

Mark your calendars for March 9 Students display compassion in action



Thirteen-year-old Palencia resident Sam Franzini is, once again, heading a committee to host the fourth annual Walk and Wag Dog Fair on March 9 at 1:00 p.m. on the lawn outside Palencia's Café on the Green. Getting bigger and better every year, Franzini and his friends are hoping to raise \$2,500 this year, with every cent going to Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue.

Ayla's Acres is home to over 300 animals, many of them with special needs and Franzini is the rescue group's Kids' Amba-

sador. "It's an honor to be a representative for the animals at Ayla's Acres," Franzini said. "I love animals so much and especially dogs. If I can help them in any way, I'll do it and all my friends feel the same way."

Helping Franzini again this year are Caitlin Mongon, Carson Brown, Jennifer Pickett and Matthew Powers. New to his crew are Kelsey Witmeier, Nick Famularo, Rachel Padgett and Sarah Padgett. His whole steering committee is made up of eighth graders and helping at

the event is animal lover, Brodie Mongon, a fourth grader at Palencia Elementary. Franzini's been organizing this event since he was in the fifth grade.

Changing it up a bit, the event will simply be a dog fair for the two hours with no parade. "We get so many vendors now that we want to give them more time with the people who come. They all make donations and they all work for the animals and so I want to help them too," Franzini said.

The kids have worked especially hard to get even more sponsors this year to make the event a continued success.

Franzini described it as, "A big party for people and their dogs!"

The cost is \$20 and at check-in attendees will receive a goody bag. Water bowls will be available for the dogs and water and treats available for the humans. Palencia Pet Clinic's Dr. Veiling will be there to answer any questions. Lucy Lou's Pet supplies will be there also with their amazing specialized collars and a groomer will be on hand to offer some free beauty services to the dogs. Other sponsors who have signed up so

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EPIC announces grand opening of detox center



Sheriff David Shoar speaking at the grand opening of the detox center.

The effort to bring a detoxification center to St. Johns County came to fruition on January 22, 2014 when a grand opening ceremony took place at the EPIC Recovery Center, St. Johns County's new (and only) detox center.

"It's due to great community and legislative support that we have been able to bring a detox center to our community," commented Patti Greenough, EPIC CEO. "Up until now, St. Johns County was the largest county in Florida without a detox center."

In partnership with the Sheriff's Office, EPIC Behavioral Healthcare took the lead in bringing a detox center to St. Johns County. After receiving funding from the Florida Legislature to operate a detox center in St. Johns County, the EPIC board of directors launched a capital campaign to raise \$1.65 million to purchase and renovate an existing building. According to Greenough, the campaign has reached 69 percent of the goal and the board is continuing efforts to raise the EPIC Detox Center cont. on pg. 13

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The Bear Spotlight: High-Q

By Kelly Boyer, BTHS Student

It's February and winter sports have come to an end. For the High-Q team, the season ended roughly a month ago after Bartram's junior varsity team's loss at regionals. The varsity team wasn't as fortunate; their season abruptly ended with a devastating loss in the district semi-finals. Though this year did not result in numerous championship trophies for the teams, it was still special in its own right. This was Coach Earl Brown's inaugural season with High-Q.

After previous coach Ramona Deese retired from the



Coach Brown and the JV High-Q team take first place at Districts

sport at the end of last year, the underclassmen teammates approached Brown with the opportunity to coach. Though he was a tennis coach at Pedro Menendez prior to his arrival at Bartram, he welcomed the change.

"Being a new teacher at

Bartram, it's great to get involved with the student body," replied Coach Brown. "Coaching High-Q was difficult because I had no idea what to do. It was difficult to determine line-ups and to figure out who would play each match because I didn't know what questions

would be asked. It was very challenging at first."

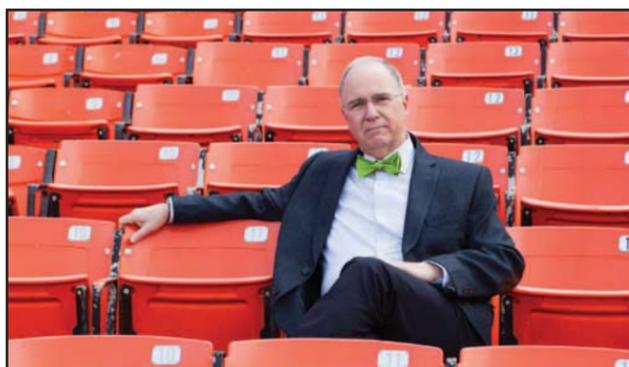
Before he knew it, he fell in love with the sport and gave it everything he had.

"Once I was able to get to know the team, I was able to

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Community Happenings



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 publisher@rtpublishinginc.com

Editor Martie Thompson
 editor@thecreekline.com

Advertising Sales, Linda Gay
 LG@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Heather Seay
 HS@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Jasmine Quezada
 JQ@rtpublishing.com

Graphic Design, Lisa Felegy
 graphics@rtpublishinginc.com

RT Publishing, Inc.
 12443 San Jose Boulevard
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Do you have community or club news you would like included in The CreekLine? Then contact Martie Thompson at: editor@thecreekline.com or 886-4919.

Friends of Alpine Park would like to invite everyone to come out and see the Bennett Farmhouse decorated for Valentine's Day. We will be decorating the farmhouse for major holidays to provide a backdrop for residents of the area to take their holiday photos. The farmhouse is located in beautiful Alpine Groves Park, located at 2060 State Road 13, in Switzerland. The Friends of Alpine Park is a non-profit group of volunteers, with a mission "to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and history of the park." We currently maintain the Ruth Bennett Harris butterfly garden and are raising funds for the garden and to restore the Bennett farmhouse. We meet in front of the farmhouse on the first Saturday of every other month at 9:30 a.m. Our remaining 2014 meeting dates

are April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4 and December 6. We always welcome new members, so if you like to garden and plan events, meet new people and have fun, come to our next meeting! For more information, please contact friendsfalpinpark@gmail.com.

The Cunningham Creek Elementary PTO is currently accepting applications for its annual scholarship for graduating seniors. Applications are available at local high schools as well as on the Cunningham Creek School website at <http://www-ccs.stjohns.k12.fl.us>.

Relay for Life of Bartram Trail will be on May 10 beginning at 12:00 noon and lasting until Sunday, May 11 at 6:00 a.m. New and veteran teams are welcomed. If interested in becoming a part of this much needed cause, the fight against cancer, please contact Becky Kimball, team development chair at greglbeckyl@bellsouth.net or 254-7325. Monthly team parties are held the second Tuesday of each month at Durbin Creek Elementary School on Racetrack Road at 6:30 p.m. Please join us on February 11 and March 11. Relay for Life of Bartram Trail is looking for local business sponsorships. Sponsors will have different public exposure levels to promote your business. Please contact Barb Trawick, sponsorship chair at barbara.trawick@bankofamerica.com or 553-4816. There is an upcoming outdoor happy hour event wide fundraiser on April 11 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine. The cost is \$20 per ticket and 60 percent of proceeds will benefit

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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@thecreekline.com. Anonymously sent letters will not be published.

St. Johns County accepting applications

St. Johns County is currently accepting applications for the following volunteer board and committee vacancies. Please call 209-0300 or email mlundquist@sjcfl.us for more information or to obtain an application. Application submission deadline for all vacancies is March 6, 2014.

Adjustment and Appeals Board. To hear requests for code interpretation and cases for unsafe building abatement codes. Seeking members with knowledge and/or experience in technical codes fields and those from the general public. Must be a registered voter in St. Johns County. Regular members as well as alternates serve a term of two years. Members must file financial disclosure. This board meets on call as needed in Conference Room 1A/1B of the County Permit Center, 4040 Lewis Speedway.

Arts/ Culture / Heritage Funding Panel. To review and evaluate proposals for St. Johns County not-for-profit organizations which provide programming and events of a cultural, artistic or heritage nature that will attract visitors and are enjoyed by residents. Two members shall be residents of St. Johns County with demonstrated interest in the tourism/cultural development and promotion industry with knowledge of tourism/cultural development and promotion. The second two members shall be non-county residents

who are professionals with arts, cultural or heritage organizations or institutions with experience utilizing events as tourism demand generators. This panel meets quarterly at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. To review established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted local government comprehensive plan to recommend specific action or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value. Seeking members actively engaged in residential home building, mortgage banking and labor of home building. This Committee meets quarterly and on an as needed basis.

Industrial Development Authority. To finance and refinance projects for the public purpose described and in the manner provided by Florida Industrial Development Financing Act to foster economic development within St. Johns County. Representation is preferred from County Commission District 2. Must be a registered voter in St. Johns County. Members must

St. Johns County cont. on pg. 4



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Relay for Life of Bartram Trail. For further information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kim Aslan, fundraising chair at aka626@hotmail.com or 713-3463.

The Junior Service League (JSL) of St. Augustine presents the **22nd annual Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run** on Saturday, March 1, 2014. This year's 5K chip race (timed start and finish), administered by Racesmith, is a flat and fast course through historic Lighthouse Park and Davis Shores. The 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by Mich-

elob Ultra, will begin at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Lighthouse. The Fun Run will follow the 5K and begin at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the Lighthouse 5K and Fun Run will benefit the JSL's community service projects including the Children's Museum of St. Johns, Willich Kids Bridge Family Visitation Center, SAYS and the Lightner Museum. To register online or to inquire about becoming a sponsor, please visit www.lighthouse5k-run.com/.

Now is a good time to What's New cont. on pg. 4



Feb 22 AMY SCHUMER

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From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Cyndi Stevenson, County Commissioner, District 1

Time for a change in county's approach to growth management?

There have been many changes to the Florida Statutes that impact the county's ability to manage growth in a responsible way. While it used to take at least a year to get Comprehensive Plan changes approved, the process had been streamlined so small changes can be accomplished in a month or two and large changes, like the St. Johns Marketplace, may be approved in less than a year.

The St. Johns Marketplace, approved January 21, 2014, could have been considered a Development of Regional Impact under past rules. Recent changes were made by the legislature last year to exempt Hotels and Light Industrial. They also took advantage of recent changes by the county commission to avoid this requirement. These changes enabled large economic development projects to move more quickly through the system and to reduce their cost sharing on roadway infrastructure.

Other changes at the state level could hamper the county's ability to hold projects accountable for their transportation impacts remain contingent on varying interpretations of recently revised state statutes that are being litigated throughout the state. This means the county taxpayers can be left holding the bag on infrastructure costs or be faced with living with significant congestion. Furthermore, there continue to be proposals to completely eliminate both concurrency and Development of Regional Impact review by state level legislative action. For this reason it is critical for the county and all local govern-

ments to be very careful with their stewardship of Comprehensive Plan changes to our Future Land Use Map.

If the last nine years as your elected representative has taught me anything, it is that both economic conditions and legislative changes can make entitling huge tracts of land risky business for developers and taxpayers.

Because the county can now act quickly to entitle land for real projects, we can have conceptual plans that we could enable incrementally as the developer is willing to commit to an infrastructure plan. There is no longer justification for making large permanent commitment that exposes our taxpayers to the unknown. Because of legislative changes at the state level, we now can meet the needs of economic development projects for speed; however, the county needs to adjust its approach to maintain our stewardship to existing residents, businesses and taxpayers of St. Johns County.

Northern St. Johns County has plenty of lessons on the need to bring infrastructure and schools online in a timely manner and how things change over time. Now is the time for the county commission to change their approach to entitlements to reflect the new laws and changing times. It is time for a change in order for the county to continue its commitment to responsible growth that is economically sound for the long term, not just an economic bonanza for developers. Please ask the Board of County Commissioners to change their strategy

to reflect the new laws of the land and development trends. It is time for a change.

Just because the state has revoked the requirements for county infrastructure plans to be financially feasible, the commission is still responsible to ensure that there is a reasonable funding plan in place to fund the infrastructure required by new growth, especially when increasing development rights with Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

St. Johns County cont. from pg. 3

file financial disclosure. This authority meets as needed from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every other month in the BCC Executive Board Conference Room, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

Recreation Advisory Board. To provide a sounding board for new ideas, assist in solving problems, act as liaison when called upon to other governmental bodies, represent the Recreation and Parks Department's posture on sensitive issues in the public arena, and to assist in the establishment and carrying out of goals and objectives and budget preparation in providing leisure time programs and facilities. Seeking representation from County Commission Districts 2, 3 and 5. This board meets at 3:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the Board of County Commissioners Executive Board Room, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

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What's New cont. from pg. 3

analyze your yard. Learn to create functional, attractive and ecologically sound surroundings that complement your home on February 20 at the St. Johns County Windstorm Training Center, located at 3111 Agricultural Center Drive from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Keith Fuller, St. Johns County Extension Horticulture Agent and other Master Gardeners will share tips that will help you save money and reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide use. The general public and professionals are welcome to this free program, which is hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. For more information, please call 209-0430.

The fourth annual **American Cancer Society Texas Hold'em Tournament** is set for Saturday, March 29 at The Best Bet Jacksonville! The tournament ticket is a \$50 advance purchase buy-in or \$60 at the door. The ticket includes starting chips of 2000, hors d'oeuvres, prize pool portion and a donation to the American Cancer Society. So, give the gift that gives twice, to your Texas Hold'em player and the American Cancer Society. Help us in the fight against cancer! Please contact Becky Kimball at 254-7325 or greglbeckyl@bellsouth.net for additional information.

Calling all undergraduate students from St. Johns County! **AAUW St. Augustine Branch** is awarding two Jean Luoma Scholarships to students who will be at least college sophomores in the fall. To apply, go to <http://staugustine-fl.aauw.net/scholarship/> to read the information needed, which includes transcripts, essay and three letters of reference. The applica-

tion can also be downloaded. Students need a minimum of 2.5 GPA. The deadline for receipt of application is April 8, 2014. Scholarship awards are dependent upon fundraising.

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 typically 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.

Starting on Friday February 14, the St. Johns County Extension Office is offering a **Landscape Design Class**. This is one of the best investments you can make in your home. Unlike other home improvement projects, a landscape tends to appreciate with time as opposed to depreciating. Learn to create a landscape design for your home by attending our three session class. For each week we build on the previous information and by the end of the third session you can have a completed design. By attending the three classes it also entitles

What's New cont. on pg. 6

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School District Journal

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

February is the month that St. Johns Education Foundation hosts its annual Teacher of the Year Banquet. This year's theme is "Teachers: Our Superheroes." I certainly agree that our teachers are our superheroes. The extraordinary work and effort, not to mention creativity, that professional educators bring to their classrooms every day are the reason that our students are so successful. Recently, I have been in several schools and classrooms around the district and have found students to be fully engaged with their teachers and taking charge of their own learning. As one kindergarten teacher told me, "My whole classroom has changed. I am no longer the teacher but rather the facilitator of learning." Her students were busy exploring the topic of the moment and sharing with their peers. The conversation was rich with inquiry and the students were seeking to understand the concepts fully. Even at the earliest grades, students are truly that – students. If you would like to help celebrate our Superheroes, contact St. Johns Education Foundation at getonthebusstjohns.org.

On January 17, I was privileged to attend an event hosted by Congressman Ron DeSantis to celebrate students in the 6th

Congressional District who have been nominated for appointments at military academies. St. Johns County had far and away the most nominees to be honored, thanks to our excellent Junior ROTC programs at Bartram Trail High School (Air Force), Nease High School (Navy) and St. Augustine High School (Army). Those nominated from St. Johns County are Jared Heinrich, Scott Jones, Thomas Moroney, William Waldenmaier, Maggie Born-gesser, William Duncan, Christine Gaitantzis, Sarah Galloway, Helen Jacobsen, Liam Leahy, Kyer Mosteller, Rebecca Ramsey, Nicole Thatcher, John Oswald, Tucker Boyett, Nicholas Cunningham, Robert Grune, Jr. and William Taylor. Several of these students received nominations to more than one academy. The process for nomination is a rigorous one. Students must first submit an application to their Congressman or United States Senator. They are then required to be interviewed by a panel of academy board members, who submit their recommendations for nomination to the congressman or senator. The nomination is forwarded to the military academy where further review is conducted, hopefully resulting in an appointment to that institution. One St. Johns County

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student, Nicole Thatcher, has already received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. I am very proud of these students for their desire to serve their country while extending their education at one of our military academies.

Work continues on the two new K-8 schools set to open this fall. I had the opportunity to walk through K-8 HH on Longleaf Pine recently. It is a beautiful, well-planned facility that will be ready to receive students when school begins in August. The campus is situated next to beautiful preserve land that will enhance the ambiance of learning. Zoning is complete for the new school and Principal Emily Harrison and Assistant Principal Patrick McGee have already begun meeting with parents of students who will be enrolled there. Mrs. Harrison will be identifying teachers and staff in the coming weeks. I look forward to a wonderful beginning for our newest school

in the Northwest.

