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August 2014

## Successful inaugural season leads to second year CAA adds 14<sup>th</sup> sport: Track and field

By Contributing Writer Terry Cooper



Field events are popular in track and field meets.

On Sunday March 30, parents gathered in the open bay of the Plantation Park clubhouse for a meet and greet—the proper venue considering the subject matter. They trickled in and carefully selected a standing spot on the concrete slate floor with the presences of field equipment and tumbling pads in

the background. Behind a long brown fold out table was the host; however, because of the overall preparation and commitment of the endeavor as a whole, he is better described as the organizer. Coach Marty McEachan greeted parents of the young athletes who gathered to learn more about the new-

est Creeks Athletic Association (CAA) youth sports program: track and field.

Although Coach Marty anticipated a good turnout, the outcome spoke to the popularity of the sport. The number of participants swelled to over 136

CAA track and field cont. on pg. 9

## The Friends of SJC Pet Center need your votes!

By Karl Kennell

The Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center need your votes to win a special contest. They have been nominated to possibly win a \$10,000 from the Pet Paradise “Make a Splash” campaign. They really need your vote!

The Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center is a non-profit organization that provides support to the designated St. Johns County Animal Shelter, (aka “The Pet Center”). The Pet Center is located at 130 North Stratton Road in St. Augustine, just south of Nease High School on the west side of US Highway 1.

The “Make a Splash” campaign is sponsored by Pet Paradise, which offers the ultimate pet boarding experience. Pet lovers know how hard it is to leave your pet behind when you go to work or out of town. So they have created “Pet Resorts” with an environment pets love with amenities their parents will enjoy. Locally they have a location at 5140 University Boulevard in Jacksonville that features resort style amenities including large indoor play areas for rainy days, several large outdoor play areas and an in-ground bone-shaped swim-

ming pool. In their effort to give back to their local community, they have established the “Make a Splash Campaign” to help animal shelters fill the financial gaps that so often prevent many homeless pets from finding a loving permanent home.

The Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center asks you to go online and vote each and every day until the voting closes. The St. Johns County Pet Center is in desperate need of funding for medical, spay/neuter programs, adoption sponsorships and items to help homeless and abandoned animals in our community.

The Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center needs ev-  
SJ Pet Center cont. on pg. 19



Cuties like this need a forever home!

Time for our Annual  
**Back to School Guide**

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## BTHS grads present Clean Water Fest

By Karl Kennell

On Saturday, September 27 the third annual Clean Water Music Fest will fill the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall with music from local bands with a desire to help the world. Due to the enthusiastic response from the community for the previous concerts, a second stage has been added, allowing for a total of 19 bands participating at the fundraiser for this homegrown charitable effort.

This humble, grassroots-style festival has been able to raise over \$35,000. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event go to “Charity: Water,” a non-profit organization with a mission to build fresh water wells in countries without access to our basic need as a human being: clean water. Their goal is to help bring clean and safe drinking to every person on the planet.

The Clean Water Music Fest is the brainchild of “Flagship

Romance,” the harmonic alternative folk duo of Bartram Trail High School graduates Shawn Fisher and Jordyn Jackson. They are based out of Jacksonville Beach, focused on making beautiful music and using their talents to spread the word about the world-wide water crisis. They organized the first annual Clean Water Music Fest in August 2012, hoping to raise enough money to cover half of the \$2,500 average cost of a fresh water well-drilling project. To the duo’s joyous surprise, the inaugural Clean Water Music Fest raised almost \$12,000. Excited with that success, they held the second an-

nual Clean Water Fest in 2013.

“We raised over \$24,000!” exclaimed the Jackson.

Fisher and Jackson are not only making their mark in the world with their charitable efforts, they are well on their way to a successful folk music career as Flagship Romance. Since May they have been on a multiple cross country tours. After the Clean Water Music

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Jordyn Jackson and Shawn Fisher, Flagship Romance

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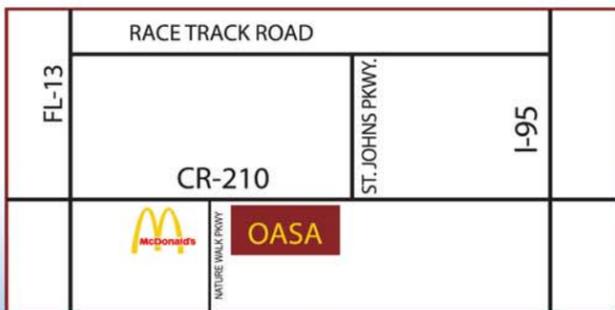
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# What's New

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.

## Community Happenings

**The Garden Club of Switzerland** is holding its kickoff meeting at the Bartram Trail Library on Wednesday, September 10, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Our monthly meetings feature presentations on topics such as Farm-to-Table initiatives, keeping orchids, tree selection and maintenance and succulents. This year's projects support wild-life habitats and learning about ecology and conservation. Guests are welcome and membership is encouraged. Please visit our website, [www.switzerlandgc.org](http://www.switzerlandgc.org), for venues and highlights.

Mark your calendars for a huge **craft fair for the benefit of Canine Companions for Independence**, to be held on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church, located on County Road 210. All proceeds will be used to provide an assistance dog for a disabled or hearing impaired child, adult or vet. Unique, handmade items will be available from Helping Hands of St. Johns County, including jewelry, holiday, garden art, fairy gardens, linens, pet items, wearable art, aprons, purses, teen, team and baby items and gifts for all seasons. There is something for everyone! Refreshments available.

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**the Florida Writers Association** will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, August 16 at the Main Library in St. Augustine. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Join speaker, book coach and author Rik Feeny as he shows how to add audio books to the marketing mix for authors. Audio books can be heard on your smartphone, Kindle, tablet, computer, iPod and mp3 players and with a simple USB microphone and some inexpensive software, authors can create their own audio books. All attendees at this meeting will receive one free copy of Feeny's book "Writing Books for Fun, Fame and Fortune." Don't miss this entertaining and informative meeting.

Volunteers are needed for the **COA Memory Enhancement** seminars held at Fruit Cove Baptist Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or any time within those hours. Duties include assisting staff with activities, making coffee and lunch set-up. To volunteer or for more information, please call Ginny Draper or Elise Moloney at 209-3686 or email [gdraper@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:gdraper@stjohnscoa.com) or [emoloney@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:emoloney@stjohnscoa.com).

**The Rotary Club of St. Johns** meets at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club clubhouse on Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Members come from most communities along County Road 210 and Race Track Road. For additional information, please contact Tony Lego at [tlego@ercsaves.com](mailto:tlego@ercsaves.com) or visit [www.rotarystjohns.org](http://www.rotarystjohns.org).

Adults and teens age 14 and older are invited to attend the **Project Lap Blanket** group at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, which will meet on Tuesday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 26 beginning at 6:00 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.

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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](mailto:editor@thecreekline.com). Anonymously sent letters will not be published.

Get excited! **Mom to Mom** is coming starting September 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Christian Church. Join us for a time where moms, in all seasons of life, can eat together, obtain support as a mom, hear from mom-related speakers, build their faith, develop friendships and learn about motherhood and marriage. This group is for women with small children, as well as moms with grown children and all moms in between. We are based around the Titus 2 principle of women teaching and encouraging other women in their relationships with their husbands and children. We will meet on Thursdays from September 2014 to May 2015. Registration is required and childcare will be available. Please contact Tara Lale at [tara.lale@yahoo.com](mailto:tara.lale@yahoo.com) for questions or to register. Creekside Christian Church is located at 92 Life Spring Way, right off Race Track Road. We hope to see you in the fall!

Interested in flying, learning to lead, camp, get in shape and push yourself to new limits? Then, consider joining the **Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program** in Fruit Cove, an extension of a squadron located at the St. Augustine Airport. To become a cadet, you must be at least 12 years old and not yet 19 years old. Cadets meet every Tuesday night in Fruit Cove. The meeting place is located in building Annex 106, Oak Leaf Lane and North Ridgecrest Lane from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. For more directions and information, please contact Lt. Al Uy at [auy@flwg.us](mailto:auy@flwg.us). Also, check out [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

**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.

**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 MOMS Club** is a wonderful way to meet other stay-at-home and part-time working mothers and is a fun way for your children to socialize with other children. Mothers with children of all ages are welcome. Members for this chapter must live in the 32092 or 32095 zip codes, including all neighborhoods along the 210 corridor. We meet once a month to plan our activities for the month ahead. These business meetings are held at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Children are welcome at all of our meetings and activities. Activities are scheduled for almost every weekday of the month and moms may attend as few or as many activities as they like. Some of the activities we have planned are trips to the zoo, beach/pool days, story time at the library and playgroups at members' homes and local parks. For additional information, please contact [sanmoms@gmail.com](mailto:sanmoms@gmail.com) or visit [www.sanmomsclub.weebly.com](http://www.sanmomsclub.weebly.com).

Bring your lawn and gardening questions to the **St. Johns County Master Gardeners' plant clinic** on Saturday, August 16 and Thursday, August 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. We will be at the Bartram

## Time for our Annual Back to School Guide

Now is the time to advertise your . . . Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year, Gymnastics, Dance, Karate, Day Care, Schools, and more!



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Trail library located at 60 Davis Pond at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. We will also accept small soil samples for free pH testing.

Discover the advantages of **Florida native plants** in coastal Northeast Florida on September 18 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Windstorm Training Center, located at 3111 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Learn about plant communities in nature and the proper choices for your landscape with Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant; Beverly Fleming, nature columnist; and Lia Sansom, Coastal Training Specialist for the GTM Research Reserve. Sansom has spent her career focused on environmental and communication studies in Arizona and Florida, demonstrating the value of healthy ecosystems. Come enjoy this fascinating subject and become more aware of beautiful northeast Florida. This free program is open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. For more information, please call 209-0430.

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# THE CREEKLINE'S PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE 2014

## Meet your local candidates: *The CreekLine* again presents Candidate Statements

In advance of the primary election to be held on August 26, 2014, *The CreekLine* invited each of the candidates for St. Johns County Commission Districts 2 and 4, as well as School Board District 1 to submit a statement for this special election section.

*The CreekLine* offered this opportunity to all candidates for these Primary Election races as a community service; no purchase of advertising was required. The content of the statements was left up to each candidate; the only stipulation was that the statement cannot exceed 250 words. No editing of the statements took place. Each statement is printed in its entirety, as submitted by the candidate.

**Kim Kendall, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 2**

As a former FAA Air Traffic Controller, dry cleaner business owner, FSU graduate, I understand how to balance budgets,

make payrolls, deal with stress, make quick, accurate decisions and gained insight between the public and private sectors. Proudly I serve around our county, including: co-founder St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association, St. Augustine Navy League, Bartram Trail Boosters, SJC Early Learning Coalition, First Baptist Church, Aviation Advisory Board, Republican Executive Committee, Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Co-chair Farm to Table Event.

I am running because advocating for residents' issues around our county is my passion! Over 10 years, I have led groups to successful results sometimes called "impossible" – whether it was achieving success in bringing middle school sports, raising \$50,000 for needed library books, safer streets for our children or advocating for local businesses. I also have the time to meet with residents and continually educate myself on the issues.

My top priority is holding Budget Town Hall Forums around the County. We will work together to find areas we can streamline to save millions.

I have met with Space Florida to see what steps are needed for St. Johns County to be viable for manufacturing small satellites. I've spoken with SJRSC and UNF about adding curriculum to ready our graduates. Proudly endorsed by Northeast Florida Area Realtors, Senator Steve Wise, St. Johns County Airport Authority Chairman Bob Cox and many more.

**Ron Sanchez, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 2**

The past seven years we have been hard at work to keep St. Johns County, your county, financially stable while keeping our services and quality of life in place. We have done just that and have done it at over \$160 million dollars a year less than

you were paying. We have a great place to live and work.

My opponents want to change this and I don't believe that is good for you. I am very positive about your county, they are not. We don't need negative people running your county. I want to "move ahead for a secure future."

They want to either downsize or worst yet totally destroy the quality of life we now have. In order to downsize any more than we have already you would have to close down Parks and Recreation and Libraries. I am not in favor of that. I want to improve even more your quality of life.

Some of the comments about our county; CNN/Money Magazine: St. Johns County ranked #5 in the nation for the best place to live and work. Fox News Magazine: St. Johns County is the #1 place to gain employment. USA Today: St. Augustine is the second best place to retire in the nation. We are rated 66 out of 67 counties in Florida for the lowest tax structure.

We don't need change! We need to keep Ron Sanchez your County Commissioner for District 2!

**Jeb Smith, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 2**

As a fifth-generation St. Johns County farmer and businessman I am seeking a seat on our county commission and humbly ask voters living in the northern part of our county for their support and vote.

We live in a diverse county with a thriving agricultural industry, miles of beautiful beaches, a storied historical footprint and a quality of life that others can only dream about. It is not surprising that many who work in Duval County have chosen our county as their home.

I stand for conservative principles and equality of opportunity for all. I believe that, in most instances, the public interest is served when government gets out of the way and lets the free market help individuals maximize their potential. Government has the responsibility to provide those basic services envisioned by our founders but I steadfastly believe government has wavered from its mission on almost all levels.

On the county level, I support true zero-based budgeting combined with a mindset that recognizes increased government regulation is not the answer to every challenge facing us. Although it would be difficult for a government official or entity to single-handedly degrade, or markedly improve, what we now have, I hope I can make a difference as your county commissioner.

My faith and family are the two most important things in my life. I also have a passion for public service and would be honored to serve my fellow man on our county commission. I would

greatly appreciate your support and vote.

**Dan Abel, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 4**

I'm running for St. Johns County Commission because I want a bright future for my family and our community. I will pursue economic development and fiscal responsibility as my top priorities. I believe we need politicians who know instinctively that new taxes or fees and bigger government spending will hurt the small businessmen and women who are creating the jobs that we need.

I have a skill set that is missing, and is needed, on our County Commission. In my professional life as Financial Advisor, I talk to my clients every day about their budgets, about balancing income vs. expenses, paying down debt and saving for the future. We talk a lot about debt and the stress that it takes on our personal and family lives. Debt places stress on governments as well and St. Johns County carries over \$378 Million in total debt. We must get our spending under control, balance our budget and pay down our debt.

Goals for upcoming term when elected: 1. Pay down the County's Debt; 2. Eliminate Wasteful Spending; 3. Balance the Budget; 4. Reduce Government Bureaucracy and Red Tape; 5. Support Existing Businesses and Bring New Businesses to County.

I am pro-business, pro-family and pro-life. I'm a conservative who believes that smaller and more efficient government works better for us. If you believe these things as well, then I ask for your support. I ask for your vote. Together we can make St. Johns County stronger.

**Denver Lynn Cook, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 4**

County Commission Candidate, Denver Cook (R-District 4) outlined the financial challenges facing St. Johns County as the 2015 budget process moves forward. "The County Commission, with a 4-1 vote July 29th, decided that no changes are needed as we are in an 'enviable' financial position. I disagree."

"St. Johns County is bonded out until 2030, Transportation and Fire reserves will be depleted by 2018, road maintenance reduction is \$7 million and we have an imbalanced taxes base with 87 percent reliance on residential taxes."

Entering our third year with \$14 million transportation shortfalls there are notable changes. Since 2013, transportation cuts top \$9M while department salaries increased \$883,000. County Commission, Administration, Personnel and MIS salary and retirement spending increased

Meet the Candidates cont. on pg. 6

**Keep St. Johns County Schools at the Top!**

**August 26**



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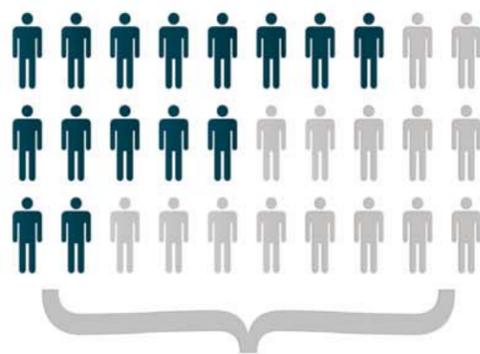
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#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



St. Johns County is #1 in Quality of Life in Florida

St. Johns County is #2 in Lowest Overall Tax Burden in Florida

3,777 More St. Johns County Residents are Employed Than One Year Ago

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# THE CREEKLINE'S PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE 2014

## Meet the Candidates

Continued from page 4

\$708,000. Historically the gap between taxes revenue and spending tells a more dramatic story. Operation and salary cost averaged \$6 million above tax revenue between 2009 and 2011. This increased to \$20.9M in 2012, to \$26.9M in 2013 and to \$50.3M in 2014.

"We face many difficult choices ahead and only through transparent and open communication can we reprioritize spending just as we have in at home. My cross-sector experience in military intelligence, construction and law enforcement give me to tools to address these critical issues and to protect our future. We are successful in faith, family and business through dedication, hard work and sacrifice. It is time these principles were applied to our county governance. I have a plan to grow business and balance spending."

### John "Jay" H. Morris, Republican Candidate for the St. Johns County Commission, District 4

I am a highly decorated Vietnam combat pilot. My family has owned a home in Ponte Vedra Beach since 1977 and my wife and I have two sons and six grandchildren. I have a master's degree in finance and a strong financial and business background, having taken a \$50 million NASDAQ company and built it into a multi-billion dollar NYSE company in my 22 years with RPM International, Inc. I became your County Commissioner, District 4 in 2010 and have served as the board's chairman for the past two years. Since then, your commission has brought many new commercial/industrial businesses into the county and 3,777 new jobs over the past year. The unemployment rate has been cut almost by half and St. Johns County is #5 in the country in job creation. Our county has the second lowest tax rate in Florida. We have

made St. Johns County among the strongest financially in the state and Standard and Poor's recently increased our rating by two levels, from AA- to AA+. We have also added \$10 million to the county reserves over the past year, bringing it to \$47 million. I would like to continue serving the county as your commissioner for one more term so that I can continue to help bring in high-quality, good-paying jobs to St. Johns County, to maintain financial stability and strength, to continue to promote smart growth and to keep taxes low! I ask for your continued support and for your vote.

### Kelly Lorbeer, Candidate for School Board District 1

Let us speak frankly about what is best for our students and teachers in St Johns County. Parents, teachers and students in St. Johns County have historically been partners in education, which is one reason why our students have been so successful. All of us, however, were left out of the discussion to abandon FCAT in favor of Common Core and Race to the Top, a one-size-fits-all educational approach designed by bureaucrats in Washington and Tallahassee.

Because St. Johns County schools rank among the highest in the state academically, we have the most to lose from the untested theories about standards, testing and evaluation. We have an obligation to protect our children from the effects of federal intrusion and the implementation of national standards, testing and curriculum that deprive us of the right to govern in the best interest of our children.

I believe it's time to let teachers teach and inspire their students while the principals lead and inspire great teachers - without interference from faceless bureaucrats hundreds of miles away. There are no common children in St. Johns County. It is time to elect new School Board leadership in District 1 and manage our schools for the benefit of

all children, in accordance with our community's needs, desires and dreams.

I have dedicated 14 years volunteering in SJC schools. Elect Kelly Lorbeer, SJC School Board on Tuesday, August 26 and join me in the quest to opt out of high stakes testing.

### Beverly Slough Candidate for School Board District 1

Bev Slough is a 35 year resident of NW St. Johns County, moving here in 1979 when her husband, Wes, accepted the position of pastor at Switzerland Community Church. Bev and Wes have two daughters, both products of St. Johns County Schools and two grandchildren.

Bev and her colleagues hired Superintendent Joe Joyner in 2003. The leadership team of Superintendent and School Board guided our district to number one academic status in the state of Florida and maintained this place for the last five years.

During the 2008 Recession, Bev worked closely with her colleagues and staff to ensure that no teacher layoffs or reductions to athletics, art, music and electives occurred due to financial constraints. With Bev's support, the St. Johns County School Board developed a strong reserve fund that sustained us through the very lean years and allows the district to thrive, even as it continues to grow by 1000 students each year.

Since Bev was elected in 2002, she has overseen the opening of six schools in District 1 and the expansion of two more. Holding true to the philosophy of the St. Johns County School Board that smaller schools make for more successful students, she guided the zoning for each of these new schools, balancing the populations to control overcrowding.

