For weeks empty appliance boxes piled up on the stage of the San Juan Del Rio parish hall. Parishioners were questioning what was up with this unsightly mess. Then on the weekend of April 9 and 10, the boxes transformed into a homeless campsite just outside of the church. The campsite was the work of 18 high school youths from the church youth group. “Box City” as it was called was the result of the work of 18 high school youths from the church. The campsite was a homeless campsite just outside of the church. The campsite was the work of 18 high school youths from the church youth group. “Box City” as it was called was the result of the work of 18 high school youths from the church. The campsite was a homeless campsite just outside of the church. The campsite was the work of 18 high school youths from the church youth group. “Box City” as it was called was the result of the work of 18 high school youths from the church.
TOTAL BONE & JOINT CARE
for all of you
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm • Same Day Appointments Available!
3055 County Road 210, Suite 110 • St. Johns, FL 32259
SPECIALIZING IN SPORTS MEDICINE, ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY & JOINT REPLACEMENTS
Lo Leche League provides information and encouragement to all mothers who are breastfeeding or want to breastfeed their babies. We offer meetings, mother support, encouragement, information and education to breastfeeding and expectant mothers at several meetings each month. Pregnant women, mothers and babies are always welcome! The Jacksonville group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please call a leader for directions to the meeting location. Elizabeth, 534-6999, Laura, 994-1896; or Pat, 371-2730. For additional information or help, please go to our website at www.momsclubofflorida.com. All meetings are free.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 25 to participate in a Texas Hold’em fundraiser tournament to benefit the Ameri can Cancer Society’s Bartram Trail Relay for Life. The cost will be $45 for a player ticket, which will include 2000 chips and $50 for a big blind. There will be 80 players seats available. The last tournament raised $1,100 and we had 45 players. Let’s make this one better than the last! For additional information or to sign up, please contact Becky Kimball at 254-7325.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7 meets the first Thursday of every month 7:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Yacht Club near 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 660-0243.

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The MOMS Club of St. Augustine North meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Augustine Yacht Club near 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 660-0243.

Prove that you are a better hiker, camper, camper, than the last! For more information, please contact Bessie Kimball at 254-7325.

What’s New continued on page 4

Letters to the Editor policy
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Letters to the Editor

The CreekLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via standard mail to homes and businesses in NWSJ (St. Johns County). Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email is suggested. Please include name, telephone number and a brief summary of the issue. Written submission does not reflect the opinion of RT Publishing, Inc. Acceptance rates are limited and RT Publishing, Inc. reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. © 2011.
Now you can have your AC System rejuv-

enated to near new condition and it won't cost you a penny! In fact, you'll make a profit.

Amazing Tune-Up Guarantees Your A/C System Won't Break Down... Or This is Free

No One Else in My Field Makes You This Bold Guarantee

As you know, your AC System gets dirty, out of alignment, less efficient, and wears out about twice as fast as it should. In fact, most AC systems die in "middle age" and use about 30% to 50% more electricity than needed.

We have created a solution to this problem that will make your home more comfort-
able, safer and save you a lot of money. Most people who sample our service like it so much they use our services again at least every six months. If you are not fully satisfied we will refund your money.

If this tune-up doesn't save you at least $100 in lower energy bills in the next six months I will also refund the $19.

If your cooling system needs repair for any reason, Ill refund you $119 no questions asked.

Field of Dreams cont. from pg. 1

for the games. Refreshments were served complimentary by Target.

Keith Martin, founding

Field of Dreams was built

to a field where our county's special needs kids could have the

opportunity to play sports just like their sisters, brothers and neighbors have," Martin com-

mented. "Today that objective became a reality."

"It really was a great day for our community," said Chuck

Field of Dreams was built

entirely from private funds raised by a core group of volunteers, including Martin, Forcier, Mike Grubbs and Troy Blevins, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation director. The league was organized and is run by some long time volunteers in the area including Dave Levy, president of Field of Dreams; Earl Newman, John Thomas, George Yancik, Aimee Burgess, Michael Cape, Wayne Whitehead, Jeannie Bas-

stion and Chuck Forcier.

Field of Dreams wants to thank all of our Spring Festival & Car Show sponsors!

Please show your appreciation to all of our sponsors by patronizing and supporting these businesses.

Advantage Printing • Papa Murphy's • Chick-Fil-A

Fruit Cove Baptist Church

Race Track Road Animal Hospital • Pinch A Penny (Fruit Cove)

Moe's • RPM • Wendy's • Publix • Brucellis • Reddy Ice

Tires Plus • Mayhugh Drugs • Nicety's BBQ • Hurricane Winds

Advanced Auto Parts

Famous for St. Johns County Residents.

By Contributing Writer Cyndi Stevenson, Commissioner, District 1

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Guarantee #2 If this tune-up doesn't save you at least $100 in lower energy bills in the next six months I will also refund the $119.

It can cost thousands of dollars to replace your system and when you consider the electrical savings, doesn't it make sense to give our tune-up a try with our no risk guarantee?

Call Dee Dee and we will schedule a time for one of our technicians to come to your home or business.

Fruit Cove Baptist Church

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FCAT is over and we are moving rapidly to graduation and prom. This year of time is always filled with excitement, but it is also filled with danger as our young people make choices that cause ruin in their lives. Graduation and prom often are accompanied by drinking and driving. Contrary to prevailing opinion, drinking alcohol at this age is not a rite of passage that is safe if the underage drinker does not drive. The adolescent brain is not fully developed until age 25 and the portion of the brain that controls reasoning and impulse is the last to develop, so alcohol has a much greater effect than the drinker does not drive. The adolescent brain does not have the ability to understand and appreciate the immediate and future consequences of his or her actions.