With the construction of these two new schools, our district has exhausted its capacity to sell bonds for new construction, as I have mentioned several times. Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam is spearheading an effort to identify a new funding stream for school construction while also cutting taxes for Florida's residents. He wants the Legislature to cut the 7 percent statewide sales tax on electricity paid by businesses by half and dedicate the remaining revenue to school construction to replace the rapidly-shrinking revenue source for PECO, or Public Education Capital Outlay, which is funded by a tax on cable TV, phones and electricity. "The mechanism that Florida uses to fund classrooms and laboratories and dorms in state colleges and universities and our schools is broken," Putnam told reporters during a round-table meeting. "We all drive by

schools or in my case have kids in schools, whose playgrounds are dotted with portables. We see how early in the day kids are eating lunch ... If we want to be a pre-eminent higher education system, if we want to have a globally competitive work force, we need to have a funding mechanism that is sustainable, bondable, long term. We're offering a proposal to do that." I am hopeful that the Legislature will see the wisdom in Commissioner Putnam's proposal so that a sustainable fund stream for new schools can be established.

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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The Sheriff Reports

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

Sheriff's Advisory Councils

This month I would like to draw attention to our Sheriff's Advisory Council here at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. This is just one way that our citizens work closely with me and other members of your Sheriff's Office to promote the essential partnership between this office and our communities. These councils, called ShAdCos, serve as information exchanges between citizens and the Sheriff's Office. Regularly scheduled meetings offer residents an opportunity to communicate directly with the command staff and deputies on issues of importance to their own neighborhoods. These councils provide an opportunity to develop mutual understanding and encourage community participation in the development of Sheriff's Office programs, as well as policy considerations. This program not only demonstrates a full accountability to the residents of our county it also serves to reduce the fear of crime in our communities.

St. Johns County spans over 600 square miles and presents uniquely diverse issues affect-

ing our various districts. The advisory councils have been established in the different areas of the county to address specific problems and find solutions in those areas. These volunteers work closely with the Sheriff's Office and participate in meetings. They receive information concerning the latest efforts from our office and provide feedback and advice on how the agency can improve the delivery of services to their neighborhoods.

There are two ShAdCos presently and they are formed in the fastest growing areas of the county, the Northwest and Northeast. Any resident of St. Johns County who is over the age of 18 is encouraged to apply to be a member of the Sheriff's Advisory Council. Commander Brian Lee leads the Advisory Council in the Northwest section of the county. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Julington Creek Annex, located at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard. You can reach Commander Lee by email at bclee@sjso.org or by phone at 209-1451. In the

Northeast District, Commander Samuel Williams heads up the Advisory Council. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at Pusser's Caribbean Grill Restaurant, located at 816 A1A North, Suite 100 at 12:00 noon. You can reach Commander Williams by email at spwilliams@sjso.org or by phone at 209-1963.

I would also like to remind our residents that there are several ways you may be a part of your Sheriff's Office. The Civilian Police Academy is an excellent way to learn what we do and how we train to combat crime in our communities. I will discuss the academy in a future column. You can also follow us in various social media settings such as Facebook and Twitter. As always, feel free to contact me by phone or appointment at the Sheriff's Office, or you can reach me by e-mail at dshoar@sjso.org. And for additional information on the many programs we offer at the Sheriff's Office, please go by our website at www.sjso.org.

I look forward to your input.

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What's New cont. from pg. 4

you to a site visit for an evaluation of your plan. The class will be three consecutive Fridays, February, 14, 21 and 28 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The cost of the course is \$30 and class size is limited to 15 projects. This class will be held at the Wind Mitigation Building, located at 3111 Agriculture Center Drive. To register for the class, please call 209-0430.

Adults and teens age 14 and older are invited to attend the **Project Lap Blanket crochet group** at the Bartram Trail Branch Library on Tuesday, February 11, Tuesday, February 18 and Tuesday, February 25 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 Thursday, February 20 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the St. Johns County Extension Office will be holding a **rain barrel class**. The class is a "make and take" class with class participants leaving with a finished barrel. The cost of the class is \$40. The barrels are 55 gallons. During the dry season, rain barrels can come in handy for capturing what little rain we do get. You must pre-register to attend and do so by calling 209-0430. The class will be held at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine.

St. Johns Federated Republican Women will hold its annual Installation Dinner on February 17 at Slammer and Squire Clubhouse, located in the World Golf Village. The event will begin with a social at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Early-bird tickets are \$30. To insure this rate, reservations and payment must be made by February 13. Later reservations or payment at the door will be \$35. For additional information,

please contact Melissa Nelson at 910-6442. Payment should be made to SJRW and mailed to 214 Edgewater Branch Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259.

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.

On Saturday, February 15, 2014, the St. Augustine Yacht Club (SAYC) will host the second **Gala Fundraising Art Auction**, the proceeds of which will benefit St. Augustine Yacht Club and the SAYC Youth Sailing Program. The auction will take place at St Augustine Yacht Club, located at 442 Ocean Vista Avenue in St Augustine. Starting with a one-hour art preview at 5:30 p.m., the live auction starts at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, dessert and coffee and a cash bar will be enjoyed. In addition, there will be a special door prize donated by Marlin Art and silent auction. Pre-show tickets may be purchased for \$10 at the St Augustine Yacht Club through the club manager, Diane Scott, 824-0725.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is an international weight loss club; our Chapter TOPS #FL493, St. Augustine meets every Wednesday at the old Colee Cove Fire Station, located at 9105 County Road 13 North. We meet at 8:30 a.m. to weigh in and the meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. National dues are only \$28 a year, chapter dues are only \$4 a month. We have weekly programs prepared from material sent to us by TOPS, Inc. Your first meeting is free, come and check us out! For more information, please call Sara Weaver at 940-7528 or Bobbi Culbreth at 824-2466.

The CreekLine
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Your Vote Counts!

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

Election dates are set for 2014; mark your calendar now! The Primary Election will be held on August 26 and the General Election is on November 4.

We are off to a busy start this year as new candidates are already signing up to run for office. There will be a full slate of candidates in the 2014 elections beginning with United States Congress, the Governor and Cabinet, Florida Senate and Representatives, two County Commissioners, three School Board members, many special district offices and three seats on the Julington Creek Plantation CDD board. Visit our website at www.votesjc.com to see the local candidates who have already filed to run for office. A link is also available to take you to the Division of Elections website for a list of candidates who have filed with the state.

Candidates are required to open a separate campaign account and all monies collected and spent on their campaign must be deposited and spent through this account. They are required to file reports with the Elections Office monthly on who their contributors are, how much they contribute and how their money is being spent. These reports are public record and are available on our website. Contribution rates were increased by the state legislature last year. Local candidates may accept \$1,000 from

each contributor per election. Candidates who run statewide may accept up to \$3,000 per contributor per election.

It's also a busy time at the Elections Office as we are verifying voters' signatures on thousands of constitutional amendment petitions for two political committees who are gathering petitions in an attempt to gain ballot position for the 2014 November General Election ballot. The petition deadline is February 1, so by the printing of this issue we will know if either or both committees have gained enough valid signatures to make the November ballot. They are the Use of Medical Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions and the Water and Land Conservation - Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands. There is one additional step in the process which requires the Florida Supreme Court to rule whether the ballot measure is constitutional. The Water and Land initiative has been approved by the Supreme Court. The decision on the Medical Marijuana is pending. [Editor's Note: The Florida Supreme Court did approve the Medical Marijuana language after this article was submitted for publication. The amendment will appear on the November ballot.] The state legislature may also place some items on the November ballot during the upcoming session. I

Newcomers of North Saint Johns announces luncheon

By Contributing Writer Mona Jensen

Newcomers of North Saint Johns (NNSJ) will hold its March luncheon meeting on Tuesday, March 18, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club on County Road 210. Please join us! Newcomers will host a Game Day for our March luncheon. Tables will be set up for Bunco, Canasta and Mah Jongg, as well as an area for Bingo. There will be social tables for members who are not interested in games.

The menu will include a choice of chicken and cheese-stuffed Portobello or shrimp skewers, a seasonable vegetable, cornbread muffins and Caesar salad. There will be strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Reserve early as space is limited. The total cost is \$17, including tax and tip. A cash bar will be available and door prizes and raffles will be offered. All reservations must be received by March 7 and there are no refunds. Please address checks to NNSJ, indicate your menu choice and the game you will be playing and mail to Susan Ott, 1000 Inverness Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

Remember to bring your gently used books for the book sale. No food for charity will be collected this month.

Become a Member! NNSJ invites any resident of North

St. Johns County who has moved here recently, is experiencing a life change or just wants to become acquainted with some new friends to join. We offer a wide variety of activities for you to get acquainted and have fun, including lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips, and cultural activities. If you are interested in NNSJ membership information or to request a newsletter about other upcoming events, please contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net.

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New this year, voters may sign up to receive sample ballots by email in lieu of regular mail. You can make your request in one of two ways: complete a new voter registration application and indicate the email address to which you would like your ballot sent. On the front page of our website there is also a new link on the front page of our website where you can sign up. While this is an advancement in the use of technology and we are pleased to be able to offer this new service, I must warn you of the fact that email addresses are public record. I and the other Supervisors of Elections in the state would like to see this change so voters email addresses are exempt from public record and hope to address this with our legislators this session.

Please contact us any time we can be of service to you at 823-2238 or visit our website www.votesjc.com for updated election and voting information.



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County Spelling Bee winner is from FCMS

Ajay Sarma, a seventh-grade student at Fruit Cove Middle School, won the 2014 St. Johns County School District (SJCS) Spelling Bee held on January 15 at the School Board Administration Building. He won by spelling the word "gustatory" correctly. Sarma is the son of Srilatha Mahankali and Sundhar Sarma.

Thirty-one elementary and middle school students from 26 public and five private schools competed for the honor of representing St. Johns County in The Florida Times-Union Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 15 at the Jacksonville Main Public Library. If for any reason the winner is not able to attend, runner-up Santhya Raman of Timberlin Creek Elementary School will represent the county.

It took 29 rounds for the winner to be determined. The participants were congratulated by School Board Chair Bill Mignon, School Board Member Bev Slough, Superintendent

Joseph Joyner and Deputy Superintendent Martha Mickler. WFOY Newstalk 102.3 FM broadcasted the spelling bee live and streamed it on their website.

The winner of the regional spelling bee will advance to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee scheduled in May in Washington, D.C.

Laurie Hays, SJCS program specialist for elementary language arts, served as the

spelling bee coordinator and the pronouncer was Gina Fonseca, SJCS program specialist for exceptional student education. Judges for the event were Sheila Veatch, SJCS coordinator for Common Core State Standards; Cheryl Freeman, SJCS volunteer coordinator and director for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of St. Johns County; and Sandy Waldeis of Catholic Charities.

Want your school's Good News to appear in The CreekLine?

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William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@bellsouth.net

In the January issue of The CreekLine I filled you in on our exciting adventure into developing a history of St. Johns County relative to the Scenic Highway and working with the St. Johns County School District to develop lesson plans for grade school level students. If you haven't read about our plans I suggest you go back to the January edition or the on-line version of The CreekLine.

Our 2014 "kick-off" meeting was, as usual, quite productive. We established a new set of bylaws and meeting rules for our group. We've been working on this project for quite a few months, ever since realizing the existing bylaws had a few inconsistencies that needed correction. The existing bylaws were developed at the birth of the Scenic Highway Group more than 15 years ago.

Bob Fitzgerald, first vice-chair, and his committee met regularly over the past few months to arrive at an excellent product. The revised by-laws and rules were unanimously approved by the WBS&HH Management Group. Thank you Bob, Claire, Luis and Sarah for your excellent work—we are grateful for your effort.

Glenn Close of County Road 210 group gave us a brief presentation regarding the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission and their planning for improved transportation systems for Northeast Florida. Unfortunately however, this planning

does not appear to include the NW St. Johns County area.

Our main concern for Northwest St. Johns County is the fact there is no public transportation available for residents of Fruit Cove, Julington Creek/Durbin Crossing/Aberdeen/Switzerland areas. In the past 15 years we've had immense growth in the area, yet this sector of the county continues to see many new developments being planned despite the many earlier approved (but not yet built) developments.

The fact is, the Julington Creek Bridge is the only way out of NW St. Johns County and with current planning we'll experience continued traffic buildup and delays. Of course, we can always drive all the way to U.S. Highway 1 or Bartram Park Boulevard to get out of St. Johns County, but there are major developments being built in those areas too.

We need access to some type of public transportation or connector to the JTA bus terminal on the other side of the Julington Creek bridge in Duval County. This is my opinion; what's yours?

On other topics, St. Johns County and the WBS&HH Group are planning for another of our annual Bartram Bash events at Alpine Grove Park in April. Also, we learned there will be a pavilion built at Alpine Groves Park sometime in 2014. We're not sure of when, but we'll keep you informed as we learn more. A pavilion will

be a great feature for the park by providing some shelter from sun and weather and a place for kids to be kids.

Our monthly meetings continue to be lively, with input from all our members. We're an active group and welcome your ideas as well. You're invited; please join us in our exciting new ventures at the next WBS&HH meeting on February 13. We meet at the County Annex on Flora Branch Boulevard, north of Race Track Road at 6:30 p.m. See you then!

got news?
editor@thecreekline.com



Tax Talk

By Contributing Writer Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC, St. Johns County Tax Collector

Donate your cell phones and help a soldier phone home!

Don't let your old phones just gather dust and take up space in a drawer or cabinet! Bring them to your local St. Johns County Tax Collector's office where they will begin a journey for a worthy cause. We have been working with Cell Phones for Soldiers Inc. for several years, collecting phones from employees and a few local businesses at our main office; however, as part of our commitment not only to our military but also to the community we serve, we are expanding our collection efforts in 2014 to include all branches and encourage the public to participate.

Since its founding in 2004, Cell Phones for Soldiers Inc. has provided 200 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women stationed around the world. Funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones for Soldiers distributed 12,000 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals. For every donated phone valued at \$5, the organization is able to provide two-and-a-half hours of free talk time to deployed troops.

Bring your gently used cell phones, chargers and accessories to any location of the St. Johns County Tax Collector: Julington Creek, 725 Flora Branch Boulevard Ponte Vedra, 5430 Palm Valley Road

St. Augustine at Dupont Center, 6658 U.S. Highway 1 South
St. Augustine at the Courthouse Complex, 4030 Lewis Speedway
Hastings, 6195 South Main Street, Suite E

Mindful that our freedom depends on the selfless sacrifice of these brave men and women, your St. Johns County Tax Collector employees have a strong history of support for our military. Your tax collector offices waive the optional \$1 fee for military veterans seeking the "V" designation on their Florida driver license. Since 2001, we've made available front-end car tags with the American Flag and "Support our Troops" message as a fundraiser for a local non-profit. Your tax collector employees have sent care packages to the troops and even provided a dog care package for a St. Johns County resident working with a military canine unit in the Middle East. During Christmas, employees conducted a jeans-day fundraiser to collect for female veterans residing at the local VA retirement home. These are just a few examples of our efforts, humbly shared so the public can better understand that our support and appreciation is year-round, both personally and professionally. We are always looking for ways to support our troops, so if you have any suggestions please contact me at taxcollector@sjctax.us.



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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, jal@rtpublishing.com

Anyone who knows me fairly well may know that I care little for the trappings that come with Valentine's Day. I have nothing against the sentiment. I happily share expressions of our love with my wife every year. I just don't care for the flamboyant gaudiness of it all. For me, then, to write an essay that in any way summons the exaggerated sentimentality of St. Valentine's Day is contrary to my being. More importantly though, how, you may ask, can civics and Valentine's Day be linked?

Again I draw from one of the greatest speeches of American history, Lincoln's first inaugural address. An often cited line from that speech makes the connection between the sentiment of Valentine's Day and democracy. Lincoln said, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection." He was of course warning against the decision of the southern states to divide the union. But the words are just as important today even if the circumstances less dire. We are nine months (Valentine's Day reference intended...just think about it) from another vital election. Electioneering, political posturing and issue spinning are already happening around the state and nation. Sides are being drawn, endorsements are being made and big money is being spent, all in the name of democracy. In November, those Valentine's babies will arrive to an atmosphere of anger, frustration, divisiveness and voter fatigue.