Proven leadership and sustained success are the hallmarks of Bev Slough's time as a St. Johns County School Board member. Her vision is to

## Attention all absentee voters: The red absentee ballots Drop Boxes are now available!

The boxes were first used in the 2012 General Election. They were so popular with absentee voters that approximately 10 percent of all absentee ballots voted during the 2012 General Election were returned through the drop boxes. Since this service was so well received, it will again be offered at most public libraries as well as Tax Collector's Offices in Ponte Vedra and Julington Creek and St. Augustine Beach City Hall. Please check the listing on our website for specific information on locations, dates and times the boxes are available. They will be available at all locations until August 26, Election Day, when all of the boxes will be picked up at 5:00 p.m. and returned to the Elections Office for processing. Here's the complete listing of locations: [www.votesjc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2014-Mail-Ballot-Drop-Off-Locations.pdf](http://www.votesjc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2014-Mail-Ballot-Drop-Off-Locations.pdf)



continue to build the programs that result in excellence for our children.

We hope these statements provide an additional insight

into the local candidates. They are not meant to be the sole source of a voter's investigation prior to casting a ballot, but rather just one piece.

# Keep Thomas G. PORTUALLO for Circuit Judge



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Political Advertisement Paid For and Approved by Thomas Portuallo, Non-Partisan, for 7th Circuit Court Judge, Group 23

## Are You Happy with St. Johns County?

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Candidate for COUNTY COMMISSIONER District 2

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Ron Sanchez Republican for County Commissioner District 2



# THE CREEKLINE'S PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE 2014

## What you need to know about voting in St. Johns County

Voting is one of our most basic rights in our democratic society. *The CreekLine* encourages all readers and citizens to be informed and involved voters in the upcoming elections. Following is some basic information about voting in St. Johns County:

### How and where to register to vote:

To register to vote in St. Johns County, you must be a United States citizen, be a legal resident of St. Johns County, be 18 years old (you may pre-register if you are 17), not now be adjudicated mentally incapacitated, with respect to voting in Florida or any other state, not have been convicted of a felony in Florida or any other state without your civil rights having been restored and not claim the right to vote in another county or state.

You may apply for voter registration by submitting a Florida Voter Registration Application Form to your Supervisor of Elections office. You may also call the Supervisor of Elections office at 823-2238 for an application to be mailed to you or for the location of a registration site convenient to you.

### When to register to vote:

You can apply to register to vote at any time. There is not length of residency requirement in the State of Florida. However, registration books close 29 days before each election. You must be registered for at least 29 days before you can vote in an election.

### Election dates:

The 2014 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

The 2014 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. (Voter registration deadline is October 6, 2014 for the General Election.)

### Party affiliation:

You may register in any political party of your choice or register with no party affiliation. Florida is a closed primary state. This means that in a primary, voters are limited to choosing candidates of their own party; Democrats vote for Democrats, Republicans vote for Republicans and voters registered with other parties may vote only on issues and non-partisan candidates, such as judges and referenda questions. A 1998 amendment to the

Florida Constitution states, in part, that if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the General Election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office. This is called a "Universal Primary."

Regardless of party affiliation, a voter may vote for any candidate in a General Election. Municipal, Judicial and School Board elections are non-partisan in St. Johns County.

### Early voting:

Registered voters may vote at any of the Early Voting Sites within St. Johns County. Early voting dates for the August 26 Primary Election are August 15 through August 23 from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at all locations daily. Early Voting dates for the November 4 General Election are October 20 through November 1. When voting in person you are required to provide current and valid photo and signature ID. If you don't have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot. Early voting locations include the Supervisor of Elections Office in St. Augustine, the Julington Creek Annex - Conference Room, located

at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard, and the Ponte Vedra and Southeast Branch Libraries. For a complete list of early voting locations, as well as maps and directions, please visit [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com).

### Absentee voting:

Absentee voting is a service offered by the Supervisor of Elections for registered voters who wish to vote in the comfort of their homes or those who may be away from St. Johns County. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot to be mailed is 5:00 p.m. on the sixth day prior to each election. Any qualified, registered St. Johns County voter may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be requested in person, by telephone, by fax, by mail, by email or through our website. When requesting an absentee ballot, you must provide the following information: name, St. Johns County residence address, date of birth, location to send ballot, telephone number and signature (written requests only). All voted ballots must be in the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. Voted absentee ballots cannot be turned in at the polls.

### Polling locations:

Your voter identification card shows the precinct, polling place and voting district for your address. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. If you move within the county, you must vote in your new precinct. Florida law requires voters to provide both picture and signature identification prior to voting in person. Take some form of identification bearing your signature and photo, such as a Florida driver's license or United States passport, to the polling place with you. If you do not have proper identification, you must vote a provisional ballot.

For more information about voting, please visit the St. Johns County's Supervisor of Elections website at [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com). *The CreekLine* reminds you to vote as you please, but please vote!



**Vote as you please... but please VOTE!**




## Kim Kendall Brings Positive Results To Our County!

For County Commissioner, District 2



"Kim is firmly planted in traditional Judeo-Christian principles and upholds truth and transparency."  
**Senator Steve Wise**



"I had the privilege of working with Kim in co-founding the middle school sports program. Her enthusiasm and dedication have provided wonderful benefits to our student athletes."  
**Keith Martin**



"Kim's tireless efforts contributed in raising \$50,000 to purchase books for Timberlin Creek Elementary School Library."  
**Jill Flores**



"By getting involved in my Mom's campaign, I have become very interested in local politics."  
**Dana Kendall**



"Kim was more than willing to mentor me as her college intern, and she graciously provides opportunities for all college students on her team."  
**Jaqueline Schultz**



"It is no surprise that Kim's father served in Vietnam and her grandfather served in WWII and the Korean War. Locally, she has worked with incredible passion for our men and women in the Armed Forces."  
**William Korach, former Commander, USNR**



"Kim's experience in working as an air traffic controller for ten years gives her unique insight into aeronautical understanding. In addition, it shows her ability to work and get the job done - with a smile on her face!"  
**Bob Cox**



"I had the incredible opportunity of working with Kim Kendall and Toni Crawford in emphasizing local agriculture to boost the economy and provide healthy options for our children in Ponte Vedra."  
**Janet Westling**

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To view complete endorsement list visit [www.VoteKimKendall.com](http://www.VoteKimKendall.com)

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Kim Kendall, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission, District 2

# PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 26, 2014

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- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your absentee ballot
- View and print your sample ballot
- Read candidate profiles and campaign reports



### Voting Assistance/Accessible Voting Equipment

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



### HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

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



### REMINDER

Please have current & valid Photo & Signature ID ready when voting. If you don't have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot.

## FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

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

## Vote: It's Your Choice!

Want to vote by mail? Call 823-2238 for your absentee ballot today! You can also use the online request form on our website [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com).

### Make sure your vote counts!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on the absentee ballot certificate envelope do not match, your absentee ballot will not count. Contact the Elections Office for more information on updating your signature.

**Your voted absentee ballot is due in the Elections Office no later than 7 PM on Election Day. If it is late, it will not count. If mailing your ballot, local delivery takes 2-3 days.**

## EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ DATES & TIMES~August 15th - 23rd Friday – Saturday; Hours: 8 AM – 6 PM Daily

<b>Supervisor of Elections Office</b> 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095	<b>St. Augustine Beach City Hall</b> 2200 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32080	<b>Southeast Branch Library</b> 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, FL 32086
<b>Ponte Vedra Branch Library</b> 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	<b>Julington Creek Annex</b> St. Johns Co. Service Ctr. 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	<b>Hastings Town Hall</b> 6195 S. Main Street Hastings, FL 32145

## ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 26, 2014
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day you **MUST** vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

### KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

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





## School District Journal

By Contributing Writer Bill Fehling, School Board Member, District 4

Even though it's summer break for our schools and students, the district is hard at work preparing for next year. The finance department is wrapping up last fiscal year and preparing the budget for next year, the facilities and operations department is doing heavy duty maintenance at each school and getting our two new K-8 schools finished and ready for the first day, the curriculum department is preparing our instruction for all our classrooms, our HR department is finalizing all the new hires in our classrooms, schools and district office and our IT department is making sure our schools are properly wired for the internet and updating the computers and devices in our schools.

So while we're getting ready for next school year, here's a recap of our School District with some fun facts.

The St. Johns County School District is the largest employer in the county with 4,046 full-time and part-time employees. We have 2,194 instructional staff, 1,694 support staff, 93 School-based administrators and 65 district administrators. Approximately 37 percent of all full-time teachers hold advanced degrees and 109 are National Board Certified.

Our student enrollment is almost 33,000 kids where our student body represents 113 different countries speaking 72 different languages. We have 2,274 academically gifted students and 5,156 students with special needs learning, emotional/behavioral, autism, speech/language issues, sensory impairments and/or developmental delays

St. Johns County School District is accredited as a high quality school system with 18

elementary schools, three K-8 schools, seven middle schools, seven high schools, one alternative center, six charter schools and three juvenile justice facilities. Our teacher to student ratio is below the State of Florida mandate where our average classroom for our high schools is 1:20 and our fourth to eighth grades are 1:17 and our Pre-K to third grade is 1:16.

We have a fleet of 230 school buses that transport over 19,200 students more than four million miles per year and they transport over 3,300 field trips per year. Our school cafeterias on a daily basis serve 2,366 breakfasts, 8,607 lunches and 10,921 a la carte meals. Approximately 23 percent of the district's students qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. Our school district is the third highest in the state in the amount of dollars spent on instruction in our classrooms.

Our school district has an operating budget of \$245 million and a capital outlay budget of \$138 million; however, both of these budgets are still well below the amount of dollars we received back in 2007-2008 school year.

Our test scores based on the FCAT State Rankings has our school district as the number one school district in Florida for the fifth year in a row. We finished first in the state in every grade (third through 10th) in reading, first in the state in fifth and eighth grade science (only grades tested), first in the state in fifth and sixth grade math and first in the state in the End of Course Exams for Algebra I, Biology I, Geometry I and United States History.

Our SAT scores, ACT scores and our AP exams are well above the state average and well



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## Your Vote Counts!

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

The August 26 Primary Election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County. For a complete listing of qualified candidates and the list of candidates who will appear on the August 26 Primary Election Ballot, please visit our website at [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com)

Sample ballots will be sent to each voter by regular mail or email the week of August 11. The only exception is voters who have requested an absentee ballot. You can also view your sample ballot online.

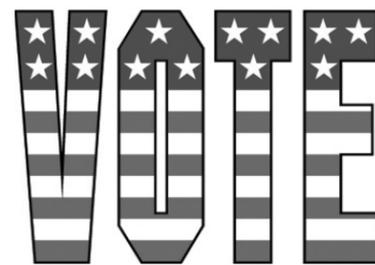
A number of our local officials will be elected in this important Primary Election. I would like to encourage every St. Johns County voter not to forget one of the most important rights we celebrate as Americans: the right to vote. Our communities are stronger when everyone participates in the election process. Our communities need each of us to do our part and that means voting.

Since Florida is a closed primary state, in the Primary Election you are only eligible to vote the ballot of the party in which you are registered. All

voters may vote for nonpartisan races in the Primary. Nonpartisan races on the Primary ballot include School Board members and three Circuit Judge races. The School Board races are district specific and are elected only by voters of their respective districts.

Voting has never been easier or more accessible than it is today. You can vote by mail, vote early or at your precinct on Election Day.

My staff and I are here to serve you and we will make it easy for you to vote. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day. Call 823-2238 or visit [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com) and let us know how we can assist you.



## CAA track and field

Continued from page 1

kids. If there were any questions regarding the demand and interest of a youth centered track and field program, it was definitely settled based on those results.

"Throughout my eight years' experience in the U.S. Marine Corps, I learned that discipline, character and integrity are paramount to becoming a great person," McEachean explained. "Speaking as a coach and parent of three children involved in Creeks track and field, this program is to build great people first and great athletes second! My mission for this program will be to introduce the fundamentals and mechanics of track and field. Each child will develop at their own speed within the team concept in a fun environment."

During the first day of prac-

tice Chuck Forcier, the director of Creeks Athletic Association, walked the perimeter of the field stressing the importance of parent involvement, while Coach Marty and two other volunteer coaches organized the line grouping in preparation for calisthenics.

Throughout the season the basic mechanics of running had been drilled into the kids, as well as introducing the track and field events. The culmination of their hard work was to be displayed in their first track meet of the season. The track and field atmosphere was well established at Bartram Trail stadium. The athletic director, Barry Craig of Bartram High School, was kind enough to offer the use of their track facilities. The thrill of competition began to emerge as athletes raced and jumped their way into a promising future for track and field in the community.

To ensure that the athletes continue to build upon progress made during the season, Coach Marty implemented a summer conditioning program in June and July. The purpose of the conditioning program was to

help our athletes get in the best physical, mental and emotional shape to help them better perform in the sport(s) they participate in.

After a successful inaugural season, next season is expected to make even further inroads.

Chuck Forcier exclaims, "CAA is thrilled to have added track and field as our 14th sport to our association. Coach Marty has done a phenomenal job with the inaugural season. Track and field is a sport in high demand in our area, with 135 kids participating in the first year!"

Next season the program plans to introduce middle and long distance events as well as a peer-to-peer mentorship component.

Forcier went on to say, "We are excited to have this sport and know that it will be around for many years to come for our children to enjoy. My hat's off to Coach Marty, his athletes and parent volunteers on bringing this sport to our area."

For more information please visit the team website <http://sports.bluesombrero.com/caa-trackandfield>.

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## From the Commissioner's Desk

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

### Hug a Realtor and Kiss a Teacher (or anyone who works in a school!)

How's that for an opening line? Why do I say that? It's because as you are reading this, the school year will soon begin, summer is nearing an end and the teachers and realtors who contribute so much to St. Johns County are busy making our lives better and easier. Each one of you reading this now benefits in some way from those two professions.

Think about it. Parents want to live in a community and environment where the school system allows each student to thrive and reach their full potential. Our teachers, aides and all school support staff do that very thing every day. The responsibility they bear in shaping our children's education and future cannot be underestimated. As a father of two St. Johns County School District students, I have witnessed firsthand the resolve our teachers and district staff apply toward ensuring the students within their care receive the best education possible. Because of that dedication, our schools are number one in the state and the benefits of that reverberate throughout the community. Schools districts are a leading factor for higher socioeconomic households when considering relocation and are also critical to the success of our business community. Our kids are our future and I'm so glad to live in a community that cares and has a school district that is second to none.

Realtors are like a financial consultant and Nostradamus wrapped up in one body. They deal with supply and demand

of their clients, plus must make sense out of the market conditions in the homebuilding business. A realtor can save you thousands and thousands of dollars. They are taught to study market conditions as well as to study your wishes. Our realtors in St. Johns County are the best and even though there are hundreds of realtors here, they all get along! The camaraderie and solidarity of this group of professionals are second to none. They work on commission, so their goal is to listen, interpret, predict and produce a product of your wish! Sounds like a genie to me! Realtors also help drive the market for commercial property, which is something we need more of in our county. Without enlarging the commercial tax base for property taxes, the burden on homeowners will continue to rise. So please remember to Hug a Realtor, and Kiss a Teacher! (Tell them Bill said to do it!)

I am looking forward to another productive year as your county commissioner! Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, questions or concerns at 209-0303 or bccd3@sjcfl.us. Thank you for your support.

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## E Pluribus Unum: Civics for one and all

By James A. Lee, M.Ed., Ed.D. ABD, jal@rtpublishing.com

Remember playing tug-of-war in school? In elementary school, I enjoyed it because if I could win, maybe that cute little red-head would finally notice me. Sometimes we battled boys against girls. We boys always liked that because we were certain we would annihilate those silly girls. All too often, though, we were quickly humbled by our own annihilation...and I don't think the little red-head ever noticed, either.

Imagine that same game, but instead of one rope being tugged from each end, you have three ropes tied together at a center point—or even five, 10 or 100 ropes—a new tug-of-war involving any number of competing sides. Let's also put at the center point one person with all the ropes tied to him or her and

all of the competitors pulling in every possible direction.

Now say the center person being pulled represents the United States government; the Constitution, the courts, Congress, the president, all of the agencies and bureaucracies and the states too, of course, all together in one person. Then, all those competitors at each end of all of those ropes are American citizens. At the ends of some ropes are individuals pulling alone, some strong, some weak. At the ends of other ropes are groups of people (we sometimes refer to these as interest groups) teamed up together to improve their chances of winning. But, there are many teams and many individuals of varied strengths making it very difficult for any one competitor to control the government.

We have yet another consideration to add to this new playground game: the government itself. It has its own ability to pull in different directions. Elected and appointed officials as well as the staffs in all of those departments, agencies and bureaus, all have their own ability to pull and tug in their own direction. So now that person in the center being tugged at by all of those competitors is no longer one person, but thousands,

even hundreds of thousands pulling against everybody else. We just created an extraordinarily complicated and competitive new version of tug-of-war. Way cool!

Well, of course, this new game is not so new. It was created in 1789 in Philadelphia. Well-known people like Madison, Hamilton and Franklin along with the less well-known like Ingersoll, Spaight and (my favorite) Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer all contributed to our constitution. Their goal was to create a government that reflected the will of the people, but would also not be controlled by any one person or group—a many-ended tug-of-war, if you will.

That's exactly what we have, of course. A government that is reflective of our society: diverse, complex, competitive and sometimes downright mule-headed. It is and it always has been. It's called a republic. Just remember the story of Benjamin Franklin as he left the convention.

Someone asked, "Well Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?"

He responded simply, "A republic, if you can keep it."

So, everybody, just keep on tugging.

## Hollingsworth attends UMSL Public Policy Certification

Dennis Hollingsworth, Tax Collector of St. Johns County, recently attended the annual meeting of the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO) in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 9 and 10, completing professional certification coursework in public policy administration. The conference included education courses in policy and management, offered by the Public Policy Administration Program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) as part of their Chancellor's Certificate program and in partnership with NACCTFO.

"Through our Chancellor's certificate program, NACCTFO

members learn about cutting edge technology, sharing experiences and best practices," said Dr. Deborah Balsler, director and associate professor of the Public Policy Administration program at UMSL. "Members come from these sessions with great ideas to implement at home."

The coursework included leadership, cyber security, disaster preparedness and recovery and finance. Hollingsworth's participation in these sessions demonstrates his commitment to careful management of scarce county resources. Please visit [www.umsll.edu/divisions/graduate/ppa](http://www.umsll.edu/divisions/graduate/ppa) for more information on UMSL's Public Policy Administration program.



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## The Sheriff Reports

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

### Move Over Law

This month, I would like to address a law that has been on the books for some time now; however, many people are still unaware of it. It is called the Move Over Law. Drivers are required to move over and/or slow down when passing emergency vehicles on a roadway with their emergency lights on! This year, the Florida Legislature has included utility service vehicles as well as sanitation trucks to join emergency vehicles and tow trucks.

Drivers are required to “move over” or “slow down” when approaching an authorized emergency vehicle that is stopped on a highway in the state of Florida. The “Move Over Act”, [F.S. 316.126(1)(b)] was passed during the 2002 session of the Florida Legislature.

There are several important provisions concerning this law. On interstate highways or other highways with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers

approaching a law enforcement or other authorized vehicle, parked on a roadway with their emergency lights activated, are required to vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so.

When approaching a law enforcement or other authorized vehicle parked on a two-lane roadway with their emergency lights activated and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers are required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or greater; or travel at five miles per hour when the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less.

The “Move Over Law” is designed to protect law enforcement, tow truck drivers and other workers on our highways. There is a hefty fine for violating the law and is also a moving violation, which causes three points to be assessed to the driver’s license of anyone guilty of violating the statute.

Moving over also means making way for emergency vehicles. Moving over not only saves lives and prevents needless injuries to our deputies and fire fighters, it also improves the effectiveness of their response. When you hear a siren or catch a glimpse of flashing lights, prepare to react in a safe and prudent manner. If the emergency vehicle is approaching from ahead or behind, you need to pull over. If you are nearing an intersection and an emergency vehicle is approaching from the cross street, you should yield the right-of-way. Don’t slam on your brakes because that might cause another emergency. Instead, put on your turn signal, slow down and pull over at the first safe spot you can find. After the patrol car, ambulance or fire truck has passed, use your signals again and carefully reenter the roadway.

