 2013 to receive an official Apraxia Walk t-shirt in your size!"

For more information, please contact walk coordinator Melba Nolan at melbanolan@comcast.net or by phone at 540-1132. Be sure to visit www.apraxia-kids.org to learn more.

New charity formed to assist St. Johns County teens

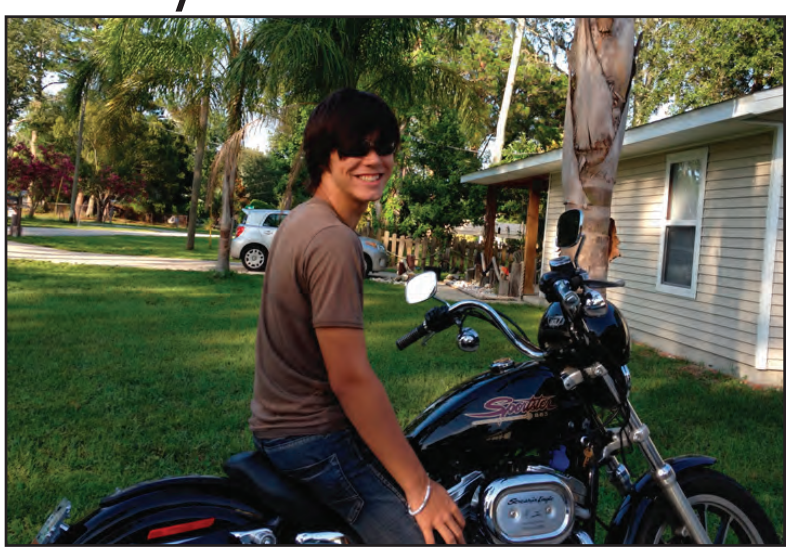

Photo courtesy of Ashley Carraway.

St. Johns County has a new charity for teens and young adults. After months of hard work and mountains of paperwork, Scott's Friends, Inc. is finally recognized as a charity by the state of Florida. Scott's Friends, Inc. was founded by Jim and Mindy Milton after the tragic loss of their 17-year-old son Scott Alexander Milton. On July 25, 2012 the world lost a talented musician and a teenager wise beyond his years.

Milton was notorious for bringing home kids that needed help. Through him the Milton family learned that St. Johns County has more than 500 homeless kids enrolled in high school. They learned about county and state programs designed to assist these kids. They also learned first-hand about the gaps in these programs and the needs of these kids and young adults.

After his accident, the idea for Scott's Friends, Inc. was created and a non-profit to benefit teens and young adults in St. Johns County was born. The goal of helping these kids became a reality. The charity is three-fold: we will work with the county's Unaccompanied Youth program to help meet the needs of homeless high school students in our county; we will work to provide funding for the arts by grants and scholarships to local high school students and the schools they attend; and we will work with the young adults that so many have given up on. Scott's Friends, Inc. will work with these young adults in an effort to keep them in school and focused on the future by offering career planning strategies, budgeting classes and so forth.

For more information, please visit www.ScottsFriends.org.

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School district wins top safety award

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) was presented with an Exemplary School Safety Award by the School Safety Advocacy Council (SSAC) at the National School Safety Conference held the first week of August in Las Vegas. The SJCSD was one of only seven schools or school districts to receive an award out of 145 nominations; seven individual awards were also presented. The district was lauded for its efforts on taking a proactive approach to safety following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

The SSAC has been recognizing agencies and individuals at its annual conference for the last eight years. More than 560 school officials and law enforcement representatives attended the conference representing 46 out of 50 states, Canada and the Netherlands. Also in attendance were parents and representatives from Sandy Hook Elementary.

"This award is affirmation that we are doing the right things to keep our schools safe for our students, parents, teachers and administrators," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "I am extremely grateful for the work of district staff, school administration and local law enforcement to ensure that we continue our resolve to make our district one of the safest in the nation."

School safety is paramount to the success of the SJCSD and is an integral part of the district's daily operations. All district schools have school-based emergency operations plans, regular emergency drills, consistent safety team meetings and emergency preparedness charts posted in all offices and classrooms. In addition, through a reciprocal agreement with the St. Johns Sheriff's Office, Youth Resource Deputies are assigned to all middle and high schools. The excellent working relationship with local law enforcement provides many opportunities to collaborate and several school enhancements have been made to provide safer school atmospheres.

For more information on school safety in St. Johns County schools, please contact School Safety Coordinator Steve Ray at 547-7534.

Congratulations Riverhawks

Congratulations to the CBC Riverhawks 9U Grey, who competed in the AAU Super Showcase and National Championship—and won a national championship in the 9U Division! The tournament was played June 17 through June 22 at Disney's Wide World of Sports. Pictured are Declan Hollobaugh, Jack L'hommedieu, Ian Wollcott, Kaleb Gimore, Mathew Guzie, Shane Mclaughlin, Nathan Webb, Cameron Helt, Christian Braum, Coleman Bullard, Christopher Rogero, Assistant Coach Scott Mclaughlin, Head Coach Ryan Gilmore and Assistant Coach Chase Anderson.

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Safe Boating Course for you

Flotilla 14-7 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will be presenting "About Boating Safely," a course for both beginners and experienced boaters that will give the participant the knowledge to obtain The Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card. The course is offered on Saturday, September 7 at the St. Augustine Campus of St. Johns River State College, 2900 College Drive, off State Road 16 in St. Augustine, starting at 7:45 a.m. and lasting until 5:00 p.m.

Please note that Florida law requires that all persons born on or after January 1, 1988, when operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or more, must have in their possession a Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card. For details on this and other legal requirements, please visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Website at MyFWC.com.

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

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Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club starts new season

By Contributing Writer Marg Mytholar

BTNC 2013-2014 officers

Ladies, come and join us in a celebration of summer vacation pictures (any year or time) at Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club while we begin another great year of fun activities and friendships. Our first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, September 10 at St. Johns Golf and Country Club (BTNC), located off County Road 210. This will be a luncheon meeting with the doors opening at 10:45 a.m. Information on entrée choices, cost, reservation deadline and where to send a check is on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BartramTrail.Newcomers.WomensClub. A cash bar will be available.

The BTNC meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at various local restaurants for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups. There are various card groups (bridge and canasta), golf, recipe exchange, special event outings, game day (Mexican Train), Bunko, Mah Jongg, book clubs, lunch and matinee, lunch divas, couple/individual dinner out, a nature walk group. For club information, please contact Vice President of Membership Shirley Bodziak at shirelybodziak@gmail.com. Members who join before August 31 will pay only $20, saving $5 on their membership fee of $25.

To download a membership form, go to www.facebook.com/BartramTrail.Newcomers.WomensClub.

got news?
editor@thecreekline.com

Passing the gavel for Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

Rick Stobe (RCBT President 2013-14) and Thomas Carroll (RCBT President 2012-13)

The members and families of the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail gathered on Saturday, June 29 to celebrate the service accomplishments of our Rotary Club. Scott Burgess was named Rotarian of the Year and Jamie Mackey was honored with the Service Above Self award.

Local service projects occurred over the course of the past year benefiting the Creekside Interact Club, Hastings Migrant Workers, Marines Toys for Tots, Rotary Youth Leadership, SAFE animals, St. Augustine Youth Services Boys Home, St. Johns County homeless children, St. Johns County teachers and St. Johns County veterans.

The club's international focus has been a multi-year Healthy Schools water sanitation project in Guatemala and Polio-Plus Eradication. Rotarians also sponsor Rotary Youth Exchange inbound and outbound students traveling around the work to gain global appreciation while living the Rotary motto, Service Above Self.

July 1 marks the start of a new Rotary year as the gavel was passed from Thomas Carroll to Rick Stobe for presidential leadership of the club and installation of new board members Carol Higley, vice president/president-elect; Lance Malcolm and Joe Carnley, secretaries; Chris Sexton, treasurer and Jeff Weatherhead, sergeant at arms.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. For more information, please contact President Rick Stobe at rickstobe@hotmail.com.

Lilo and Harry Frisch honored at gala

River Garden is proud to be honoring Lilo and Harry Frisch at their 2013 River Garden Gala. More than 65 years ago in what was then British Palestine, a young couple met, married and began to create a dynasty. Harry and his brother Fred had escaped their native Vienna, Austria in 1938, just a step ahead of the Nazis. Lilo was able to leave her native Germany and go to British Palestine for further education and during World War II she joined the Royal Air Force. They were married in 1948 and left everything behind to immigrate to the United States.

Together they have worked with four generations of their family in building a small seafood store into a half-billion dollar sales company, employing hundreds in Jacksonville and the Bahamas. They have both generously supported countless community not-for-profit organizations with their time, talent and resources.

In announcing River Garden would be honoring Lilo and Harry, Martin A. Goetz, CEO said, "They are the quintessential community leaders – they embody all that is good, kind and compassionate in Jacksonville. As champions of our Jewish communal agencies, they have together modeled for us what if means to create and nourish a caring community. River Garden is extremely grateful to the entire Frisch family for sharing our vision of the future for the River Garden Home with their generosity and loving support."

The 21st River Garden Gala will be held on Saturday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village. Chairs are Arlene and Dr. Tony Adelson and Diane and Dr. Mitchell Rothstine.

Entertainment is the fantastic "Anita and The Motown Review" presented by our friends at SunTrust Bank. Everyone is invited for this fun-filled evening of music and dancing. For tickets and reservations, please call Michelle Branly at 886-8431 or Mbranley@rivergarden.org.

Lilo and Harry Frisch

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Community honored with five 2013 Aurora Awards

The RiverTown community, St. Johns County's only riverfront master-planned community, won five Aurora Awards including two Grand Aurora Awards representing the top award in its category.

The RiverTown community received two Grand Aurora Awards; one for its recreational amenity facility – the Tennis and Fitness Center – and one for the community's landscape and pool design. The RiverTown community also received an Aurora Award for its community clubhouse recreational facility, The RiverHouse. The Aurora Awards is a design competition of the Southeast Building Conference recognizing building design excellence and honoring projects in 12 southeastern states and the Caribbean.

"The RiverTown community's design blends environmental and community-building principles to strengthen a sense of community and contribute to the residents' quality of life by encouraging opportunities to connect with nature and with their neighbors," said RiverTown Director of Development Christian Kuhn. "I am pleased the RiverTown community has been recognized for its outstanding amenity design in several categories. These awards and the appeal of our community amenities are being substantiated by the many new homeowners moving to the RiverTown community."

Exploring Georgia's Lake Country

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

Heritage Hall, Macon

Geographically, Florida lies south of Georgia, but culturally Georgia feels more Southern. The state's early colonization flourished from a plantation economy; however, the Civil War ended "the Old South" lifestyle. After slavery was abolished, the state struggled during Reconstruction. Today museums and heritage sites tell stories from the past: King Cotton, the War Between the States, the boll weevil, the Great Depression and Civil Rights. Take your pick and plan a trip around history; Georgia simply bursts with possibilities. Or perhaps visit the Peach State for relaxation, farm fresh food, natural beauty and sport.