Why do we Americans, and for that matter, citizens of all free democracies, subject ourselves to such frequent spasms of discord and pain? It is, simply, or not so simply, that democracy was never intended to be easy. It is slow and inefficient at best, vitriolic and fractionate at worst. It is this very nature of democracy to which Winston Churchill referred with his famous words, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." To opt for a purely efficient and resolute government is to retreat to tyrannical absolute authoritarianism. Democracy is slow, divisive, inefficient and factional. But it is the best option available to imperfect humans.

Valentine's Day celebrates love, the strongest emotion of the heart. Just as the broken hearts of two lovers can be mended through understanding, patience and compromise, so can the hearts of a democratic people be opened to understanding, patience, and compromise. In his book "Healing the Heart of Democracy," Parker Palmer said, "Our sharpest disagreements need not be the seeds of democracy's destruction. If we know how to hold their tensions in ways that open our hearts, they can become proof of democracy's genius and drivers of its renewal."

Lincoln concluded his address with these hopeful words.

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

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Betty Griffin House to host 5k run and walk

Betty Griffin House will be hosting its inaugural Betty Griffin House 5K Run and Walk and brunch fundraiser on Saturday, April 12 beginning at 8:30 a.m. This event will raise money for the many programs Betty Griffin House coordinates.

The race will start and finish at the St. Augustine Beach Pier. Registration and packet pick-up will be on April 11 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and at 7:00 a.m. on April 12 at the Pier Pavilion. The registration fee is \$20 until February 28. Children 14 and under are \$15. From March 1 to April 11, the registration is \$25 and race day registration is \$30 for all. Your registration fee gets an amazing race bag with t-shirt. Pets are welcome on a leash.

All race participants and supporters are invited to join us for brunch! Raise \$100 and enjoy the Friends of Betty Brunch, directly following the 5k in the Pier Pavilion. You will be served by a celebrity wait staff and entered to win one of many prizes, including a cruise for two! You will receive one entry for every \$100 raised or donated.

All fitness levels are welcome; this event is designed for the whole family to enjoy!

If you need a little motivation, join the Betty Griffin House 5k Walking Club and go from couch to 5k in only 10 weeks. The Walking Club will take place every Saturday starting February 1 at 8:00 a.m. at Treaty Park, located at 1595 Wildwood Drive in St. Augustine.

To register for the 5k or for more information, please visit www.bettygriffinhouse5k.org or call Malinda Everson at 808-8544.

As a private, nonprofit agency, Betty Griffin House provides emergency shelter to abused women, men and their minor children. Other support services available to shelter residents and non-residents include a 24-hour crisis hotline, individual and group counseling, forensic / medical rape exams, and legal assistance. Confidential individual and group counseling are available in all parts of St. Johns County including Hastings, Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns, St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach. For more information or to make a donation, visit our website at www.bettygriffinhouse.org.

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Hastings resident to challenge for St. Johns District 2 Seat

Jeb Smith has announced his intent to run for St. Johns County Commission Seat, District 2. He and Wendy, his wife of more than 20 years, live in Hastings with their four children. Smith is a fifth generation farmer who is engaged in the production of cattle, hay, fish, vegetables, sod and timber, as well as the operation of a custom fertilizer application service.

"I would like to see our

county continue to cut waste, create jobs and build reserves," said Smith. "It is reasonable to expect our elected officials to present a zero based budget each year and spend within our means. It is also reasonable to support leaders who believe that growing the private sector is much healthier for a thriving community than growing the size of government."

Smith is actively involved in the agricultural community

and serves in many capacities representing the industry. His elected service includes the Hastings Drainage District and the Farm Service Agency; he is currently president of the Putnam-St. Johns County Farm Bureau and a director for the Florida Farm Bureau; he also serves in an advisory capacity with the American Farm Bureau. In addition, Smith serves on the St. Johns County Agriculture and 4-H Advisory Councils.

St. Johns resident to challenge for St. Johns District 2 Seat

Kim J. Kendall has announced she is running for St. Johns County Commissioner District 2. As a former small business owner and FAA air traffic controller, Kendall will bring a keen sense of both the private and public sectors. As a conservative Republican, Kendall knows the way to grow the economy is by having a smaller, less-intrusive government focused on governing from the local level.

Kendall is no stranger to public service. She has served St.

Johns County in many ways including: co-founding our middle school sports program, serving as Vice President of Public Affairs for the St. Augustine Navy League, chairing a statewide literacy initiative, serving on the Northeast Florida Early Learning Coalition Board, chairing the Timberlin Creek Elementary's Business Liaison team and co-chairing the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra's Farm to Table Event, pairing our local Hastings area farmers with Ponte Vedra area chefs.

Kendall is particularly proud of having served in the trenches fighting for community issues

such as writing educational policy, fighting unsuitable development locations like Hopewell Church in the Northwest, battling against inappropriate rezoning requests in Julington Creek Plantation, advocating the right for prayer at graduation and fighting senseless school rezonings.

"I will continue to work tirelessly for our county. I am passionate about serving our county's residents and making sure our voices are heard," Kendall said. "More importantly, I am here to megaphone the voice of the residents in saying - no more tax hikes!"



Presidents' Day
February 17, 2014

Chocolate and Beyond supports volunteers

Chocolate and Beyond, a celebration of chocolate, desserts and other culinary sensations, will be held on Saturday, February 22 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at

First Coast Technical College, Building C in St. Augustine. Guests will enjoy tasty samples from some of the area's finest restaurants and specialty shops. A silent auction, raffle and contests will also be part of this fun and exciting afternoon.

Hosted by The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Johns County, the proceeds from Chocolate and Beyond benefit the volunteer program and young students through book purchases.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased on the RSVP website, www.rsvpstjohns.com. Please call RSVP at 547-3945 for more information.



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New after school math programs available

Mathnasium of Fruit Cove is now open for business, offering fun and effective after-school math programs for children in grades one through 12 and beyond. The brand new center is located within Bartram Walk East at the corner of Race Track Road and State Road 13.

Mathnasium operates on the core belief that virtually any child can become great at math. The Mathnasium Method™, implemented at more than 400 Mathnasium centers across the United States and abroad, is a unique program that provides each child with a customized learning plan and personalized instruction in a way that makes sense to them.

"Here at Mathnasium, we focus solely on math," explains Alan Crouch, co-owner and lead instructor. "Specifically, we focus on individual math skills and we teach those skills in a way that really connects with kids."

Mathnasium centers across the country have helped struggling students develop

into "A" students and the "A" students go on to even greater achievements. Children at Mathnasium quickly learn that math can be fun and interesting and extraordinarily useful, for both success in school and for valuable life skills.

"We are excited about bringing our teaching skills to the parents and children of Saint Johns," said Nicole Crouch, co-owner and center director of the Fruit Cove franchise. "We want to provide a service to the community and we know the Mathnasium Method™ is just what we need to help our 'math-letes' build their confidence."

The Mathnasium experience begins with a detailed assessment of each child's strengths and weaknesses, which is used to create an individualized learning plan. Personalized instruction from highly trained and caring instructors assures each student fully understands key concepts before moving on to the next.

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



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St. Johns Riverkeeper cautions against Central Florida proposed water withdrawals

By Contributing Writer Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper

You may recall a huge fight a few years ago when Seminole County was seeking a permit to withdraw water from the St. Johns River for irrigation. Well, Central Florida is back for more – over 30 times more water than before!

According to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Central Florida is reaching the sustainable limits of its predominant source of water, the Floridan Aquifer. As a result, the three water management districts in this five county area created the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) to identify alternative sources of water to meet growing demand. (www.cfwewater.com/)

Recently, the CFWI released a Draft Regional Water Supply Plan that relies heavily on surface water withdrawals from the St. Johns River and one of its most important tributaries, the Ocklawaha River. The plan calls for potentially withdrawing more than 150 million gallons of water a day from the St. Johns at an estimated expense of nearly \$1.5 billion.

In addition, the SJRWMD recently released a Water Supply Plan for all of the 18 counties within its jurisdiction. The District's plan calls for the withdrawal of an additional 125 million gallons or more of water a day from the St. Johns and more than 85 million gallons from one of its most important tributaries, the Ocklawaha

River. (<http://www.sjrwmd.com/DWSP2013/>)

St. Johns Riverkeeper has serious concerns that these proposed withdrawals would:

- Worsen existing pollution problems,
- Increase the frequency of toxic algal blooms,
- Further reduce flow and increase salinity levels farther upstream, and
- Adversely impact the fisheries, wildlife and submerged vegetation in and along the St. Johns and its tributaries.

Instead of siphoning millions of gallons of water a day from our rivers, the focus should be on aggressive conservation and efficiency measures. Unfortunately, both water supply plans downplay the potential of conservation to meet future demand. The Central Florida Plan determined that only “3.9 percent of the projected demand for 2035 can be eliminated by water conservation.”

Unfortunately, our limited public resources are being directed towards expensive and risky new sources of water before we have addressed the

root causes of our water supply problems and exhausted all opportunities to use existing water resources more efficiently. Despite the looming water shortages and call for new sources of supply, our state water management districts also continue to issue frivolous consumptive use permits (CUP) that will further deplete our aquifer. For instance, the SJRWMD staff recently recommended the approval of a permit from California-based Niagara Bottling to nearly double groundwater withdrawals for its water bottling facility in Lake County to 910,000 gallons of water a day – an 88 percent

increase.

As the downstream donor communities, we have nothing to gain and everything to lose from these shortsighted proposals. Please, join us in opposing water withdrawals from the St. Johns River and its tributaries and demanding the more efficient use of our water resources.

Our river's future depends upon conservation and our willingness to ensure its protection. Learn more at www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

The CreekLine



For advertising call: (904) 886-4919

Pre-register your children for kindergarten

Pre-registration days have been set for children entering kindergarten and students new to St. Johns County and/or public schools. They are Wednesday, March 12 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.; Thursday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 6 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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

Parents must register children at the school where they are zoned for the 2014-2015 school year. Three proofs of residency must be provided such as a current mortgage statement, lease or rent agreement and two other forms of residency documentation such as a current electric bill, car registration and/or driver's license. Additional information on residency and guardianship as well as a link to the Attendance Zone Locator can be found on the website at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us under “Featured Links.”

Florida law requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of required immunizations documented on the HRS Form 680. Proof of a physical examination that has been obtained within one year prior to enrollment in school is also required. Physical exami-

nations can be performed by either a private physician or by the county health department.

Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) pre-registration will also take place at select schools on the above dates and times. Children applying for the VPK program must be four years old on or before September 1. The SJCSO offers full day VPK at the following locations: The Webster School, John A. Crookshank, Cunningham Creek, Ketterlinus, Otis Mason, Mill Creek, Ocean Palms, Osceola, PVPV/Rawlings, South Woods, Timberlin Creek and Wards Creek elementary schools. For additional information on the SJCSO VPK program, please contact Early Childhood Services at 547-4899.

In addition, K-8 School HH will be holding pre-registration as well on Wednesday, March 12 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Durbin Crossing South Amenity Center; Thursday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Durbin Crossing North Amenity Center; and Tuesday, May 6 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Durbin Crossing South Amenity Center.

Students can be registered during the spring and summer for the 2014-2015 school year; however, parents are encouraged to register during the designated dates above so that schools can adequately prepare for the new school year. Additional information regarding registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.



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Tax Tip of the Month

Now in effect are the tax increases connected with the “Affordable Care Act”, such as the 3.8% Medicare Tax on Net Investment Income in excess of threshold amounts, the ADDITIONAL .9% Medicare tax on W2 earnings in excess of \$200,000, the decrease in the medical itemized deduction, and the INDIVIDUAL health insurance mandate. Everyone must have qualifying coverage to avoid a penalty in 2014. If you have questions or need assistance in determining how these items affect you, please contact our office.

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Women to be celebrated on International Women's Day

The Enterprising Women's Leadership Institute, Inc. (EWLI) announces the 2014 International Women's Day Celebration will be held on Tuesday, March 11 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Marsh Creek Country Club in St. Augustine.

"This year is special as it represents EWLI's 30 years as an evolving organization whose mission is to 'identify, support, mentor and promote women's leadership in communities worldwide,'" states Marilyn Wiles, founder of EWLI. "The

board of directors is planning a theme for the 2014 program focusing attention on the importance of strong women—past, present and future—who contribute to the health and well-being of others thereby enhancing communities, families and the world we live in."

The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Rawanda Ravoira, recently selected to head up the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center in Jacksonville, a comprehensive community-based model for serving girls and

young women in Duval County. Coming from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD)'s Center for Girls and Young Women, Dr. Ravoira brings with her both passion and experience. Dr. Ravoira looks forward to the opportunity to work with Duval County and the surrounding communities to serve girls and young women caught in the criminal justice system.

Put Tuesday, March 11 on your calendar. Each year, the International Women's Day Celebration recognizes and honors women leaders from the community who are making a difference. In addition, St. Johns County high schools are contacted and counselors are invited to nominate an outstanding female graduating senior from each respective school who represents "leadership" in her academic and community service life. Recipients of the Barrie Higgins Young Leaders Award receive financial support in collaboration with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Four-Star Association.

For more information about the 2014 International Women's Day Celebration or to get information about reserving your seat at the table, please contact Margaret Wiles, treasurer, at mawiles@bellsouth.net.

New option for joint replacement available

The St. Augustine Surgery Center, located in St. Augustine, has introduced a whole new option in total joint replacement—completely outpatient surgery. Advances in Dr. Tod Northrup's minimally invasive technique, utilizing robotic technology and sophisticated approaches to pain management allow the patients to go home the same day and recover in the comfort of their own home surrounded by their

family. Dr. Northrup, orthopedic surgeon with Florida Sports Medicine Institute, launched the ground-breaking total joint replacement program in January of 2013.

"We are proud that St. Augustine Surgery Center is the first and only center in Florida performing outpatient total joint replacements utilizing robotic technology. This tech-

nology provides precision that has proven to be less invasive and leads to quicker recovery. The overall cost savings of outpatient robotic surgery to both patients and the healthcare industry is impressive. This is a game changer!"

These procedures can seem overwhelming to some patients. Providing detailed information and education helps the patient understand the process thus easing their anxiety. Dr. Northrup uses a website that answers patients' questions and begins the process of creating a well informed and knowledgeable patient. <http://northrupcenter-forrobotickneereplacement.com/>

The art of keeping total joint replacement patients comfortable, nausea-free and mobile requires using a variety of resources.

Dr. Ahmed Bata, anesthesiologist with Coastal Anesthesia, addresses this challenge: "We use a multi-modal approach to minimize pain and nausea by using alternatives to narcotics in conjunction with a take home pain pump."

The pump provides pain relief directly to the local area as opposed to traditional systemic narcotics. This method makes recovery more comfortable, quicker and with fewer complications.

The opportunity for patients to choose to have their shoulder, knee, or hip replacement in an outpatient setting is the optimal answer to the question of quality and cost. Patients comment

that their experience is personal, easy in and out, much of their care being provided on a one on one basis.

According to Stephanie Martin, administrator at St. Augustine Surgery Center, "Patients want to return to living their normal lives, pain free. The same day surgery option helps them reach that goal without a hospital stay."

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Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center on County Road 210. February's project will be the filling of birthday bags for the area's homeless children. This will be an ongoing project with Helping Hands. On the month of a member's birthday, members are asked to bring a Birthday Bag that will be given to a child that shares that month's birthday. Gift bags will be labeled age and gender appropriate and with an unsigned card for the parent or guardian to give to the child. Members of the community are welcome to donate bags as well. New books, clothing and toys would be appreciated. Gifts should not exceed \$10 and can be themed like Hello Kitty, Thomas the Tank Engine, teenager (16 and under) etc. Through a generous donation of toys and games, at least 25 bags will be given initially to Salvation Army, Daniel and Sulzbacher Shelter. For more information, please contact jacqphil@aol.com.

Hopefully, by the time this is published, Alex Fast of St. Augustine will have his new liver. He is currently in Pittsburg awaiting his liver transplant. Helping Hands with the help of its members and the community had a garage sale on February 1 to benefit this 16 year old. Many thanks to 210 Storage which donated a unit for the many items, furniture, antiques, clothing and books that were donated, Papa John's Pizza on County Road 210 for pizza and First Florida Credit Union for advertising. It was a huge undertaking and could not have been accomplished without the help of its members, Faith Community Church where the sale was held and Boy Scout troops 280 and 473. These boys and their families were a tremendous help in transporting a storage unit full of merchandise and bringing it to the church for the sale. All monies were donated in Alex's name to Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). Please consider becoming an organ donor and give the gift of life to someone like this young

man.

Helping Hands is planning another Easter Egg Hunt in the spring for special needs children. Last year's event was a huge success and this year's will be full of activities, food, crafts and Easter egg hunting (indoors). All children in the area are invited to attend; the date will be announced soon.