Moving over in emergencies is common sense and common courtesy and in Florida it’s the law. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have as well as any topics you would like to see addressed here at ds-hoar@sjsso.org. You can download our new App by searching for the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office in your “App” store. Also, if you sign up for the Sheriff’s Office social media sights on Facebook and Twitter you are sure to receive important updates anytime.



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## William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabbat@comcast.net

Last month, readers were given an extensive update on the historical narrative being produced for the William Bartram Scenic and Historic Management Group (WBS&HH). The narrative being produced will be used to teach the history of St. Johns County and the northwest area to students in St. Johns County schools as part of the lesson planning project initiated by our group. The historical narrative, a work in process, will be completed sometime in the September. As editing of the narrative continues it’s very clear that the Northwest Sector of St. Johns County is a great story. In fact, it’s a history of hardship and determination rivaling any other in American history.

Constant political changes, multiple cultures and a heterogeneous and multi-racial population added to uncertainties of frontier life. Despite the hardships, strife and destruction of property, people stayed and rebuilt—a story of America in the making. Early settlers lost ownership of their lands and had to petition new governments to grant them possession of land they had already owned. This area is unique in the shifts of status persons of color, Minorcans/blacks/Indians were assigned as the area changed hands and was decided victors. Despite the shifting attitudes on race, minorities found a niche for themselves, forming alliances with other cultures when tensions between those cultures and the dominant white race were threatening.

The story of St. Johns

County and specifically NW St. Johns County is quite unique and we’re looking forward to sharing it with you. Ours is a truly interesting history that will amaze you.

On September 20, 2014 the WBS&HH will have our annual Antique Appraisal Fair at the RiverTown Amenity Center. The Antique Appraisal hours will be from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Bring up to three antiques for an appraisal by a variety of antique experts. We ask for a \$5 donation for each antique to be appraised. Look for flyers in your favorite storefronts in the coming weeks. You are also welcome to email for additional information at the following address: pjabbat@yahoo.com or alabbat@comcast.net.

We meet again in early September and readers are invited to participate. Volunteers are needed to keep the many intrinsic resources along the highway for present and future generations. Let’s keep our historic treasures intact and preserve the history and beauty of the northwest area.

Our next meeting is on September 11, 2014—a sad date in American history, but the start of another active year for the group. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County NW Annex multi-purpose room at 725 Flora Branch Boulevard.

For more information please call, text or email Al Abbatiello, 699-8475 or alabbat@comcast.net.

got news?

editor@thecreekline.com

## Realtors recognized in “The Thousand”

By Contributing Writer Amanda Long, Watson Realty Corp.

Watson Realty Corp. sales associates were recently named as America’s top real estate professionals by *REAL Trends* and as advertised in *The Wall Street Journal*. They are now members of the “The Thousand Top Real Estate Professionals,” a prestigious national awards ranking sponsored annually by the two respected publications.

“The Thousand” honors the top 1,000 residential agents and agent teams by transaction sides and volume. Watson Realty Corp. is proud to have these wonderfully talented real estate professionals.

Each transaction has two sides, the listing side and the sale side. The sales associate who lists the property gets credit for the list side of the transaction when the property closes. The sales associate who brings the buyer gets the credit for the sale side of the transaction when the property closes.

“Becoming a member of such an elite group as ‘The Thousand’ is an incredible accomplishment in any market, but what these individuals did during these challenging times is impressive on so many levels,” said Marti Gallardo, vice president of classified advertis-

ing for *The Wall Street Journal*. “Their efforts topped 99.99 percent of the more than 963,000 Realtors nationwide.”

“The best individual agents and teams were nothing short of phenomenal considering the recovering real estate market,” said Steve Murray, founder of Denver-based publishing and communications company *REAL Trends*, which compiled the list.

Watson Realty Corp. associates were ranked as follows:  
Rankings by Volume:  
#146, Kyle Passkiewicz  
– Intra-coastal Office – \$75,652,072  
Rankings by Transaction Sides:  
#5, Kyle Passkiewicz – Intra-coastal Office – 609.65  
#191, Debbie Shagnea – Mandarin South Office – 155.25  
#235, Misty Williams – Jacksonville Relocation – 144.80  
#236, Jane Crosby – DeLand Office – 144.75

Passkiewicz, of the Intra-coastal office, was the only Watson Realty Corp. sales associate to be recognized on both lists. He also set a record for his 2013 closed sales volume and transactions, surpassing every other Watson Realty Corp. sales associate’s volume in the company’s 48-year history.

“It is a huge honor to be recognized in ‘The Thousand,’” said Passkiewicz. “To also set a company record shows that hard work and attending to the customers’ needs truly pays off.”

Shagnea, of the Mandarin South office, has seen how recognition, such as “The Thousand,” can directly affect her future business opportunities.

“I never think my customers notice this type of recognition, but you would be surprised how many actually do their homework before selecting a real estate professional and mention it when they make their first contact to enlist me as their agent,” said Shagnea.

Ranking of “The Thousand” can be found at: [www.thethousandrealestateprofessionals.com](http://www.thethousandrealestateprofessionals.com).

## Clean Water Fest

Continued from page 1

Fest in September, they once again will be on the road in October and November with their last cross country tour for the year, including multiple shows in Canada. The harmonic duo recently released their first full length album, “The Fudge Sessions,” during two sold-out CD release concerts. The album is a CD/DVD combination set consisting of 14 tracks along with a “behind the scenes” video with four full music videos. You can learn more about “Flagship

Romance” by visiting [www.flagshipromance.com/](http://www.flagshipromance.com/).

The third annual Clean Water Music Fest will take place at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 12:00 noon to 11:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for a donation at the door. As part of the festival there will be Farmer’s Market vendors and a fabulous silent auction with quality items donated by over 150 local businesses. We hope to see you there!



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## United Way St. Johns County announces photographic exhibit



United Way and the Red Cross provide a helping hand, or a helping hug, when and where it is needed the most.

at 500 San Sebastian View.

"It is amazing to bring this artwork together and display it for our community to see," said Melissa Nelson, UWSJC executive director. "Our organization is focused on the building blocks that lead to a good quality of life – Education, Health and Income – because we all gain when children are successful in school, when families are financially stable and when people are healthy. This exhibit truly demonstrates the commitment to that happening in our community."

The St. Johns County Administration Building is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Cultural Council and United Way of St. Johns County would like to thank the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners for their continued support of this Art in Public Places project. The Cultural Council is funded in part by the State of the Arts License Plate funds. For more information visit [www.stjohnsculture.com](http://www.stjohnsculture.com). To learn more about United Way of St. Johns County, visit [www.unitedway-sjc.org](http://www.unitedway-sjc.org).

United Way of St. Johns County is pleased to partner with the St. Johns Cultural Council for an inspirational exhibit of photographs showcasing the work of nearly 30 non-profit organizations serving residents in St. Johns County. The dramatic black and white images graphically depict a range of services from disaster relief to the smiling faces of children at play. This exhibit will run from August 5 through October 23, in the Rotunda Gallery in the St. Johns County Administration Building located

**First Day of School**  
St. Johns County Public Schools  
August 18

## Learn To Read receives grant to support adult literacy

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded Learn To Read (LTR) of St. Johns County, Inc. a \$3,000 grant to support adult literacy for ESOL students.

"We are very grateful to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for supporting our efforts to improve the literacy skills of local residents in need of tutoring services to learn English," said LTR Executive Director Ann Breidenstein. "Dollar General's generous grant will enable LTR to update our instructional materials. This much needed update will benefit both students and tutors."

"At Dollar General, we are

passionate about our mission of Serving Others throughout the communities we serve," said Rick Dreiling, Dollar General's chairman and CEO. "It's exciting to see the Dollar General Literacy Foundation's outreach in action as we partner with organizations to further education and literacy and make a real difference in people's lives."

LTR is a volunteer-based organization that has provided free literacy skills assessment and tutoring in basic literacy and math to St. Johns County adults 16 years of age and older for over 25 years. LTR works with St. Francis House,

the Homeless Coalition, the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency and other social services agencies to recruit adult students who want to improve their skills so they can change their lives.

Through partial funding by the United Way, St. Johns County, Christ Church at Serenata and with the generous support of the community, LTR is able to provide the necessary materials to assist its students, as well as to recruit and train volunteer tutors.

For information about becoming a tutor or helping LTR, please call Charlotte at 826-0022.

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## District board votes to reduce tax rate

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

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board on July 8 approved a tentative budget that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers and funds major District initiatives, including projects to protect the region's springs and improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Johns River. The tentative 0.3164 millage rate would result in \$81.8 million in revenue that would be part of a total \$141.9 million budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, which begins October 1, 2014. The budget also is funded through state, federal and other District sources (including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings and permit fees).

The millage rate adopted by the board is approximately 3.6 percent less than the current year's tax rate.

Under a 0.3164 millage rate – 31.64 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value – the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$47.46 in the coming year in property taxes to the District.

"The tentative budget will allow the District to continue the momentum on its strategic priorities and to implement critical projects that will result in greater protection for our springs and improved water quality in surface waters," said Governing Board Chairman John Miklos of Orlando. "We are maximizing our financial and technical resources through dozens of partnership projects with local governments, utilities and other entities."

The tentative budget includes \$22 million in cost-share funding for construction of projects that will help to develop traditional and alternative water supplies, conserve water and reduce nutrient loading in springsheds and other water bodies. Another \$8 million is designated for other cooperative agreements with government partners, including reclaimed water and stormwater projects, water conservation, muck removal and restoration activities.

Major projects included in the tentative budget concentrate on District initiatives supporting minimum flows and levels prevention and recovery strategies, springs protection and water quality protection in the Indian River Lagoon, the Northern Coastal Basins and the middle and lower St. Johns River basins. The tentative budget also includes funding for:

- Completion of the Fellsmere Water Management Area and the final phase of the Canal 1 Rediversion Project in Brevard and Indian River counties, which are among the final components of the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project
- Construction of the 1,300-acre C-10 Reservoir in Brevard County, which will provide additional water storage and treatment and nutrient

Public hearings will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 9 and September 23. The final budget adoption will occur at the September 23 meeting.

For additional information, visit [www.floridaswater.com](http://www.floridaswater.com).

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# Bring a smile to a child who needs one!

By Contributing Writer Leslie Warner



A child with a ConKerr Cancer pillowcase

children are in the wonderful care of Peds-Care, a pediatric palliative care division of Northeast Florida Hospice.

All of these kids are courageously facing the treatments, doctor visits, surgeries and side effects and trying to live their lives as normally as possible. And it is amazing how the little things can bring a

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. There are 44,000 children receiving treatments for cancer each year in the United States and many more that are in remission – with the hopes they have finally beaten this nasty disease. Here in the Jacksonville area, kids with cancer are receiving treatments at Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Nemours Children’s Clinic and UF/Shands Proton Therapy Center. And over 100

smile to their faces—like receiving a custom made pillowcase that reflects the things they love. ConKerr Cancer is a nationwide charitable organization that focuses solely on bringing smiles to kids facing cancer or other life-changing illnesses through the gift of a bright, cheerful, fun pillowcase, made by someone in their community. It is a simple thing when you consider the enormous challenge of beating cancer, but it has an immediate positive impact. It is amazing to see the smiles on the faces of the kids who receive these pillowcases, as well as the joy it brings to their parents when seeing that smile. Some of the children will refuse to sleep on any other pillowcase because it is so special to them.

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The Jacksonville chapter of ConKerr Cancer delivers about 150 pillowcases each month to all four of the centers/organizations listed above. They rely on the generosity of community members to make this happen. Volunteers who love to sew can design and sew the cases. Volunteers who don’t know how to sew can learn quickly, since a pillowcase is the first project in most sewing classes and is very simple to do! We have Girl Scout troops and church youth groups learn this skill while completing a community service project. Volunteers who have no inclination to sew can purchase the bright fun fabric that is needed to keep this supply of pillowcases going. And of course, money is always welcomed to fund the purchase of additional fabric. We often don’t have enough fabric to supply all those who are willing to sew!

Each September, ConKerr Cancer sponsors their “Miles of Pillowcase Smiles” event with a nationwide goal of collecting 44,000 pillowcases – one for each child receiving treatment. Our goal in Jacksonville is to collect 600 in September. The Jacksonville QuiltFest in late September provides an opportunity for festival visitors to sew pillowcases for ConKerr Cancer

and we need lots of fabric to support this effort!

If you are interested in volunteering in some way or want to find out more about how you might use this as a community service opportunity for your

church, youth group or women’s group, please contact Jacksonville Coordinator Leslie Warner at case4smilesjax@comcast.net or 230-9485. You can learn more about ConKerr Cancer at www.Conkerrcancer.org.



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## Bakery featuring delicious cupcakes and lunch menu now open in Mandarin

Buttercream and Moonbeams Bakery and Cupcake Shop opened for business in the Beall's Shopping Center in Mandarin in February. The bakery is owned and operated by Mary Johnson, a Jacksonville resident.

Buttercream and Moonbeams specializes in providing a unique selection of cupcakes, cakes, cookies, hand pies, dessert breads and other baked treats. The bakery also offers a daily lunch menu that includes soups, salads and sandwiches.

Buttercream and Moonbeams is a second career for Johnson, who worked for 12 years as a nurse prior to opening the bakery.

"I've always worked in service-oriented industries and before I became a nurse, I

worked in bars and restaurants. Opening my own business has been a dream and I'm happy to be able to open a shop here in Jacksonville," Johnson shares.

Johnson likes to create cupcakes and treats that are slightly out-of-the ordinary. The bakery features a selection of cupcake flavors that changes daily and includes PB and J, Lemon and Lavender, Banana Split, Chocolate Salted Caramel Pretzel, Vanilla Cream, Chocolate Bliss, Margarita, Apple Pie, Happiness, Triple Chocolate and others. Johnson updates the store's Facebook page daily with featured menu items. The store also offers children's birthday parties, where children can frost and decorate their own cupcakes. Lunch options for children's parties are also available.

Opening the business in Jacksonville was just part of Johnson's goal.

"I'm a big believer in supporting local businesses," says Johnson. "I have invited a number of small

Jacksonville entrepreneurs to display and sell their products in my store."

Johnson is passionate about pointing out the impact that even small purchases can make on the local economy. A recent Facebook post reminded readers that diverting just \$100 in spending from chain stores to local retailers would add \$3 million annually to the Jacksonville economy, in addition to creating thousands of new jobs.

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

## Events and volunteer opportunities at Home Again

Home Again St. Johns has four major fundraisers in the next four months that they're hoping the public will attend and provide volunteer support to. By attending these events, the community helps to further the mission of Home Again St. Johns.



Silent auction area in the Lightner Museum at last year's Mayor's Holiday Lighting and Gala.

The first event is an Eco Fashion Show hosted by Panache Hair Salon and Spa. It is to be held Saturday, September 20, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Volkswagen of St. Augustine, the title sponsor of the event.

"This is sure to be a very exciting event," said Diane Machaby, director of development for Home Again St. Johns. "All costumes are made of recycled materials and they will be spectacular!"

Panache's last Eco Fashion Show saw upwards of 900 in attendance. To view a video clip of that show, go to <http://youtu.be/VsaB033BLI8>. Volunteers are needed to help in various capacities at the fashion show. Please contact Diane Machaby at 881-1167 if you'd like to purchase tickets or volunteer.

On Thursday, October 23, the St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) will host the 2014 Flavors of Florida's Historic Coast Top Chef Cook-Off from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Renaissance World Golf Resort. Top chefs from some of the most popular and prominent restaurants in St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach will prepare their signature dishes to present to the attendees who will determine the Flavors Top Chef on Florida's Historic Coast. Last year, over 450 guests enjoyed the chef's competition and the delicious samplings from participating restaurants on Florida's Historic Coast, all

the while helping raise funds for Home Again St. Johns. The nonprofit and the VCB are hoping the Top Chef Cook-Off will draw the maximum turnout of 700 attendees.

Another exciting event benefitting Home Again St. Johns will be the Old City Music Festival which will be held Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8 at the St. Augustine Flea Market. Volunteers will be manning the beverage tent in the VIP area for the concert again this year. Concert tickets and parking are free for all volunteers. Joan Jett and The Blackhearts are headlining Saturday night with other bands being announced soon.

And, once again, Home Again St. Johns will be the recipient of funds from the Mayor's Holiday Lighting and Gala to be held Saturday, November 22. Volunteers are needed to assist in a variety of activities including coordinating the silent auction. This event is held in conjunction with the kicking off of the Nights of Lights in downtown St. Augustine and has been enthusiastically attended by over 250 guests in the past.

Home Again St. Johns hopes the public will consider supporting their efforts by attending these events and/or volunteering with them. Encourage a friend or family member to support the organization and lend a hand, too!

The mission of Home Again St. Johns is to promote, foster and support a collaborative approach among social service and governmental agencies, community groups, faith-based organizations and dedicated private citizens for resolving issues related to homelessness in St. Johns County compassionately, effectively and efficiently. This support has resulted in regular coordination of homeless services, a daily meal served to 100 people each evening and identifying and acquiring the right place to house multiple agencies providing these much needed services. Home Again St. Johns is currently in the county's Planning and Zoning review process to move forward with the building of the One Stop Center.

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# Gold Award project collects more than 1500 pounds of food

By Contributing Writer Judy Earley Revels



Katie Revels with food collected at Splash Out Hunger food collection.

It took four SUV and truck trips and 80 hours of manpower, but more than 1500 pounds of kid-friendly food was delivered to Christ's Cupboard food pantry on Sunday, July 20 as the result of a Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Kate Revels, a junior swimmer at Creekside High School and a member of Girl Scout Troop 867, hosted a two-day food drive during the recent St. Johns County Summer Swim League (SJSLS) Swim Championships held out Cecil Field Aquatic Center on July 18 and 19.

The idea for a food collection actually came from looking at trash. Last year, after participating in a local swim championship out at Cecil Field, Revels was amazed at the amount of trash that was generated from the two-day event featuring about 1,000 St. Johns County swimmers.

"I kept thinking about how blessed we were as a community to be able to eat and drink as we liked. I knew that there were less fortunate people right in our own zip codes who may not be getting a meal today," she said.

The amount of trash spurred an idea for Revels and she immediately applied and began her Gold Award project called "Splash Out Hunger."

Revels, who has volunteered at Christ's Cupboard, a local food pantry out of Celebration Lutheran Church (located on Roberts Road), contacted pantry director Diane Conklin the very next week and asked if she

could support the pantry with a food drive. "Ms. Conklin has been very helpful in designating food and needs of the shelter," said Revels and her work with Conklin helped Revels target children specifically in the collection. "Nationally, one in seven children are missing meals each day - especially in the summer when they are not able to receive reduced or supplied breakfast and lunch meals," Revels added. "It was important to me, my Girl Scout mentors, the St. Johns Summer Swim League and Christ's Cupboard to try and help alleviate some of the summer food need. Many people vacation or think that food is only needed during the colder months... truth is, the summer is traditionally the lowest collection time for Christ's Cupboard."

ing and Durbin Crossing collected and organized kid-friendly but healthy foods including juice boxes, canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly, granola bars, nuts, popcorn, pasta and macaroni and cheese. Revels upped the ante of the contest by adding another trophy to the championship table - the Splash Out Hunger award, donated by Crown Trophy - given to the swim team that collected the most amount of food as decided by weight. Armed with a digital scale and notebook, Revels spent most of the weekend sorting, weighing and adding can upon can of donated items. The grand total - 1580 pounds of food or three-quarters of a ton! In addition, the help of local sponsors like banners provided by The UPS Store #3927 and pizza donated by the State Road 13 Little Caesars allowed the event to get community recognition.

The event was such a success and was met with such wonderful response that Revels is hopeful it will become an annual SJSLS event and will provide for the need of our local community and Christ's Cupboard food pantry. To Revels, the continued participation meets not only her Gold Award goal to create a sustainable food drive, but meets her personal hope that we can alleviate some of the hunger needs of our neighborhoods' children.