The heartland or center of the state is known as Georgia's Lake Country and features two immense man-made lakes: Oconee and Sinclair. They contain more than 15,000 acres of water and nearly 800 miles of shoreline.

Both Cuscowilla Resort and the Ritz-Carlton Lodge at Reynolds Plantation present peaceful getaways for romantic rendezvous or fun filled days for active enthusiasts and families. Each resort and numerous other hotels and campgrounds in the area offer rental equipment for activities: boating, water skiing, kayaking, fishing, golf, hiking, swimming and seasonal hunting.

Visitors to the towns of Madison, Eatonton, Milledgeville and Greensboro find southern cuisine, shopping and antiquing along with historic attractions. Start in Milledgeville and follow the Antebellum Trail. Milledgeville was the state capital from 1807-1868 and a tour of the Old Governor's Mansion exhibits many surprises, including a 50-foot tall rotunda that is hidden on the exterior.

Madison is the town Sherman refused to burn on his infamous March to the Sea. In addition to stately columned antebellum homes, there are more than 170 antique dealers, 40 boutiques and 20 non-chain eateries.

Greensboro, named for Georgia's Revolutionary War hero, Nathanael Greene, is home to Lake Oconee and a fascinating little downtown perfect for a stroll. Ask shop owners about the "Charging Dog" and "Legend of the Marble Slab" or slip into the Potted Geranium Tea Parlor for lunch or Yesterday's Cafe for their famous Buttermilk Pie.

Now, please don't throw anyone into the briar patch, but do stop at the town of Eatonton for the Uncle Remus Museum. It consists of a log cabin made from three Putnam County slave cabins and captures "de critters" humanized by native author Joel Chandler Harris. You will be lucky indeed if Ms. Georgia Smith happens to be there telling tales of Brer Rabbit.

Florida is a fabulous state, but keep Georgia on your mind as you make getaway plans this summer or fall.

Georgia's Lake Country: www.oconee.org.

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Back to School Guide

Nease cadets honored at Leadership Academy

Capt. Robert Young, USN (Ret.) Nease Senior Naval Science instructor, Cadet John Oswald, Cadet Daniel Loehnert, Cadet Jack Kahlbaugh, Cadet Conner Russell, Cadet Brandon Cummings, Cadet Madison Stenzel, Cadet Jared Heinrich and CDR Rustie Hibbard, USN (Ret.), Area-12 Manager.

Five Nease NJROTC cadets graduated from a week's training at the Area-12 Leadership Academy held at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia in June. They were Daniel Loehnert, Brandon Cummings, John Oswald, Jack Kahlbaugh and Conner Russell. This academy is for the top cadets from each of the 59 NJROTC units in the North Florida/Georgia region.

Cadets go from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily receiving training in physical fitness, standardized room preparation/inspection, academic classes and drill practices. Of the 203 graduates of the week-long intensive training, four of the Nease cadets were singled out and recognized for having the highest overall average grades on the combined room inspections, academics, physical fitness test and personnel inspections. From Alpha Company 1st Platoon was Daniel Loehnert, Alpha Company 2nd Platoon was Brandon Cummings, Alpha Company 4th Platoon was John Oswald and for the entire Alpha Company (over 100 cadets) was Conner Russell (who had the highest average of any cadet from both Companies...203 cadets). Additionally, Jack Kahlbaugh had the third highest average of 22 cadets in Bravo Company 4th Platoon.

Also attending the rigorous Leadership Academy week as Cadre (instructor assistants) were cadets Madison Stenzel and Jared Heinrich from Nease. They were honor graduates of the Leadership Academy class of 2012 and were personally requested by the Area-12 Manager, CDR Rustie Hibbard to come back and assist the instructor team this year.

These cadets definitely represented Nease NJROTC with the unit's motto of "A Cut Above."

County maintains ranking as one of top performing districts

School grades released in late July show that the St. Johns County School District has maintained its ranking as one of the top performing districts in the state. St. Johns County had 15 "A" schools, four "B" schools, five "C" schools, one "D" school and one school with a pending status. Ten elementary schools, four middle schools and the district's only K-8 school were "A" schools this year.

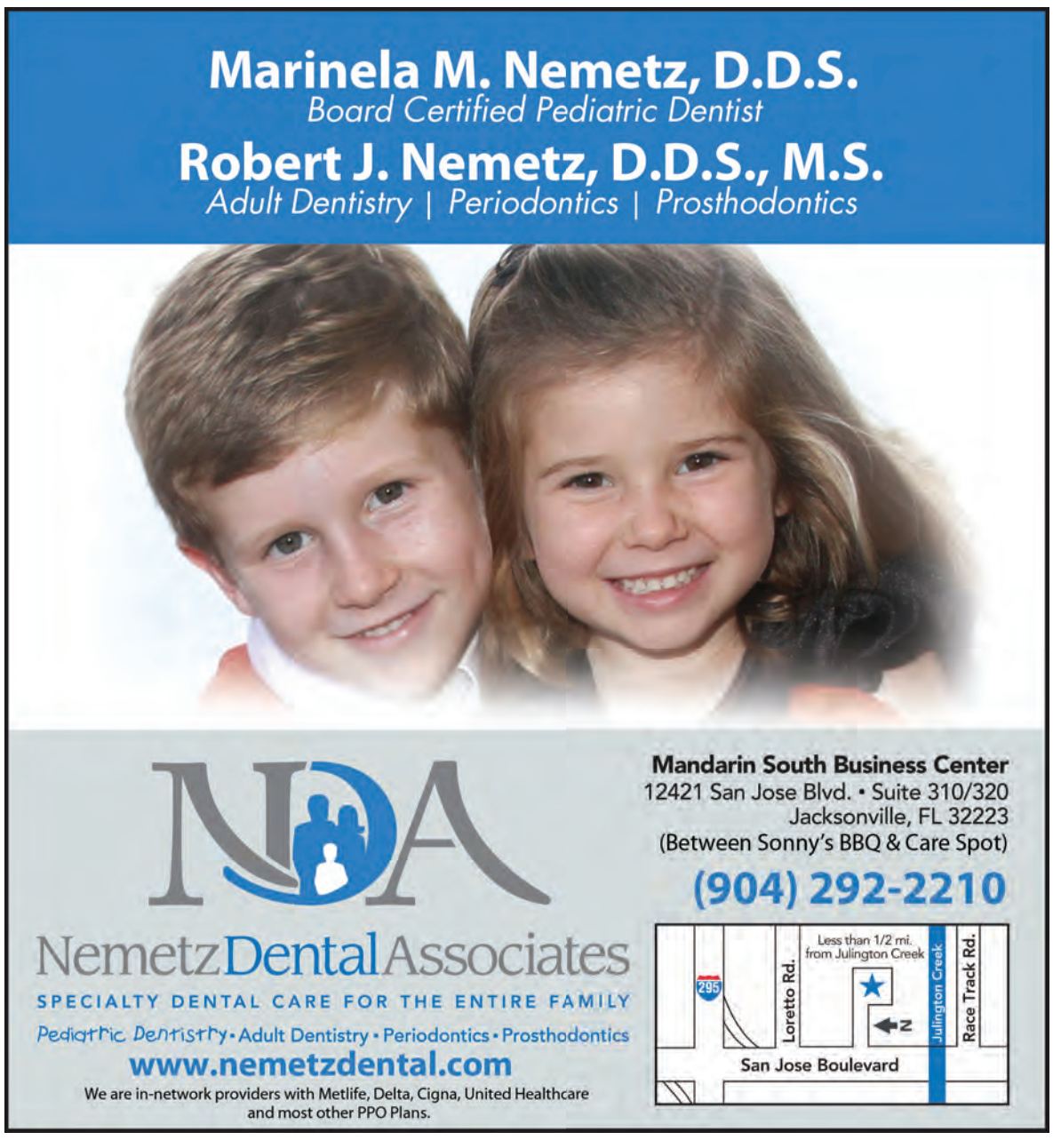
"I have always advocated for higher standards and it is very difficult to explain how school grades can go down at the same time students' test scores improve," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "This year's school grades are not reflective of lower student performance, but rather of the higher proficiency standards. The revised passing scores and additional changes had an obvious negative impact on school grades. We remain focused on individual student growth. I am very proud that our students continue to improve and excel with the higher standards."

The 10 elementary schools receiving an "A" status are Cunningham Creek Elementary, Durbin Creek Elementary, W. D. Hartley Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary, R. B. Hunt Elementary, Julington Creek Elementary, Ketterlinus Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, PVPV/Rawlings Elementary and Timberlin Creek Elementary.

The four middle schools with an "A" status are Fruit Cove Middle, Alice B. Landrum Middle, Pacetti Bay Middle and Switzerland Point Middle. Also receiving an "A" is Liberty Pines Academy (K-8).

Schools receiving a "B" include Mill Creek Elementary, Palencia Elementary, Wards Creek Elementary and Gamble Rogers Middle. Schools receiving a "C" include Otis A. Mason Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary, R. J. Murray Middle and Sebastian Middle. With the new rigorous proficiency standards, John A. Crookshank Elementary drops to a grade of "D" and The Webster School's grade is pending due to its ESE population.

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



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Register now for new school year!

The St. Johns County School District is encouraging parents to register kindergarten students and new students to the county and/or the public school system before school starts on August 19. Even though elementary and middle schools are currently operating out of their area high school, parents may contact schools at their regular phone number to register their children. Parents are also able to go to the high school to register their children. The schools are currently operating Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before September 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. To register for first grade, children must be six years old on or before September 1 and have successfully completed kindergarten. The child's certified birth certificate is required at the time of registration and only the legal name is acceptable on student records. In addition, parents should bring two proofs of residency: current utility bill, lease and/or mortgage statement. Florida law also requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of certain immunizations and physical examinations.

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

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

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Gang Up for Good!

Congratulations to Caeli Benyacko, a fourth grade student at Liberty Pines Academy and two-season participant at Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida (GOTRNEFL), who was one of 12 national winners of Secret's annual essay contest! Essay contest participants were encouraged to share "How Girls on the Run® and the Mean Stinks campaign help you Gang Up For Good and put an end to girl to girl bullying." Benyacko won $500, which she plans to save for college as well as buy a citrus tree, and GOTRNEFL received $3,500. Pictured are Jana Ertrachter, board chair of GOTRNEFL; Laura Lasko, executive director, GOTRNEFL; Caeli Benyacko and her family.

SJC schools are healthy

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) has been recognized by the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, Florida Action for Healthy Kids and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents as a Florida Healthy School District and has been awarded the Silver level. The Healthy School District awards have been bestowed since 2009 to school districts that maintain a healthy environment for students, employees and the community.