Helping Hands is a volunteer organization that has no dues, officers or stress. Members come when they can and do what they can with what is donated. The group relies solely on donations of goods and services from the community. Membership is always open; please contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

EPIC Detox Center cont. from pg. 1 remaining amount.

The EPIC Recovery Center is a 24 hour/seven days a week medical facility with 16 beds, including 12 detoxification beds and four residential treatment beds. It is led by a team of physicians, nurses and trained substance abuse professionals. A drug and alcohol



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detox can be the first step in a person's journey of recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. According to Greenough, "The mental clarity, emotional stability and improved physical condition provided by a drug and alcohol detox will allow for more active participation in the daily requirements of a client's

rehabilitation program." The EPIC Recovery Center is located at 3574 US Highway 1 South. To learn more about the detox center and investment opportunities, people are encouraged to call EPIC at 829-2273 or the EPIC Recovery Center at 417-7100 or to visit www.epicbh.org.

Local surgeon initiated into American College of Surgeons



Dr. Sina Kasraeian was among 1,622 initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College

of Surgeons (FACS) during the convocation ceremony at the college's 2013 annual Clinical Congress in Washington, DC last month. This year's class of initiates was among one of the largest ever admitted into the college.

Dr. Kasraeian received a medical doctorate degree from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. Kasraeian is a partner at Orthopaedic Associates of

St. Augustine and has a strong professional interest and extensive training in arthroscopy and sports medicine reconstructive procedures.

Dr. Kasraeian holds membership in other professional societies, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, Arthroscopy Association of North America and American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

By meeting the college's stringent membership requirements, Fellows of the college have earned the distinguished right to use the designation of "FACS" (Fellow, American College of Surgeons) after their names.

Be sure to see the Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*



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Community to host "2014 Street Festival," open to public

Palencia Realty will host the annual "Palencia 2014 Street Festival" on Saturday, March 29, featuring live entertainment, a fashion show, jewelry, art and food booths – and much more. The event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be open to the public. Palencia Village, located within the neighborhood of Palencia at 605 Palencia Club Drive in St. Augustine, will be lined with vendor booths. Entertainment will include a fashion show, bouncy houses, hamster balls, live performances, gymnastics and dance groups supported by a D.J. that will keep feet moving – regardless age.

Admission is free. Proceeds from vendors' fees will benefit Daniel Kids, a nonprofit organization that serves nearly 2,000

children and their families every day through a variety of innovative and nationally-recognized programs. Daniel offers an array of quality, efficient and effective mental health, social services and educational programs aimed at enhancing the lives of children and families in our community.

Palencia is a Hines Co. community located on U.S. Highway 1 at the intersection of International Golf Parkway in northern St. Johns County. It offers a rare combination of environmental sensitivity and sophisticated master planning on 2,250 scenic acres along the Intracoastal Waterway. A championship golf course and magnificent clubhouse are among the numerous world-class amenities.

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

Nease Happenings Nease Guard triumphs at premiere competition

By Samuel Wright, Nease Student

Nease High School's Winterguard team competed in their first competition of the season in January, earning first place in their class and thus positively kicking off this much-anticipated season. The team competed against Timber Creek High School at Mainland High School in Daytona on January 18 and won with a final score of 66.4, beating Timber Creek—the only other Scholastic World Class group competing—by eight points. This important triumph so early in the season suggests signs of even better things to come down the road.

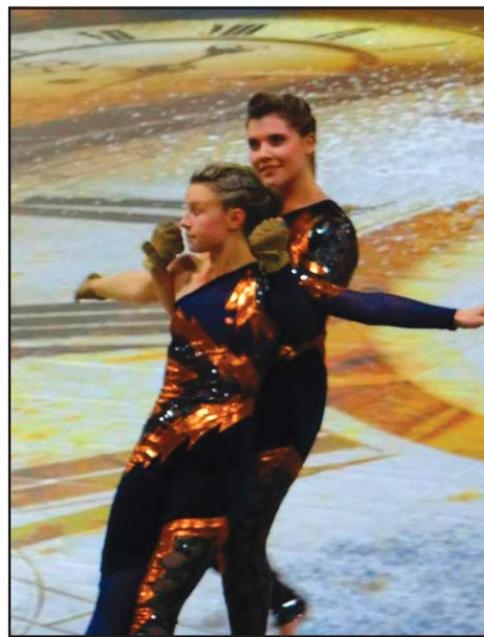
The guard's show this year, "Stealing Time," involves carefully choreographed musical movements involving elegant dances and intricate maneuvers with sabers, rifles and flags. The Winterguard team has always been a group of talented individuals with a real passion for what they do; there tends to be a feeling of togetherness and positivity that almost always surrounds the team.

"We don't complain about

the bruises and aching muscles and cuts and long practices because there is nothing like seeing people cheer for you... and nothing compares to hearing your guard win first place," said Ashlyn Cooper, a junior currently in her first season of Winterguard.

"They're all willing to help and teach," she commented regarding the students involved in guard. "They welcomed me, a new kid with no guard experience, into their little family with open arms. Nobody is stuck up or thinks they deserve special treatment; we all love what we're doing."

Guard director Jill Moser and her staff have put together a fantastic show this year and look to compete through regionals and again compete for Worlds in Ohio in their second



Sarah Hansen and Monica Gillette rehearsing for the show in Daytona.

year as an official world class team.

The Winterguard team performs again in their first regional competition on February 15 at the University of Central Florida.

Congratulations to Teachers and Rookie Teachers of the Year

The 2013-2014 Teachers of the Year and Rookie Teachers of the Year have been selected from each of the district's 36 schools and were recognized at the monthly School Board meeting on Tuesday, January 14. These nominees represent the very best among St. Johns County School District teachers. Their colleagues have selected them for this prestigious honor, and they will advance to compete for the countywide title.

Nominations for the 2013-2014 Rookie Teachers of the

Year have been submitted by 35 of the district's schools. Eligible teachers must have taught less than three years. This is the seventh year that the Rookie Teacher of the Year competition has been held. These nominees represent the top of their profession among new teachers and will go on to compete for the countywide title.

The overall winner will be announced at the annual Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year Celebration on Thursday, February 13

at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village. The St. Johns County Teacher of the Year will then be included for consideration as the Florida Department of Education Macy's Teacher of the Year 2014. The awards banquet is produced by the St. Johns County Education Foundation (SJCEF) to recognize excellence in the teaching profession and is sponsored, in part, by THE PLAYERS Championship, Beaver Toyota/Scion and Leonard's Studios.

Congratulations to the following Teacher of the Year honorees from NW St. Johns County Schools:

- Cunningham Creek Elementary: Becky Russell
 - Durbin Creek Elementary: Courtney Duprey
 - Julington Creek Elementary: Marie Woodard
 - Mill Creek Elementary: Lee DeWitt
 - Palencia Elementary: Katrina Worthington
 - Timberlin Creek Elementary: Ann-Marie Butler
 - Wards Creek Elementary: Traycee Klein
 - Liberty Pines Academy: Dianna Carlson-Bright
 - Bartram Trail High: Jay DiMartino
 - Creekside High: Aletha Dresback
 - Fruit Cove Middle: Barbara Farbo
 - Allen D. Nease High: Jamie Beck
 - Pacetti Bay Middle: Meghan Ryan
 - Switzerland Point Middle: Marian Campbell
- Congratulations to the following Rookie Teacher of the Year honorees from NW St. Johns County Schools:
- Cunningham Creek Elementary: Clare Wamsley
 - Durbin Creek Elementary: Magan Curtis
 - Hickory Creek Elementary: Kathleen Zielinski
 - Julington Creek Elementary: Janet Fussman

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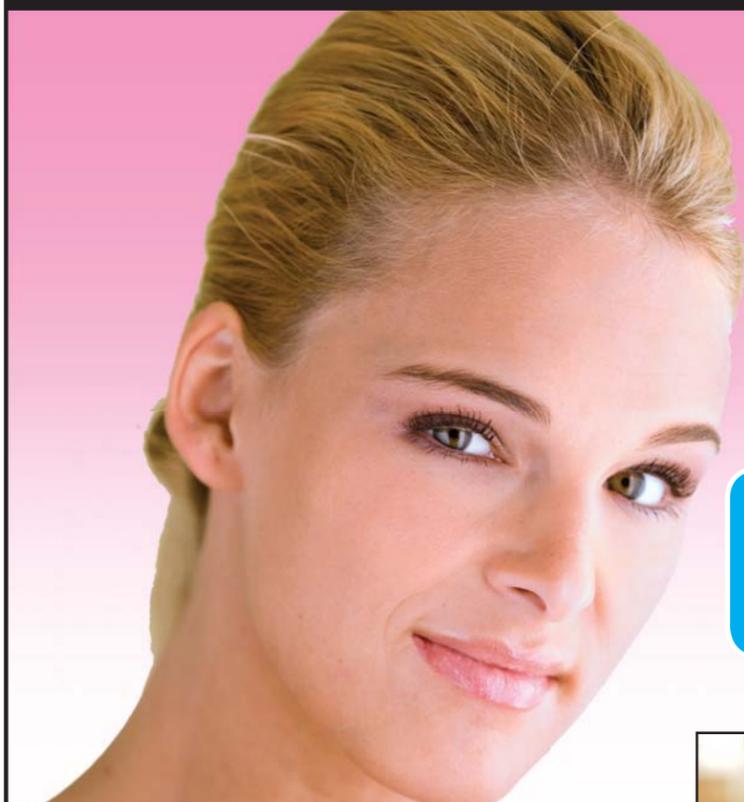
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JCE recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Contributing Writer Linda McAnarney, Art Educator, Julington Creek Elementary



Essay contest winners

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Julington Creek Elementary school once again participated by conducting a poster making contest for kindergarten through third grade students and an essay contest for students in grades four and five. These contests were designed to create aware-

ness among our students, of the life and activities of Dr. King, Jr. and of his vision for justice, peace and equality for all.

Fourth and fifth graders were encouraged to write a 200 to 400 word essay on this year's topic, "Keeping the Dream Alive" and the essays were sent to the St. Johns Education Association for judging. Special recognition is due to Tracey Lyons' fifth grade class, as each of them wrote an essay. The following essays were sent for judging from fifth grades: Will

Ferris, Leighanna Goldman, Freddie diMarzo, Calvin Hansen, Courtney Oko, Railey McFarland, Evan Grimm and Adrianna LaVopa. The following students represented our fourth grades: Drew Demeter, Brooke Benedict, Bhumika Balani, Lauren Villanova, Carys Cook, Lina Nejjar, Ella Murphy, Caroline Rice and Julien Toussi. Congratulations

to all of the students who participated!

The kindergarten through third grade posters were judged at Julington Creek Elementary School, with a poster selected to represent each grade. There were also several honorable mentions for each grade level. Winning posters sent to the school board offices were: kindergarten: Madeline Pratchios in Cynthia West's class; first grade: Braden Berkowitz in Dolly Lucas' class; second grade: Jazmyn Bond in Dian McLeod's class; third grade: Sabrina LaVopa in Melissa Dillard's class.

Posters receiving honorable mentions: kindergarten: Ramsey McFarland in Carol Meadows' class; first grade: Bianca Gonzalez in Sue Hellmann's class; second grade: Natalie Grimm in Becky Jarriel's class; third grade: Nathan LaFlamme in Marjory Hazouri's class. Again, congratulations to all of our students for participating!

At the district level there were three essay winners in the Elementary Division. Our Lina Nejjar won first place and Will Ferris won second place! Also, at the district level the third overall poster contest winner was our Braden Berkowitz!

We want to thank our parents for all of the support and encouragement they have given in completing the project.

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Poster contest winners

Teachers of the Year cont. from pg.14

Mill Creek Elementary: Synthia Brown
Palencia Elementary: Rebecca Royal
Timberlin Creek Elementary: Trey Leonard
Wards Creek Elementary: Amanda Zikos
Liberty Pines Academy: Luanne Small
Bartram Trail High: Danielle Parker
Creekside High: Drew Chiodo
Fruit Cove Middle: Thomas McNerney III
Allen D. Nease High: Melissa O'Steen

Pacetti Bay Middle: Daniel Hawkinson
Switzerland Point Middle: Amy Huber

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Main Library closed through April for renovations

The St. Johns County Main Library will be closed February 17 through April for renovations and improvements that include a complete update of the restroom facilities and a reconfiguration of the children's library and adult reading area. Patrons wishing to utilize hold services during the closure can contact the Main Library prior to February 17 to designate a secondary pick up location. The book drop will remain open for items to be returned. Any items that would have normally been

due during the closure will not be due until May 1.

The library's many online services, including an extensive collection of e-books, informational databases and children's games, will also be available to patrons during the closure.

The St. Johns County Public Library System thanks patrons for their patience and understanding during the renovation period. For additional information, please visit www.sjcpls.org or call 827-6940.



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Sue Simmons has always had a passion for decorating and has been helping friends and family for years just because she loves it.

"I've been asked many times why I don't do this for a living, so I decided to go to school and get certified and make money doing what I love," Simmons shared.

She went to Transformations Staging and Redesign School in Jacksonville and became a certified real estate stager. She started 5 Star Staging and Redesign, Inc. last year and loves being the owner of her own company. As a real estate staging and home redesign company, their goal is to help people sell their homes faster.

Simmons explained, "We stage homes to create that 'wow' factor that homeowners are looking for, but if you're not selling your home and just want a fresh new look, we can also redesign your home using

your decor (and some of ours if you like). Sometimes just a few changes can make a huge difference in the look of your home!"

Simmons travels to the homeowner and the initial consultation is free. She has a large inventory of accessories such as candles, pictures, table settings, vases and greenery that she can use in homes and if the owner likes it, the item or items are available for purchase.

As for a quick tip, Simmons said that most of the time rearranging furniture, editing out ("decluttering") and adding in some updated decor is all that's needed in a redesign project. For staging, using beautiful accessories, rugs, lighting, setting a beautiful dining table or bar area and accessorizing the bathroom with pretty soaps, candles, towels and rugs can make a home attractive to buyers.

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

Newcomers Club to learn from plastic surgeon

By Contributing Writer Susan Moger

Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club (BTNC) will be held Tuesday, March 11, at St. Johns Golf and Country Club, located at 219 St. Johns Golf Drive, just off County Road 210. At our March luncheon, a presentation will be given by Dr. Garcia, local plastic surgeon. Come and have your questions on plastic surgery answered. Everyone will find him very interesting and informative. The total cost is \$18 for lunch (including tip and tax). Door prizes will be awarded. The deadline for checks is March 1 and should be sent to: Marg Mytholar, 308 South Buck Board Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259.

Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Bartram-Trail.Newcomers.WomensClub)

for additional information. 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 and a nature walk group.

For club information, please contact Vice President of Membership Shirley Bodziak at shirelybodziak@gmail.com. To download a membership form, please visit www.facebook.com/BartramTrail.Newcomers.WomensClub.

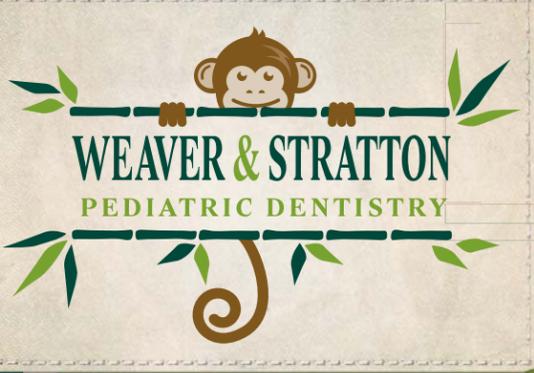


Julington Creek Elementary hosted its first annual Family Literacy Night, entitled "Reading and Writing in a Wintery Wonderland" on Thursday, January 16 to support Literacy Week 2014. The event was a huge success, with over 200 attendees! The event included author presentations and book signing opportunities with Jane Wood and Frances Keiser, two well known local authors, story telling performances by JCE's very own fifth grade students, book mark making with KidzArt, common core interactive literacy stations, literacy discussions and information from local businesses in the community and visits to the free book station. Children left with multi books and other literacy resources! The JCE literacy committee, chaired by Tina Motley, felt that the event made a positive impact on families in the community. There is already talk about next year's event!



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Retirement village announces 50th anniversary

By Contributing Writer Cher Brown

Westminster Woods on Julington Creek kicked off a special season of celebration in January to commemorate its 50th Anniversary. Retired University of North Florida Professor of History Dr. Jim Crooks was guest speaker at a men's breakfast on January 11. Dr. Crooks gave an informative talk on the history of Jacksonville and greater Mandarin area, focusing on the local Civil Rights Movement.