After months of marketing to the swim teams, contacting sponsors, setting rules and expectations, Splash Out Hunger was held during the SJSLS Swim Championships. Eight local swim teams from local neighborhoods of Julington Creek Plantation, Bartram Park, St. Johns Golf and Country Club, Palencia, World Golf Village, Sawgrass, Heritage Land-

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## Newcomers' and Women's Club celebrates girlfriends

By Contributing Writer Susan Moger

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club (BTNC) will begin another year of fun activities and friendships (old and new). The first meeting will be a luncheon, special program and small meeting on September 9 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club, located at 219 St. Johns Golf Drive, off County Road 210. You can pick from margarita brined steak or shrimp and Mahi scampi, total cost is \$18 for lunch (including tip and tax). Doors will open at 10:45 a.m. and a cash bar will be available. The deadline for checks is September 1 (made payable to BTNC with meal choice written on bottom of check) and mailed to: Arlene

Roffman, 307 Edgewater Branch Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259.

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 Mary Beth Reid at hmbreid@yahoo.com. Please come and join us!

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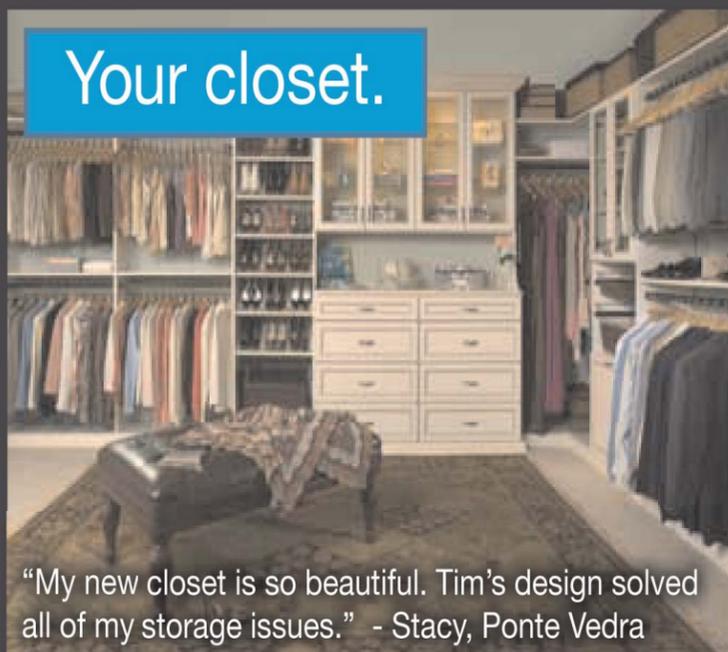
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## Heritage Landing announces community events

Following are some of the events that Heritage Landing has planned for its residents for July and August:

For more information about the events below, please call 940-6095 or email us at campheritage@heritagelanding.comcastbiz.net. Unless otherwise noted, these events are for Heritage Landing residents and their guests.

Amenity Athletics fall soccer registration will begin this month. The games will begin in September. Fall soccer is for kids between the ages of four and 11 years old. For

more information, please go to: QuickScores.com/AmenityAthletics.

Family Movie Night is on the first Saturday of the month at Dusk. Closed Caption is upon request.

The St. Johns County Public Library Bookmobile will come to the Amenity Center the first and third Wednesday of the month with a new time from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information, please visit their website at sjcpls.org.

Toddler and Preschool Story Time. Join the Children's

## Interested in ballroom dancing? New studio opens in St. Johns!

If you have always wanted to learn how to dance, either for a loved one's wedding or for exercise, there is a new ballroom dance studio conveniently located right here in Fruit Cove. All About Ballroom is owned and operated by partners Heather Kornick, Zeljko "Jake" Lukic and Mark Spivak. It is located on State Road 13 across from Jurlington Creek Plantation.

This new studio is the culmination of many years of planning and a lifelong friendship. Kornick was actually a student at Mark Spivak's Dance Institute from a very young age all the way through high school and college. She has since worked at studios as a dance instructor and as a professional competitor nationally, becoming a United States Nine Dance finalist.

"The Spivak family is like my family," Kornick shares. "Mark and I talked for years about collaborating on this project and now is finally the right time."

Kornick explains that while she enjoys everything about ballroom dance, from instruct-



Mark Spivak, Heather Kornick and Jake Lukic welcome you to All About Ballroom!

ing to dancing to choreographing, it is the teaching that is her true love. All About Ballroom specializes in instructing beginner dancers all the way through competitive levels with their highly qualified staff.

Upcoming wedding? No problem! All About Ballroom can help couples prepare for their first dance—from a few basic steps to a completely choreographed routine.

Introductory packages, which include three private les-

sons, a group class and a party, where dancers socialize and practice what they have learned, are a great way to get started.

And don't forget the little ones! All About Ballroom offers classes for Baby Ballroomers (four- to six-year-olds), juniors (seven- to nine-year-olds) and teens as well as adults.

"Everybody can dance!" Kornick says. "It is a fun way to meet people and get exercise!"

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

Librarian at the amenity center the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. for newborns to three-year-olds and 10:30 a.m. for three- to five-year-olds. For more information, please visit their website at sjcpls.org.

Adult Book Club is held the third Thursday each month from 2:00 p.m. 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 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All Heritage Landing resident band students are welcome. 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 each month at 6:30 p.m. Heritage Landing business owners or representatives, come introduce your business to fellow residents. The meeting is free. A \$5 fee gets your business card published in this month's newsletter.

The Heritage Landing CDD Board of Supervisors meeting will be Thursday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. For more information about the CDD please visit heritagelandingcdd.org.

Swim Lessons for kids ages two and up are available through August 1. Swim lessons last for two weeks and consist of eight half-hour sessions. Classes are limited. Sign up early.

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.

Heritage Landing Homeowners Association meetings scheduled for July are: Master HOA meets August 18 at 6:30 p.m. The Architectural Review Committee meets August 11 and 25 at 6:00 p.m. The Enforcement Committee meets August 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please call 436-6270 for more information.

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## Knights of Columbus "pig-out" for charity

By Karl Kennell

A small group of Brother Knights from Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council 12264 at San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church had a whole bunch of fun "pigging-out" on Saturday, July 26 at the seventh annual Healing Hands Rib Eating Contest hosted by the original Woody's Bar-B-Q on University Boulevard. The contest was for the benefit the First Coast Child Protection Team.

The First Coast Child Protection Team rescues children from physically abusive home situations. Their mission is, "To promote the safety and well-being of Florida's children by providing medically led multi-disciplinary assessment services for children suspected of being abused or neglected." The Jacksonville team serves Duval, Putnam, St. Johns, Baker, Nassau and Clay counties.

It was a spur-of-the-moment decision by the Brother Knights to support the efforts of First Coast Child Team and at the same time cheer on Knights of Columbus Switzerland Council's own champion eater. Brother Knights Pat Pollizzi, Val Hietter and Joe Gurule were

all on hand to cheer-on fellow Knight Kevin Mason. Brother Kevin is renowned among his fellow Knights for his voracious appetite and as a champion eater. Brother Kevin made a valiant effort, eating eight giant St. Louis-style ribs down to the bone. Unfortunately the fellow sitting right across from him wolfed down a whopping 22 ribs in the allotted five minutes, winning by beating his own record from last year of 18.

Think about it: 22 ribs is two full racks. Or, in simple terms, "one heck of a lot of ribs."

"What can I say about the contest?" Brother Pat reflected. "Other than it was the perfect opportunity for 'us guys' to get together and pig-out on barbeque and still get credit from our better halves for doing a good thing."



Joe Gurule, Pat Pollizzi, Kevin Mason and Val Hietter at the rib eating contest.



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## Boy Scout Troop 718 snorkels for tasty scallops!

By Contributing Writer Joey Morley, Second Class Scout

Boy Scout Troop 718, based at Switzerland Community Church, continued its outdoor adventures with a recent waterfront camping trip to the Big Bend area of Florida. The four-day trip focused on snorkeling the clear, calm waters near Apalachicola in search of scallops. While snorkeling, the scouts also observed stone crabs, rays, flounder and many other sea creatures.

The scallop harvest was very bountiful and the scouts enjoyed a hearty meal of pasta with scallops in Alfredo sauce. The scouts also enjoyed beef stew, lasagna, chicken pot pie, cobblers, chocolate cake all backed in cast iron Dutch oven over charcoal. Troop 718 has become the unofficial "Best Fed Troop" in America!

Many of the scouts in Troop 718 have become Scuba certified

through the troop's in-house scuba training program. The scuba scouts recently took a four-day trip to Key Largo and completed six dives. Some of the scouts completed Advanced Open Water and Nitrox certification.

Our troop recently sent 28 scouts to weeklong summer camp at Camp Powhatan in western Virginia where the scouts completed over 100 merit badges. Four of our scouts, Zach Jackson, Nick Hudson, Daniel Frisch and Aaron Carver also completed National Youth Leadership Training at Camp Shands, near Melrose.

Troop 718 meets each Tuesday evening at Switzerland Community Church. Please call Scoutmaster John Morley at 377-6669 with questions regarding membership.



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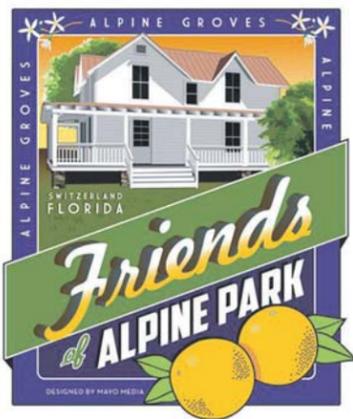
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## Make new "Friends" at Alpine Groves Park



### Friends of Alpine Park.

This school year, the group will provide bi-monthly programs for preschoolers and homeschoolers wishing to learn more about nature and history at the park. The first "class in the park" will take place on Wednesday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. and will focus on nature. Other dates for "classes in the park" will be November 12, January 7, March 11 and May 6. If you are interested in these classes, please email [friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com) to be added to their email list.

Friends of Alpine Park was formed to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and history of Alpine Groves Park. They are always looking for new members to help with their goals of working with St. Johns County to preserve the farmhouse, maintaining the serene habitat of the park and engaging the community in the history of the park. Please email [friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com) for more information or "Friend" them on Facebook - "Friends of Alpine Park." See you at the park!

Friends of Alpine Park invites you out to enjoy the natural beauty and Florida history at Alpine Groves Park, located at 2060 State Road 13 in Switzerland. They will hold a community picnic on August 31 at 1:00 p.m. Families, friends and residents are encouraged to pack a picnic lunch, bring a blanket and come out for an afternoon of fun. The group hopes that this will give the community a chance to enjoy the beautiful surroundings with each other and a chance to learn about the mission of

### Go Back to School with The CreekLine!

Check out our SJC School District Directory, inserted in this issue of *The CreekLine*!



## LEGO Club

(Grades K-5)

Wed., August 13 • 3:00 pm  
Bartram Trail Branch Library

Come into the library to play with our LEGO bricks and pieces. We supply the LEGO bricks and fun - all you need to bring is your imagination. There is no registration or fee for this program.

Richard M. Oglesby, D.V.M. • Constanze Goricki, Dr. med.vet • Tara Hogan, D.V.M



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## Reading Pals program looking for volunteers

The Early Learning Coalition of North Florida and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of St. Johns County (RSVP) has successfully joined forces to create a reading pals program for pre-school and VPK centers. Volunteers are now visiting local childcare centers, VPK and Head Start classrooms once a week to read to small groups of children.

"We are so grateful for our volunteers," said Joan Whitson, ELC's Early Literacy Coordinator. "The staff has told me the children look forward to greeting the readers and go right to them when they arrive. Studies show that the best opportunity to influence our children's lifetime learning is before kindergarten when their most rapid period of brain growth occurs. Reading one on one to children sets the groundwork for their future ability to read and

learn."

Through the volunteer Reading Pals Program many students are now receiving the personal attention they need.

The ELC and RSVP are seeking more volunteers to join this wonderful program. There will be a required training session on Thursday, September 11 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in St. Augustine. To register or for more information to become a reading pal, please contact Joan Whitson with the ELC of North Florida



Volunteer reader Erika Bauserman of St. Augustine reading a Dora the Explorer book to her students at Brandts Child Care in St. Augustine.

at 342-2267 and at [jwhitson@elcnorthflorida.org](mailto:jwhitson@elcnorthflorida.org) or Cheryl Freeman at the RSVP program at 547-3952 or [freemac@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:freemac@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## Newcomers announce September luncheon and fashion show program

By Contributing Writer Mona Jensen

Newcomers of North Saint Johns (NNSJ) will hold its luncheon meeting on Tuesday, September 16, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant, located at 1915 B A1A South in St. Augustine. Please join us. The program will feature a fashion show by Cottonways Clothing Shop in St. Augustine. The show will highlight outfits that can transition from summer to fall with coordinated accessories. Each lady who attends will receive a 20 percent discount and two lucky ladies will receive a \$25 gift certificate as a raffle prize.

The menu will include salad, bread and butter, choice of Eggplant or Chicken Parmigiana, pasta and Sfogliatelle, a Neapolitan shell pastry, for dessert. A cash bar will be

available and door prizes and raffles will be offered.

The total cost is \$22, including tax and tip. All reservations must be received by September 6 and there will be no refunds. Please address checks to NNSJ, indicate your entry choice and mail to Ann Palmieri, 754 Copperhead Circle, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

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. 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](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net).

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# Eating with Type 2 Diabetes

By Contributing Writer Kristin Collins, Community Relations and Volunteers, Baptist Medical Center South

You make food choices every day. Whole wheat or white bread? A side of French fries or fresh fruit? Eat now or later? Choices about what, when and how much you eat affect your blood glucose. Understanding how food affects blood glucose is the first step in managing diabetes. Following a diabetes meal plan can help keep you on track.

Having type 2 diabetes means that your body doesn't

control blood glucose well. When blood glucose stays too high for too long, serious health problems can develop.

"Diabetes can be easy to control with the right balance of medication, diet and exercise," says Wasim Deeb, MD, Baptist Medical Center South Endocrinology.

You can delay or prevent kidney, eye and heart disease, and other complications of

diabetes.

**Control carbohydrates:** Carbohydrates are foods that have the biggest effect on your blood glucose levels. After you eat carbohydrates, your blood glucose rises. Fruit, sweet foods, starchy foods (such as bread, potatoes and corn), milk and milk carbohydrates contain carbohydrates. Although carbohydrates are important for health, when you eat too many at once, your blood glucose can go too high. Better choices are less processed foods with more fiber and nutrients, such as 100 percent whole wheat bread, oatmeal, brown rice and non-starchy vegetables.

**Food and medicine:** Insulin helps glucose move from the blood into your muscle cells, where it can be used for energy. Some oral diabetes medications help you produce more insulin or help your insulin work better, so your medications and food plan have to work together. If you take insulin shots, your need to be especially careful to match the amount of carbohydrates you eat with your insulin dose. If you consume too many carbohydrates without adjusting your insulin dose, your blood glucose might rise too high. If you consume too few carbohydrates, your blood glucose might go too low. Your provider or a dietitian can help you match your food choices to your medication.

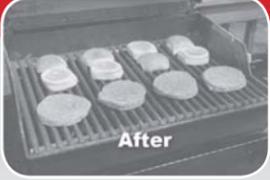
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## How to conserve and protect water

Water is so abundant that it's easily taken for granted. According to the United States Geological Survey, about 71 percent of the planet's surface is covered by water, roughly 97 percent of which is in the world's oceans. Water below the surface of the ground is critical to life, creating viable habitats that help plants and animals thrive.

Although water is plentiful, some areas have an abundance of water while others do not. As a result, people need to work collectively to protect the world's water and ensure a healthy planet for centuries to come.

**Conserve:** Conserving water is important as a substantial amount of resources are needed to transport, pump, procure, treat and store water for public use. The following are a few ways to conserve water.

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Water a lawn or plants when they are not exposed to direct sunlight. When a lawn or garden is watered during peak sunlight hours, a significant amount of water will be lost to evaporation.
- Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when it has a full load.
- Purchase water-efficient appliances.
- Use rainwater to irrigate the lawn and garden.

**Protect:** It's important to protect as well as conserve water. The following are a handful of ways to protect water supplies.

- Apply pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only do so when the forecast is not calling for rain, which can cause

runoff, sending chemicals into groundwater and local water supplies.

- Recycle and dispose of household chemicals properly.
- Instead of washing your car at home, have it cleaned at

a commercial car wash that uses eco-friendly cleaning products and recycled water.

- Properly dispose of pet waste to protect against pathogens that can contaminate surface water.

keeps your glucose levels stable and helps your medication work best. Physical activity is an important way to control blood glucose, too. Try to exercise at the same time every day. That way you can build the extra calories you need for exercise into your meal plan. Remember to emphasize these healthy foods into your meal plan:

- Whole grains, such as 100 percent whole wheat bread, brown rice and oatmeal
- Nonfat or low-fat dairy products, such as nonfat milk and yogurt
- Lean meats, poultry, fish, eggs, and dried beans and peas
- Fruits and vegetables

By checking your blood glucose one to two hours after eating, you can learn how your food choices affect your blood glucose. Having a meal plan that you can live with will keep you at your healthy best.

## SJ Pet Center

Continued from page 1

everyone to pitch in! Please share with all your friends and family as well. Thank you and remember, you can vote every day, after 24 hours and voting ends August 31. This is the link to the Facebook page where you can cast a daily vote: <http://bit.ly/1ihxSnk>. You can also search for "Pet Paradise" on Facebook. Let's band together and help the Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center help our local animal shelter.

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Dr. Thomas and his wife Tracy have been involved with chiropractic and alternative health care for over fifteen years. Throughout that time they have served in many different capacities focused on one main objective, changing health outcomes for everyone they meet. Recently the couple took the greatest step forward by opening Vibrant Life Health Center in the Jullington Creek - Mandarin area of Jacksonville Florida. Vibrant Life Health Center seeks to passionately and sincerely inspire, empower, and heal families, friends, patients, and people within the community they have yet to meet so everyone can achieve complete health in their lives.

The Health Center offers a comprehensive list of services that include:

- Specific chiropractic services focused on nervous system function and proper biomechanics throughout the body.

- Acute care addressing disc injuries, sciatica, back pain, neck pain, and extremity dysfunction.
- Sports injuries and performance enhancement for professional, amateur, and school age athletics.
- NutriMost accessing, balancing, and clearing hormonal and neurotransmitter disruptions that block fat burning and result in challenging health issues.
- Massage including Swedish, Neuromuscular, Sports, Bamboo, Chair, Myofascial, Deep Tissue, Cellulite reduction, and Hydro/Aroma massages.
- Functional Medicine using Biofeedback technology and essential oils for customized health plans to address numerous health challenges
- Educational classes sharing the life-enhancing benefits of therapeutic-grade essential oils and essential oil enhanced wellness made specific to you through biofeedback technology.

Vibrant Life Health Center is the result of events that occurred in the couple's life that led to what they call "The end of the road for modern medical care" regarding health challenges Tracy experienced. They came to a point where their General



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Practitioner, deliverer of their four children, and personal friend told them that there was nothing more the medical model could do and that they would need to seek alternative health care. Not knowing what the term meant led them on a journey, and mission, that not only cured Tracy of her issues and addressed health challenges the children had; but, created a new definition of Health and Wellness.

Health and Wellness is not the absence of pain or sickness, its not taking prescriptions that snowball into more and more prescriptions. Health and Wellness is knowing how well your nervous system is functioning, what goes into your body, and onto your skin. It is choices; making better bad choices, reading labels and ingredients, walking or just moving to the best of your ability. It is making a plan with real measurable outcomes. At Vibrant Life Health Center we come along side you and develop a plan for you to achieve a balanced healthy life.

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## Mark your calendars for an eco-fashion show!

Panache presents The Love Your Mother Eco Fashion Show at Volkswagen of St. Augustine, which will be held on September 20, with curtain time at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the show will benefit Home Again of St. Johns, a non-profit organization coordinating homeless services to alleviate and end homelessness in the St. Johns County community. A shower and laundry facility is a much needed addition to their premises.



Panache's fashion show gives back to the community, by raising awareness on the conservation of the environment and brings everyone together to accomplish one mutual goal.

"Giving back is our passion and helping others is our commitment," said Kristy Weeks, owner of Panache Salon and Spa.