Out of the 67 Florida school districts, SJCSD is one of only seven that was awarded Silver or Gold level this year. This status for SJCSD at the Silver level is for a two-year period; however, the district will be eligible to apply for Gold level status next year.

The evaluation process involved gathering information from schools and communities across the district over a two-month period. School districts were evaluated using the Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment Tool. Scores are given based on eight areas of assessment criteria. These assessment areas are health education, physical education, health services, nutrition services and education, psychological and social counseling, healthy school environment, employee wellness and family and community involvement.

SJCSD scored highest in the areas of counseling, psychological and social services, healthy school environment, employee wellness and family and community involvement. Based on 140 indicators, SJCSD was determined to be a leader in the state maintaining practices and policies that foster a healthy environment.

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Breakfast and physical activity help students excel academically

As students prepare to go back to school, it's important to make sure your child doesn't miss out on the most important meal of the day – breakfast. Having breakfast is not only critical to a child's overall nutrition, it can also play a key role in enhancing academic performance.

A recent study reinforces the "learning connection" – the crucial link between quality nutrition, physical activity and academic performance. Key findings from the study suggest:

- More than half (62 percent) of all teens say they do not eat breakfast every day of the week.
- Students who eat breakfast have better attention and memory than students who don't.
- Students who eat school breakfast increase their math and reading scores and improve their cognitive speed and memory.
- Three out of four high school students aren't active for the recommended 60 minutes each day.
- Students who were more active during school performed better on standardized tests for reading, math and spelling.

When preparing breakfast at home, incorporating dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yogurt can deliver essential nutrients that help kids maintain a healthy diet. These foods contain key vitamins and minerals including calcium, protein, vitamins A, D and B12, potassium, phosphorus, riboflavin and niacin.

Getting your child off to a great, healthy start in the morning can be achieved with little effort. Breakfast foods like fruit and yogurt smoothies, yogurt topped with granola, low-fat cheese sticks and whole-grain cereal with fruit and low-fat milk are nutritious and can be prepared quickly.

For more information about Florida Dairy Farmers or to discover more healthy breakfast ideas for your child, visit www.floridamilk.com.

2013~2014 School Bus routes now online!

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

10U Creeks Crushers win Florida State Babe Ruth championships

The 10U Creeks Crushers fast pitch softball team won the Florida State Babe Ruth championships in Ocala in early July in dominant fashion. They shut out their opponents in all five games, outscoring them 73-0 and throwing three no-hitters. This special group of girls has won eight consecutive tournaments including the NSA State Championships in Clermont. The team is coached by Mike Bruman, Jessy Wolf, Todd Sandiford and Allen Sykes and is comprised of Mallorie Sykes, Morgan Bruman, Peyton Wolf, Kylie Hammonds, Kendall Ford, Faith Sandiford, Lauren Bevis, Allison Bratek, Madison Bratek, Aaliyah Monds and Megan O'Brien.

LUNAR PHASES

First Quarter: August 14
Full: August 21
Last Quarter: August 28
New: September 5

Back to School Guide

WCE back to school news

By Contributing Writer Ricke Ricciardelli, Wards Creek PTO

We hope all WCE teachers, staff and families are enjoying a safe and happy summer!

The WCE PTO executive board has elected new officers for the 2013-2014 school year:

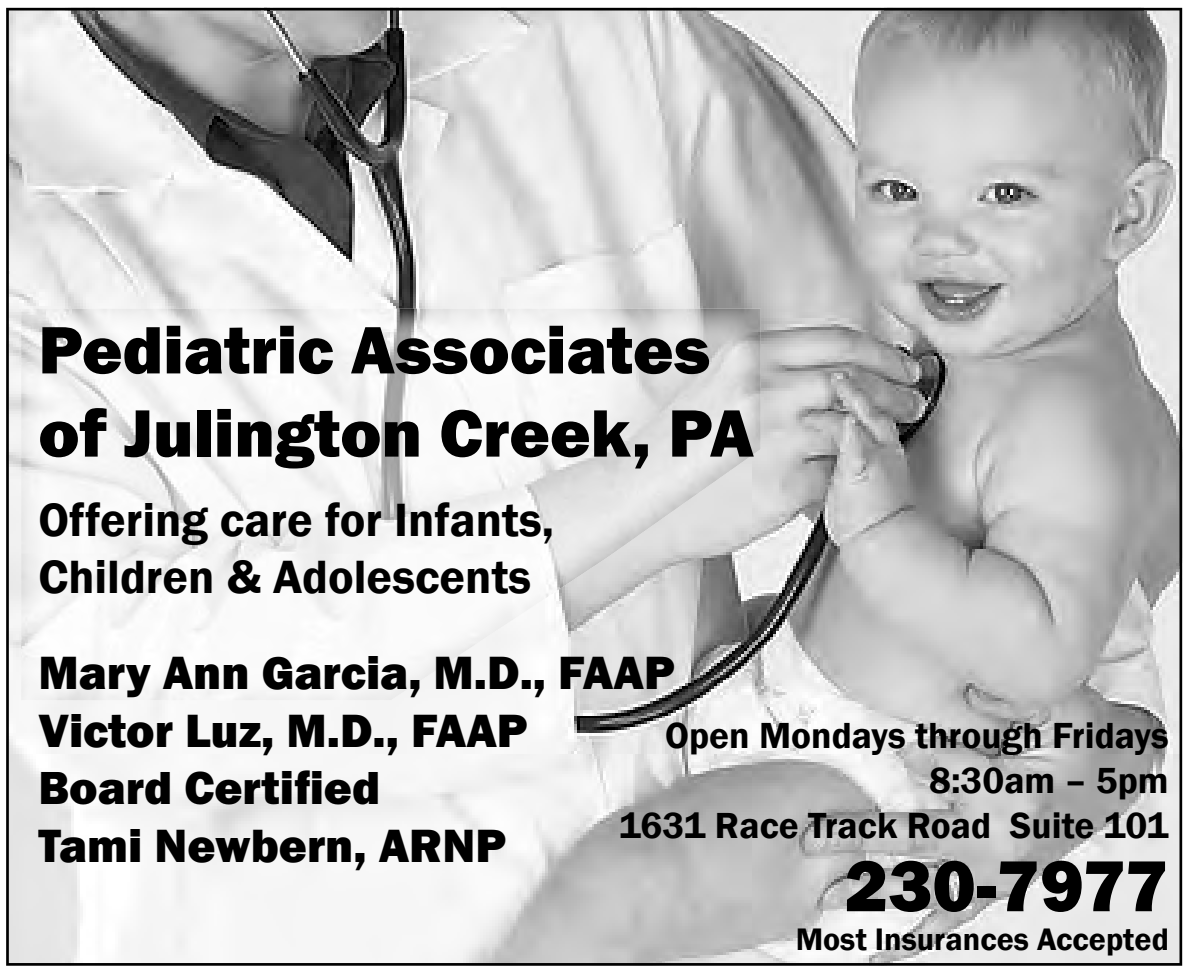
Amy Lasswell, President
Ricke Ricciardelli, First Vice President and External Communications
Wanda Nelson, Second Vice President and Fund Raising Coordinator
Lyn Repsher, Treasurer
Corinne Hammel, Corresponding Secretary
Jenn Hughes, Recording Secretary
Tara Therre, Parliamentarian
Tammy Stewart, SAC Liaison
Jackie Cardiello, Volunteer Coordinator
Ann Gillette, Room Parent Coordinator
Rachel Nagel, Business Partner, Liaison
Gail Rich, co-coordinator, fund raising.

Thursday, August 15 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. you will be able to meet your teacher for kindergarten. "Meet the Teacher" day for all other grades will be August 16 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Spiritwear and PTO memberships will be available.

The first day of school is Monday, August 19. We are looking forward to seeing your smiling faces. Go Warriors!

Districtwide Orientation

St. Johns County School District
Friday, August 16 • 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon



Nease Happenings

Summer comes to a close—what's in store for students this year at Nease?

By Contributing Writer Samuel Wright, Nease Student

August brings the summer of 2013 to an abrupt end and a new year at Nease High School. While each new school year brings back familiar routines and schedules, students have many new changes ahead of them. Three students, returning sophomore Jacob Fiore, new freshman Michael Carter and senior Shannon Dorman share their thoughts on the new year.

Fiore expects 10th grade to just be another not-so-significant step in the grand scheme of things.

"It's just another stepping stone, but I now know what to expect and how to deal with it. I know how to prepare for this year," he shares.

Fiore also looks forward to the social aspect of high school. "I miss just regularly having conversations with my friends. During the school year I get to see them every day, unlike the summer."

Fiore also offered advice to incoming freshmen: "Try to find a group of friends that fits you, but don't only be exclusive to them; talk to others and meet new people."

Freshman Carter aims to be up to the task.

"I've heard that [high school] is way better than middle school in the social aspect. I've also heard that you have much more freedom in high school and much larger opportunities. You can participate in internships and dual enrollment in later years which are much bigger opportunities than you would ever get in middle school," said Carter, who will be participating in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program next year. Addressing the transition to high school, Carter added, "To be honest, I don't feel any huge emotions about going into high school. I don't think I've truly come to terms with the reality that I'm really going into high school. I think IB will be the hardest set of courses I've ever taken in my life. From what I've heard the course is just really vigorous. I think that it will be hard and it will be pushing the limits, but in the long run, that's life. I think I'm really blessed to have the fantastic opportunities this program provides."

On the other end of the experience, Dorman has spent the summer raising money for college and is now ready to get down to business. Dorman is looking forward to dual-enrollment with Nease and St. Johns River State College.

"Since I'm doing dual enrollment I'm looking forward to not having to be at the school so much. It's nice to not see the same faces all the time. I'm going to be able to take college classes for no charge at the college, but the real highlight is that it counts for both high school and college credit," she said excitedly. "If I could have three wishes to make this year go better I would wish for scholarships, good grades and just the chance to make it great."

Best of luck to Fiore, Carter, Dorman and all the great students at Nease High School in the 2013-14 school year!

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Back to School Guide

For back to school: ABCs of how to pack a healthy school lunch

It's back-to-school time on the First Coast! Here's your first lesson of the new school year: how to pack a lunch that'll keep the kids healthy and happy, increase the fruits and veggies, lower saturated fat, sugar and sodium – and fit your wallet. The American Heart Association has budget-friendly, creative ideas to satisfy both kids and parents:

Make a Smarter Sandwich: While some kids prefer the same thing every day, others may be OK with a slight switch to their sandwich.

- Use different breads like 100 percent whole wheat tortilla wraps (choose wraps low in saturated and trans fats) or 100 percent whole wheat pita pockets.
- Besides lettuce, try shredded carrots or avocado slices with a turkey or lean roast beef sandwich.
- Buy store brand blocks of low-fat, low-sodium cheeses. You save money when you slice it yourself. Or use a cookie cutter to cut into fun shapes.
- Instead of lunchmeat (high in fat and sodium), try leftover grilled chicken, lean pork or an egg white salad sandwich.
- Always pack sandwiches with a mini-cooler pack to keep them fresh and safe.