Westminster Woods on Julington Creek is celebrating its 50 Year Anniversary in 2014. The years since its founding have been marked by growth and achievement, with it now ranking in the top 20 of St. Johns County major employers. Westminster Woods is a faith-based, non-profit active living retirement community that is nationally recognized



Dr. Jim Crooks at the recent men's breakfast.

for its approach to health and wellness. Special events are planned to include the community, celebrate active-living retirement and recognize the compassionate contributions of staff.

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Hospital's women's programs highlighted in publication

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville is being highlighted nationally as one of the top "100 Hospitals With Great Women's Health Programs." Becker's Hospital Review has published its list which recognizes hospitals with exceptional programs dedicated to the health and well-being of women. The hospitals featured on the list have programs that include a wide range of healthcare options for women including gynecologic care, reproductive medicine, breast health as well as emotional support and behavioral healthcare options. The programs display clinical excellence and provide quality care.

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville is one of 11 in Florida recognized. The hospitals were selected to the list based on clinical excellence, quality care, comprehensiveness of their women's health programs and women's health awards.

The monthly publication noted Baptist Medical Center offering a number of women's health services including gynecology, urology, breast health, heart health as well as treatments for post-partum depression and osteoporosis. The publication also pointed to Baptist's Hill Breast Center and the use of latest technology such as digital mammography, LumaGEM molecular breast imaging, stereotactic core biopsy and bone density scanners. The

medical center has been awarded Magnet designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center South, which share a license, for example, were ranked No. 1 last year among metro Jacksonville hospitals in the U.S. News and World Report annual Best Hospital rankings. Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville also carries the Women's Choice Award from Women-Certified® distinguishing it as one of the 2013 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience in Heart Care. The award is based on robust criteria that include female patient satisfaction measurements as well as clinical excellence considerations.

Michael Mayo, hospital president, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, said the Becker's Hospital Review ranking shows that Baptist Medical Center is committed to delivering exemplary care to patients.

"The rankings continue to show that we are truly changing health care for good for women in Northeast Florida," Mayo said. "We are continuously investing in innovative technologies such as those used at the Hill Breast Center as well as providing comprehensive heart prevention programs to ensure our patients receive the best possible care."

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Mark Your Calendars cont. on pg. 1

far include: Krantz Dental Care, Amanda Morgan with Heads Above Salon, TCB EnviroCorp, Inc., Bark of the Town, Danzar and Educational Homestay Programs. Franzini and his team are working every day to get more.

"I try and lead by example and tell my friends that we can make a difference, so please come and help me show them

I'm right," Franzini asks with a smile. "It's a really fun afternoon. I mean what can be better than having a party with other people and their dogs, while saving other dogs?"

For more information on Ayla's Acres, you can visit: www.aylasacres.org. For more information on the event, you can call 718-7445.

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First graders at Hickory Creek experience joy by helping others

By Contributing Writer Laurie Argott

Hickory Creek Elementary School's first graders completed a 10-day service project this past December. The students learned about caring for others and giving of their time to help those less fortunate during the busy holiday season. The goal of the project was to collect coats, blankets and socks to share with the homeless through the Trinity Rescue Mission.

To encourage others to donate, the children created posters and placed them around the school along with the collection boxes they had decorated. The students personally collected all of the donation items and sorted them by type and size each day.

Seventeen large boxes were filled at the end of the project. It took two full truck loads to deliver all the boxes. The items were then distributed to individuals at the Trinity Rescue Mission during a holiday dinner held on December 23.

"The children did an outstanding job of showing how much they care for others," said Donna McGill, first grade teacher



er at Hickory Creek Elementary School. "Coats and socks were distributed to men while a large amount of other items were given to the women and children. The blankets were used for those individuals who could not stay in the shelter at night due to it being too full so that they could keep warm in the cold."

Trinity Rescue Mission was established in 1962 to help the homeless people on the streets in Jacksonville. Over the years, it has continued to grow its

services to effectively care for them by helping to meet their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

The first grade students are commended for working very hard on this service project. All their hard work paid off by giving them the opportunity to experience a true joy for helping others in need.

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Spring Festival and Car Show coming soon!

Fruit Cove Baptist Church is hosting the 14th annual Spring Festival and Car Show on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at the church, located at 501 State Road 13 in St. Johns. The car show will run from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the Spring Festival will run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 pm. Games, activities, food and drink will be offered at no charge.

Young children to senior adults will find enjoyable options available, including inflatable bouncers and sev-

eral other games and exhibits. Outstanding door prizes, music and fun children's activities set this family-friendly event apart from others.

The car show venue spans the ages from beautiful antiques to classic muscle car hot rods to modern sports cars. A wide variety of cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display for viewing.

For more information about the Spring Festival and Car Show, please see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine!*



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Native Sons and Daughters participate in Toys For Tots

By Contributing Writer Brian Quirk

For the sixth consecutive year, the local Native Sons and Daughters organization has partnered with the United States Marines Toys for Tots program. More than 100 members of the group participated in the annual ice skating event and sought to earn one of their Community Service feathers.

Event host Mike "Wild Eagle" Ryan said, "This is a great opportunity to show our children that not everyone is guaranteed a visit from Santa Claus."

Although the children really looked forward for their chance



to get on the ice, the parents reminded them that their gift will brighten a child's morning. This year the group presented more than 120 toys to the Marines for distribution to deserving youth throughout North Florida.

The Native Sons and Daughters program is a unique parent/child experience for children ages five to 12. For more information, please visit our website at www.timucuan.org.

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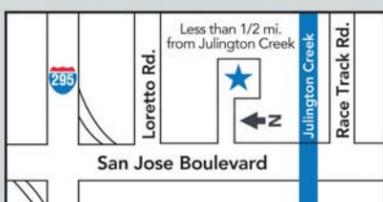
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CHS Happenings
“Cool School” Creekside: Making headlines (other than here)

By Sarah Schreck, CHS Student

As they entered the halls of Creekside High School before sunrise, the Fox 30 Cool School reporting duo was worried by the quiet calm. After years of reporting the “Cool School” segment, sponsored by Goodwill, they had experienced some less-than-peppy early mornings of filming, with schools a little lackluster in energy and spirit. But awaiting them in the gym was a massive crowd of early-birds, pumped with enough school spirit (and coffee) to fuel the entire news network!

Nominated by art teacher Rachel Kurtz, Creekside proved in every facet what a “cool school” it is! Students from the Academy of Urban Planning and Environmental Engineering showcased their innovations that impressed at the Project Green competition, alongside students who displayed their Scholastic Art Award-winning masterpieces. The cheer team amazed everyone, practically flying in their routine, ready for competition (for which they would place in third, their best placement in CHS history) and the dance team, the Power of Creekside and the Creekside Crazy’s only added to the very audible levels of undiluted pep! On hand were also students Hunter Clary and Brent Terry, who reported about College Day, Literacy Week and how to tie a tie for the Knightly News Network.

Looking through the lens was cameraman Jesse Pope, who only started working on the segment in September. He seems to have come to love one

workday in particular.

“I work Monday through Friday,” he remarked, “and this is probably my favorite day to work. Lots of energy, a lot of stuff going on. It wakes you up, that’s for sure!”

When filming a news segment, energy is key, as explained by host Tracy “Dot Com” Collins.

“With TV, you gotta keep it moving. We try to make the elements move quickly, which is why sometimes you’ll see that I’ll do more than one group in the same segment. We’ll do interviews or we’ll show art or products and then we’ll have the band play and then we’ll have the cheerleaders... so long as you keep it moving, it keeps the interest of the viewer,” she explained.

Creekside made an impression on the reporters themselves!

“My first impression was, wow, is this their first year just opening? Because it was very, very nice.” Jesse Pope has seen his fair share of schools and confided, “It’s definitely, by far, the best looking school I’ve been to this year! And I’m not just saying that to make you feel good.”

When walking into a school, host Tracy shared, one could be faced with “complete chaos,” which is not a hard thing to imagine; Zombie-teens, sleep deprived, wandering aimlessly. “Or it could be beautiful, organized chaos. Fortunately at Creekside, it’s beautiful organized chaos.”

Our student body, joined by a fair number of teachers and administrators, shone before the sunrise! It’s no surprise that Creekside’s time on-the-air went on without a hitch.

Wards Creek February update

By Contributing Writer Rikke Ricciardelli, Wards Creek PTO

The annual Daddy Daughter dance was February 7. What a fun night! The theme was Glow in the Dark. Watching the daughters come in with their “date”



Shawna Hayes, Sydney Stubbs, Lauren Aloia and Lexi Alexander

for the evening was so touching. Shelby Heinemann and her dance committee, along with WCE PTO worked extra hard on the decorations as well as organizing basket raffles and the refreshments to make the dance a successful. Thanks to all.

February 28 is the a magical evening for Mother (or guest) and Son. We have a treat this year! Michael Van Ness, magician and illusionist and an all around seasoned performer, will be on tap for entertainment. This is definitely a night you won’t want to miss.

Wards Creek Elementary would like to send out a great big “thank you” to Paula Sport

and Kristen Calhoun for gathering a haul of food for our needy families. These fantastic ladies loaded their van with over \$700 worth of food items with hopes to help some of our families over the holidays. The families and their children with overjoyed with excitement and gratitude. Thank you, Paula and Kristen, for your support!

Wards Creek Elementary Safety Leaders were hard at work in preparation for our Leadership Day on Friday, January 17. A special thank you to Lexi Alexander, Lauren Aloia, Sydney Stubbs and Shawna Hayes for volunteering your time to create our leadership board! It looks wonderful.

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Literacy Week takes Palencia Elementary by storm

By Contributing Writer Kimberli Nalven, Palencia Elementary PTO

The Florida Department of Education's (DOE) Celebrate Literacy Week struck an especially significant cord for students at Palencia Elementary School (PES) this year. Celebrated the week of January 13 through 17, the DOE's theme for the event was "Reading Accelerates Success." The focus behind the theme was to encourage students to connect literacy with all kinds of careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). While Literacy Week plays a big role in education in the St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) every year, the STEM focus of this year's celebration was specifically significant to students and faculty at PES, the first STEM elementary school in the county.

Although the SJCSD provided a list of weeklong events scheduled to celebrate, teachers and students at PES had a customized list of special events to rally around the "Reading Accelerates Success" theme, starting with Monday's "Hats Off for Reading" day. Students and faculty were encouraged to wear their favorite hat and come prepared to set some new, challenging reading goals for themselves.

Tuesday's "Teddy Bear Tuesday" invited students to bring along their best stuffed reading buddy from home, for in-class reading time. Wednesday was "Wacky Wild About Reading" day where students and teachers pulled out their silliest, wackiest outfits in celebration of reading. Thursday's "Dress as Your

Favorite Book Character" saw a variety of favorites, both old and new step right off the pages of our favorite books and walk into the school for class. Then on Friday the celebration culminated with a special volunteer reading time for all classes. Parent volunteers signed up to attend class and read aloud to students.

"Students were tremendously excited about having a role in helping the state reach the goal of 33 million minutes of reading along with all of the other activities of the week!" said Melisa Norwich, PES vice principal. "It was also great to see our school literally flooded with volunteers to come in, donate their time and read to our children."

Notes from the Pacetti Bay Media Center

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



Seventh graders from Stephanie Gionet's class enjoy reading

Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared by Alice Ozma. If I could have a do over I would make the same commitment to my children as Alice and her father did. We moved frequently as my children grew up and the public library was the first place we went as soon as we moved in. Library cards were gold in our house and we came home with bags packed full to meet the various reading desires of my five children. Some read more than the others, but as adults now each one of them is an avid reader.

Books to movies are heavily influencing our students' choices for check out and without a doubt *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green is a favorite. This story is so much more than the fact that one protagonist has cancer and the other is a survivor and they fall in love. Join them on their journey by reading this wonderful book.

Students at PBMS are reading through the roof these days. The newest popular book is *Happy, Happy, Happy* by Phil Robertson. All the other top 10 titles are Dystopian followed by *House of Hades* (Riordan) and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Skyler Hughes is my featured reader for this issue. Hughes is a voracious reader once he is hooked on a series. His favorite authors are Neal Shusterman, Mark Walden, John Flanagan, Rick Riordan and Anthony Horowitz. His top three recommendations are *H.I.V.E.* (Walden), *Everlost* (Shusterman) and *The Ruins of Gorlan* (Flanagan).



Featured reader Skyler Hughes

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Taking parent-teacher collaboration to next level

The Goddard School in Saint Johns always strives to be a step ahead, especially when it comes to parent/teacher collaboration. And now they have taken this collaboration to the next level—utilizing the latest, most up-to-date resources that facilitate parent connection including an innovative new tool called “Tadpoles.”

Owner Laura Pinover-Sadler, on-site owner, Director Tammy Torres, educational director and the entire faculty are committed to open and daily communications, updating parents on their child's care, activities and accomplishments. Teachers can now instantly share daily activity reports, photos, videos, messages and alerts with parents via email or text messages during the school day. “Tadpoles” helps to connect parents with their children throughout the day and the parents love having this information at their fingertips.

Parents are encouraged to drop in for a tour and see “Tadpoles” in action!

The Goddard School uses the most current, academically endorsed methods to ensure that children from six weeks to six years old have fun while learning the skills they need for long-term success in school and in life. Talented teachers collaborate with parents to nurture children into respectful, confident and joyful learners. The Goddard School's Advanced and Middle States-accredited F.L.E.X. Learning Program reaches more than 45,000 students in nearly 400 Goddard Schools in 35 states. The Goddard School's comprehensive play-based curriculum, developed with early childhood education experts, provides the best childhood preparation for social and academic success.

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Help needed by Ayla's Acres No Kill Rescue

By Karl Kennell



Leah Black and Lily Moss hold Sadie

Recently “Sadie” welcomed Leah Black and Lily Moss to Ayla's Attic. The welcome included excitement, hugs and kisses—and of course licking of faces and a wagging tail, as “Sadie” is a cute Jack Russell terrier. She is one of the animals up for adoption through Ayla's Acres No Kill Animal Rescue. Sadie, who often frequents Ayla's Attic, the organization's thrift shop, was undoubtedly more excited than normal, be-

cause the girls had a donation of the money they raised selling lemonade.

Their arrival with the donation was very opportune, because in the cold winter months there is an increased need for heaters, hay, dog food and blankets for the ap-

proximately 250 animals at Ayla's Acres No Kill Sanctuary in Greenville, Florida. Every penny counts. At the sanctuary they help rescued animals of every kind, some of which were abused and neglected and because most are unadoptable. The sanctuary becomes home for these animals to live out their lives in an environment that cares. In addition to the animals living there, Ayla's Acres also fosters dogs and cats in St.

Johns County while they await forever homes.

If you could see into the eyes of these animals, you would see them finally feeling loved and with a sense of home. Please consider helping. There is a huge need for food, blankets and heaters at the sanctuary. Monetary donations can be sent to Ayla's Acres, P.O. Box 1634, St. Augustine, FL 32085. Equipment and food can be dropped off at Ayla's Attic located at 300 South Ponce de Leon Boulevard in St. Augustine, a block south of King Street or individuals can call 650-520-5201.

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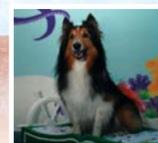
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Good Deed Brigade

Commitment to family, faith, and country: Dave Cooksey

By Contributing Writer David A. Wolf, Founder of the Good Deed Brigade



Dave Cooksey is a life long resident of the Jacksonville area. Along with his wife Nicole and their four children, he is proud to call Fruit Cove his home. Dave Cooksey and the Cooksey family are active in the local schools, sports organizations and the Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church. You may have seen Cooksey at one of the schools or parks watching his daughter play soccer or one of his sons play football, lacrosse, wrestling or banging the drums in the marching band's drum line. You may also have seen Cooksey in the neighborhood helping a friend or visiting his parents or in-laws who live just

down the street. As we all do, he frequently goes to Publix to pick up burgers, hot dogs and other items for a barbeque or an outing.

Cooksey is a quiet, friendly person. By design, Cooksey blends in and does not call attention to him. He seems to have lived by the motto that "actions speak louder than words." Beyond the neighborhood, Cooksey has really shined as a student, business owner and military leader.

He is a graduate of Wolfson High School (1985), the United States Air Force Academy (Bachelor of Science, 1989) and the University of South Carolina

(Master of Business Administration 1996). He served active duty in the United States Air Force for six years where he earned the rank of Captain. He later enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve.

In 2010, Lieutenant Colonel David Cooksey was assigned the command of the 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Cooksey was recently deployed to an undisclosed area in Africa with the United States Air Force Reserve, in a combat search and rescue squadron.