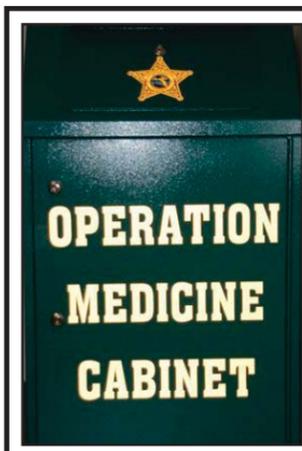
Tickets are limited and cost \$45 per person.

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Want to be a designer?

With a group or on your own, please submit a three to six piece collection of outfits made from recycled materials. Love Your Mother Eco Fashion Show DJ Austin Weeks will pair your collection with music. Panache can help you with your hair and make-up on show day. For more information on how to get involved, please contact creative director Juliana Koutouzakis at Julianakoutouzakis@gmail.com.



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The Memorial Emergency Center - Atlantic is Memorial Hospital's second free-standing ER. In October of 2012 Memorial opened its first free standing emergency center, the Memorial Emergency Center - Julington Creek. Since opening, the Julington Creek location has seen thousands of patients.



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## Good Deed Brigade

# The power and comfort of therapy dogs: Angela Byrd

By Contributing Writer David Wolf



evaluator and trainer. When her father became too ill to care of his dog, he reluctantly had to give his dog up for adoption. Byrd saw the pain and angst that this caused her father.

Right here in North Florida, we have a wonderful ability to provide some joy, laughter, support and comfort to our elderly residents, hospital patients, nursing home patients, special needs children and many others. The lives of many people are enhanced in North Florida thanks to the efforts and expertise of Angela Byrd, a dog trainer and therapy dog evaluator.

Byrd's work with dogs began in 1992 in the fields of competition, obedience and conformation. After almost 10 years attending dog shows and provided group and individual obedience classes, Byrd began working as a therapy dog

Thereafter, Byrd began bringing her dogs to see her father for visits. Both the room and her father brightened up when the dogs greeted her father and there was a certain calm and peace when the dogs lay by his side.

When her father died, Byrd wondered how many more people she could help with visits from therapy dogs. She did some research and located Therapy Dogs, Inc. (www.TherapyDogs.com), which is an organization that helps evaluate and register therapy dogs throughout the nation. Through Therapy Dogs, Inc., all dogs must complete a handling test and perform three time peri-

ods of observation to become registered. There are some other documentation and application requirements as well.

Byrd's and her own therapy dogs frequently visit local nursing home and hospice locations. As she noted, "These amazing and kind animals lift the spirits of not only the patients but also the staff members and any other people who come in contact with the dogs. It certainly brings a smile to my face every time that I can do my part to help people through the comfort of these wonderful dogs."

In addition to healthcare facilities, therapy dogs visit other locations as well including special events and libraries. Some therapy dog handlers bring dogs to reading problems at libraries. The children get to read to the dogs without fear of judgment of peers or a teacher.

Byrd shared, "It is a wonderful way to engage children especially those with learning disabilities and other challenges."

Byrd's gifted skills in working with dogs are apparent with every visit, training and evaluation. When she is not completing the dog therapy evaluations (which are free of charge) or going on her frequent visits

with her therapy dogs, Byrd provides private in-home dog training services through her company, Take the Lead Dog Training.

The Good Deed Brigade salutes Angie Byrd for her dedication and community service as a therapy dog handler and evaluator. Follow the example set by Angie Byrd and go out in your community and 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 email us at GoodDeedBrigade@gmail.com or visit us at the official website of the Good Deed Brigade at www.GoodDeedBrigade.com.

## Porpoises are league champs for third year in a row



Congratulations to all of the swimmers on the Julington Creek Plantation Club Porpoises swim team, Coach Tracy Reed, aka CHS Swim Coach, Coach Sydney Sherwood, the junior coaching staff, outgoing team President Mark Councilor, parent board of directors and all of the Porpoise families for another fun and successful summer swim season. The Plantation Club Porpoises earned the title of St. Johns Summer Swim League Champions for the third year in a row with a combined team score of 3548. Second place went to the Heritage Landing Hammerheads and third place was the St. Johns Golf and Country Club Stingrays, followed by Bartram Springs Barracudas, World Golf Fighting Turtles, Palencia Piranhas, Durbin Crossing Dolphins and Sawgrass Country Club.

The Porpoises swimmers were all business as they took to the water on both Friday night, July 18 and Saturday morning, July 19 at Cecil Field Aquatic Center. Many Porpoises earned SJSSL High Point Awards of distinction for their strong finishes in each of their three individual events by age

groups. Girls 6 and under first place high point went to Olivia Moore, second runner up, Sarah Roccoleau; Boys 6 and under first place was Hayes Hendley. Girls 7-8 first place was earned by Ryann Frechette, second runner up, Addison Revels. Boys 7-8 first place was Michael Garwood. Girls 9-10 had a tie for first place between Emma Chestang and Emma Revels; first runner up was Brooke Shon. Boys 9-10 winner was Aiden Paro. Girls 11-12 first runner up was Meredith Strickland, second runner up was Logan Henley; 11-12 boys first place was Jacob White. Girls 15-18 first runner up was Brittney Campbell, second runner up, Kristin McKernan. Boys 15-18 first runner up was Samuel Williams.

Congratulations, Porpoises on a great 2014 season!

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Foodie buzz

# Whip it up!

By Donna Keathley

It's time for us to get ready for school to start and get our schedules organized. The days go fast and dinner time comes around before we know it!

It's a hassle to stop at the store and begin a full cooked meal. So, naturally, I have some ideas for our readers to just add a bag of some prepared sides like instant rice and prepared salad to make things easy.

### Crock-Pot Turkey Breast

- 1 turkey breast
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 med. onion
- 4 garlic cloves

Rinse the turkey and pat it dry with paper towels. Rub the turkey all over with the oil. Sprinkle the breast lightly with the salt and pepper. Place the breast meaty side up into a slow cooker.

Peel the onion, cut it into quarters and place the pieces around the edges of the pot. Peel the garlic cloves and place them around the sides of the cooker. Cover the cooker and cook the breast on low for nine hours. Removes the breast from the cooker and let the bird stand at least 10 minutes before slicing. Serve with rice or instant potatoes.

The next recipe is one of my family's favorites; they are southern and love barbeque. The men just go for the meat, but the children prefer it on a bun. I serve sweet potato fries with this because the flavors partner nicely. We have taken this on picnics and to pot lucks and it's always a success.

### North Carolina Barbeque

- 1 pork shoulder
- 1 med. onion
- ¼ cup vinegar
- ½ cup ketchup
- Garlic powder

Place pork shoulder into slow cooker, cover with chopped onion and a shake of garlic powder. Mix vinegar and ketchup and pour on top of the meat. Cook on slow for nine hours. Serve with sweet potatoes fries and slaw.

For you beef lovers, here's one recipe to just ladle over noodles. Serve with a can on green veggies and you have a great meal!

### Burgundy Beef

- 1 boneless beef chuck pot roast
- 1 can beef mushroom soup
- 1 can creamy onion soup
- 1 cup mushrooms or chopped onion (optional)

Trim excess fat from meat. Cut meat into one-inch pieces. Place in slow cooker. Stir in soups. Cover and cook on low for nine hours.

There's nothing like a slow cooker to make your day easy; just add sides like bag salad, rice noodles and veggies to make your family a healthy meal.

Stay tuned to my column each month for additional easy "whip it up" goodies!

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

## water less

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

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## Loggerheads just keep swimming!

By Contributing Writer Lorraine Herreros

July traditionally marks the end of the swimming long course season and is a busy month full of championship meets. The Loggerheads began the month on a light-hearted note with their annual Survival Swim on July 4th. Swimmers jumped into the pool fully dressed with sweat-shirts, jeans and tee shirts over their swimsuits and socks and sneakers on their feet. After each 100 yards, swimmers could remove just one water-logged article of clothing until, after much effort, they finally (and thankfully) ended up in their streamlined Speedos. A great time was had by all!

The USA Swimming Southern Zone South Sectionals were on July 10 through July 14 in Orlando. Loggerhead swimmers who qualified for this ultra-competitive meet were Jennifer Brennock, John Brennock, Lukas Burchianti, Zach Burke, Ethan Chestang, Abbey Ellis, Anna Gapinski, Dani Gordon, Evan Jacob, Ben Koros, Aubrey Miller, Julianna Pettinger, Tanner Rogalski, Faith Rogers, Phillip Stevens, Carter Strickland, Jane Wadhams and Owen Wheeler. Highlights of the event included Gordon's eighth place finish in the 200 breast, Jacob's 13th in the 200 fly and 15th in the 200 breast and Wadhams' 19th in the 1500 free.

The following week was the Florida Age Group Championships (FLAGs) in Gainesville. Loggerheads who

qualified for this super-fast meet for 14 and under swimmers were Anna Moore, Isaiah Thompson, Jonathan Kim, Raymond Proinski, Abbey Ellis, Meghan Shaffer, Brooke Arnold, Megan Arnold, David Gapinski, Hadley Browder, Emma Chestang, Cameron Ellis, Anna Gapinski, Gaby Hert, Emma Howell, Ryan Krejci, Ty LaRue, Samantha Mace, Aubrey Miller, Ciara O'Donohoe, Adrian Oake, Phoebe Oake, Aidan Paro, Eleanor Pol-litt, Robbie Rait, Lizzie Ryan, Avery Sargeant, Lexi Smith, Taylor Thomson, Lauren Trummel, Jack Van Deusen, Anouk Victor and Yvette Zerry. Moore was the third place high point winner for the 10 and under girls finishing second in the 50 fly, third in the 50 free, fourth in the 100 free and 100 fly and fifth in the 50 breast. Thompson was the ninth place high point winner for the 11 year old boys finishing fourth in the 50 free, fifth in the 50 fly, 50 breast and 200 IM and sixth in the 100 fly. Other JCLA highlights included Shaffer's sixth place in the 50 fly, A. Ellis' sixth in the 200 back and eighth in the 100 back, Kim's sixth in the 50 fly and seventh in the 50 free and 100 fly, D. Gapinski's eighth place in the 100 fly and Proinski's eighth place in the 100 back.

For information about becoming a part of Loggerhead swimming, visit our website at [www.loggerheadaquatics.com](http://www.loggerheadaquatics.com).



Loggerhead swimmers at the "Survival Swim."

# 10 reasons to visit Puerto Rico

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



Puerto Rico is one of the closest Caribbean islands, but for some reason, most folks don't think of it. The island offers attractions that range from the adventurous (like the underground caves, zip-lining and rappelling) to the historic, 500-year old walls of the El Morro fort, part of the United States National Park system. There are plenty of options between the two extremes, but here are my top reasons to visit Puerto Rico.

1. No passport is needed as Puerto Rico is a United States territory.

2. There is no need to exchange money, just use your United States dollars.

3. Getting there is fast and easy, especially on direct flights. JetBlue runs a non-stop from Jacksonville to San Juan for around \$400. Flights to some other Caribbean islands require flying first to Miami, then transferring to smaller airlines and possibly shuttling again via a ferry boat.

4. The Caribbean waters that surround Puerto Rico shimmer crystal clear and soft; white sand beaches beg you to go barefoot. All water sports

are possible, including surfing or rental of any equipment.

5. Puerto Rico is among the top 10 places worldwide to see a rain forest and El Yunque Tropical Rainforest is the only tropical rain forest in the United States National Forest system. The display of colorful green foliage bursts with sound of Coqui, the song of the local tree frogs. You'll find with a variety hiking trails, from easy to difficult, scenic waterfalls, a helpful introductory movie in the Visitor Center. If you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the Puerto Rican Parrot, an endangered species only found here. Dress for wet conditions as El Yunque receives 100 billion gallons of precipitation per year. Definitely my favorite attraction on the island.

6. Bioluminescent bay kayak or boat tours. After sunset, the sky and waters emit a blue glow from the half-plant, half-animal microorganisms. Stir up the water with an oar and see bioluminescent dinoflagellates living in the bay. Very cool!

7. Taste flavorful food. Start your day with robust coffee, grown on the island. By afternoon you'll be ready for a laid back rum punch. Island rum won't break your budget. Consider a culinary tour or cooking class and discover delicious cuisine with a Caribbean kick.

8. Puerto Rico's geographic position made San Juan one of the key historic outposts of Spain's West Indies dominions. San Juan National Park includes two forts, both larger than Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, but very similar. Castillo San Cristóbal helped guard the city from land attacks while Castillo San Felipe del Morro guards at the entrance to the San Juan Bay.

9. Puerto Rico is a golfer's

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## CCP Property Owners Association update

By Contributing Writer Linda Stuart

The monthly meeting of the Cunningham Creek Plantation Property Owners Association was held on July 28. Regular business prevailed. If you have questions or problems, please call Carmen Mazzeo, the association manager at Signature Realty, 268-0035. Our website is CCPPOA.com and might also help with some of your questions.

School will be starting soon. Please be especially careful when driving before and after school. Welcome to our new neighbors!

Our next meeting is August 25. Look for the signs at the entrances for time and place. Homeowners are invited to attend meetings and become involved in committees.

dream with 15 world class courses. Serious enthusiasts can arrange to stay in one of the fabulous all-inclusive resorts.

10. Resplendent resorts can be found throughout the island to meet any budget or extravagance. For ease, some lie very near the San Juan airport, so only a short taxi ride is needed.

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## All in the name of rock and roll



Local artist and past reality show contestant Preston Pohl entertains VIP guests at The Boys and Girls Club Rock and Roll Bash. Photo by Tammy Harrow

and Roll Bash hosted by Bozard Ford Lincoln entertained 350 guests with live music by Preston Pohl, The Dirty Gringos, Nettles Poker tournaments, Leonard Studio's interactive photo booth and live and text bidding opportunities. Lots of British icons made appearances at the this year's bash such as Big Ben, red telephone booths, Union Jack flags—plus Austin Powers and British Bombshells were spotted mingling amidst the hundreds of guests. The entire dealership as well as the food and beverages embraced the British flair all in the name of rock and roll and charity. The Rockin' Bash raised \$61,000 to support THE PLAYERS Championship Boys and Girls Club in St. Augustine.

This was the second year that the Rock and Roll Bash supported local youth via the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys

and Girls Club currently engages its 250 members each afternoon with high energy programs including study hall, mentorship, arts, sports and character development. The club serves all St. Johns County youth ages five to 18 daily in an after-school and summer camp setting. The club strives to provide enrichment and a safe, engaging atmosphere where youth can be inspired, grow and belong. The life lessons that the club provides foster bright futures reflective in the decrease of teen mothers and criminal involvement of their members.

Next year's Rock and Roll Bash will be held on Saturday, May 23 at the Bozard dealership. Questions related to the event or St. Augustine's Boys and Girls Club can be directed to Jennifer Tesori at 669-0107 or jstesori@gmail.com.

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The local Boys and Girls Club has reported that their Memorial Day weekend fundraiser was a smashing success. On Saturday, May 24, the fourth annual "British Invasion" Rock

## Troop 474 celebrates one year at Unity

By Contributing Writer Michelle DeDeo, Troop Advancement Coordinator



Troop 474 contingent at Warner-Robbins AFB

Chartered in 2003, Boy Scout Troop 474 had been highly active in the Julington Creek Plantation area when they needed to move last August as their original charter organization declined to renew. Luckily, Rev. Mona Krane and the Unity Church for Creative Living - St. Johns were happy to offer the troop a new home.

Consisting of 35 active scouts, the troop had a busy year once they moved in. Their campouts were as diverse as the troop. From camping on Jekyll Island, a shooting sports campout, a ski trip to Sugar Mountain, canoeing the Suwanee and running the courses at Camp Blanding to a week-long summer camp at Rainey Mountain in Georgia, the scouts enjoyed each moment.

The troop's philosophy, like Unity's, is balance: for those who want to get their Eagle rank, the troop provides many opportunities such as monthly campouts, service projects and merit badge classes as well as a dedicated Eagle Scout coordinator. Five scouts in Troop 474 attained the rank of Eagle this past year and 10 boys are currently working towards this distinguished rank. The troop is also happy to have those scouts who just want to be a scout and have a great camping experience.

Eagle Scout Noah DeDeo, who participated for a second year in a scout camp whitewater program said, "Whitewater was really fun and challenging. I'd highly recommend doing it."

Troop 474 has also been involved in over a dozen service projects from helping at the St. Francis House soup kitchen to serving lunch at Camp I Am Special. They have also been happy to help their sponsor, Unity CCL - St. Johns.

Rev. Mona Krane quipped, "It has been such a joy to have Boy Scout Troop 474 with us this year! Their commitment to responsible citizenship, character development and self-reliance exemplifies the ethics we teach our children, as well as supporting our church activities such as our Farmer's Market and holiday celebrations. Bravo and much gratitude Troop 474!"

Troop 474 meets Tuesday nights throughout the year at 6:45 p.m. at Unity CCL-St. Johns, located at 2777 Race Track Road. Interested boys aged 10 to 17 and their parents are welcome. For both boys and girls up to age 20, Unity also sponsors Venture Crew 474. More information about the troop and the crew can be found at www.bsatroop474.com.

## BGH fashion show!



Betty Griffin House, the safety shelter for victims of domestic abuse and/or rape in St Johns County is having its annual benefit luncheon fashion show, "Runway For Safety" on Tuesday, September 30 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets are \$55, advanced sales only. Please call Florie at 543-1086 or email florieadiu@aol.com for reservations or information. Fashions will be by Stein Mart and modeling in our show will be Mary Baer and Richard Nunn from WJXT news. Joining them will be Linnie Schultz, Bill Tickle of Vicars Landing, Jacksonville Jaguar Roar cheerleaders, Jacksonville Suns cheerleaders, Angi Boselli, Vici Pappas and a host of other models, representing all sizes and all ages. Come join the fun and support the Betty Griffin House. Pictured are Linnie Schultz and Bill Tickle.

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\*\* Some restrictions apply. For qualified borrowers. Offer can be withdrawn anytime without prior notice. Payments can be deferred for up to 90 days from the date of loan closing. Interest will continue to accrue during loan payment deferral period. Deferring loan payments may increase the total amount of finance charges you pay. Excludes loans already financed at First Florida Credit Union.

## Helping Hands update Craft Sale to benefit Canine Companions coming soon!

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou



Beautiful shell cross, one of the offerings at the upcoming craft sale.

On August 29, 2014 Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. This month's project will be Soles for Souls. Helping Hands will be collecting gently used, serviceable shoes, boots or sneakers for men, women and children that are either in shelters or homeless. Please contact jacqphil@aol.com if you would like to donate any shoes. Shoes need to be in good condition; no sandals, flip flops or heels, please. The group will be finalizing plans for the spectacular craft fair that will be held at the Church Community Center on September 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Helping Hands members continue to make quality, unique handmade items that will be available at the craft fair in September that will benefit Canines Companions for Independence. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to them and they will be on hand

that day for a meet and greet. This worthwhile organization provides service dogs to disabled and hearing impaired children, skilled companion for a wounded vet (not PTSD) and facility dogs who work with professionals in rehabilitation, hospital or health care setting. Gilmore the dog that visited the group in May is the Ronald McDonald House dog.

Items available at the craft fair, all made by Helping Hands members, include jewelry, pet items, purses, bath products, clothing, teen and team themed items, fairy gardens, birdhouses (garden art) linens, lots of holiday and seasonal items, specialty gifts, darling baby items and even men's barbecue aprons. We have lots of shell pots and crosses, hairpieces and exceptional shell art. There is something for everyone!

There will also be a collectibles table with Lenox, Hummels, Roenthal and Waterford items. Refreshments will be available for sale and First Florida Credit Union staff will be on hand with their popcorn machine and free popcorn for all. Only cash and checks payable to Canine Companions will be accepted for bought items. No credit cards, please. Helping Hands would like to invite the community to come see all the beautiful merchandise they have for sale and to help make the dream of a disabled person come true. Remember to mark your calendar for Saturday, September 6!

Helping Hands meets the last Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center to do a small project for community. The group is non-denominational and there are no dues, officers or stress. For more information, please contact jacqphil@aol.com.

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## Help yourself to fine dining while helping care for injured wildlife!



HAWKE, the Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education, Inc. announces the 18th annual "Dinner for the Birds" to benefit HAWKE's mission of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and environmental education. The dinner will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26 in the private upstairs dining room of the famous Raintree Restaurant in St. Augustine. In addition to the dinner, a birds of prey demonstration will be given by HAWKE curator and president Melanie Cain-Stage featuring owls, hawkswallow-tailed kite and an albino crow.