Love those Leftovers: Think about using the leftovers from a family favorite dinner for a next day lunch. Invest in a thermos to keep foods hot or cold until the lunch bell rings. Some ideas:

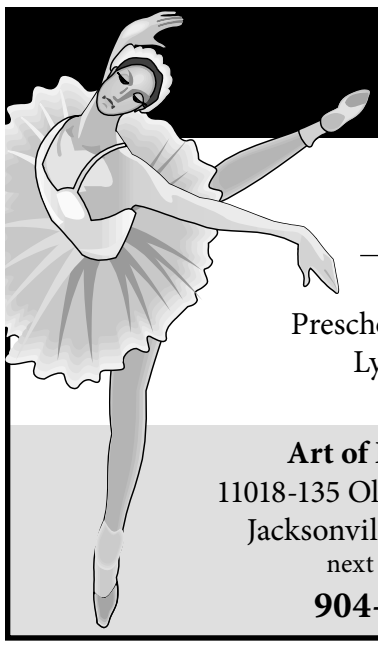
- Low-sodium tomato, vegetable or bean soups
- Chili made with lean or extra-lean ground meat or turkey
- Whole wheat spaghetti with low-sodium tomato sauce
- Low-sodium baked beans, bean casserole or beans and rice

Let Them Dunk: Sometimes it's OK to let your kids play with their food, especially when they are getting extra nutrition. Try packing one of these fun dunks with dippers:

- Apple and pear slices to dip into low fat or non-fat plain yogurt mixed with peanut butter.
- Carrot, celery and sweet pepper strips to dip into hummus, fresh salsa or homemade bean dip.
- Whole grain crackers (choose crackers low in sodium, saturated and trans fats) or slices of grilled low sodium tofu (a soybean product) to dunk into low sodium vegetable or tomato soup.
- Unsalted sunflower seeds, crushed whole wheat cereal and sliced banana to mix into low fat vanilla yogurt (no added sugars) to eat with a spoon like a sundae.

Get Them Involved: While letting kids in the kitchen might mean a bigger mess, if they help pack their lunch, they're more likely to eat that lunch! On nights you have a bit more time, like a Sunday night, have them choose which piece of fruit or what type of bread they want and let them assemble their lunch. Make this a weekly routine – it's another great way to spend family time together.

Get more tips for families at www.heart.org/healthierkids.



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Back to School Guide

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CHS Happenings

Oh, those Summer Knights!

By Sarah Schreck, CHS Student

We all know what time it is—the Office Depot, Staples and Target CEOs are taking money-baths, teachers are bracing for impact and students everywhere are trying to figure out just where summer vacation went (you should probably check Netflix). But not to worry! The 2013-2014 school year is on its way, full of 180 days of potential and possibilities!

Some students traveled all the way to Costa Rica, while many focused on making the daily pilgrimage to their kitchen. The beaches were packed, as were bowling alleys and concert arenas. But as the summer winds down, students and teachers alike have begun to trickle into school earlier than expected. The Power of Creekside Marching Band is already suiting up to perform their 2013-2014 marching show, featuring the music of U2. Sports teams of all calibers are training hard in the remnants of the summer's brutal heat, getting ready for their respective seasons. The students of Creekside's theatrical department are already picking pieces for individual event district competition.

Some students have certain goals in mind as they approach the upcoming year.

Rising senior Ethan Son has taken initiative during the summer to "be a little more productive to achieve some 'door openers' at college interviews, such as doing volunteer work and applying for work around town."

Shopping for back-to-school supplies for the last time, rising seniors have an important and unusual year to look forward to.

Son shares, "I think it'll be less studying for the big quiz and more overall preparation for the year to come. After all, with college just over the horizon, we seniors have to focus on our futures."

Moving up the ranks is Jordan Goldberg, a soon-to-be-sophomore. Apart from completing the summer reading assignment, Goldberg "thought about what [he] might learn this year and [he] even went online to see what teachers [he] might have." Reasonable research! Often, teachers will have assignments from the previous year still posted on their websites. If you're curious concerning a teaching style of a particular teacher, the summer's a great time to do some investigating.

When asked about how his sophomore year will compare to his freshman experience, Goldberg responded, "It will be easier to start the school year because now I know the school layout. I think it will be more difficult, in terms of schoolwork, because it only gets harder from this point on."

And for those of you out there who are facing a great, big adventure—your freshman year—relax! The school is bigger, the work is bigger, but the fun is bigger, too!

Goldberg has three points of advice after conquering his freshman year. "First, relax on the first day, there is no need to stress about anything that day. Second, don't act like you're the best, because upperclassmen won't like you. And finally, take schoolwork seriously because it all counts now."

It seems like the entire Creekside cavalry is suiting up to take another school year by storm!

World Golf Village players compete in Jacksonville U6/U7 City Championships

Meet the Expos, a team of players from all over Northeast Florida that recruited Karter Alvarez (third base) and Preston Shields (first base) from the World Golf Village area to play in the Jacksonville U6/U7 City Championships from July 9 through July 15, 2013.

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LPA: Ready to learn

By Contributing Writer Diana Sarama, Liberty Pines Academy

The beginning of a new school year is fast approaching. There are lots of important dates and reminders to help students and parents make a smooth transition back to school. The first important dates are the three Wolf Greetings at Liberty Pines Academy. The Wolf Greetings allow students to obtain their schedule and for them to meet their teacher. For students entering grades six through eight, their Wolf Greeting will be on August 14 between 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. For students entering kindergarten through second grade, their Wolf Greeting will be on August 15 between 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Finally, those students entering grades three through five will have their Wolf Greeting on August 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The school calendar will fill up with many more meetings and activities. Checking the school's website often is a great way to stay connected with the school. Another way to get connected is to enjoy a cup of coffee with LPA's principal, Judith Thayer. On Friday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m., the PTO would like to invite you to join Thayer in the LPA cafeteria for the First Quarter Coffee with the Principal. Please know that siblings are welcome! The PTO does hope to see you there!

In addition to dates and times, LPA's website is a wonderful resource of information. In particular, the information about the school's dress code is very helpful when purchasing new clothes for the school year. Since Liberty Pines is a K-8 school, dress code expectations are the same for all students. It may be helpful to know that the students are not allowed to wear any type of sleeveless shirts, leggings/jeggings or pants with holes/tears. The dress code is enforced starting with the first day of school.

The last bit of helpful information to the start of a new school year is in regards to volunteering at LPA. If you would like to volunteer, please know that each volunteer needs to be approved first before going into the school to help. Volunteering includes any time a person enters the school to participate in an activity during the school hours, which includes having lunch with the student. The information for registering as an approved volunteer is found on the PTO page of LPA's website, www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Being informed, staying connected and knowing what is expected from the students, parents, and volunteers helps everyone to be ready to learn!

Join us on **Sunday, September 15th!**
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Many thanks to business partners

New electronic billboard lights up Nease

Nease High School's new electronic billboard is being installed this month with the help of Nease family donors, Spectrum Sign and Graphics and the St. Johns County School Board. The billboard will keep Nease students, families and sports fans informed of upcoming events and meetings at the high school. The information will promote and enhance school involvement with students, families and our community.

Nease will also be using the sign to thank PTO Business Partners who have been so generous to help fund needed items such as microscopes, iPads and classroom smartboards.

Kris Boynton, Nease PTO Business Partner coordinator says, "The Business Partners' help in funding these classroom necessities is becoming more crucial as we strive to keep our students achieving at a high level in this ever changing and progressive world we live in."

For more information on becoming a Nease High School PTO Business Partner, contact Boynton at 826-7545.

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Deadline is the 20th of each month!

Chorale issues call for new members for Season 21

For a limited time in September (September 16, 23 and 30), the North Florida Women's Chorale has openings in all voice parts for the 2013-2014 season. Welcome to all singers of all experience levels. To learn more about the membership process, you may call 646-1059 for more information or attend a rehearsal in September at Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m.

Led by artistic director/conductor Kerry Fradley, the chorale will offer several concerts during Advent and Christmas seasons, including the inspired Benjamin Britten "Ceremony of Carols," accompanied on harp by Stetson music faculty member, Cameron Huster. Two concerts for the public are Sunday, December 8 at Peace Presbyterian Church in Southside and Friday, January 3 at the Basilica in St. Augustine as part of their First Friday concert series. Both concerts are free and the Chorale does ask for donations.

The North Florida Women's Chorale has presented treble choral music to the Jacksonville, Beaches and St. Augustine areas for two decades, having just celebrated their 20th anniversary season. The Chorale has brought together people from all walks of life to share and enjoy classical and contemporary choral music-making.

Led by a professional artistic staff and run by a corps of committed volunteers, the Chorale benefits from the leadership of Kerry Fradley, artistic and music director, and Maureen Rhodes as their piano accompanist.

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Julington Creek 13U Sharks – District Runner-Ups

The JCB Sharks All Star team finished second in the 13U state district tournament this summer. The Sharks played to a hard-fought 4-1 semi-final victory over MSA to make it to the final, but lost to the eventual winner MAA. Congratulations to Coach Chris Kaye, Jonathan Walter, Manager Paul Chouinard, Michael Bridges, Alex Wicker, Coach Dave Popik, Jacob Hoelle, Sean Popik, Vance Bennett, Kyle Chouinard, Jacob Santacruz, Bobby LeGrand, E.J. Mohr, Austin Windorski (not pictured) and Jackson Lein (not pictured).

Faith News

Creekside Christian Church invites you to visit them on **Back to Church Sunday** on September 15. As everyone prepares for the hustle and bustle of fall—back to school, back to work, back to the "routine"—Creekside Christian Church will be participating in a nationwide campaign comprised of over 15,000 churches, called "Back to Church Sunday." The church, located at 92 Lifespring Way (off Race Track Road) in St. Johns, will have service times of 8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 15. For additional information, please contact the church at 287-2777 or visit their website at www.creeksidechristian.com.

The Temple Sisterhood Braille group will be holding their Orientation Day on August 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Congregation Avavath Chesed, located at 8727 San Jose Boulevard. Volunteers are needed to transcribe printed materials into Braille using a computer. Volunteers are also needed to reproduce maps and diagrams using "raised line" and collage methods. We will train you to help us get the materials to Braille readers. Free classes meet weekly on Thursday mornings and are open to men and women over 18 years old. This non-sectarian Braille Group has been sponsored by the Temple Sisterhood of Congregation Ahavath Chesed since 1957. For further information, please contact Pat at 303-2925.

Fruit Cove Baptist Church announces the following events: Military Support Ministry, serving the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of any military wife, will be offering a new Bible Study entitled, "The Five Love Languages-Military Edition." It will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., beginning September 17 in the ROC Room 201. Childcare is provided by reservation. Please call Debbie Stoutamyer at 230-8413 with questions or to register. Also, Grief Share, which is a faith-based support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This is a 13-week DVD-driven program designed to take you from mourning to joy. The group begins meeting on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:15 p.m. and childcare is provided. Please call Linda Warne at 287-0996 with questions or to register.