Cooksey wears one "hat" as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve. He wears quite a different "hat" as the chief financial officer and vice president of a family-owned business. While one could relish in the accomplishments of each position, Cooksey knows that his real life mission is the devotion to his family. Again, you will not gather this from any boastful words from him, but by his actions and commitment on a daily basis to his family.

The Good Deed Brigade contacted Cooksey prior to his deployment to Africa and asked for a comment or two about his squadron and military service.

Cooksey stated, "I am just one person among many. I am both honored and humbled by the path that I have traveled in life. I am very thankful for the

support of my wife and children, my business partners and brothers Bryan and John Cooksey, my squadron and friends as I head out on this mission. See you in six months and tell others to keep up their wonderful work in the community."

The Good Deed Brigade salutes Dave Cooksey, a man devoted to family, faith and country, who is doing all he can do to make a difference. Follow the example set by the actions of Dave Cooksey and go out in your community to do your share of good deeds. Remember, wherever you see the Good Deed Brigade, it's all good.

If you have a story to share about your good deeds or the good deeds of others in the community, please contact us through our website www.GoodDeedBrigade.com or our Facebook Fan Page at www.Facebook.com/GoodDeedBrigade.

[Editor's Note: The Good Deed Brigade is a new feature spotlighting positive role models in our community. We welcome David Wolf and his Good Deed Brigade to *The CreekLine*! Be sure to check back next month to meet a new neighbor.]

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BTHS High-Q Club cont. from pg. 1

really enjoy the sport. I got to know the students; the students got to know me. They helped me learn the sport as the season progressed and now I feel better equipped for next year."

The students were happy with their new coach.

"Mr. Brown is very accommodating and funny," said Chelsea Yarnell, a junior and varsity member. "He makes practices very interesting. I am looking forward to next year's season."

"The parents were a god-send this year," commented Coach Brown. "I needed back-up and the parents helped with the snacks and driving to and from away matches. I couldn't have asked for better parent support."

If you would like more information about High-Q or if you would like to join the 2014-2015 team, please contact Earl Brown at browne2@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



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"Are You Hungry for a Cure?" Bartram Relay event earns recognition

By Karl Kennell



In 2013 Bartram Trail Relay for Life was recently recognized as one of the top 25 Relay for Life events. For the upcoming 2014 Bartram Trail Relay for Life, they ask of you one simple question, "Are you hungry for a cure?" If your answer is, "a cure for cancer!" then you are being asked to join in at the 2014 Relay for Life of Bartram Trail on May 10 starting at 12:00 noon.

This year's theme is "Hunger Games," because participants are "hungry for a cure!" There will be various fundraising booths and plenty of free entertainment at the event. You are invited to form a team and help "Finish the Fight" and take control over cancer. Any and all survivors (tributes) are asked to register and participate in the survivor ceremony at 6:00 p.m., which is followed by a Survivor Dinner. Relay for Life is all about the survivors and those who have lost their battle. Follow-

6:00 am.

The Bartram Relay committee is also still looking for sub-committee members to help with logistics, luminaries, marketing/publicity and help to paint the town purple. Monthly informational team meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Durbin Creek Elementary School starting at 6:30 p.m., providing inspirational speakers, fundraiser ideas and information about what happens at Relay for Life. The sponsorship committee is also looking for corporate and small business sponsors. If you can help, please contact Barb Trawick at Barbara.trawick@bankofamerica.com or 553-4816.

Most of the teams do outside fundraisers as well. In February there is a Spirit Night at Moe's at the corner of Race Track Road and State Road 13 on Thursday, February 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Becky

Kimball's team is selling Candy Cane Heart Valentines. Get yours by contacting her at 254-7325. In March there are a more fundraisers including a Bunco Party hosted by Christine Benzenberg. You can reach her by email at chrisbenz1995@aol.com. A Texas Hold'em Tournament is planned for March 29 at the Best Bet Jacksonville; participants must be 18 years old and should contact Becky Kimball for details. For the whole month of March, CarbuX on San Jose offers a special by just clicking "Like" CarbuX on Facebook and then clicking on the "San Juanita's Fundraiser" link to get a \$15 BuXwash for only \$10 with the special code. Then in April there is a Happy Hour on April 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the World Golf Village Hall of Fame. Contact Kim Aslan at 713-3463. And then there is another CarbuX fundraiser for "The Powerful Knights." Again, "Like" CarbuX on Facebook and click on "The Powerful Knights" for the special code. Check out the 2014 Bartram Trail Relay for Life website at www.bartram-relay.com for more upcoming fundraisers.

If you are "Hungry for a Cure!" please contact Becky Kimball the team development chair at greglbecky@bellsouth.net. She will help you can create a team or join the committee. You can also register your team online at www.bartramrelay.com.

Kimball's team is selling Candy Cane Heart Valentines. Get yours by contacting her at 254-7325. In March there are a more fundraisers including a Bunco Party hosted by Christine Benzenberg. You can reach her by email at chrisbenz1995@aol.com. A Texas Hold'em Tournament is planned for March 29 at the Best Bet Jacksonville; participants must be 18 years old and should contact Becky Kimball for details. For the whole month of March, CarbuX on San Jose offers a special by just clicking "Like" CarbuX on Facebook and then clicking on the "San Juanita's Fundraiser" link to get a \$15 BuXwash for only \$10 with the special code. Then in April there is a Happy Hour on April 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the World Golf Village Hall of Fame. Contact Kim Aslan at 713-3463. And then there is another CarbuX fundraiser for "The Powerful Knights." Again, "Like" CarbuX on Facebook and click on "The Powerful Knights" for the special code. Check out the 2014 Bartram Trail Relay for Life website at www.bartram-relay.com for more upcoming fundraisers.

Movie Review

Her

Directed by: Spike Jonze. Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams. Review by T.G. Stanton

Should Have Waited for Cable (2 out of 5)

This month's movie review belongs to the film *Her*, a dramatic, romance film for adults and older teens.

The face of the future is upon us. Furthermore, the next breakout technology will be the computer operating system (OS) that is intuitive to your needs and just like a human and you can pick the gender of the voice. Theodore, portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix, is avoiding signing divorce papers, by spending time playing computer games and occasionally seeing friends. Professionally, he writes letters for those clients who have difficulty doing so themselves. Amy, enacted by Amy Adams, is the one friend who supports him and the changes he goes through. When he shops for a new OS, he finds the newest and greatest system available, the OS1, a system with conscious thought, played by Scarlett Johansson, who names herself Samantha. The developing friendship between Theodore and Samantha leads to deeper and more intimate times together. They fall in love. Love, which allows the further emergence of Samantha. This includes the drive and passion to grow and learn more about the physics and possibilities of technology. Is Theodore left behind?

Spike Jonze has directed this film with what is now a very current premise with today's technology and its continuing growth. Joaquin Phoenix and Amy Adams portrayed these tender and introverted people with compassion and sincerity. In addition, Scarlett Johans-

son brought life to a computer voice. That being said, the overly stereotypical clothing for nerds and geeks was just disturbing, like other parts of the film. Almost every male actor was placed in pants with the waist about to their armpits, in colors that were loud and plaid. Who wears clothes like that? Nerds and geeks are the new crew and seldom wear slacks and button down shirts, whether they are introverted or not. The Revenge

of the Nerds does not fit for this group. Then the premise itself is too close to the truth for the many young adults that overly depend on technology for their life choices and life styles, as well as their social interaction. The one thing this film does show is that people need to get back to being with people. I love technology and embrace all that it offers, but the future should drive us together, not further apart.

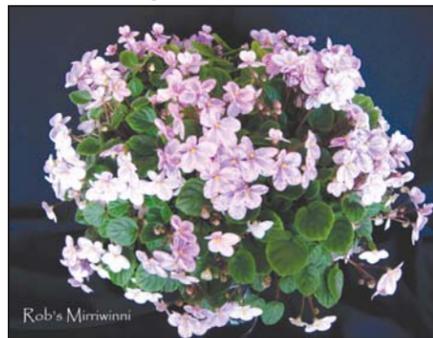
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African violets: Make room for the miniatures

By Contributing Writer Linda McQueen



Miriwinni

Remember when your window sill was filled with large blooming African violets? The question popped up

in your mind: How can I fit in more? This dilemma might have caused the surge in the popularity of semi-miniature and miniature varieties of the African violet.

The history and culture of this smaller variety is not well documented. It is very likely that some of the African violet species plants are small and may have been the source of today's miniature cultivars. It is also possible that African violets cont. on pg. 28

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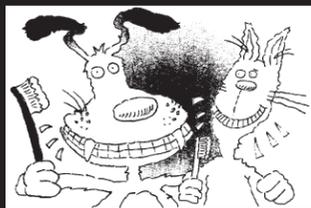
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HPA102-4

Mill Creek Elementary participates in "HOPS"

By Contributing Writer Wendi Brothers



Third graders had fun while learning with HOPS. Overall HOPS winners were Zauria, David, Kyara and Matthew.

participate in the HOPS program.

Melissa Corbin Nelson is the president and head problem solver for "HOPS" or Hands On Problem Solving, which is a traveling field trip for students in third grade and up. This unique program is set

of three or four to various stations and once at a station, the students must read the directions and participate in the activity. Parent volunteers are on hand but only for keeping score. Each station requires complete team unity or the object cannot be accomplished. Points are deducted for poor sportsmanship as well.

A few grumbles were heard when the students realized this fieldtrip was not going anywhere but the common area of their own school; however, once the program began it was all out fun and competition. Awards were given to high scores at each station as well as an over all high scoring team.

On Monday, January 13, Mill Creek Elementary took part in the Million Minute Marathon.

On January 16 the third grade at MCE was fortunate to

up to create team problem solving. The students travel in groups

Connor Westcott, an eighth grade student at Switzerland Point Middle School, was selected for the Florida All-State Middle School Honor Band. The rehearsals and concert were held in Tampa, January 8 through 11, as part of the Florida Music Educators Association Conference. Westcott has played the clarinet for three years and his band director at SPMS is Laurie Zentz.



This activity started off a week-long literacy celebration. Each day students were encouraged to wear certain colors to show spirit. At the end of the week books read were tallied and the classroom with the highest number read will receive \$50 to purchase

books for their classroom. During the Minute Marathon Monday, MCE's total number of minutes read was 22,425. Way to go Mill Creek!

Please check out the school's website for upcoming events and more school news.

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Fruit Cove girls soccer team wins SJMSAA tournament

By Contributing Writer Alison Capling



Coach Barry Muffley, Sarah Weigel, Maya Semel, Sidney Usina, Bailee Williams, Sierra Maingot, Lauren Hollis, Hannah Suder, Samantha Maguire, Anna Ranucci, Hailey Surrency, Assistant Coach Alison Capling, Vanessa Reyes, Lindsey Grady, Meredith Strickland, Katelyn Tauzel, Hannah Bell, Emma Thompson, Kiley Rafferty, Piper King, Delaney Tauzel, Logan Henley, Jenna Ortiz and Skylar Woolf.

Another huge "Congratulations!" goes out to the girls of the Fruit Cove Middle School varsity soccer team for not only winning the regular season of soccer like they did last year, but also winning the final season-ending tourney championship held over January 11 and 12 against a very strong Liberty

Pines Middle School team. The game was a battle from the start as this would be the second time the two teams would meet. In the first game it was a 0-0 draw with Fruit Cove dominating shots on goal, but just not finding the back of the

Fruit Cove girls win cont. on pg. 25



Yoga Den Studio

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Faith News

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

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (OLGC) will offer, for the 12th year, their Fish and Shrimp Frys during the six Fridays of the Lenten Season beginning on March 7 and conclude on April 11. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A lunch of fried fish, shrimp or a combination of both will be offered with the trimmings of fries, beans or cole slaw and hush puppies. Dinner

will offer the same menu plus a broiled fish prepared Francaise style with rice and cole slaw. Broiled shrimp is also available or a combination of both broiled fish and shrimp. Chicken strips are available for the kids. Drinks and homemade desserts are also available. The church is located in the World Golf Village area on State Road 16. All proceeds go to the continued development of the OLGC church and its ministries.

Invite
the community
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Fruit Cove girls win cont. from pg. 24 net as the game went to overtime. In the first six minutes of 10-minute overtime, Liberty Pines was awarded a penalty kick in the box and scored the winning goal for a foul committed by a Fruit Cove player.

In the final championship game these two teams would meet again. At the end of regulation play the score was once again deadlocked in a 0-0 tie; however, with Fruit Cove winning the kick-off, the Flyers took it straight to the net and scored the winning goal in the first 20 seconds of overtime to win their back to back "All County Championship!" Well played Lady Flyers! You represented your school very well and made Fruit Cove proud.

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Heritage Landing announces community events for February

Following are some of the events that Heritage Landing has planned for its residents for February:

The St. Johns County Public Library Bookmobile will come to the Amenity Center the first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For more information, please visit their website at sjcpls.org.

Toddler and Preschool Story

Time. Join the children's librarian at the amenity center the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. For more information visit their website at sjcpls.org.

Adult Book Club meets the third Thursday each month from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. This is a free program sponsored by The St. Johns County Public Library.

Student Band Rehearsal is held on Sunday nights from

6:30 until 8:30 p.m. All Heritage Landing resident band students are welcome. The student band is led by resident Mr. Iaropli. Please call 940-1119 for more information.

The Heritage Landing Business Networking Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month (note new meeting day) at 6:30 p.m. Heritage Landing business owners or representatives, come introduce your business to fellow residents. The meeting is free.

The Heritage Landing CDD Board of Supervisors meeting will be Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. For more information about the CDD please visit heritagelandingcdd.org.

Glow in the dark for kids will be held on Saturday, February 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For kids ages three to 12 years old. The cost is \$20 for the first child and \$15 for siblings. Please RSVP by February 13.

Cell Phones for Soldiers. Please remember to donate your old cell phones to Cell Phones for Soldiers. Bring your donations to the amenity center office during regular business hours.

For additional information, please contact Solveig.Hackl-eman@VestaForYou.com.

Lottery for Super Summer Camp opens soon

Lottery registration for St. Johns County's 2014 Super Summer Spectacular Camp Program will be available online, by telephone and in person from March 3 through 14. The lottery drawing will take place March 28, with results being mailed by April 5. St. Johns County residents interested in registering for the summer camp lottery can do so online at www.sjcfl.us/youth or by calling 209-0377 or 209-0333 or by visiting the Ketterlinus

Gymnasium, located at 60 Orange Street, St. Augustine or the Solomon Calhoun Center, located at 1300 Duval Street in St. Augustine during standard business hours.

Hosted by the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department, the Super Summer Spectacular is a summer camp program for children ages five

through 12 that emphasizes outdoor activities and includes exciting field trips and swimming sessions.

For more information regarding the lottery, registration or the Super Summer Spectacular Camp Program including camp locations, dates and fees, please visit www.sjcfl.us/youth or call 209-0377.

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News from the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club

By Contributing Writer Debby McKernan, Creekside Athletic Booster Club

Winter sports at Creekside are in their final weeks of play after exciting and successful seasons. The spring sports of lacrosse, track, baseball, softball, boys' weightlifting and tennis will be starting very shortly. Please remember that the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster club helps to supplement every sport at Creekside. Every athletic family is encouraged to join the Booster club to show your support for your sport, your team and the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club. Please sign up today!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the fourth annual "Running of the Knights" on Friday May 16 at Creekside High School. This event has something for just about everyone, a one mile fun run, centipede team race, 5k

run/walk race, plus a family-friendly festival with food, games, music and more. This event is our largest yearly fundraising event and has helped to supplement many different projects during the short existence thanks to our community and sponsors. The state-of-the-art weight room, athletic/band practice field renovations, baseball/softball/tennis enhancements, gym floor resurfacing and pool rental supplements are just a few things made possible by these profits. Please help support the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club and all athletic programs at CHS. For more information, please visit www.runningoftheknights.com.

The Creekside Athletic Booster club is spearheading a new only to Creekside incentive program called S.C.O.R.E.

(Sports Teams for Community Outreach and Education) Each athletic team at Creekside will be participating in some sort of community service. Several teams have already volunteered this school year. Football sold red t-shirts and donated all profits to the American Heart Association. The cross country team volunteered at various charity races, girls' cross country organized food baskets for the needy, the swim and dive team raised money for Little Pink Houses of Hope, Breast Cancer and volleyball volunteered at Camp Promise.

The Creekside Athletic Booster Club and the Athletic department at Creekside not

only hope to provide competitive athletic opportunities but to help shape tomorrow's leaders and encourage character counts both on and off the field. Come cheer on your Creekside Knight Athletes and show your Knights spirit! But don't buy the knock-offs...Williams Athletics is authorized and now carries authentic Creekside High School Spirit wear! The Kings Closet will also be open for business at select sporting events throughout the school year.