HAWKE depends on fund raisers and memberships to support the rescue and rehabilitation of hundreds of injured wild birds, mammals and reptiles each year with the goal of releasing healthy wildlife back to their natural habitat. There is no state or federal funding for wildlife rehabilitation and many centers in NE Florida have closed or are no longer accepting patients, so fundraisers like the Dinner for the Birds are critical for HAWKE's mission. In the last eight months alone, HAWKE received 10 bald eagles that are very expensive to feed and care for.

HAWKE is blessed to have Lorna MacDonald, her family and her staff at Raintree host this annual event to show their support for wildlife rehabilitation. This year, the Raintree will offer the following spectacular selection:

- Devils on Horseback - Bacon wrapped prunes with mango chutney
- Curried Lobster and Vegetable Salad - Cous with cucumber, asparagus, tomato, and greens
- Crusted Filet Mignon - Center cut with Stilton cheese and garlic mashed potatoes
- Bread Pudding - with Bourbon

sauce and vanilla bean ice cream  
Complimentary tea or coffee and a cash bar available for alcoholic beverages

The dinner is limited to 50 guests and has historically sold out very quickly, so call 692-1777 to check on availability and to make reservations. The donation of \$70 per person for HAWKE members includes gratuity and directly supports HAWKE's mission of rescuing and caring for injured wildlife in our area. Non-members donation is \$75 per person. Advance payment with reservations are required (no walk-up seating will be available) and a vegetarian dinner is available if requested with reservation. You can also reserve your seat from the HAWKE website, www.hawkewildlife.org and pay with your credit card.

If you are unable to attend, please consider a tax deductible donation to HAWKE. Membership in the Association is \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family membership (larger donations are also welcome) and can be sent to HAWKE, Inc., P.O. Box 188 Elkton, FL 32033 or you can also join on the website at www.hawkewildlife.org. All donations are tax deductible and include a thank you letter, wildlife patient photo, and a spring and fall open house tour where you see otters, hawks, owls and other wildlife. HAWKE also needs donations of frozen or fresh fish, gift certificate cards for grocery stores or Home Depot or PetCo and volunteers to help with various projects.



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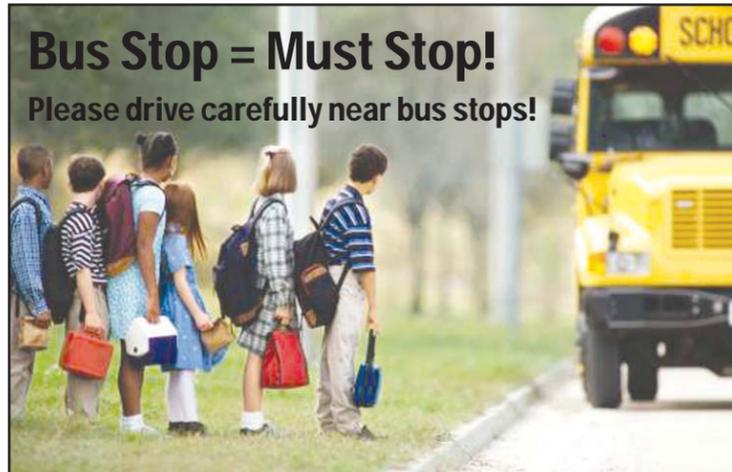
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Come into the library to play with our LEGO bricks and pieces. We supply the LEGO bricks and fun - all you need to bring is your imagination. There is no registration or fee for this program.

## St. Johns Business Network annual golf tournament raises over \$6,000

Royal St. Augustine, one of St. Johns County premiere golf courses, was the setting for the second annual St. Johns Business Network Charity Golf Tournament on Sunday July 13, 2014. The tournament hosted 108 male and female golfers. More than \$6,000 was raised and the proceeds are being donated to the Betty Griffin House. The outing, designed for golf enthusiasts, had a 9:00 a.m. tee-off with a four player scramble best ball format. The 18-hole event included breakfast provided by Leroy's Hole in the Wall and lunch provided by Ned's Southside Grill, special golf contests, 50/50 raffle, prizes, gifts and a chance to win a White Hawk Ultra Lite from Ocean Grove RV.

Sponsors of the event included the following: Ocean Grove RV, Pop-a-lock, Meehan's Irish Pub, Rulon International, Flagler Hospital, Tanner Martinez Chiropractic, Ancient City Accounting, Matanzas Geosciences, GEC Sales & Marketing, Five Star Pizza, Big Fat Coupon Book, Memory Hopkins, Tim's Wine Market, Craig Funeral Home, Kresge, Platt and Abare, Casa Maria, Leroy's Hole in the Wall, Petros. Morris Publication, Kemp Commercial Realty,

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"Our staff, volunteers and participants are extremely thankful to the St. Johns Business Network for all of their hard work and for choosing to donate their proceeds to Betty Griffin House" said Joyce Mahr, CEO for Betty Griffin House

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 is 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, please visit [www.bettygriffinhouse.org](http://www.bettygriffinhouse.org).

### Did you know?

## Gluten-free entertaining

When hosting a dinner party, hosts might be asked to provide some gluten-free foods. Gluten is a general name for proteins found in wheat that help foods maintain their shape. But gluten also can be found in cereal grains such as rye and barley as well as a variety of crossbreeds.

Gluten is not unhealthy, but many people are gluten-intolerant. When such people, who may suffer from celiac disease, consume gluten, they may be triggering an immune system response that damages their intestines and prevents them from absorbing nutrients they need to stay healthy. Some gluten-intolerant people may be

suffering from a wheat allergy that can produce various reactions to wheat allergens.

Party hosts concerned about guests with a gluten intolerance may want to consult those guests about which foods they can and cannot eat. A gluten-free diet typically forbids gluten-intolerant men, women and children from consuming bread, beer, French fries, pasta, salad dressing, soy sauce and certain soups; however, many food manufacturers have begun to produce gluten-free alternatives to popular foods and beverages, making it easier than ever for dinner party hosts to cater to gluten-intolerant guests.

## St. Johns County takes first prize at the ALA Diversity and Outreach Fair

Library System Director Debra Rhodes Gibson is pleased to announce that the library system received honors and recognition at this year's American Library Association (ALA) Conference by taking first place in the ALA Diversity and Outreach Fair.

The St. Johns County Public Library System submitted an application featuring the Early Literacy Programming of its Bookmobile-Extension Services Department. One of only 35 applicants accepted nationwide, the library system was invited to create a display and presentation to be given at this year's annual ALA Conference in Las Vegas. A specially made banner, story-time curriculum and craft pieces were combined for the winning display.

The library system has set many priorities in support of early education and early childhood development. Activities built around these priorities can be seen throughout the library system during weekly toddler and pre-k children's programs. The Bluebird Express bookmobile services over 20 daycare organizations and early learning centers in areas of St. Johns County that are far from our branch libraries. Along with offering a varied collection of children's books on board, the bookmobile staff provides programs that include activities to promote physical development and learning readiness. A featured activity is the nationally recognized "Mother Goose on the Loose" program, which promotes six pre-reading skills: letter sounds, letter knowledge, reading for fun, how books work, vocabulary and how to tell a story.

Gibson was pleased to receive this special recognition:

"Outreach Services are a big part of what we do and it is especially pleasing to be recognized for the efforts we make. Our outreach efforts, our bookmobiles and our books-by-mail services are key to connecting our library system with people who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the services of their local library. We are proud to be able to highlight the services to our citizens in such a positive way."

The library system received a \$200 gift certificate from Demco Library Products as first prize. The Bookmobile-Extension Services Department plans on using the prize to provide craft and program supplies for future events.

To learn more about all the services and resources available to you every day of the week, please contact us at 827-6928 or visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org).

## New location for natural pet market

Pet owners in the Mandarin and NW St. Johns County area seeking natural pet foods, holistic pet remedies and experienced advice on how to best care for the nutritional needs of their dogs and cats now have a local neighborhood source to turn to thanks to the opening of Earth Pets Natural Pet Market.

Earth Pets Natural Pet Market is recognized within the greater regional area as North Florida's original holistic pet supply store. Founded in Gainesville with roots going back to 1979, Earth Pets operates to date as an independent family-owned business with deep seeded philosophies based on sourcing stock only from manufacturers and providers whose products are carefully selected, based on adherence to the highest standards of quality, environmental responsibility, sustainability and cruelty-free practices.

"Earth Pets will never carry kibble, canned, dehydrated or freeze-dried foods that contain corn, wheat, soy or animal by-products...and we don't carry anything consumable that is

sourced from or processed in China," said Steve Huber, owner of Jacksonville Earth Pets Natural Pet Market.

Located next to Bailey's Powerhouse Gym near the intersection of San Jose Boulevard and Loretto Road, Earth Pets-Jacksonville operates within a state of the art pet resort facility, DogTown USA, a 35,000-square-foot facility that features all of the amenities a pet (and its owner) could want, including a grooming station and pet spa, massive indoor park and play area, waterpark and pool, fully-staffed animal hospital with licensed veterinarians and much more.

"Earth Pets is thrilled to partner with an organization that cares about pets as much as we do," said Huber. "No other facility offers the quality of pet care that DogTown USA does and now, with the addition of Earth Pets' extensive line of superior pet products, it will be a one-stop shop for all your pet needs."

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

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## Church celebrates special anniversary



ters Preschool, the launching of a Spanish-speaking church and the expansion of SCC from one small chapel to a 13-acre campus that includes a sanctuary, a gymnasium used by the entire community and the Joshua-Caleb Youth ministry center. Pastor Wes has been instrumental in forming partnerships with other churches in the region so that pastors can learn from and give support to each other. He has also been an active member of Jacksonville Pastors Fellowship and Transform Jacksonville/Northeast Florida, both of which seek to unite the Body of Christ in our region.

Switzerland Community Church (SCC) is celebrating the 35th anniversary of its pastor, Wesley Slough. Pastor Wes, as he is affectionately known, began his ministry at the church on August 1, 1979. The church held a combined 65th birthday/anniversary celebration for him on August 10. The theme was 65+35=100 years of blessings.

Pastor Slough received his training at Dallas Theological Seminary, graduating in 1979. His first call to ministry was Switzerland Community Church, where he continues. He followed Rev. E. L. Johnson, the founding pastor of the church, which is the oldest church in NW St. Johns County.

During his years of service, Pastor Wes and his wife, Bev Slough, have served our community in many ways, including the development of Living Wa-

In addition to his service at Switzerland Community Church, Pastor Wes has spent the last 15 years ministering in Voronezh, Russia. He and SCC have been instrumental in the planting of 60 churches in the region and has provided training for many pastors who, because of the influence of Communism for so long, were not able to receive any instruction in the elements of ministry. In July, he made his 20th trip to the region, including performing his third wedding there.

The ministry of Switzerland Community Church reaches around the world. In this summer alone, ministry teams have gone out to the greater Jacksonville area, Thailand, Peru, Mexico and Russia. Pastor Slough has been instrumental in setting the vision of reaching the world with the Gospel of Christ.

## Geneva Presbyterian celebrates VBS

By Contributing Writer Teri Batchelor, Financial Secretary, Geneva Presbyterian Church



Photo courtesy of Marcy James.

Geneva Presbyterian Church's annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a week of fun, adventure and discipleship! Seventy children from

the St. Johns community and surrounding area attended our VBS and learned about "Trusting God." Each morning we gathered in our sanctuary to



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## PACT announces second annual triathlon



PACT Prevention Coalition of St. John's County is pleased to announce the second annual St. Augustine Ultimate Summer Triathlon, which will be held on Sunday, August 17 at beautiful Vilano Beach beginning at 7:30 a.m. This sprint triathlon is coordinated by DRC Sports. Participants can sign up for an individual, team or relay event at [www.drcsports.com](http://www.drcsports.com). The

town, across the Usina bridge and back.

"We expect this year's event to attract additional Triathlon enthusiasts," stated Lynnette Horwath, PACT Prevention Coalition manager. "Last year our 228 participants came from as far away as Tacoma, Washington and Crystal Lake, Illinois."

An additional fund-raising

event features a one-quarter-mile ocean swim, an 11-mile bike ride and a three-mile run, capturing one of the best views in

component will be a carb loading dinner at Amici's Italian Restaurant, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on August 16. The all-you-can-eat pasta and salad buffet costs \$25 per person and advanced tickets are required. A small silent auction, featuring mainly sports accessories, will add to the evening's fun. The dinner is open to the public and will also feature three mini-presentations from local and regional fitness experts.

The triathlon is PACT's main annual fund-raising event. PACT Prevention of St. Johns County seeks to keep our local youth alcohol and drug free. PACT collaborates with other community partners in helping our pre-teens and teens make healthy, positive choices.

For more information or to purchase dinner tickets, please contact Lynnette Horwath at 829-6261 or [Lynnette@pact-prevention.org](mailto:Lynnette@pact-prevention.org).

learn songs and hear about the Bible verse of the day.

Then our parish associate, Rev. Charlie Landreth, donned his "Moses" costume and led the children through the parting of the Red Sea, finding quail and manna provided by God, defeating the Amalykites with the strength God provided and learning about the Ten Commandments and how we can apply them to our daily lives.

In our "Tent Camps," our

wonderful volunteers taught the children about sandal making, churning butter, baking bread, liturgical dancing and weaving. Of course every day we also had a special snack prepared by the loving hands of our famous kitchen helpers.

On Friday, we celebrated the week with Water Day and children of all ages slid down the huge water slides to cool off. Then all our VBS students and their families were invited to attend a picnic lunch in our

Fellowship Hall.

Our VBS would not be possible without the help of all our dedicated adult and teenage volunteers. We are so grateful for their dedication and the love that they show each child. It is Geneva's prayer that by touching the lives of and establishing relationships with each of our VBS students, we are encouraging them in their faith journey.

We are planning lots of great activities and mission projects for the fall. If you would like to know more about our children's, youth or adult ministries, please call the church office at 287-4865.

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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](mailto:editor@thecreekline.com) or 886-4919.

**Fruit Cove Baptist Church** announces the following opportunities: Military Support Ministry, serving the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of any military wife or mother will be offering a new Bible Study entitled, "Missing Pieces" by Jennifer Rothschild. It will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., beginning September 9 in the ROC Room 201. Childcare is provided by reservation. Please call Debbie Stoutamyer at 230-8413 with questions or to register. Grief Share is a faith-based support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This is a 13-week

DVD driven program designed to take you from mourning to joy and it begins on August 27, at 6:15 p.m. Childcare is provided. Please call Cecille Hammond at 230-6221 with questions or to register. Finally, Single Moms Hope and Help is a Bible study and support group designed by a single mom for single moms. It encourages you to flourish while in the midst of overwhelming circumstances. The group begins meeting on August 27 and childcare is provided. Please call Linda Warne at 287-0996 with questions or to register.

You are invited to join the community of **St. Patrick's Episcopal Church** on Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m. for worship. This will be our "kick-off" event for fall, highlighting the programs and plans we have for the next few months. Immediately following worship, we will be serving a tailgate-themed lunch for everyone. Come as you all - you will be welcomed! Also, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church offers Stories and Smiles, story time and creative movement for young children and their caregivers each Tuesday morning. Two sessions are offered: 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. for newborns through three-year-olds and 10:30 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. for three- to five-year-olds. This is free to all and all are welcome! Please invite your family members, friends and neighbors! St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is located on State Road 13 in St. Johns. For additional information, please call the church at 287-2807 or visit [www.stpatricksepiscopal.org](http://www.stpatricksepiscopal.org).

## The key to raising a child with rock-solid values

By Contributing Writer Dini Sharfstein, St. Johns Jewish Program Director

With so much competing for our kids' attention, how can Jewish parents make sure their young children and teens carry rock-solid values into adulthood? How can they make sure their kids feel proud to be Jewish?

The Center for Jewish Life in St Johns has the answer: Start young.

The Jewish Kids Club (JKC) is a children's club that combines social action and creative out-of-the box Jewish activities for kids ages three and up. Workshops such as Matzah bakery, Shofar factory and an olive press are just some of the fun activities done at monthly JKC events that encourage an exploration of Jewish values and a genuine, deep connection

to family and community.

For high schoolers, CTeen is the fastest growing Jewish teen network in the country. CTeen harnesses the incredible potential and energy of teenagers with dynamic programs that bring teens together to give back to their communities and the environment. As they engage in positive activities, they're forging new friendships based on exactly the values we want our kids to have.

Both of these exciting programs, Jewish Kids Club and CTeens, are brought to you by the Center for Jewish Life in St. Johns and will begin this September. For more information and to register your child or teen, please visit [www.JewishSJohnsCounty.com](http://www.JewishSJohnsCounty.com) or call 701-4422.

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## Geneva Presbyterian Church "Back to School" mission project

By Contributing Writer Teri Batchelor, Financial Secretary, Geneva Presbyterian Church



Photo courtesy of Marcy James.

If you have children, you know that every year about this time there is a flurry of activity preparing for the new school year. School supplies, clothing, shoes, backpacks – so many things that children need. For some families, this is also a difficult time because they do not have the resources to purchase what their children need.

Each year during our Vacation Bible School (VBS),

Geneva Presbyterian Church collects new school supplies for needy families in our community. Working with the Family Integrity Program of St. Johns County, our Presbyterian Women sponsor this annual mission project which provides backpacks, school supplies and gift cards for new shoes for 50 children in the area.

Every day during our VBS, the students are encouraged

to bring up their donations of school supplies and place them in the designated area. All kids understand school supplies and you should see the looks of pride on their faces when they bring up their offering each day. Presbyterian Women then purchase 50 backpacks using money they have earned during their fundraising efforts throughout the year. The backpacks are then filled and a \$25 gift card to Payless Shoes is included so that each child will be able to have a new pair of shoes when they start school. The Family Integrity Program then picks up the backpacks and distributes them to the families in need. Our representative from the program has told us many times how grateful they are for this essential ministry and that these backpacks are an answer to prayer.

Geneva Presbyterian Church feels blessed to be able to be a part of this important ministry that serves our community.

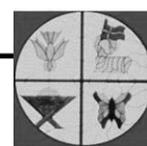
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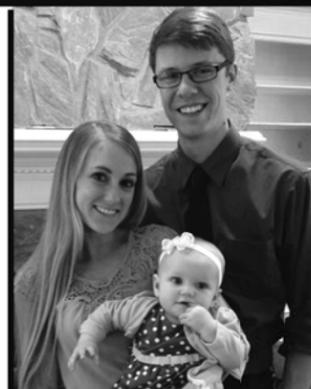
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- Other Activities: youth praise band, high school Breakfast Club, and youth leadership team.



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**Gardening**

# How hard is it to bee-friendly?

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

This is an important question, as unfortunately it has now become more complicated to make our yards and gardens truly bee-friendly.

To explain: a 2013 study by Friends of the Earth and the Pesticide Research Institute analyzed flowering plants sold by some big-box stores. We have all along believed these plants to be beneficial to bees, but there's a huge problem—just over 50 percent of the plants tested contained pesticides which are potentially very harmful to bees. They belong to a group of systemic chemicals called neonicotinoids, which are taken up by the plant and are found in all cells, including pollen and nectar. <http://www.foe.org/news/news-releases/2013-08-bee-die-offs-new-tests-find-bee-killing-pesticides>

The further problem with tainted nectar is the potential effect on butterflies and moths. Sadly the numbers of monarch butterflies overwintering this past year in Mexico were the lowest on record. The wide-

spread use of herbicides in crop fields has wiped out a great deal of the milkweed which monarchs need to reproduce, so they need all the help they can get, not pesticide-tainted plants.

As for our own plants and yards, maybe we are part of the problem; who intentionally buys plants with insect damage or even minor infestation? By being scrupulous about our plants, have we set unrealistic standards which the stores and growers need to live up to? Whatever their reasons for using neonicotinoids, I would like to have known what I've been bringing into my garden.

Currently I see no way around this, other than to buy plants from nurseries who can—hand on heart—promise that no such insecticides have been used or to grow my own, using untreated seed and organic growing media.