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Purposeful Parenting

Endless summer

By Allie Olsen

We've homeschooled from the get-go. Until this year, my kids never had a summer break; we would take our vacation time in the fall when the weather is nice, a few extra weeks at Christmas or for a road trip in the spring. But with a high-schooler in my one-room-schoolhouse, we needed a break from his rigorous schooling this year. So we did what you do every year. We took the whole summer off.

We staycationed in St. Augustine. We knocked out house projects. Some days, the kids slept in. We babysat for friends just to be a blessing. We went to the pool. Beach. Pool. We played some games. Not as many as I meant to.

I thought we'd have more down time... but the days flew by and here we are at the brink of a new school year. I find myself wishing I had another month so I could have some quality time with the kids. It's funny, really, because I spend all day, every day with my children. But I'm telling myself I need more "summer" to have fun with them.

You know what? This year I'm gonna buck the trend. I'm embracing Endless Summer with my kiddos. We might just watch a movie on a school night. Or maybe we'll join my BFF in having cherry cobbler for breakfast some days—it has less sugar than most cereals, you know!

More than anything, I'm not going to wait for next summer. We still have a few vacation days left... and I'm going to put "really enjoy the kids" at the top of my to-do list every day. And when school starts back, I'm just gonna keep loving on these little blessings that leave food on my table, track sand on my floors and smile as they give the best hugs in the whole wide world. Join me?!

Club diversifies dining options and increases event space

The Palencia Club has recently completed a number of renovations and enhancements designed to increase membership value and make the club's member experience more enjoyable. The Palencia Club is located within the master-planned community of Palencia and is one of Northeast Florida's most prestigious private clubs offering a championship caliber golf course and stunning clubhouse. Through mid-August, the club and its facilities are open for use by the general public to tour the changes and preview membership.

"We are excited to offer a number of new options and services for our members," said David Shaffer, general manager at The Palencia Club. "We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the club and our membership options to come out and spend time with us this summer."

Renovations to the three-story clubhouse include expanding and diversifying the dining options offered and providing space for member gatherings and socials. The newly constructed Grille is the perfect place to grab a beer and a bite after a round of golf, catch the game with friends, meet for drinks after work or drop by for lunch or dinner any time. A full bar, complete with 12 beers on tap, and menu is available and special cuisines are offered throughout the week, including tapas and international fare. Kids will enjoy hanging out in the kids-only room where they can watch movies and play games while mom and dad enjoy dinner. The Grille also boasts 16 flat screen TVs up to 80 inches, a Golden Tee Golf arcade game and an electronic dart board. Additional highlights include happy hours and outdoor seating. Café on the Green continues to offer a family friendly full-service menu in a casual atmosphere on Friday nights.

For private dining and events, The Palencia Club has the space to meet any needs. The newly renovated Reinosa Room offers space for banquets, weddings and specials events up to 170 guests, with sweeping views of the golf course from the third floor balcony. A room partition allows for dividing the space if necessary. Club member events including Vegas Nights, Dancing with the Stars, holiday parties and more are held in the Reinosa Room. The Cordoba Room is a private dining area for smaller groups of 36 or less and also includes balcony space. This space is great for more intimate dinners, showers or business meetings. Club member wine dinners and other smaller special events are held in the Cordoba.

The Golf Pro Shop was relocated to the entrance floor of the clubhouse to help expand the dining and event space.

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School bus routes update

Parents of all potential school bus riders should have already received a yellow postcard in the mail notifying them of their child's bus number, bus stop and morning and afternoon pick-up times.

Five new bus routes are being added for this school year to accommodate growth in the Durbin Crossing and Nocatee areas as well as an increase in the number of special needs students.

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

"Our intent is to provide the information prior to the first day of school in order to assist parents in preparing for the new school year," said Joe Purvis, director of transportation.

There will be 166 school buses transporting approximately 19,200 children twice a day when school starts on Monday, August 19.

Ask the Pharmacist: Poison prevention starts at home

(BPT) - It's a serious problem with a simple solution. Nearly 1 million children under the age of five are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There is no better time than now to learn more about preventing accidental and unintentional poisonings.

"Parents know to keep household cleaners and other chemicals out of a child's reach, but in my experience as a pharmacist, I've seen that they don't always think about prescriptions, over-the-counter medications and vitamins," says Paul Reyes, Express Scripts pharmacist and host of Ask the Pharmacist radio series.

The CDC reports that more than 60,000 young children end up in the emergency room each year from wrongly ingesting medicines, but it's not only parents who need to be aware of the risks. Many of these incidents occur outside of the child's home. In fact, in 23 percent of the cases in which a child under five mistakenly ingests an oral prescription drug, the medication belonged to someone who did not live with the child.

"Medications can keep us healthy, but can be extremely dangerous if taken by the wrong person or in the wrong amount," says Reyes. "Add in a child's insatiable curiosity and you have the ingredients for a very serious and dangerous situation."

Reyes offers these tips for preventing accidental and unintentional poisonings, and what to do if you suspect your child or teen has ingested a potentially poisonous substance:

- Be cautious of colors. Medications are colorful and attractive to children and can be mistaken for candy. For example, Tums look like SweeTarts and Advil and Ecotrin resemble Skittles or M&Ms. Parents should not encourage children to take their medicine by comparing it to candy, as this may lead to improper use.
- Lock it up. Don't leave your next dose out on the counter where a child can reach it. Lock up all medicines and vitamins in a cool, dry place. Tightly secure caps and keep medicines in their original labeled containers so if there is an emergency, you can tell medical personnel exactly what the child ingested.
- When not to share. Be sure to remind children that they should never share their medication. When playing "doctor," friends and younger siblings of those taking a medication are often the recipients; this can lead to accidental poisoning.
- Know your numbers. If the child has collapsed or is not breathing, dial 911 immediately. If the child is awake and alert, call the Poison Hotline at 800-222-1222 and follow the operator's instructions. If possible, have available the victim's age and weight, the container or bottle of the poison, the time of the poison exposure and the address where the poisoning occurred.
- Know the signs: Reactions to ingested medications or household products may vary. Look for signs such as vomiting, drowsiness and any residue odor in the child's mouth and teeth. But know that some products cause no immediate symptoms, so if you suspect that your child has ingested a potentially hazardous substance, call the poison hotline immediately.
- Keep calm: It's important to remain calm so you can effectively communicate with emergency personnel. If the child ingested medicine, do not give anything to the child by mouth until advised by the poison control center. If chemicals or household products have been swallowed, call the poison control center immediately or follow the first aid instructions on the label.

For more information and additional tips on preventing prescription drug abuse at home, visit lab.express-scripts.com.

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The Lifestyle Guru....Gives you an August grilling challenge!

By Joy Hartley

It's that time of year when it's too hot to cook much in the oven and warm up the house.

You also want to do some quick meals-in-minutes kinda things, so I challenge you to cook your entire meal outside!

My menu of choice is grilled white pizza with greens and for dessert we are going to grill some bananas for Bananas Foster. Now if you make homemade ice cream, you get the "Martha" award!

I suggest you buy prepared dough at the grocery store or stop by your favorite pizza joint and ask them to sell you a ball of dough for a couple of dollars. If you don't like my toppings, choose your own. Because pizza cooks so quickly on the grill, make sure your toppings are very thinly sliced or you may want to sauté them separately before putting them on the dough.

Grilled pizza is assembled on the grill, not in the kitchen because the bottom will burn before the pizza is done. Place the plain dough on the hot grill and cook the bottom. Then the dough is flipped and the toppings are added to what formerly was the bottom.

Grilled White Pizza with Greens

Prepared dough, room temperature
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
1 large leek, trimmed, cut in thin rounds
6 cups chopped greens, such as spinach
2 cups shredded Gouda cheese

On a lightly floured area, flatten dough and cut into two pieces; roll each half into a 10-inch round or oval. In a large skillet over medium heat, place the oil, garlic, red pepper flakes and leek. Sauté until leek is just starting to brown. Add greens and sauté until wilted. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat grill to medium high, drizzle the top of each pizza dough with oil, then brush to coat evenly. Place dough rounds on grill, oil-side down and grill until lightly brown. Drizzle the top of each round with additional oil then flip them over. Use tongs to spread greens mixture over each pizza then top with cheese.

Close the grill cover and cook another three minutes or until the bottoms are cooked and the cheese has melted. You may want to drizzle a little more olive oil on top before serving.

Grilled Bananas Foster

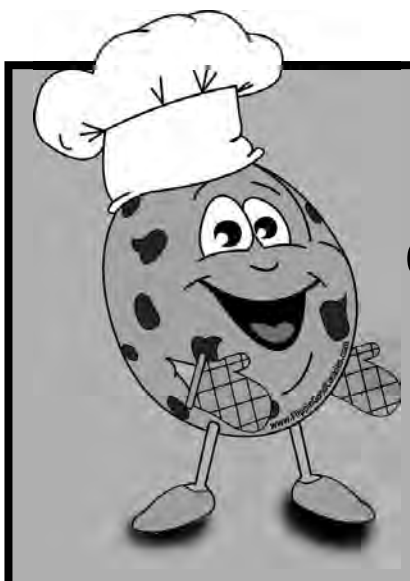
1 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup heavy cream
1 ½ tbsp butter
1 tbsp. honey
1 tsp. vanilla

Bring all to a boil, reduce heat and boil gently until sauce coats a spoon. Cut two unpeeled bananas in half lengthwise. Place cut side up on grill. Brush cut sides with sauce. Close grill until peels are slightly charred and fruit is tender. Place two banana halves cut side up on desert plate; top with ice cream more sauce and pecans.

What's New??

Share your community announcements with your neighbors!

Submit your 100 word blurb about your civic or neighborhood group's activity to editor@thecreekline.com for FREE!
Deadline is the 20th of each month.



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It's The Great Guitar Raffle/Auction Charlie Brown!

On Saturday, August 24, the Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre (FOSAA) will hold its first Celebrity Guitar Raffle/Auction at the Amphitheatre, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The event is free to the public. This will be an exciting and fun-filled evening for all memorabilia collectors and music lovers, so come early and stay late. Proceeds from the evening will benefit a 2014 arts camp to serve disadvantaged children. Great entertainment will be provided throughout the event by Catfish Jones, Willie Green, Dewey Via, Red River Band and Late Night Transfer. Event sponsors to date are First Coast News, Dion Marketing, Eclipse Recording Company and Gypsy Cab Company.