Further information about Creekside Athletic Booster Club or upcoming events may be found on the website at www.creeksideknights.com. Go Knights!

What you need to know about bed bugs

By Contributing Writer Debbie Lynne, Rivers Pest Control

Bed bugs are not selective. Within the last few years, bed bug infestations have increased significantly. The common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) most frequently feeds on the blood of humans. Bed bugs were likely introduced to the United States by early immigration. They were believed to have been eradicated in the 1950s; however, since 1998, bed bug populations have been rapidly expanding.

Adult bed bug are flat, oval shaped and reddish brown. Their size varies from 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch long. Bed bugs feed mostly at night, but will

adapt to environmental conditions. They are attracted to heat and carbon dioxide. Bed bugs typically feed on humans every five to 10 days. Feeding sessions average five to 10 minutes. Not everyone reacts to bites.

Bed bugs generally remain within six to eight feet of their host, finding shelter in box springs, clothing, mattress seams, head boards, cracks and crevices in the wall around the bed and in night stands. Locations vary with severity.

Bed bugs are hitch hikers and can be introduced following travel or other events. Extreme

care must be taken with the introduction of used or pre-owned items. This can include new purchases made at stores that may have been previously returned.

Don't bring them home! Follow these tips when traveling:

Hotel rooms: Inspect rooms for live bed bugs or evidence of activity such as fecal material, shed skins or blood spots. Examine the cracks and crevices around the mattress, bed frame, headboard (most lift off the wall), carpet edges, picture frames, closets, luggage racks, nightstands and dressers to inspect for evidence. The number one spot is the headboard. If a room is suspect, request a different room.

When you get home: Directly launder washables in water over 140 degrees and dry on high heat or place in a bag and dry clean. Use separate bags to and from the laundry.

What about school? School is an essential part of our children's life, for education and socialization; however, it's possible for a bed bug to hitch a ride on backpacks or coats and establish itself in your home. Don't forget sleepovers.

What to do: If you suspect bed bugs, obtain a sample and look for fecal material, shed skins and blood spots.

Bed bug treatment and management by a team of certified pest control technicians includes inspection, monitoring, chemical/dust application, steaming treatments and fumigation in cases of heavy infestations. Early detection is the key.

For additional information, please contact riverspest@bellsouth.net.



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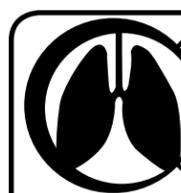
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Join the First Coast Trailforgers Walking Club!

By Contributing Writer Cathy Burch, First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club

The First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club was established in August of 1997 under the auspices of the American Volkssport Association. It is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage everyone, regardless of their level of fitness, to get out, exercise and have fun doing it. The walking activities are open to everyone; yearly dues are \$10 for a single person and \$15 for a family. While it is not required, it is recommended that each member keep record books in which their achievements may be noted. Normally these are \$5 each for the distance and the event books, but as an incentive, the club will offer New Walker Packets for \$5 that include both books and coupons that allow new participants to walk the first three events (normally \$3 each).

There is no charge for

walkers not receiving credit. As walkers fill each book, they may mail them in for an award of a certificate, patch or pin. Incentives and awards are an important part of any successful endeavor!

Upcoming 5K and 10K walks are as follows:
 February 15: Orange Park
 February 22: Atlantic Beach
 March 1: Ravine Gardens
 March 9: Camp Milton
 March 15: Ft. Caroline
 March 15: Springfield
 March 22: Fleming Island
 March 29: St. Marys
 April 12: Neptune Beach
 April 26: Ft. George
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For additional information, please contact FCTFwalkingclub@gmail.com or visit www.firstcoasttrailforgerswalkingclub.org.

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Liberty Pines Academy announces \$500 scholarship

By Contributing Writer Diana Sarama

This is the first year that students who attended Liberty Pines Academy will be graduating from the local high schools. Liberty Pines Academy is proud to offer any graduating senior from Bartram Trail, Creekside or Nease high school that attended Liberty Pines Academy in eighth grade a \$500 scholarship! The graduating senior must plan to further his or her education at a recognized post-secondary, degree or certificate-granting school for the 2014-2015 school year.

Applying for this scholarship is easy! Obtain the application from your high school guidance counselor, write a 500-word essay detailing favorite memories of Liberty Pines Academy and how it affected you and shaped you as a student and person and have your high school guidance counselor submit both to the PTO scholarship committee at LPA. The

guidance counselor will also have a verification form to fill out. A committee of staff and PTO members will vote on applicants anonymously. All forms must be submitted to the LPA PTO by April 1.

Here are some additional important upcoming dates at LPA for February:

- Friday, February 14 at 9:00 a.m.: Quarterly Coffee with Principal Judith Thayer.
- Friday, February 28: LPA Golf Tournament and Mardi Gras Party. Registration, lunch and the putting contest begins at 11:30 a.m. The shotgun start and the two-person scramble winners for both gross and net will be at 1:00 p.m. The evening entertainment will begin at 5:30 p.m. and include dinner, awards and an auction. Please visit the LPA webpage at www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.



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Gardening: Winter pastimes

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

Winter usually brings challenges to northeast Florida and this year has been no exception. The polar vortex in the first week of January, which caused such havoc further north, pushed temperatures here into the low 20s for a couple of nights.

I wasn't able to protect my plants, but some surprised me by their resilience. Firebushes have been top-killed, but will likely be slowly resurrected come spring. I won't be cutting them back until the danger of a freeze has passed and that applies to all shrubs and tender perennials like pentas. A limited amount of trimming to tidy up is fine, but not right down to the ground, which would expose roots to cold air. The exceptions are bananas and ginger, which won't suffer. As of mid-January, rainfall has been more than adequate, which has helped plants resist damage. Adding extra mulch around plants also helps.

Winter is a great time to settle down with a good book and I recommend "Eating on the Wild Side" by Jo Robinson, available from the Jacksonville Public Library. Primarily a book for people buying produce from supermarkets or farmers' markets, it discusses which varieties are the most nutritious and how best to prepare them. But the added bonus for gardeners is the comprehensive lists of varieties which can be either grown from seed or purchased as plants. The author discusses the development of our fruits and vegeta-

bles from their wild ancestors, and how sometimes thousands of years of "progress" has actually diminished nutritional value in favor of palatability. Hence the subtitle "The missing link to optimal health." A fascinating read.

Another good read, the January/February New Leaf newsletter is available from the Extension Service: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/January-February2014.pdf>. With plenty of information on vegetables, this is a must-read edition. Check out the section on upcoming programs offered by the Extension Service—notably on February 22, the annual "Day of Gardening." There is a fee for the program and pre-registration is required, so book early to avoid disappointment.

At first glance, the countryside in winter appears quite dull, but now that the leaves have fallen from our deciduous trees

some of their skeletons are quite elegant. The various shades and textures of bark show clearly against the duller evergreens surrounding them. Vines too are stripped bare and no longer conceal their scaffolding.

The cardinals are radiant among the shrubs in my yard and yesterday I spotted a female red-winged blackbird taking a dip, a forerunner of the small flocks that, usually, come my way later in spring. But nothing is pre-ordained and one happy event may lead to naught. The flocks of indigo buntings I hosted some years ago have been absent these past few springs and so have the rose-breasted grosbeaks. Whatever the reason for these inconsistencies and I rather hope it is weather patterns rather than diminishing numbers of birds, I am really looking forward to the spring migration and the gems that may, just may, drop by.



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Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

Here we are in the middle of February and spring is just literally weeks away, meaning our fishing options will be greatly broadened. Our choice of fishing hot spots will be many, ranging from neighborhood creeks and ponds to the St. Johns River and beyond. As our area water temperatures begin to warm, expect the bites to be on the increase. Early spring is best time of the year for easy fishing for bass and bream, while a quick trip to the beach is almost a sure thing for nice catches of whiting in the surf.

Any of our shallower bodies of water such as creeks, ponds and the river's banks will be your best bet for early spring bream and bass fishing. This is an excellent time to teach a kid to toss a plastic

worm and actually catch a largemouth bass. Younger kids can fish for bream in these same spots with a pushbutton rod and reel, float and small hook, using bread or worms for bait.

Surf fishing North Florida is a year round event anyone in the family can do. Early spring often produces some fantastic whiting catches at our nearby beaches. Being easy to catch and good table fare, spring surf fishing for whiting is a great way to kick off a new fishing season. Choosing a calm day to go fishing eliminates the need for a surf rod as an average size spinning rod will work fine in calm conditions. Using a piece of dead shrimp for bait along with a simple fish finding rig and a pyramid sinker

fished right at or just behind the breakers is all it takes to be productive.

A few consistent days of warm weather is all it takes to let you know it is time to give it try. An hour or two at a nearby favorite spot or a few hours at the beach on a pretty day are all you need to take advantage of early spring time fishing in North Florida.

Fishing Report: Largemouth bass prospects are on the increase for upcoming weeks. Fishing with shiners should be deadly. Whether you catch one, some or none, the family time spent fishing will last lifetime.

African violets cont. from pg. 23

this could be a mutation resulting from hybridizing standard African violets.

The three classes of the small African violets are semi-miniatures, miniatures and microminiatures. A semi-miniature has a diameter between six and eight inches; the miniature is between three and six inches; and the microminiature is less than three inches. These hybrids are products of species that are genetically small and are generally grown in smaller pots to constrict their roots or "miniaturize" them. This is akin to bonsai.

The smaller African violets are grown the same way as their larger standard counterparts. Because of their size, they are a little more challenging to grow and groom. They are very sensitive to over-watering and wet feet will cause their roots to rot. They are especially annoyed when you put them in larger pots. When you repot them, take off the bottom row of leaves, cut off one-third of the root ball and repot in no larger than a two-and-a-half-inch size pot with new soil.

This variety also tends to produce a lot of suckers, which are little plantlets found in between the stems on the main trunk. Because they distort the symmetry of the plant and drain energy from the mother plant, it is best to remove them. You can use a sharp pencil to

carefully gouge out the suckers. If you are an African violet aficionado, you may already own a sucker plucker! These suckers can be planted to become new plants.

Microminiatures are the smallest of the miniature varieties. A full grown specimen will probably be less than three inches in diameter with leaves less than one quarter-inch in size and grown in a one-inch pot. The emphasis is to grow them as small as possible. It is important that these tiny plants do not become too dry or too wet. They require high humidity but not a lot of water. They do well domed or potted in a terrarium.

Although these miniature African violets are not ordinarily seen in your garden centers, they are a staple in African violet shows. The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society will sponsor a juried show and sale on March 28 and 29, 2014 at the San Jose Church of Christ, located at 6233 San Jose Boulevard. On display will be prized specimens of these small violets as well as many of the other varieties. Plants and hard to find supplies will be available for sale. Members will be on hand to give advice and answer questions.

If you would like more information, please visit their website at www.jacksonvilleviolet.org or like us on Facebook.

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Spring planting is near: Join the Arbor Day Foundation

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone from Florida who joins the Foundation in February 2014 will receive 10 free Eastern redbud trees to plant when the weather turns warm. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"Redbuds will help beautify Florida for many years to come," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. The

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

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Eastern Redbud Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2014 or visit arborday.org/february.

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Pacetti Bay PTSO staging Harlem Wizards fundraiser

By Contributing Writer Alexis McDaniel, Pacetti Bay PTSO

The Pacetti Bay Parent, Teacher, Student Organization (PTSO) hopes bringing the Harlem Wizards for a fundraiser in May will be the slam dunk the school needs to buy new computers. PTSO President Debbie Adams and the board met in January to discuss the project. Vice President Kary Zicafoose is organizing the venue.

The goal is to bring the Harlem Wizards to the school gymnasium on May 23. While planning is still underway, it's estimated between 500 and 800 tickets, ranging in cost from \$15 to \$25, will be available. There will be a VIP section, which will include a dinner.

Local players (teachers, coaches and community leaders) will also be recruited to play, adding to the fun. The PTSO is looking for sponsors now.

The goal is to raise several thousand dollars to help Pacetti Bay upgrade all of its computers by the end of the school year. Principal Sue Sparkman said the estimate is \$32,000 to replace computers, with funding coming from both the school budget and the PTSO.

"The basketball event will be a fun time for all of our Wildcat families to come out as a family while enjoying a nice dinner and an exciting basketball game. The event will be affordable and also valuable to our school as we raise funds for new student computers," Sparkman said.

The Wizards organization was started in 1962 by New York sports promoter Howie Davis and is often compared to the Harlem Globetrotters. The Wizards travel around the nation for events and this season has 300 venues on the books.

"At the Wizards game fans see amazing basketball talent combined with hilarious comedy. The athleticism, tricks, fancy teamwork and ball-handling wizardry, plus wild dunks not even seen in NBA games, engages and wows the most avid hoops fans. The comedy is for everybody. The Wizards look to push the envelope on fun, combining pre-planned comedic acts with spontaneous humor that fans of all ages will find laugh out loud funny. The halftime show with hundreds of kids on the court, plus the postgame interaction with the Wizards who stay until every autograph is signed, is the cherry on top," the group's website explains.

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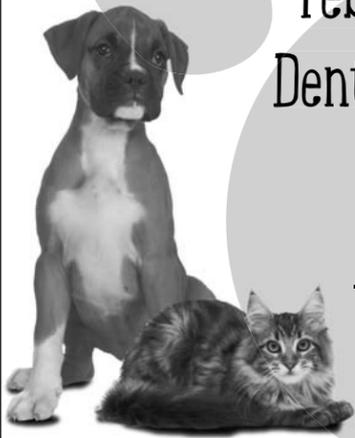
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From the Superintendent:

New K-8 Schools
“HH” and “II”

Construction continues to progress on schedule for the district's two new K-8 schools HH and II. Each school is nearly 100 percent dried-in (watertight) and work will begin to focus on the interior finishes. This new K-8 prototype design includes 58 classrooms and 1,210 student stations for each facility.

Both schools will be constructed to Green Building Standards and are scheduled to open for the 2014-2015 school year.

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Loggerhead team travels to Augusta

By Contributing Writer Lorraine Herreros



The Julington Creek Loggerhead Aquatics swim team (JCLA) traveled to Augusta, Georgia to compete in the ASL Winter Invitational meet on January 17 through 19. Loggerhead swimmers did an outstanding job representing our community both in and out of the pool. Twelve-year-old Summer Stanfield finished first in all eight events she entered in Augusta and fourteen-year-old Carter Strickland swam to victory in five events! Other Loggerhead first place winners

were Eleanor Pollitt, Michael Morton, Megan Arnold, Ethan Howell, John Brennock, Lauren Trummel, Nick Vansteenbergh, and Abbey Ellis. The 13-14 girls relay team of Ellis, Jennifer Brennock, Trummel and Pollitt won both the 200 yard medley and freestyle relays as well. Second place individual event winners in Augusta were Pollitt, Strickland, Ciara O'Donohoe, Morton, Arnold, Howell, Jennifer Brennock, Taylor Thomson, Vansteenbergh, Ellis and Matthew Dynneson. Third place

finishers were Pollitt, Strickland, Morton, John Brennock, Jennifer Brennock, John Ryan and Dani Gordon. Loggerheads who achieved a fourth place finish at this competitive meet were Arnold, Howell, John Brennock, Didi Victor, Adrian Oake, Anna Gapinski, Yvette Zerry and Hadley Browder.

On the same weekend many Loggerhead swimmers competed at the Jax Parks Classic meet held at Cecil Field in Jacksonville. JCLA swimmers who achieved one or more first place swims were Anna Moore, Raymond Prosinski, Nicky Tayag, Tatiana Brown, David Gapinski, Olivia Moore and Jolie Nguyen. The Loggerhead girls won first place in both their relays, the 200 freestyle relay team of Lauren Johnson, Hayley Calvert, Kate Revels, and Caitlyn Johnson and the 200 medley team of L. Johnson, Revels, C. Johnson and Julianna Pettinger. JCLA swimmers with second place finishes at Jax Parks were A. Moore and Prosinski. Third

place winners were A. Moore, Tayag, Brown, D. Gapinski, and O. Moore. JCLA swimmers who became qualified for the spring Florida Age Group Championships over the weekend are

Avery Sargeant, Grace Rathjen, Emma Howell, Didi Victor, Hadley Browder, Lexi Smith, Christine Johnson and Jack Van Deusen. Congratulations to all and Go Loggerheads!

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Nease Sports Roundup

By Elena Castello, Nease Student

As the New Year continues, the sports at Nease thrive. Lacrosse, tennis and track and field are starting, while basketball and soccer come to an end. Basketball had its final game, the senior night, on January 21. The girls' soccer team did very well all season, but lost to one of their biggest rivals, Bartram Trail, in the district game.