There are a number of attractive and useful perennials that can be started from seed, but if you already have plants that you want to increase, tak-

ing cuttings or dividing them at the right time can give quicker results. For further information on techniques, see <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003393/00001>

Perennial seeds to sow in the fall include coneflowers, butterfly weed, foxgloves and gaillardia. You can find a wide assortment of native seeds at [www.floridawildflowers.com](http://www.floridawildflowers.com)

For advice on growing from seed check out <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-001/426-001.html#L2>

For timely tips on cool season vegetable gardening, as well as what to do in the height of summer, see the latest installment of *A New Leaf*, from the Extension Service: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafJulyAug.14Mail.pdf>

Above all, enjoy. Research has shown that nature is good for us and it need be no more than the butterflies that visit the pretty planter on your deck or a great view from your window of a tree canopy, complete with visiting birds. Whatever you can manage will work.

## It's time for back to school....at our newest school!

# From the Principal

By Contributing Writer Emily Harrison, Principal, Patriot Oaks Academy

The teachers, staff and administration of Patriot Oaks Academy are busy preparing for a successful start to a new school year... in our new school! The facility continues to progress. Each day, finishing touches bring the hallways, classrooms and common areas to life! Many thanks to Larry Davis, our maintenance manager, who monitors every aspect of the construction process. His knowledge in opening a school and creating an environment that benefits the students and teachers is unparalleled. We are so fortunate he chose to embark on this adventure with us!

The amazing PTO, who have supported the school staff and the community's families from the very beginning through planning, fundraising, securing business partners and organizing events for the upcoming

school year are truly building a tradition of excellence from the ground up.

We urge anyone who may not have registered for the school year to please do so. While we hire and prepare for students who are currently enrolled, we must continue to hire as the need, through our increasing enrollment, dictates. We hope to minimize disruptions to class placements by having all of our staff in place for the start of the year.

Some important dates to mark in your calendars include: August 13: Kindergarten Orientation, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. August 14: Middle School "Meet and Greet," 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. August 15: School Wide Orientation PTO will be on site during

each of these visits to encourage membership and provide information. A representative from transportation and our cafeteria manager will be available to assist with questions you may have as well.

Information about classroom teachers and schedules will be communicated to families prior to these events.

Attention kindergarten parents: Information specifically for kindergarten families has been placed on the POA school website. Please make a special note about "Staggered Start."

What is "Staggered Start?" Staggered Start is a way for the kindergarten students to transition slowly to school. Kindergarten students will be assigned a day to attend school in groups of approximately five per group, per class, Monday through Thursday (August 18 through August 21). Kindergarten students only attend on the day they are scheduled. Then on Friday, August 22, all of the kindergarten students attend class together. This schedule will be mailed to your home along with your child's classroom teacher's name.

On Friday, August 22, immediately after walking your child to class, parents are invited to attend "A.B.C. Time"—The Acorn Breakfast Celebration! Here you can socialize with parents in your child's class and make those longstanding connections with other parents in our community.

We are looking forward to a successful school opening and start to the 2014-2015 school year... Go Chargers!

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Full: August 10  
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First Quarter: September 2

## Dog days of summer finally explained!

People frequently refer to the month of August as "the dog days of summer."

The dog days of summer get their name from the star Sirius, commonly known as the "Dog Star." In ancient times, when artificial lights did not obscure the stars, people looked to the sky as a source of inspiration and answers to questions they otherwise could not explain. Groupings of stars known as "constellations" were used to tell

stories, and these stories were part of ancient folklore.

One constellation prominent during the summer months is Canis Major, which includes a bright star named "Sirius." Ancient peoples surmised that this star's brightness warmed the Earth, not unlike the sun. In addition, Sirius rises and sets in conjunction with the sun in the summer. It was believed that Sirius added even more heat to the sun, creating the humid and especially hot days of summer. This time on the calendar was thusly named the dog days of summer.

Thanks to scientific study and a better understanding of astronomy and weather, it is known that the dog days of summer do not owe their extreme warmth to Sirius. Rather, the heat is a direct result of the Earth's tilt on its axis during this time of the year.

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## Creekside athletic boosters update

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

We hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. Hard to believe that very shortly the new school year will be upon us as will all fall sports at Creekside High School.

All Creekside athletes, all Creekside athletic programs and The Power of Creekside Band

depend on support from the community. We ask that you please become a member of CKABC, the Creekside athletic booster club for the 2014-2015 seasons. Several membership levels are available. Membership applications and information about the Creekside Athletic Booster Club are available at [www.creeksideknights.com](http://www.creeksideknights.com).

We would love to have you as one of business sponsors too! Information may be found by emailing [sponsorship@creeksideknights.com](mailto:sponsorship@creeksideknights.com).

Together let's make the 2014-2015 school year great for all of our CHS athletes, band members and fans. Go Knights!

## iPad User Group

Tuesday, Aug. 26 • 1 pm  
Bartram Trail Branch Library

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## Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

It seems the rain just keeps on coming. We have had higher than normal rainfall over the winter, over the spring and now well into summer. The rainfall has kept salinity levels extremely low in recent months which has been making it difficult for many saltwater species of fish to inhabit our areas of the St. Johns that we would normally expect at this time of year. Shrimp are one of those species.

Traditionally August is the month that you can expect the annual shrimp run to begin to peak, but this year's abundant rainfall has everyone wondering if we can expect much of a run at all. The past couple of years the shrimping in the river has been poor to nonexistent because of early heavy tropical rainfall. The previous few years before then we experienced a shortage of significant rainfall that contributed to some of the best shrimping we have had in decades.

When shrimping our areas of the St. Johns River there are two different ways to shrimp that are as different as night and day. That is because these different ways to shrimp are known as, and referred to as, "daytime" and "nighttime" shrimping.

Shrimping at night is done closer to shore in shallow water just four or five feet deep or

less. It can be done from a dock (public or private) or also done from a boat. Using bright lights and baiting the water with shrimp meal dough balls will attract the shrimp to the area you are shrimping. All that is left is to be able to drop your cast net over the baited area and collect your harvest.

During the day shrimp will leave the shorelines and return to deeper water and channels. In most cases a boat will be needed to reach the holes and channels where the shrimp have moved and congregated. Often their numbers will be great enough to show up on your fish finder and make easy targets of themselves. No baiting, no lights, just a well thrown cast net in 15 to 25 feet of water allowed to completely sink to the

bottom.

Weather is the biggest contributing factor to when, how long and the quality of the shrimp run we will experience. It can end the run abruptly or help extend it for weeks. It's still a little too early to know the effect of this year's weather on this year's shrimp run; however, it shouldn't be too much longer to find out if it's time to get out the nets or put them away for next year.

Fishing Report: Because of all the rain, this has been the year to take advantage of freshwater fishing in the river. Bass and bream under docks. Larger croaker are moving in.

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

## Saint Augustine Ballet holds Nutcracker auditions



The Rat King and the Nutcracker do battle during Saint Augustine Ballet's production of the 2013 Nutcracker. Photo by Julie Abella

Saint Augustine Ballet will hold open auditions for their sixth annual production of The Nutcracker on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at Abella's School of Dance, located at 1711 Lakeside Avenue Unit 9, in St. Augustine. All dancers, male and female, who are currently studying ballet are encouraged and invited to try out for a part. Auditions are open to all students of ballet regardless of dance studio affiliations.

Registration for dancers between the ages of eight and 10 years old will start at 8:30 a.m. Auditions begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Dancers must be eight years old by September 1, 2014 in order to audition.

Registration for ages eleven and up will begin at 12:30 p.m. Auditions will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. and end at approximately 3:00 p.m. Auditions for female solos will be done on pointe. Dancers must be 11 years old by September 1, 2013 for this session.

Once cast, dancers must commit to the weekly Saturday rehearsal schedule and the pre-performance rehearsals held

the week of December 15, 2014. Four performances will take place at Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 20 and on Sunday, December 21, 2014. A non-refundable \$25 fee audition will be

charged at the time of registration. Please bring cash or make checks out to Saint Augustine Ballet.

All dancers, male and female, must bring a four inch by six inch photo in First Arabesque to the audition. Proper ballet attire is required: black leotard, pink tights with hair in a bun for females; black pants and white shirt for males. Once cast, there is an additional non-refundable performance fee of \$150 that covers master classes with guest artists, costume rental with fittings and cast t-shirt. Audition registration forms are available at [www.saintaugustineballet.com](http://www.saintaugustineballet.com). If you have additional questions, please contact [info@saintaugustineballet.com](mailto:info@saintaugustineballet.com).

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

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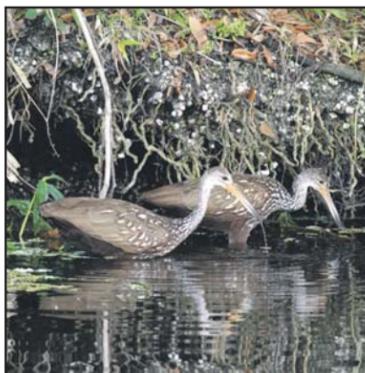
## Travels on the St. Johns River

By Contributing Writer Shannon Blankinship, Outreach Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper



time, we are bringing aboard Dr. Steven Phelan, Environmental Literature professor from Rollins

offered in April and October of each year and don't miss out on this incredible adventure. Our next journey departs on October 9 and 10 or October 11 and 12 from Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka. Learn more and register online at [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).



Enchanting is the word most often used to describe the St. Johns River after two full days of cruising from Sanford to Palatka. This stretch of river, covering almost 100 miles, is overwhelmingly protected, boasting natural shoreline and a tremendous amount of wildlife for passengers to experience.

The Eco-Heritage boat trip is organized by St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization working for the protection and preservation of the St. Johns. Operating for over a decade, the voyage runs twice a year, in spring and fall, bringing passengers from all over the state to experience old Florida. With the goal of revealing the beauty and importance of the St. Johns, the organization hopes to also foster long-lasting support for its protection.

Speakers on board the trip include Bill Belleville, author of *River of Lakes: a Journey down the St. Johns River* and *Losing it all to Sprawl: How Progress Ate My Cracker Landscape*. Boat Captain Gary Randlett, owner and operator of Blue Heron River Tours providing daily eco tours around Hontoon Island, adds to the trip a wealth of information about our plant and wildlife encounters. St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman adds depth to the on-board and evening discussion while passengers are afforded an up close and personal view of the issues affecting the St. Johns. This year, for the first

College to speak on literature of the St. Johns River.

Sanford passengers on boat the trip, Linda and Silas Barker said, "We spotted Bald Eagles, water fowl, gators and butterflies around each river bend. The overnight stay in Astor was a pleasant diversion from our regular routine and dinner at the Blackwater Inn exceeded our expectations. We can't wait to do this again with friends!"

For anyone living in the St. Johns River watershed, the eco-heritage boat cruise should quickly be added to your bucket list. Join the cruise

## Join the Arbor Day Foundation in August!

Add color to your landscape year-round by joining the Arbor Day Foundation in August. Everyone who joins the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation with a \$10 donation will receive 10 free white flowering dogwood trees through the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting in each member's area, which falls between October 15 and December 10. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

"Dogwood trees will add color and beauty to your yard

throughout the year, with their showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage and red berries that attract songbirds in the winter," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

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

To receive the free white flowering dogwood trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to: Ten Free Dogwoods, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by August 31, 2014 or join online at [arborday.org/august](http://arborday.org/august).

## 4-H Program seeks volunteers

By Contributing Writer Gerylne Sachs, St. Johns County 4-H Extension Agent, University of Florida/IFAS

The 4-H Youth Development Program is seeking caring adult volunteers to serve as 4-H Club leaders to work with 4-H youth ages five through 18 in St. Johns County. Club leaders can choose from a wide variety of 4-H project such as woodworking, gardening, dogs, air rifle, wildlife/environmental education, photography and many more. Through a "learn by doing" experience, 4-H volunteers help youth learn leadership, citizenship and a variety of life skills that promote positive

development. If interested, please call Gerylne Sachs, 4-H Extension Agent at 209-0430. 4-H Volunteers have the flexibility to determine the amount of time, location and subject area they prefer. Volunteers receive full assistance of the 4-H Office, including training, office support and a variety of resource materials and project curriculum. Get involved and make a difference in the lives of our St. Johns County youth by becoming a 4-H volunteer.

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# Back to School Guide



## The Charger Rock at Patriot Oaks Academy

By Contributing Writer Jennifer Sicilian, Corresponding Secretary, Patriot Oaks PTO



Here is an example of Patriot Oaks' Charger Rock.

As the doors open for the first time at Patriot Oaks, new traditions also begin. The Charger Rock will be one of the traditions starting at Patriot Oaks Academy. Year after year The Charger Rock will be a great way to send a message for all to see!

This rock is placed on the school's campus. With the help of some paint and creativity, families or organizations can congratulate a student, wish a child "Happy Birthday," show appreciation to a favorite teacher or staff member, show support to one of the school's sports teams or let everyone know how much they love

Patriot Oaks! Students will find it a true treat to come to school with The Charger Rock dedicated to them for the day.

Not only is the rock a fun thing to build school spirit and morale among our Patriot Oaks family, it is a fundraiser for the school's PTO.

"The addition of the Charger Rock to Patriot Oaks Academy will be a fun way to recognize and celebrate special days for the students," states committee chair, Nicole Franklin. "Students and staff members will be excited to see who decorated the rock each day. Reserve the rock while your favorite date is still available and become part of Patriot Oaks rock collection this school year!"

Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and are processed only through the PTO website, [www.PatriotOaksPTO.org/Rock](http://www.PatriotOaksPTO.org/Rock).

If you are interested in being a part of this tradition or finding out about other exciting things starting at Patriot Oaks, please visit the PTO website.

### August/September : Important Dates for Patriot Oaks Academy

Aug. 13 - Kindergarten Orientation and "Meet and Greet" 6-7:30pm

Aug. 14 - Middle School "Meet and Greet" 6-7:30pm

Aug. 15 - 1st - 5th Grade Orientation and "Meet and Greet"

#### August 18 - First Day of School

Aug. 22 - A.B.C. Time for kindergarten parents 8:30am

Sept. 1 - No School

Sept. 3 & 4 - School pictures

Sept. 5 - Middle School Back to School Dance

Sept. 12 - No School

Sept. 19 - PTO Meeting, Literacy Night & Book Fair

Sept. 22 - Sept. 26 - Scholastic Book Fair (during school day)

Sept. 22 - K-5th Open House 5:30-7:30pm

Sept. 23 - Volunteer Training 9:30am

Sept. 23 - Middle School Open House 5:30-7:30pm

## LPA: A round of applause

By Contributing Writer Diana Sarama, Liberty Pines Academy

A round of applause goes to the students and staff at Liberty Pines Academy on a successful year of learning! The evidence of their hard work shows in the outstanding results of the FCAT and End of Course (EOC) exams for the 2013-2014 school year. All students demonstrated learning gains in almost every assessment category as well as high levels of proficiency.

With proficiency requirements set at Level 3 or higher (3.5 on FCAT Writes), LPA students exceeded the district average in all categories. Congratulations to LPA students who led the district with the highest proficiency in the following categories: Fifth Grade FCAT Reading, Eighth Grade FCAT Reading, Eighth Grade FCAT Science and Fourth Grade

FCAT Math (tie). LPA students were second in district achievement in Fourth Grade FCAT Writes, Fifth Grade FCAT Math, Fifth Grade FCAT Science and Seventh Grade FCAT Math. LPA students continued to excel with 100 percent proficiency in Algebra and Geometry EOCs.

Principal Judith Thayer said, "I am so proud of our students, committed teachers and staff. I know that the continued focus on learning at LPA has allowed our children to be the beneficiaries of success."



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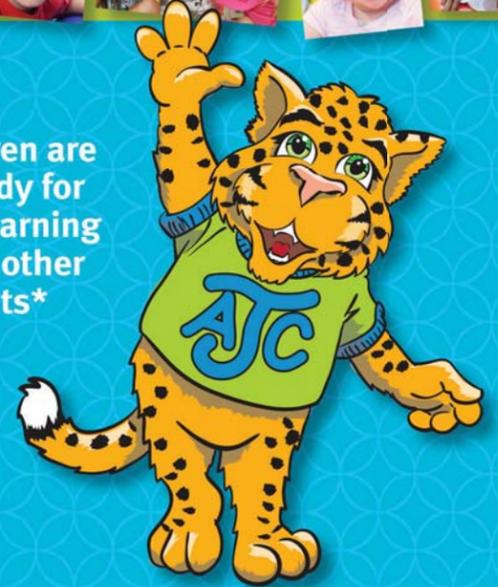
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\*As measured by the readiness scores posted by the Florida Department of Education.

Students and parents will have an opportunity to meet the 2014 teachers and staff at the annual Wolf Greeting to be held on August 15, 2014. Attendance is required at specified times:  
Sixth through Eighth Grade: 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Third through Fifth Grade: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Kindergarten through Second Grade 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LPA staff and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will be on hand to greet new and returning students that day. Please be sure to check the LPA website for required forms, summer reading assignments, seventh grade TdAP vaccination requirements, middle grades new student orientation and supply lists for the upcoming school year.

## Academy of Dance

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Aug. 20 & 21 • 3:00 - 6:00 PM



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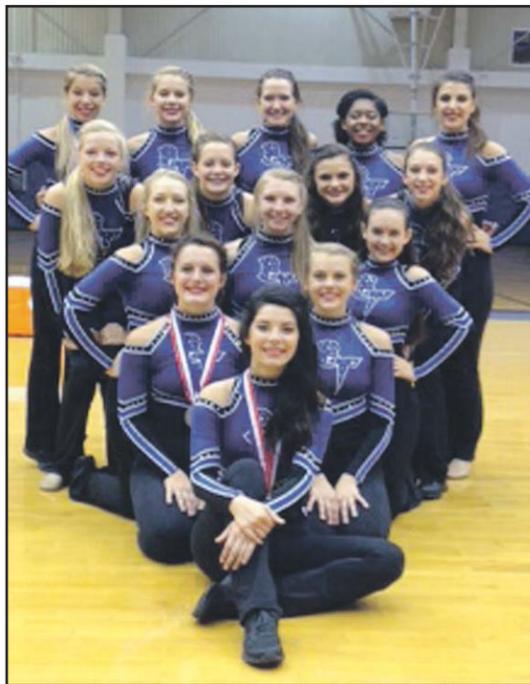
880-2275

[academyofdancejax.com](http://academyofdancejax.com)

# Back to School Guide



## Bear Cub Camp set for September 5



Bartram Trail Dance Team 2014-2015 at NDA camp receiving Superior rating and bid to Nationals

Young dancers have a chance to learn from the award winning Bartram Trail Dance Team (BTDT) during the annual Bear Cub Camp. The camp is a chance for dancers from first to eighth grade to sharpen dance skills, learn new choreography and meet the young ladies who currently make up the Bartram Trail Dance Team.

Bear Cub Camp is one of the team's primary fundraisers and the money raised goes to offset the team's competition fees. The Bartram Trail Dance Team has consistently earned top five finishes at the NDA Nationals competition. This year, the 15 member team is coming off of a successful NDA Camp run where the dancers received all superior

ratings and an automatic bid to the 2015 Nationals in Orlando. BTDT members also consistently stand out in the classroom, with the team often holding one of Bartram Trail's highest team GPAs.

The camp is a community and team tradition. In fact, many of the current BTDT members actually attended Bear Cub Camp as young girls.

"I danced as a Bear Cub during elementary and middle school and now I am very excited to be dancing as the BTDT captain this year. Come out and support us during the first home game and help keep the Bear Cub tradition alive," says BTDT senior Julia Saldana.

Bear Cub Camp is Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Bartram Trail High School. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$40 per camper. Bear Cub performance is set for September 5. This is when young dancers perform the routine learned at camp during the first Bartram Trail football home game.

For more information, please contact Coach Natalie Lindell at [bartramdance2004@gmail.com](mailto:bartramdance2004@gmail.com).

## Our Mustang summer is coming to an end

By Contributing Writer Sarah Borgmeyer

We hope our Mustang families have had a wonderful summer with many memories in the books!

As our summer comes to an end, we'd like to remind our families of a few important dates. Thursday, August 14 will be our kindergarten "Meet the Teacher" from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. There will be a brief meeting in the cafeteria starting promptly at 6:00 p.m. First through fifth grades will "Meet the Teachers" on Friday, August 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. There will be a new family orientation in the cafeteria at 9:30 a.m. You can expect a call or email from your child's teacher sometime during the week of August 12.