The guitars being featured were purchased by FOSAA and then signed by performers when they appeared at the Amphitheatre. All guitars will be on display throughout the event. Photos of the signed guitars can be found, along with other guitars FOSAA has collected, on our website, www.fosaa.org. Guitars to be auctioned or raffled will also be featured on upcoming posts on FOSAA's Facebook page. The guitars to be raffled were signed by Match Box Twenty, Martina McBride, The Fray, OAR, Brantley Gilbert and Boston. Raffle tickets for these guitars are $10 or three for $25. Advance raffle tickets can also be purchased through the website. Winners of each guitar raffle will be announced throughout the evening.

Guitars to be auctioned are signed by Alison Kraus (a fiddle), Miranda Lambert, Zac Brown Band, Moody Blues, Stevie Nicks, Joe Cocker, Johnny Van Zant, Heart, Blondie and Devo, Third Day, Buddy Guy and Johnny Lang, Train, Hall and Oates, Imagine Dragons and STYX/REO Speedwagon/Ted Nugent. The highest bid that exceeds the reserve will win each guitar and winners will be announced at intervals throughout the evening Guitar winners who are not present will be notified by phone and/or email.

FOSAA is a non-profit organization that strives to bring greater visibility to and usage of the Amphitheatre by the community. FOSAA awards grants to non-profit organizations and schools wishing to rent the Amphitheatre for their own events or to bring children to cultural events at the venue free of charge. Funding for grant awards is provided by membership dues from FOSAA members and corporate sponsors and from other fundraisers. Two benefits of membership are the ability to purchase concert tickets prior to public sale and parking free of charge in the FOSAA satellite lot. More information about FOSAA, benefits and grants, can be found at www.fosaa.org.

Local author descends on Bartram Trail Branch Library

C.L. Roman's break out novel, *Descent* (Book One of the Rephaim Series), is set to launch on August 31, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bartram Trail branch of the St. Johns County Library. The event will include a reading, a book signing and a question and answer period.

Author C.L. Roman has always been intrigued by the origins of myths and legends. In *Descent*, she explores both, and comes to some surprising conclusions. Roman draws on multiple cultural traditions to create a story that discusses love, loss and the consequences of actions made with the best of intentions. The world her characters inhabit is at once strange and completely familiar to anyone who has ever read a fairytale.

"I've always been most interested in the questions that start with, 'what if,'" the author said. *Descent* asks the question, "what if a supernatural being made the wrong choice for all the right reasons?"

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August is Children's Eye Health Month

Summer is just about over and the beginning of a new school year is right around the corner.

Dr. Lawrence Levine, pediatric ophthalmologist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons states, "More than 80 percent of early learning is visual. I encourage parents to give your child the best chance for success with an eye exam when they're ready to start school at four or five years old."

He continues, "Vision can change frequently during the school years, hence the importance of the annual eye exam. Children often have a hard time concentrating if they are unable to see well enough to follow along. When children don't understand that this difficulty is related to their vision, they can develop poor self esteem, become frustrated with formalized education or even act out."

According to the AOA (American Optometric Association), many children are mislabeled as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) when, in reality, they actually have an undiagnosed vision problem.

Vision is an integral part of learning and early intervention is the key to ensuring lifelong independence. An undetected visual impairment at an early can set a child back years in development in just a few short months.

Ensure early detection by scheduling an annual eye exam. If your child suffers from one or more of the following, it is important that you make an appointment with an eye doctor, right away:

- Frequent eye rubbing or blinking
- Frequent headaches
- Covering one eye
- Short attention span
- Avoiding reading assignments or holding reading materials close to the face
- An eye turning in or out
- Seeing double
- Losing his or her place when reading
- Difficulty with reading retention

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

"Good vision is such an important part of a child's development and is the foundation for education. I suggest if there is a concern, that you get an honest opinion from someone with experience. I have over 10 years experience and while I specialize in kids, but I'm happy to see patients of any age."

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

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

JCB 11U All-Star baseball team won the 2013 Cal Ripken State Championship

District champions

The JCB 11U All-Star baseball team won the 2013 Cal Ripken State Championship game in Lake City on July 14, 2013. The team had a final record of 3-0-1. The win at the state tournament gave the team the opportunity to travel to Florence, Alabama on July 24 to compete in the Cal Ripken Southeast Regional Tournament, consisting of teams from South Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee.

The STARS had a great season. The team won the MAA Summer Classic as well as the District Tournament in Jacksonville. The STARS also brought home a win from Daytona, going 3-0-0 in the USSSA King of the Diamond Tournament. The team also came in second place in the JCB Classic 12U tournament. The team is coached by Ray Wilkins, assisted by Jarrett Scarpiello and Gordon Metz. The players are Cole Burgess, Logan Cavanaugh, Colby Grant, Sean Gray, Gavin Johnson, Gerald Ledet, Tyler Metz, Luke Morningstar, Nick Scarpiello, Jacob Toenjes, Luke Ussery, Jake Vorburger and Bat Boy, Caleb Burgess.

State champions

North Florida Bonsai workshop announced

By Contributing Writer Joe Stumpf

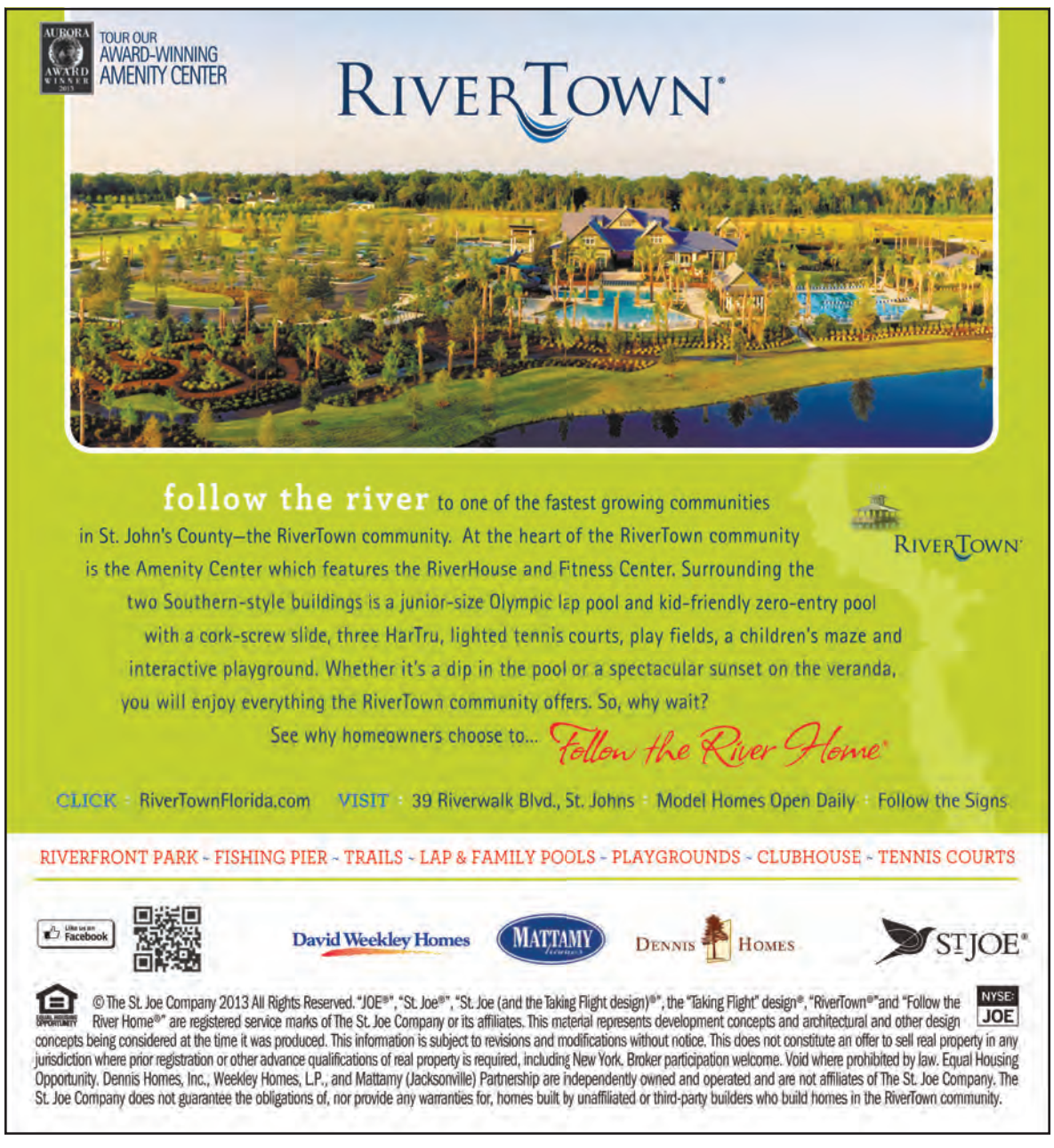
The North Florida Bonsai Club in association with the Mandarin Garden Club is pleased to present our Summer 2013 workshop. The Bonsai workshop consists of three Thursday sessions: August 15, 22, 29 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road. This workshop is for all interested in Bonsai but especially for beginners who have wanted to try bonsai, but never knew how to get started. We'll be working on Ficus microcarpa "Kin Man," a "very Florida tropical" bonsai subject. Each participant will get six hours of instruction; his/her own tree; special bonsai soil and a pot. At the end of session 3, you'll have your very own bonsai to take home and enjoy!

The cost is $30.00 per participant (tree). What you'll learn:

- What "bonsai" really is (and how to pronounce it!)
- How to style and shape a bonsai tree
- How to prune and wire branches
- How to find inexpensive sources of pre-bonsai plant material
- How to fit a tree into those tiny little pots
- How to keep your tree happy once you get it home!

These are casual, hands-on classes for people of all ages. You will have a chance to meet people who have taken past beginners classes and talk with them about their experiences getting started in this fascinating hobby.

If you love plants and have an interest in learning about bonsai, come join the fun! To register or for more information, please call Joe at 262-3995 or Ron at 545-4972.



Loggerheads compete at championship meets

By Contributing Writer Tammy Stevens-Dreher

JCLA 11-12 girls' relay team. Photo by John Hulvey.

The Julington Creek Loggerhead Aquatics (JCLA) swim team made a splash at the 2013 long course season championship meets.

Florida Swimming Age Group Champs "FLAGs" was held the University of Florida in Gainesville on July 18-23, 2013. This meet is the state championship for the 14 and under age group, and swimmers must qualify to complete. Loggerhead qualifiers were Brooke Arnold, Megan Arnold, Jennifer Brennock, Katia Brown, Tatiana Brown, Abbey Ellis, Anna Gapinski, David Gapinski, Ethan Howell, Jonathan Kim, Anna Moore, Michael Morton, Adrian Oake, Eleanor Pollitt, Robbie Rait, John Ryan, Lizzie Ryan, Meghan Shaffer, Lexi Smith, Summer Stanfield, Carter Strickland, Nicky Tayag, Isaiah Thompson, Taylor Thomson, Lauren Trummel, Jane Wadhams, Owen Wheeler and Yvette Zerry.