Lacrosse tryouts were Monday, January 27 and with coaches Missy Jaworski and Peter Deleveccia, the girls are ready to train and play their best. The biggest competition includes Ponte Vedra, Bartram Trail and Creekside. The boys' team has a lot of potential this year to grow and the boys hope to be successful and win districts.

Track and field is ready to go this year and luckily, there aren't many seniors that will be leaving at the end of this year. The season started January 13 and as usual, the difficult practice and training is sure to pay off. There aren't many seniors on the track team this year, so

the young team has room to grow and learn together as a unit. The overall goal is to take as many people to states as possible. Coach Blue (the short distance coach), Coach Barber (the distance coach) and all the assistant coaches for the field events will prepare their athletes with honor, pride and hard work.

Tennis is another sport that is beginning. With the first match on February 4, the packed season will have many victories, due to some new players—and returning improved ones—on the courts. The biggest competition is Ponte Vedra, but the girls and boys have high hopes for this year. Their goal is win districts and all their conference matches.

Nease is expanding the school spirit by choosing significant games to pack the stadiums with The Jungle. With more school spirit and pride, the morale is sure to go up at Nease and the spring will surely be a terrific season for all sports!

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BTHS Sports Roundup

By Megan Grant, BTHS Student

As we progress through February, the final season for spring sports at Bartram Trail hit full swing. These teams include track and field, tennis, lacrosse, softball and baseball. Looking back, we congratulate the girls' soccer team for beating Ponte Vedra in the district championship. This was a big win for the Bears since in the past, the Sharks have always stopped Bartram from moving forward in the playoffs. It was a close game as the Bears were down 0-2 in the first half; however, they came back with fire like no other in the second half, tying up the game 2-2. After going into double overtime, the game ended with penalty kicks. Bartram rose to victory winning 3-2 in PKs, with impressive shots and quick saves by goalie



Stephanie Lewis.

It's a swing and a hit for the boys' baseball team, with high expectations for a season full of goals and dedication. Coached by Tony Sowers for the last 13 years, he talks about his team

as mature and ready for their challenging game schedule. After graduating five seniors this past year, the Bears have a total of seven seniors this year, two of whom are already committed to play college ball.

"I'm really excited about the team this year. They like each other and have good team chemistry," remarked Sowers.

Justin Smith, four-year varsity

player for the Bears who is committed to play at the University of Miami next year, says, "We have a solid chance of making it to states because we have a strong team that strives to do their best each step of the way."

Looking forward in his baseball career, Smith exclaims, "I look forward to getting an education while playing the game that I enjoy at the next level."

Teammate Cory Prince, senior and pitcher for the Bears, explains their goals for this season: "We need to focus on the small stuff first, like winning districts and play as one."

Looking ahead, the boys' baseball team plays Providence, former state champions, at home on February 14. Also, the Dreams Come True club at Bartram will be putting on a neon themed 5k run to raise money for a child in need. It will take place on April 5, with registration opening in February. Prices for registration will increase as the date for the run approaches and it is open to the public to come and enjoy. There will be a DJ, prizes, games and more! Come out and support and Go Bears!



Congratulations, Seniors!

Sign up now for safe boating seminars

Flotilla 14-7 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will present two Safe Boating Seminars open to the public on Saturday, March 1 at the St. Augustine Campus of St. Johns River State College, located at 2990 College Drive in St. Augustine (off State Road 16).

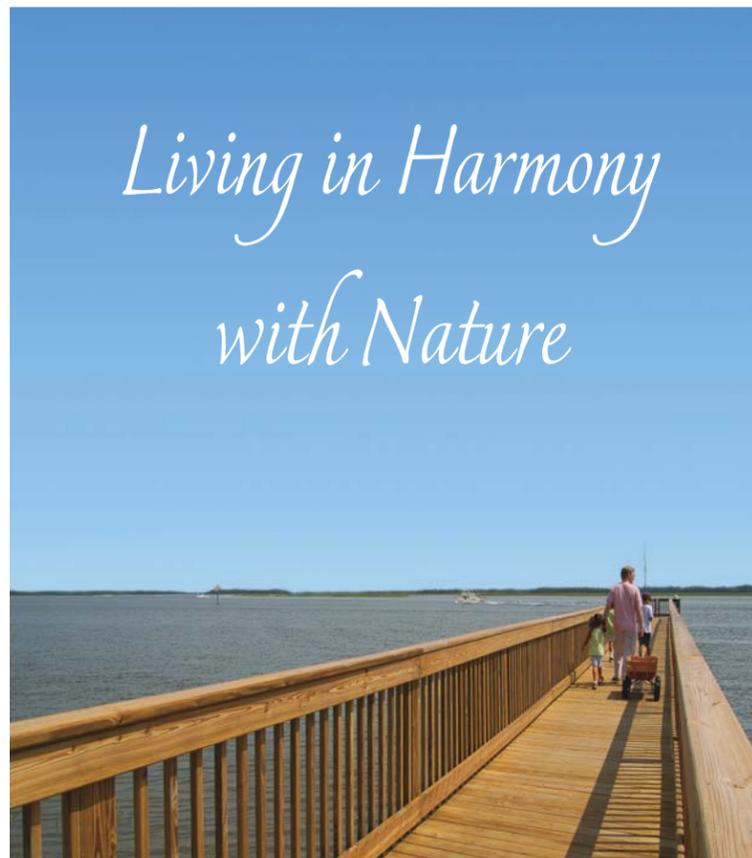
"How to Read a Nautical Chart," a must for anyone navigating the waterways regardless of navigational skills, will be presented from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Topics will include understanding symbols, abbreviations and data displayed on

nautical charts.

"Suddenly in Command" is designed for the less experienced boater to prepare in advance should an emergency occur on the boat and the "Captain" is incapacitated. It will be presented from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further information and registration, please contact Bill Hall at 687-8281.

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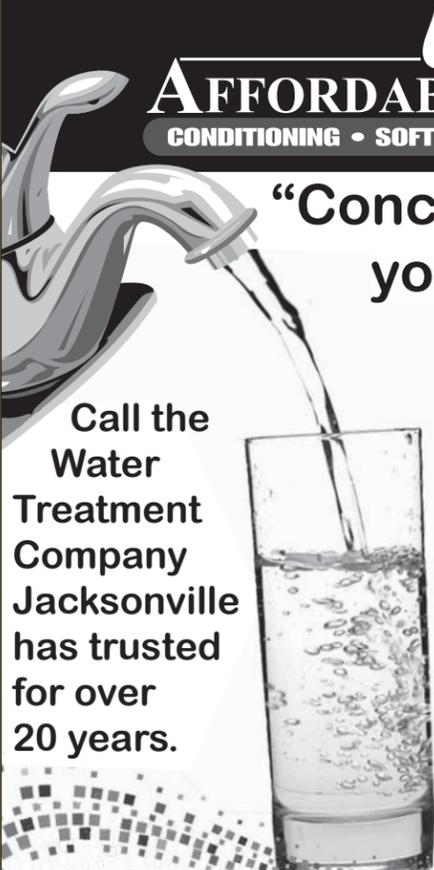
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Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



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CHS Sports Roundup

By Kassie Solms, CHS Student

This year's winter sports season was very successful for the Knights. Our varsity lady Knights' soccer team came in second for the district! The cheerleading team competed last month in Daytona and won third place for their division! The boys' wrestling team had their FHSAA district match the beginning of this month and came out with some very successful victories. Congratulations to all the winter sports teams on another phenomenal season!

All of the spring sports are now up and running. The track and field team will have their first intra-team meet on February 15. It's a great time to come out and cheer on your friends and get to see what the track team is all about. All of the track and field athletes are anxious to start racing as most have been conditioning since Thanksgiving break.

Both the baseball and softball teams are now in full swing, after a full week last month of try outs. The varsity baseball team plays Providence on February 18 and Nease on February 26 at home and again on February 27 at Nease. Be sure to come out and support the boys this season! The girls' softball team is excited to start their season off with a game against Bolles on February 11 and Providence on February 21. The girls trained with the weightlifting team during off season to prepare for this year's games and are super pumped to

get some wins!

Finally, the official lacrosse season has started. Both boys' and girls' lacrosse teams train year 'round to maintain their skills and condition to be the best possible team. The girls play their first game on February 18 at Winter Springs High School. The boys will play against Fleming Island for their first game on February 17 at

home. Come out and support your boys' lacrosse team at 11:00 a.m.! They will also be playing St. Augustine high at home on February 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Great things are ahead for the Knights as we head into our final season of sports for this school year. Let's keep showing everyone what it really takes to be Knight.

Congratulations Black Riverhawks!



Congratulations to the Creeks Baseball 9u Black Riverhawks, who were runners up at the "Winter Warm Up" GSA Baseball Tournament in Plant City Florida on January 18 and 19. Pictured are Coach Howell, Coach DeLamielleure, Coach Myers, Coach Summers, Jack Newman, JD Hay, Jude Howell, Jacob Carter, AJ Faunce, Justin Mann, Kolt Myers, Abram Summers, Brody DeLamielleure, David Brothers and Cooper Hunt

Fruit Cove boys' team wins SJMSAA tournament



After finishing the regular season undefeated, the Fruit Cove Middle School varsity boys' team was awarded the championship trophy for the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association (SJMSAA) end of season tournament on Sunday, January 12, 2014. The final game Fruit Cove varsity won 2-1 vs. Pacetti Bay. After a great weekend of very competitive soccer it was impressive to see the boys work hard and never give up. Congratulations to Coach Manny Pucci, Coach Jim Dwyer and all the boys on an incredible season. Pictured are Coach Pucci, Jared Alexander, Colby McCrone, Chase Pucci, Jimmy Dwyer, Parker Brennen, Mackey Davis, River Guthrie, Jackson Brennan, Casey Moyer Jr., Coach Dwyer, Owen, Guske, Cesar Tronsco, Jeffrey Hunyh, Juan Avella, Matt Morgan, Brandon Marchand, Davis White, Matthew Wolf and Sean Smith.



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Vessel Safety Check schedule for 2014

By Contributing Writer Robert A. Schultz, Flotilla 070-14-08

Flotilla 14-7 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will continue its Vessel Safety Check program providing complimentary Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at the Vilano Boat Ramp on the second Sunday of each month, weather permitting, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, commencing on March 9.

The safety check is conducted by certified vessel examiners of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, confirming that your boat meets both federal and state safety requirements. No citations are issued for discrepancies and the results of the safety check are not reported to any enforcement agency. If the vessel has passed the examination, a decal is awarded.

Some of the items checked include personal flotation devices (life jackets), registration and vessel numbering, navigation lights, ventilation, fire extinguishers, distress signals, battery cover and connections. All of these items are required by state and federal laws and, if missing, non-operating or in poor repair, can result in a citation if your vessel is inspected by the United States Coast Guard or other law enforcement agency. The Coast Guard Auxiliary's Vessel Safety Check offers a risk-free way to ensure that your vessel meets the minimum legal requirements.

Upon completion of the VSC, you will be informed of potential safety exposures. If the VSC is passed, an annual decal is awarded showing that your vessel has met the minimum safety requirements. A successful VSC may also result in lowered insurance rates for some boaters.

Please visit Flotilla 14-7's website at www.mysafeboating.com for additional information.

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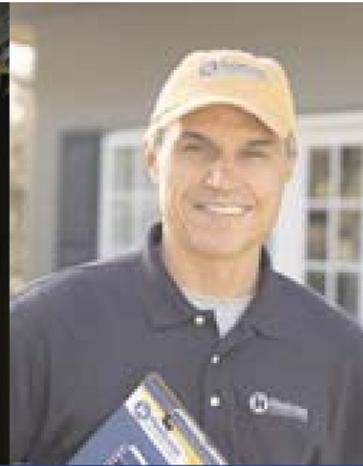


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Third annual Camp I am Special "buddy" flag football tournament big success

By Karl Kennell

The camp buddies and group leaders of Camp I am Special have created and for the last three years have planned and organized, an annual flag football tournament. It has been their way to support the campers by providing a scholarship fund. Camp I am Special is operated by DOSA Camps at Marywood Retreat on State Road 13 in Switzerland. The camps also include Camp Promise and Camp Care.

This year's third annual Buddy Flag Football Tournament was held at San Juan Del Rio Catholic School. It was a huge success, despite a flooded field causing a rescheduling of the tournament and the very cold temperatures on the day of the tournament. All of the buddies had a blast and were able to raise over \$2000 towards camper scholarships. Congratulations goes to The Force 3.0 for winning the tournament!

A big thank you goes out to all the sponsors and volunteers, including the Koval family, Loris Walker, The Law office



of Chantal Harrington. Lee G. Kellison, PA, Queen of Angels Catholic Store, the Wolz Family, Bill Campbell, Joey Vaid, the Call family, Dale and Susan Morrison, Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville, Behavior Solutions, San Juan Del Rio Church and School, the Heekin family and PDQ Restaurants. Their help made this event the success it was.

And it cannot be forgotten to say "Thank you" to Abby Wolz and Nicky Harrington for organizing the event—a also you to all of the buddies who came out and raised money for our campers!

got news?
editor@thecreekline.com

Darth Raiders win another 3v3 championship!



Darth Raiders, a recently formed team of Swiss Point Middle School soccer friends and a couple of younger brothers, played their first 3v3 tournament in December. They were surprised to come away with the championship. They were looking forward to seeing if they could repeat their success.

They decided at the last minute to enter the Clay County 3v3 Challenge Tournament January 4 and 5. The tournament proved to be much more difficult than their previous one. They played a total of five games and scored 43 goals while only allowing 19. This was a remarkable feat considering they were playing against competitive teams in their own age group as well as a team in an older age bracket. Darth Raiders earned their way into the championship round and were able to overcome a tough team to walk away with first place! The boys worked hard on the soccer field and had another fun weekend.

The team is made up of Brad and Caleb Mele (SPMS eighth graders), Herbie Steigelman and Sam Matarelli (SPMS seventh graders) and Aaron Mele and Will Matarelli (Timberlin Creek fifth graders).

Craig Mele is the coach.

The team has qualified to attend the Disney 3v3 tournament this summer. Congratulations to Darth Raiders on winning another championship!



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Warm up to Riviera Maya, Mexico

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

North Florida has suffered its share of cold temperatures this winter and a warm weather getaway certainly sounds enticing. The Riviera Maya in Mexico becomes an ideal escape as flights to Cancun are plentiful and most resorts offer all-inclusive rates which help make budgeting or peso pinching easier.

I recently spent a few nights at Karisma's Azul Sensatori, a hotel offering gourmet inclusive service. All meals including some fabulous Mexican fare, alcoholic drinks, room service and entertainment were included in the nightly rate. And let me say, I ate and drank well. The grounds were lush, like a botanical garden bordering a sandy beach and the ocean. Playa del Carmen, a hot spot for travelers, is about 30 minutes away.

Sunshine and surf aren't all the Riviera Maya has to offer. The fascinating cultural heritage of the Maya population should be explored with a visit to some of the archeological ruins. The Maya were advanced mathematicians and astronomers and their buildings demonstrate their knowledge. Tulum, the most sacred site of the region, is the only ruin on the coast of the Caribbean Sea and presents breathtaking lookout points and



ocean views worth pondering. The walled city rose to prominence during 1000-1500 AD. You'll see carvings and frescoes and stroll past temples and the central "castle." For those less interested in history, wear a bathing suit and take a dip from the glorious beach at this picturesque location.

Coba, an hour inland from Tulum, was once home to 50,000 inhabitants. Thick jungle encircles the crumbling ruins, giving the place a mysterious feel. The largest pyramid, Nohuc Mul, remains one of the few that can still be climbed. Make

the effort, but go early before the heat of the day makes it unappealing.

A day trip to Chichen Itza (117 miles west of Cancun) provides the best picture of the past civilizations and their complex social, political and religious ceremonies. The UNESCO World Heritage site is best explored with a guide. Be sure to see the pok-ta-pok ball court where the Maya played for the honor of victory and then faced a sacrificial death. The Platform of the Skulls casts an eerie mood, but the grand pyramid, Kukulcan, commands great respect. During equinoxes, an undulating shadow called the "serpent" slithers along the side of the building's northern staircase. This is caused by the angle of the sun hitting the nine main terraces.

Too cool off, cenotes or underground lakes make popular swimming holes. Wading and swimming through the Rio Secreto is particularly appealing because of its striking cave formations including stalactites, stalagmites and columns. Xcaret, a Mexican version of a Disney park, offers historical recreations as well as a water park. The evening folklore show, starring hundreds in elaborate costumes, can't be beat. I'd rank it and the Riviera Maya as must-see places for 2014.

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