We would like to welcome some new "All Stars" to our school!

Assistant Principal Michelle Robinson  
 Kindergarten teachers, Shannon Chicerelli, Mayeski Duran, Heather Keiser  
 First grade teachers, Carling Achberger, Amanda Persampiere  
 Second grade teachers, Lauren Beardsley, Courtney Warner

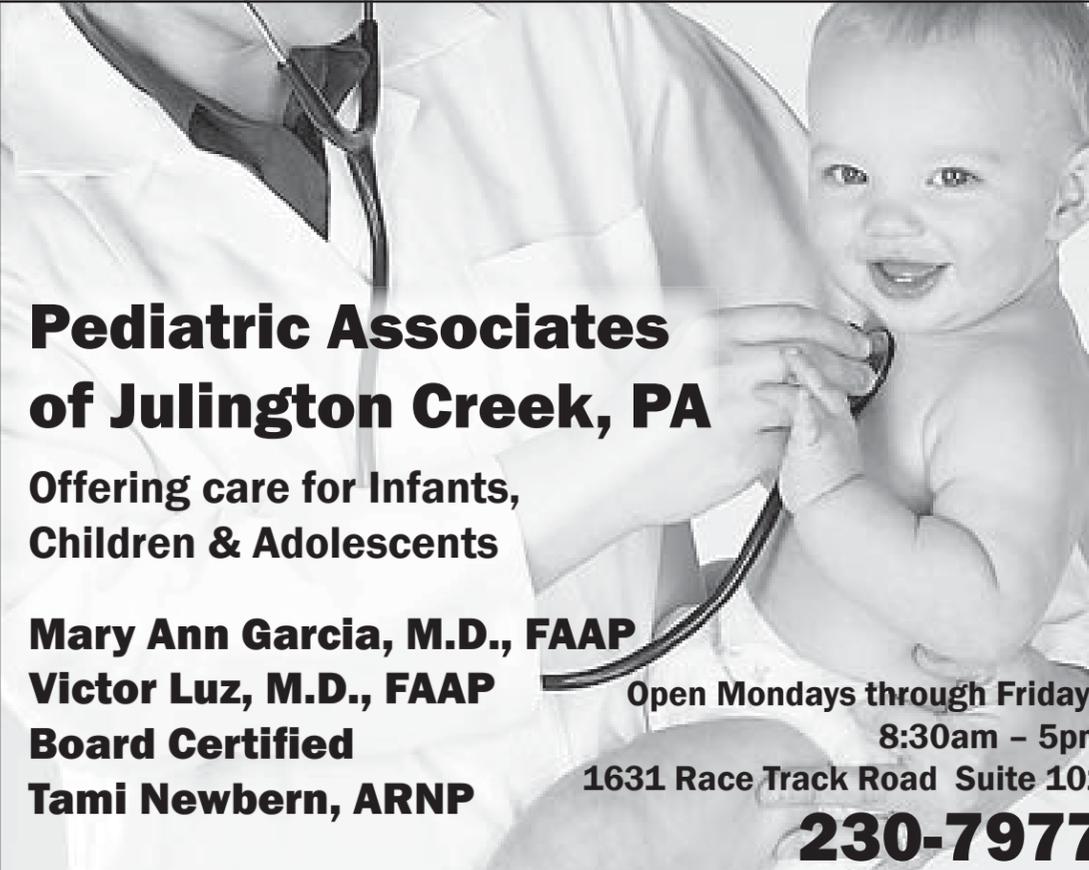
Fifth grade teachers, Christy Brackett, Stephanie Eyer-mann, Kristina Knox  
 World of Science Resource teacher Peggy Whitworth  
 PreK Paraprofessionals, Mary Robinson, Jessica Sawl  
 Media ParaProfessional Ann Marie Sindt

We are so excited to have all of you as Mill Creek Mustangs!

Please remember our math and reading challenges for the summer. If you have misplaced the forms, please refer to the website for more information. Mrs. Riedl and the teachers are very excited to celebrate all of the hard work done by our students over the summer!

Our first fundraiser of the school year will be the sale of the Enjoy the City books. This will begin on September 8. Also, our first Spirit Night will be on Thursday, August 28 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Tropical Smoothie Cafe. Be on the lookout for more information on both of these events.

We hope the last few weeks of your summer vacation are filled with fun, laughter and of course reading!



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## St. Johns County Schools score well again

School grades released in July show that the St. Johns County School District has maintained its ranking as one of the top performing districts in the state. St. Johns County had 17 "A" schools, four "B" schools and five "C" schools. Twelve elementary schools, four middle schools and the district's only K-8 school were "A" schools this year.

"I am very proud of the efforts from all of our schools and this year's grades reflect excel-

lent improvement," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "This is a great finish as we transition to the new system in future years."

The 12 elementary schools receiving an "A" are Cunningham Creek Elementary, Durbin Creek Elementary, W. D. Hartley Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary, R.B. Hunt Elementary, Julington Creek Elementary, Ketterlinus Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Palencia Elementary, PVPV/Rawlings

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

High school grades are expected to be released later this year. Additional detail and information can be found at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

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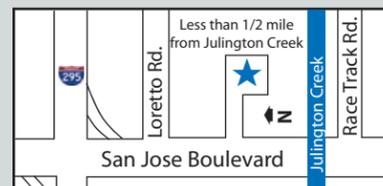


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# Back to School Guide



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August 5th ~ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm at All Locations  
August 16th ~ 9am-11am at All Locations  
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Corner Racetrack & Flora Branch

**Mandarin**  
268-3583  
3740 San Jose Blvd.  
One Block North of Crown Point

## Consult experts to start the school year off on the right foot!

For most families, summer is a time for relaxation without worrying about school and after-school schedules. Summer is also a transition time, which may create even greater anxiety for students who have trouble at the start of the school year, have recently moved or transferred schools or have learning challenges.

Start this school year differently and call in the pros at Tutoring Club St. Johns. Get a jump on study skills, subject tutoring, SAT prep and more and give your student the head start he or she needs to have a great school year!

At Tutoring Club St. Johns, Elizabeth Loeser, director, provides assessment counseling to identify student gaps and help families understand the best ap-

proach to achieve success.

Recently, a family who transferred to Jacksonville was dealing with the adjustment of a new home and a new school. For their son, it became overwhelming. Following a Tutoring Club consultation, the family learned that he was behind in reading which affected his attitude and his ability to complete homework. A plan was created to get his reading on par with his grade level. According to his mom, he "is now confident in his ability to complete homework in a timely manner" and is a happier, more focused student. This story had a positive outcome because the family was proactive and consulted with the experts before it got worse.

Watch for these warning signs:

- Struggling with subjects that hadn't been a problem before
- Negative attitude toward certain subjects
- Abnormal behavioral outbursts
- Lack of motivation and interest
- Frequent power struggles between you and your child over schoolwork

Tutoring Club St. Johns has a variety of tutoring packages designed for one student or multiple students in a family with flexible and convenient scheduling. Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine*.

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## Welcome back, Warriors

By Contributing Writer Wanda Nelson

The Warriors of Wards Creek Elementary are looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year! Eddie Jarrell, principal and Kevin Klein, vice principal, welcome back the teachers and staff on Tuesday, August 12. All students in first through fifth grades will report to class on Monday, August 18 and kindergarten will have the traditional "staggered start" the first four days. All kindergarteners will come together on August 22 and their school day will resume as usual the second week of school. Kindergarten parents are invited to a catered continental breakfast on August 22.

As the teachers and staff come together after summer vacation, the WCE PTO will host a "Welcome Back" breakfast catered by The Spot Café. Teach-

ers would also like to remind you of the "Meet the Teacher" events: kindergarten and ESE on August 14 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and first through fifth grades on August 15 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The PTO will be accepting orders for class shirts and PTO membership. Cash and check are the only forms of payment accepted.

The PTO executive board has been busy planning many great activities for the new school year. The first school wide activity is the annual "Welcome Back" night on September 19. Please also look for upcoming restaurant night information, as there are many area restaurants that have agreed to participate in

Welcome Back Warriors cont. on pg. 37

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All ages can attend any of the 3 days between 6 and 7:30 pm.

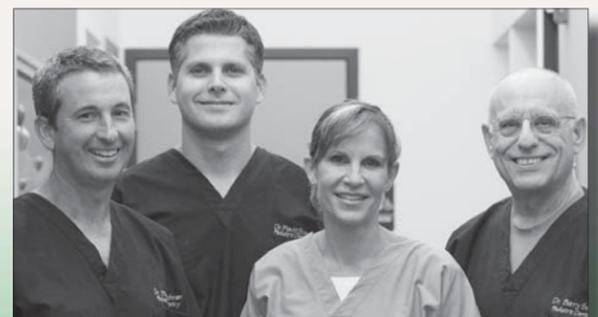
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--	--

## Welcome Back Warriors

Continued from page 36

"spirit nights." The PTO is calling all local businesses to participate in the 2014-2015 business partner program. Please go to [www.wardscreekpto.org/business-partners.html](http://www.wardscreekpto.org/business-partners.html) to download the recent program brochure. This is a great way to advertise your

business to the Wards Creek community.

The Warriors hope you all had a great summer! If there are any questions regarding the school calendar, many answers can be found at [www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us) or by calling 547-8370 after August 12.

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## An organized locker can lead to an organized student

Students learn many important lessons while in middle school and high school. Assignments get progressively more difficult and students grow accustomed to being independent thinkers and largely responsible for their educational accomplishments. In addition, students may learn other lessons, such as how organization can play a critical role in success and benefit them both in the classroom and out of it.

Students are typically introduced to lockers during high school or middle school. As elementary school students, kids use classroom desks to store books and supplies and how desks are organized is often governed by teachers who have firm rules regarding the condition of desks. Lockers are an entirely different

story. Students are solely responsible for organizing and maintaining their lockers and may be tasked with following a few rules set forth by the school.

Students may overlook the importance of organized lockers and in such instances lockers can easily become disaster areas. But a messy locker can add unnecessary stress to a school day. Getting lockers organized requires some effort and upkeep.

- Color code the locker. Grouping subjects by color can make it easier to find notebooks, textbooks and folders in a locker. If materials necessary for math class are colored in red, students can quickly find these materials en route to class.

- Remove trash. Remove anything that does not belong in the locker, including garbage and old projects. Students should not use their lockers to store items they don't need for school. That only takes away space for the stuff kids do need for class.

- Group according to schedule. In addition to employing a color-coding system, students also can group books by daily schedule. Organize the locker based on which classes are held in the morning and afternoon. This makes it less likely that students will forget supplies they need for class.

- Think about extra accessories. Lockers have the basics, which are usually a shelf and a hook for coats. All sorts of locker accessories exist to customize the interior. An extra shelf may be helpful for storing books or smaller supplies. Figure out what your child can use to keep items from piling up on the floor.

- Develop a maintenance plan. Old assignments may begin to accumulate inside a locker. This can be remedied by maintaining a cleaning schedule for a locker. A few minutes each week can keep a locker clean and clear of clutter.

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# Back to School Guide



## Golfing FORE! The Kids at Palencia Elementary School

By Contributing Writer Nicole Sawyer



Dr. Scott McDowall, Josh Hammond, Dr. Anh Vu and Dr. Vince Caracciolo golfed FORE! The Kids in September 2013.

smoothies, frozen margaritas, complimentary on-course beverages and cheeseburger sliders by Donovan's Irish Pub.

The PES Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) looks forward to maximizing this fundraising opportunity. For the second year, The Palencia Club has graciously donated the course and clubhouse banquet rooms free of charge to the PES

Everyone is invited to participate in the FORE! The Kids Golf Tournament. Our goal is to register 128 players! The player registration fee is \$150 or \$600 for a foursome, which includes cart use, lunch, welcome bag, proximity contests, on-course beverages and snacks, raffle ticket and awards dinner. Guests are welcomed to attend the awards party for \$20. This will be a first class event!

Tournament sponsors who plan to golf receive a discount on their foursome. Please visit [www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com](http://www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com) to learn how your business can get involved, including donations for the silent auction.

To register and make a payment, please visit [www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com](http://www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com). The PES Parent Teacher Organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Golf with us on Tuesday, September 16 at The Palencia Club. Who's in your foursome?

PTO.

MG Orender, CEO of Hampton Golf says, "Supporting the community is central to our core values. Plus, the Club, Randy and I have a special regard for Palencia Elementary. Enhancing education for our children is a social responsibility from which everyone benefits. We're delighted to help the PTO raise funds to enrich the education for children in the community."

On behalf of parents and students, Laurel Madson, PES PTO co-president said, "We're extremely thankful to The Palencia Club for their continued support of PES. Our community of supporters is large—whether it's golfing in the tournament, volunteers in the classroom or serving as a business sponsor—we're grateful that so many want to make a difference."



Mark your calendars for this year's tournament on September 16.

Palencia Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is delighted to announce that the second annual FORE! The Kids Golf Tournament, presented by Lou Sobh's Honda of the Avenues and The Palencia Club, is on Tuesday, September 16 at The Palencia Club in St Augustine.

Last year's tournament was a huge success. Thanks to generous sponsors, over 100 golfers and many guests who participated in the silent auction, \$25,000 was raised to benefit technology and curricula enhancements at Palencia Elementary School (PES). Organizers are building off of last year's tournament with some new additions to enhance the player experience. Our friends at Pure Balance Wellness and Yoga will be offering neck and shoulder massages during registration. On course, golfers will enjoy Smoothie King

### ADD/ADHD without MEDICATIONS

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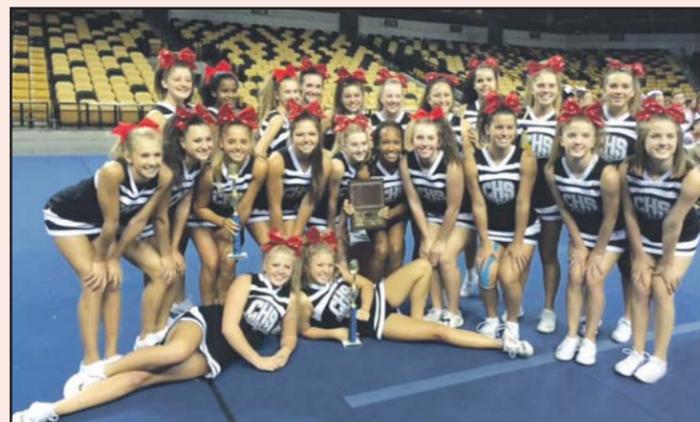
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Members of the Creekside High School competition cheer team under the direction of Coach Laura Clary, Coach Linda Carnall and Coach Lindsey Waggoner recently attended a several day "stunt" specific UCA camp at University of Central Florida. The girls spent many hours over the course of the camp learning dances, cheers, and new techniques to help them in their upcoming FHSAA Cheer Competition Season. Donned in new uniforms, they competed against other attending high school cheer squads and brought home several prestigious awards such as the Superior Award, Second Place Varsity All Girl Division, the spirit award "TOP Banana" and the Leadership award. Creekside senior varsity cheerleaders Sarah Cantu and Abby Murphy were awarded the distinction of All American status. Congratulations to the Creekside High School competition cheer team! Pictured are seniors Sarah Cantu, Tara Grubbs, Abby Murphy, Emani Plummer, and Ashley Taylor; juniors Kristin McKernan, Malia Cacatian, Cassidy Johnson, Katie Xanders, Emily Xanders, Haley Leidholt and Ali Bowser; sophomores Maddy McLeod, Sterling Fox, Brooke Thornell, Brennan Adair, Kayla Clary, Josie Henry and Emily Benson; and freshmen Kimari Hill, Meaghan Bradley and Chase Rocker.

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# Back to School Guide





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Creekside's Ryan Baker is this year's recipient of the Pat Fairfax Scholarship award. This scholarship award is given to a local wrestler every year who shows excellence in the classroom and is a person of character. Baker was presented with a plaque from North Florida Wrestling Official Association Commissioner and scholarship namesake Pat Fairfax. Baker, who graduated this year from Creekside with a 4.1 GPA, was a four-year starter for the Knights with an overall career record of 83-44 and this year's team captain. He will be attending Florida State University and majoring in chemical engineering. Pictured are NFWOA Commissioner Pat Fairfax, Chuck Baker, Ryan Baker, Sue Baker and NFWOA President Rene Fonseca.

## Local pediatrician offers tips for going back to school

With kids going back to school in just a couple of weeks, it is not too early to prepare your children (and yourselves) for the annual rite of passage. Dr. Aylin Ozdemir of Pediatrics Associates of Jacksonville offers several tips for making back to school successful and easy. It should come as no surprise that success at school starts at home. Studies have linked poor academic performance to factors such as a lack of sleep, poor nutrition and a lack of parental support. Below are her "ten commandments" for a great school year and some helpful tips or making the back to school process easier.

1. Enforce healthy habits of eating, sleeping, snacking and playing (computer games.)
2. Stick to a routine.
3. Create a "Launch Pad" - have a single place to put backpacks, jackets, etc.
4. Designate a study space
5. Read, again and again
6. Learn always - There's only so much teachers can do. Parents have to fill in with good support at home. Look for ways to teach your child throughout the day. For example, cooking combines elements of math and science. Use the time when you make dinner as an opportunity to read and follow directions, to discuss fractions, to make hypotheses ("What will happen when I beat the egg whites?") and to examine results.
7. Take the lead - Children learn by example. Let your kids "catch" you reading. Take time to learn a new skill and discuss the experience with them. Sit down and pay bills or do other "homework" while your kids do their schoolwork. If you display a strong work ethic and continually seek out learning opportunities for yourself, your kids will begin to model that same behavior in their own lives.
8. Talk often - Do you know how your child feels about her classroom, her teacher and her classmates? Talk with her about what she likes and doesn't like at school. Give her a chance to express her anxieties, excitements, or disappointments about each day and continue to support and encourage her by

praising her achievements and efforts.

9. Show interest - Don't limit your support to your child; extend it to her teachers as well. Meet the teachers and stay in regular contact by phone or email so that you can discuss any concerns as they arise. Not only will it pave the way for you to ask questions, but it will also make the teachers more comfortable with calling you if they have concerns about your child.

10. Expect Success - Perhaps the most important way you can support your child's efforts at school is to expect him or her to succeed. That doesn't mean that you demand they be the best student or the best athlete or the best artist. Rather, let them know that you expect them to do "their best" so that they'll be proud of what they can accomplish. If you make that expectation clear and pro-

vide a home environment that promotes learning, then your child will have a greater chance of becoming the best student they can be.

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

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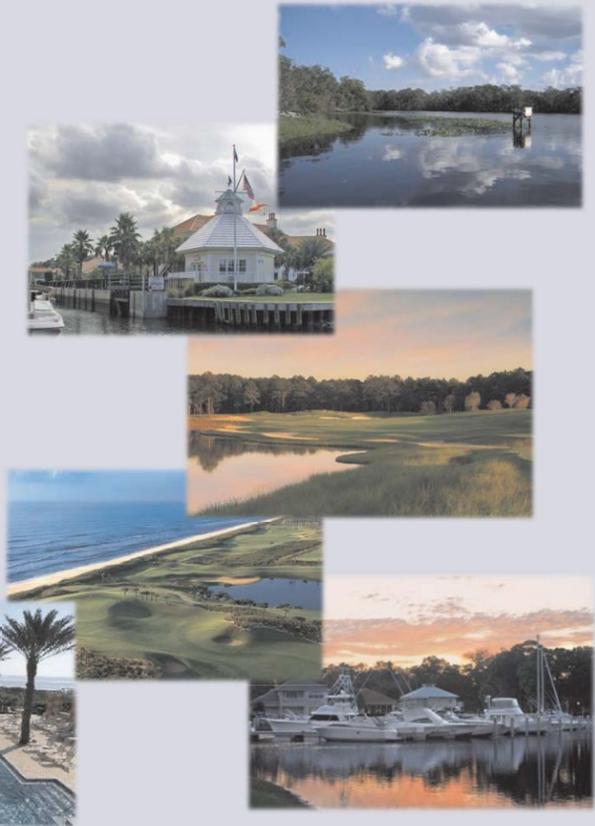
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