JCLA 10-and-under swimmers excelled in the breaststroke at FLAGs with Isaiah Thompson, Meghan Shaffer and Nicky Tayag all finishing in the top 10. The Loggerhead boys 10-and-under relay team of Jonathan Kim, Isaiah Thompson, Nicky Tayag and David Gapinski rocked the pool with seventh and 10th place finishes.

11-12 standout FLAGs swims included Summer Stanfield's 10th place in the 50 free and seventh place in the 100 fly, Michael Morton's eighth place in the 100 free and Tatiana Brown's 10th place in the 50 breast. Loggerhead 11-12 girls relay team of Tatiana Brown, Lexi Smith, Summer Stanfield and Anna Gapinski brought home sixth and 10th place finishes as well.

The JCLA girls' 13-14 relay team consisting of Abbey Ellis, Jennifer Brennock, Lauren Trummel, and Eleanor Pollitt raced to sixth and eighth place finishes in their medley relays.

The highly competitive USA Swimming Southern Zone "Sectional" Champs was held at the Orlando Y on July 18 through July 21, 2013. Loggerheads competing were John Brennock, Ethan Chestang, Dani Gordon, Evan Jacob, Caitlyn Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Hannah Moring, Julianna Pettinger, Eleanor Pollitt and Parker VonStein. Congratulations to Dani Gordon for placing fourth in the 200 breast!

In addition, two JCLA swimmers achieved USA Swimming Junior National cuts in July. Congratulations to Julianna Pettinger and Dani Gordon! Go Loggerheads!

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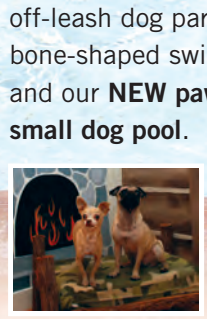

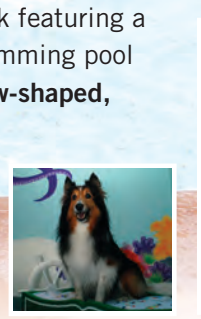

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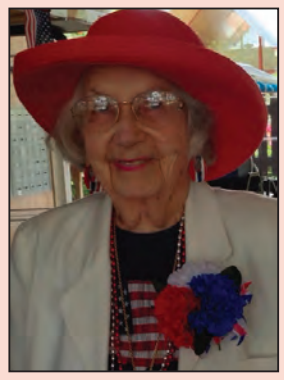
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek had a great 4th of July golf cart and bicycle parade!

Grand Marshall Bernice Porterfield leads this year's 4th of July parade at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek.



Bernice Porterfield was Grand Marshall at 100 years young!

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Movie Review

The Heat

Directed by: Paul Feig. Starring: Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy

Review by T.G. Stanton

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

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

Who knew drug lords are rampant in a small Boston community? The local area, where Boston cop Shannon Mullins, played by Melissa McCarthy, lives. She does her job her own way and woe to the ones who cross her path. Along comes a socially awkward federal agent, Sarah Ashburn, portrayed by Sandra Bullock, seeking a promotion by arranging the arrest of the local kingpin. Officer Mullins does not play well with anyone and agent Ashburn has her own idiosyncrasies. While trying to remove Mullins from the case, they are ordered to work as a team.

Working together, they track down the operators of the drug trade in the area. While doing so they learn much about each other while chipping away at each other's hard exteriors. Invading each other's privacy becomes the norm and the foster child Ashburn may just find a family. A family comes under the scrutiny of the drug dealers when a Mullins brother needs a fix or helps a sister out. They go undercover together and drown their sorrows together. This is a buddy-cop film after all and in the end they just may get their just recognition.

Paul Feig directed this film and between the script and the direction, this film is just too long and 10 or 20-too-many F-bombs are unloaded by McCarthy and in the end by Bullock. That aside, they do have a dynamic chemistry and Bullock plays the uptight agent as well as she has in many previous roles. McCarthy is also funny with quips and comedic gestures, F-bombs unused. Wonder of wonders. The family ties also give the film emotional balance while the co-workers for both are often just sad. The action is mediocre and not nearly slapstick enough for a comedy. A couple of the best aspects are Mullins' impressive weaponry and when the girls go Rambo. The "laugh out loud" moments were fewer than I expected, but there were enjoyable scenes. Maybe these two should try a different venue, though there are rumors of a sequel already in the planning. I will wait for cable.

Doug Nunnery

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Troop 280 update for July

By Contributing Writer Gabe Munoz, Troop 280 Scribe

In May, Troop 280 held a flag retirement ceremony to respectfully retire many flags that could no longer be flown during the week prior to Flag Day. We also had an open house night to show Cub Scouts and others some Boy Scout skills and to let them know what we do in scouting. For our monthly camping, we enjoyed a trip to Little Talbot Island.

In June, we had a successful summer camp at Camp Daniel Boone near Canton, North Carolina. We had around 25 scouts doing high-adventure activities such as long distance hiking, Boonesboro Village (living history village), white water rafting and rock climbing in the mountains. While we also had 10 scouts back at base camp earning over 50 different merit badges. All in all it was a great summer camp.

We have also had our third scout go through their Board of Review to officially become an Eagle Scout. Our eagle scouts have to go through a cycle of different ranks that can take years to go through starting with Scout then to Tenderfoot, Second class, First class, Star, Life and then Eagle Scout. We also have another four starting their fundraisers for their Eagle Projects.

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

Volunteers needed for Sea Turtle Washback Program

St. Johns County is seeking volunteers for the 2013 Sea Turtle Washback Program to survey the wrack lines for washback sea turtles through November 31 and help with transportation to a rehabilitation facility. Wrack lines occur when large amounts of seaweed are pushed up onto the beach. Washbacks happen when juvenile sea turtles are washed onto the beach and become entangled in this seaweed, usually following a storm. They are typically exhausted and in need of medical attention. These wrack lines may form at any time and volunteers are needed on an on-call basis for when a wrack line has formed and are asked to complete a survey as soon as possible.

All volunteers must complete a county volunteer application, pass a background check, possess a valid Florida driver's license, attend one of the mandatory orientation sessions and attend one of the mandatory site-specific training sessions. Applications can only be obtained and completed at the orientation sessions. Applications will not be accepted by mail, email or fax to the office. Returning volunteers are not required to attend the orientation. Children under the age of 18 that meet all the above requirements may volunteer. Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Together, the orientation and training sessions provide a basic understanding of sea turtles, review the purpose of the program, allow volunteers to complete a mock survey on the beach and instruct volunteers on the procedure to assist a washback sea turtle.

Volunteers are expected to dedicate the second and fourth Saturday of every month between September and November to walk the beach with their team and to familiarize themselves with their co-volunteers and the beach they are designated to survey.

Additionally, St. Johns County staff are seeking dedicated volunteers capable of a flexible schedule to fill Zone Captain positions. Zone Captains are responsible for coordinating volunteers through a phone tree system, completing data sheets, coordinating transport of washbacks, as well as providing the proper equipment at the time of survey. St. Johns County Beaches will provide necessary equipment and data sheets. Volunteers interested in becoming Zone Captains should indicate this on their application.

Orientation Sessions:
- August 12 – Ponte Vedra Library, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- August 14 – City Hall 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Site Specific Training Sessions:
- August 16 – Mickler's Landing 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- August 17 – Butler Park East 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit the St Johns County website at www.co.st-johns.fl.us/HCP/Volunteer.aspx or contact Sydney Lindblad at 209-0344.

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A message from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and The CreekLine

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Port initiative threatens St. Johns River

Contributed by James Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper

On July 19, 2012, President Obama issued the "We Can't Wait Initiative," expediting the study of the proposed St. Johns River Harbor Deepening Project. This decision dramatically reduced the study schedule by 14 months, potentially jeopardizing the integrity of the analysis by providing the Army Corps of Engineers with insufficient time to thoroughly evaluate this complex issue. As a result, some conclusions in the recently released Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are vague, some concerns are not even addressed and many of the required studies have not yet been completed, despite the fact that the public comment period ended on July 31.

The following studies have not yet been completed: modeling of fish and macroinvertebrate communities, water quality modeling, tributaries and salt marsh modeling, groundwater report prepared by the United States Geological Survey, hydrodynamic modeling, storm surge and coastal modeling and ship wake modeling. In addition, the mitigation plan to offset potential environmental impacts is woefully insufficient and the study of the potential local economic impacts conducted by a JAXPORT consultant has not been released to the public or independently peer-reviewed for accuracy.

St. Johns Riverkeeper believes that President Obama has made a significant mistake by fast-tracking this critical decision when so much is at stake for the St. Johns River and the communities of Northeast Florida. The dredging of the St. Johns River from 40 to 47-feet could result in significant changes in salinity, increased shoreline erosion, impacts to fisheries, more frequent algal blooms, and the loss of wetlands, aquatic grasses, trees and habitat. In addition, the dredging project is estimated to cost taxpayers at least $733 million, including an unspecified amount for annual maintenance dredging and supporting infrastructure.

"We are asking President Obama to give the Army Corps of Engineers more time to complete the study and make sure the proposed Harbor Deepening Project has been thoroughly evaluated," says Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "This critical decision has significant long-term consequences for the St. Johns and our community, requiring caution and careful scrutiny. We can wait. We must get it right."

St. Johns Riverkeeper is a privately-funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit advocacy organization that serves as an independent voice for the St. Johns River. Our mission is to work on behalf of the community for clean and healthy waters in the St. Johns River, its tributaries and its wetlands, through citizen-based advocacy.

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BTHS Sports Roundup

By Megan Grant, BTHS Student

There are only a few days left of summer before classes are back in session and students fill the hallways, eager to start off the new school year right. While some may have spent their days at the beach, the athletes of Bartram Trail High School were hard at work, preparing for their upcoming seasons.

The girls' and boys' basketball teams participated in open gym activities, along with summer camps and summer league against other schools in the area. The volleyball team also participated in summer league held at Creekside High School, in addition to attending a camp in Tampa. The cross-country teams were dedicated with early morning workouts four to five days a week. The ladies of the cheer and dance teams attended camps full of hard work and team bonding. Football held strength and conditioning workouts four days a week, as well as seven-on-seven games against other schools. It seems evident that these Bears are ready for their fall season of games.

With tryouts for the fall sports of football, cheerleading, volleyball and cross-country in the recent past, teams have been molded and relationships are beginning to form among new and old teammates. This leaves girls' and boys' golf and swimming tryouts to take place in the next few weeks. Boys' golf tryouts began on August 12, while girls' begins on August 21. Boys' and girls' swimming tryouts take place on August 22, after two weeks of prior offered conditioning. Students are anxious to see their spots on these teams, along with the meets and matches that they bring with them in the future.

The famed black and blue student section of the Bears' Stadium is ready to return for the exciting Friday night football games that are so enthusiastically anticipated. Like every year, the football team loses a good amount of key players, while also gaining new additions to the lineup. This past year, 25 seniors were graduated, including Tucker Merriman, defensive line; Nick Uruburu, slot receiver; Cameron Kenyon, linebacker; Gabe Davis, running back; Thomas Gallitz, kicker; and many more key players.

Tyler Gallitz, upcoming junior, who is taking his older brother's position as kicker for the Bears, talks about his new shoes to fill: "I think it's a great honor taking not only Thomas's spot, but also Cole's. [Cole Leiniger was the kicker in the 2011 season at Bartram Trail.] They were both phenomenal athletes who get to play in college and I can't wait to be in their place and hopefully where they are in the next few years."

Although valuable players were lost, new players have been working hard to be ready for the responsibility of the new positions that need to be filled.

Looking forward, there is much in store for the Bears and what they have to show for themselves this year, as with every year. The preseason game will take place on August 23, in the Bartram Trail Stadium, against Mandarin. So come out with Bear pride in your hearts and chants on your minds, as the boys erupt with the same competitive and determined fire they show every year. Go Bears!

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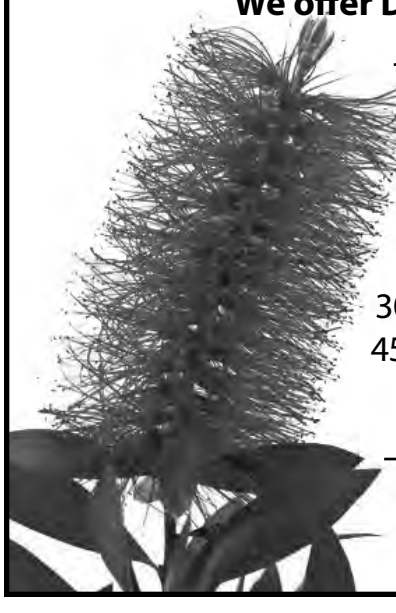

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Gardening
Still raining?

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

After a remarkably wet spring, summer arrived and as of mid-July we are still experiencing more than adequate rainfall. The drought monitor, www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_southeast.htm, provides both graphic and numerical indicators of how little of the southeastern United States is suffering even minor rainfall deficits.

On balance, this is a good thing – the aquifer which supplies much of Florida's drinking water must surely benefit and farmers can cut back on irrigation, as should homeowners. However, just what this means for our gardens is perhaps clear to those of you who are battling lawn problems like overgrowth of weeds and fungal disease. Plus lush growth does encourage insects. Our shrubs can also suffer from too much water, with both azaleas and boxwood being particularly prone to die-back caused by root rots.

If you have problems you can't solve, the Extension Service is there to help. Master Gardeners are only a phone call away, at 255-7450, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. They will gladly look at your problem plants, so bag them (including any suspicious looking roots) and take them in to the office at 1010 North McDuff. Alternatively ask the Master Gardeners if they could look at photos sent by email; they will be able to tell you how best they can help.

The latest Extension Service bi-monthly newsletter A New Leaf is now available for current advice on gardening in northeast Florida: http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafJulyAugust13.pdf.

There are a number of classes offered, which are either free or relatively economical. On August 24, for $15, you can learn how to start a vegetable garden and take home a tray seeded with cool season vegetables.

I was lucky to able to visit the United Kingdom earlier this year. The weather was wacky—where hasn't it been?—and when it should have been spring it was really cold. Consequently the bluebells (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) were late blooming and from the south to the north, the bloom time was extended for at least six weeks. At the same time, primroses (Primula vulgaris) and cowslips (Primula veris) were in abundance, both of which are delightful shades of yellow. A classic color—and a beautiful sight on roadside banks, where the primroses mingle with the bluebells of the deciduous spring woodland stretching into the misty blue distance. Just magical.

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Congratulations to the 8U JCB Slammers

Congratulations to the 8U JCB Slammers, who finished as the Florida State champion runners up at the championships held in West Palm Beach in early July. They had a 5-1 record, outscoring opponents 70 to 20. Ninety-six eight-year-old A teams began the journey at districts and the Julington Creek Slammers made it to the final two and qualified to represent Florida in the Southeast Regional championships in Richmond Virginia from July 17 through July 21. There, the team finished third out of 20 teams, with a 5-1 record.

Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

We started the spring with much heavier than normal rainfall amounts. Since then frequent rains and thunderstorms have been present for much of our summer. The salinity of the river is much lower now than most of the previous dozen or so years. It seems that our summer weather pattern is changing and with that change, a change in our summer fishing is likely to follow.

Old-timers that have many decades of fishing the Mandarin through Orangedale areas of the St. Johns River have seen many changes in fishing patterns over those years. They can remember when summer fishing didn't really start until July when the croaker began to show at Marker 12. The shrimp run didn't start until middle or late August, with some of the best shrimping being in the Mandarin/Switzerland areas of the river. Redfish would start to show on the end of docks in July and yellowmouth trout didn't show until October with speckled trout and various other species following shortly behind. In those times, you would see bream beds off the docks through much of the river with the mouth of Julington Creek being the number one hot spot. Back in those days a five- or six-pound black bass was most likely to be the fish to take your live shrimp off the end of the dock.

No one knows what each year's weather is going to bring us. Often weather patterns repeat themselves for several years or more. Our summers of below average rainfall may be behind us and a new pattern may be starting. Old-timers know that this can bring changes in the river and changes of how to fish it. They also know that through decades of fishing the St. Johns, regardless of the weather, there will always be a bite taking place, making the St. Johns River a great place to fish.

Fishing Report: Shrimp should be showing up if we are going to get a run this year. Croaker plentiful at all the usual spots. Markers 12, 13 and 18 are always good bets.

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

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12U RiverHawks Grey of Creeks Baseball win Cal Ripken Experience national tournament

The 12U RiverHawks Grey team from Creeks Baseball Club won the Cal Ripken Experience national tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. They defeated teams from around the country, including teams from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey and Georgia, among others. The RiverHawks finished the tournament 8-0, scoring 71 runs and only allowing 21. The team, coached by Rob Visconti, Scott Ruskin, Mike Moran and John Nevin, concluded their 2013 season with an overall record of 44-18-1. The team consists of boys from St. Augustine and St. Johns. Team members are James Drysdale, Justin Ernest, Mitchell Fairgrieve, Dylan Moran, Mason Money, Dawson Nevin, Brandon Prudhomme, Chase Ruskin, Jamison Simon, Connor Stoll and Dante Visconti. Congratulations on a big win!

Book Discussion at the Bartram Trail Branch Library!

Monday, August 19
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Mandarin Presbyterian Church opens new Daily Bread Food Pantry

By Karl Kennell

In response to Second Harvest of North Florida identifying southwest Duval and NW St. Johns counties as being underserved areas regarding food bank distribution, a new food pantry has opened at Mandarin Presbyterian Church. The new food pantry is named called Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Even though the area is currently served by two food bank ministries, Mandarin Food Bank at 11730 Old St. Augustine Road, the oldest and most established food distribution ministry in the area and Christ's Cupboard at 810 Roberts Road in St. Johns, there is still a need for more assistance. Daily Bread Food Pantry volunteer Bill Duguid explained that even though Mandarin Food Bank serves over 5,600 families a year with their program, after an initial month of weekly service, their clients are moved to once-every-two-months distributions and Christ's Cupboard Food Bank serves over 120 families per month on a once-a-month distribution. This leaves a hole for someone to fill the emergency need on a weekly basis.

"It isn't only a matter of going hungry," Duguid exclaimed. "It is a matter of having a roof over your head or going hungry."

He explained how locally one in six adults and one in five children experience "food insecurity," which means they don't have sufficient food to fulfill normal dietary requirements. To those families that may be living in a situation where they have lost a job and find that they have to make a decision between buying food to eat or paying the rent, the modest help a food bank provides may be the only way to keep the family together.

Duguid explained, "Our aim at Daily Bread, by allowing our neighbors in need to visit every two weeks, is to provide 35 to 40 pounds of dry staple groceries each visit that will stretch their monthly budget by $75 to $100. These are dollars that can be used at their discretion toward additional food or other critical expenses such as medicine, doctor visits, rent, utilities or other areas of specific need."

The new food pantry has set as its mission statement, "Daily Bread Food Pantry exists to help meet the nutritional requirements of our needy neighbors through the distribution of food and any other available services that may offer hope and display God's love and compassion through loving people to love Jesus Christ."

Daily Bread Food Pantry is located at Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 12001 Mandarin Road and is open every Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. They serve families living in zip codes 32257, 32258, 32259 and 32223. Anyone needing assistance may visit the pantry once every two weeks and the only requirement is proof of residence in one of the above zip codes.

Donations of dry groceries or cash are gratefully accepted and may be made at Mandarin Presbyterian Church and dropped off during hours of operation or at any time during the week at the church office.

Daily Bread volunteers Bill Duguid, Becky Healy, Laine Mann, Pam Bethel and Wayne Gaff.

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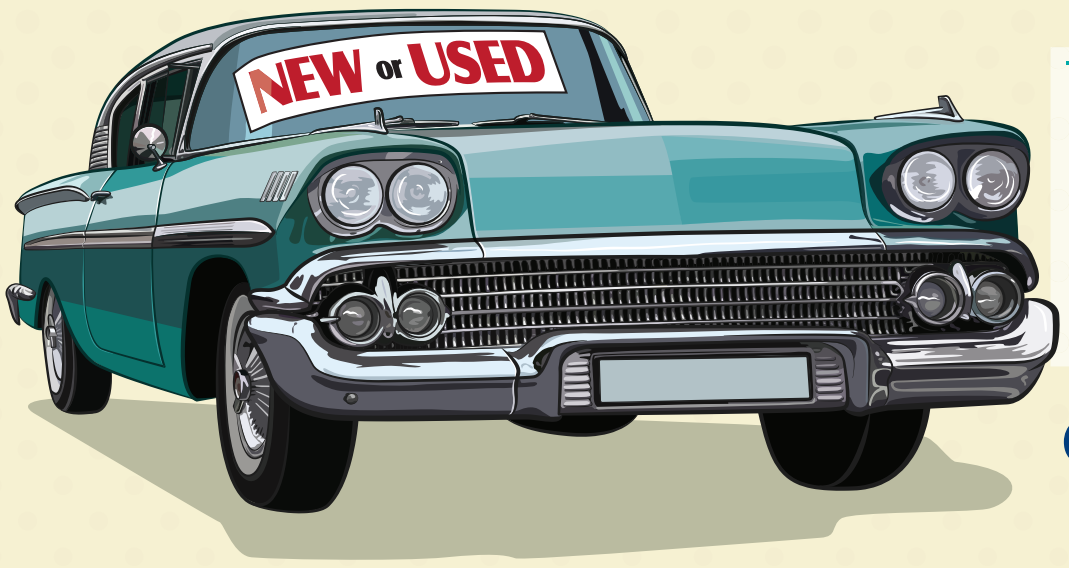

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