Please help keep your teen safe by making safer and healthier decisions. Visit alcoholdu.com, new user name and web address is highschoolparents. Access is free and easy. The website also helps parents develop the skill management of drinking in their teens and alcohol. It also helps parents learn about teens and alcohol. It is significant because the governor originally proposed to fill the gap by requiring employees to pay a portion of their retirement, reducing the districts’ contributions and saving money. Since that time, both houses of the Legislature have used that revenue to plug other budget holes.

It remains to be seen exactly how much the actual cut to education will be. However, St. Johns County School District has already decided we do not have money in reserve to cover the shortfall, at least for this year. We do not plan to lay off teachers, eliminate sports, cut programs or any other draconian measure to reduce spending. I must commend Conley Weiss, our chief financial officer, who saw the economic downturn coming and encouraged the School Board and superintendent to be preparing three years ago. Since that time, we have eliminated 300 non-teaching positions, adopted an energy savings program that has resulted in $10 million in cost avoidance, opened three health clinics that reduced costs to our employees and saved our insurance plan over $1 million and generally tightened our belts wherever we could. We are prepared to weather the storm for the short run. If deeper cuts than anticipated continue to come, our reserves will be depleted more rapidly than we wish, which will cause major changes. For now, we are ready and will continue to provide our students with opportunities that make their education rich and relevant.

Our business community and our volunteers continue to provide outstanding support, helping us to weather these trying times. I am very grateful to each one and encourage others to get involved with our local schools. We always need people to mentor, tutor, read to our children, provide extra hands in the cafeteria or help teachers and office staff with clerical work. There is no age limit and applying is easy. Call or visit a local school to see how you can help our children be successful!

St. Augustine Humane Society is offering a feral cat trap and return, spay and neuter program. Cost for spay and neuter per cat is $30 with registration at the time of drop-off and includes surgery, rabies and distemper vaccines, euter treatment and ear tipping to identify the feral cats. Cats must be transported in a humane trap with a maximum of one cat or two kittens per trap. Cats stay overnight at the clinic to be monitored post-operatively, and are returned to the Humane Society on Saturday for pick up. The St. Augustine Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Rd. in St. Augustine.

For more information, call 904-829-2737 or email info@staughumane.org. Or visit the facility for a demonstration and procedures for trap operations. Visit the website at www.staughumane.society.org/lowcostspayneuter/feralcat.htm for more information and video demonstrations.

We have something you just can’t live without!

F50 Family Yard Sale
Get READY!!!
Saturday, May 14, 2011
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thank you, as always, for your support of public education. Our children are depending on you! If you may serve you in any way, please contact me at sloughb@stjohns.k12.fl.us.
Proms, parties and alcohol

We are fortunate in St. Johns County to have a wonderful population of young people. You often read of their many accomplishments in this publication. As we approach prom season and graduation 1 urge parents and all citizens to join with the law enforcement community to do everything we can to help keep our celebrating students safe.

One major concern is underage alcohol use and abuse. In recent years we have seen some promising young people from our high schools killed in crashes where alcohol consumed at parties was a contributing factor. The 2008 Florida Young Substance Abuse Survey of St. Johns County found 45 percent of high school students had used alcohol in their lifetime. More than 43 percent had consumed alcohol in the past month of the survey and 24.8 percent reported binge drinking (five or more drinks for males and 4 or more drinks for females for the sole purpose of getting drunk) in the past 30 days. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds is a car crash and 25 percent of teen drivers in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content in excess of .08, the legal limit for drunk driving.

Another federal study found that of the nearly 70 percent of high school students who have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, 49 percent purchased it illegally, 10 percent got it from an unrelated person of drinking age and 21 percent were provided alcohol by their parents or another adult family member. In an effort to reduce these alarming numbers we have joined with the St. Johns Country School Board and the PACT Coalition (Prevent-Act-Change-Together) to create “The Party’s Over” educational awareness and enforcement campaign. Additional information is available on our website at www.sjso.org.

We all should be concerned about the potential risky behavior of young people associated with proms, graduation parties and other such events. I hope this information assists you and your family and please pass it on to your friends and relatives in an effort to reduce drinking, of course please feel free to contact me anytime at dshoar@sjso.org. Thank you.

SJC Town Hall Meetings
with County Administrator Michael Wanchick

• Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 pm - SJC Convention Center at World Golf Village (in the Renaissance)
• Thursday, June 2, 3:00 pm - St. Augustine Beach City Hall
• Monday, June 6, 6:30 pm - Northeast Branch Library
• Thursday, June 9, 6:30 pm - Hastings Town Hall
• Thursday, June 16, 6:30 pm - Bartram Trail Branch Library
• Wednesday, June 22 - 6:30 pm - Ponte Vedra Beach Library
• Monday, June 27 - 6:30 pm - Main Library in St. Augustine

For more information, visit www.sjcf.us.

Don’t Trade Your Youthful Skin For A Temporary Tan!

Let PVP’s be your first choice for anti-aging products and rejuvenating treatments. For a FREE skin analysis, contact our office at 904.273.6200.

Book your visit now and remember to have our licensed Aestheticians or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners match you with the perfect skincare regimen for your skin type and anti-aging goals. We carry OBAGI, SkinMedica, Latisse and VIVITE.

DRINK RESPONSIBLY, BE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR DRIVING ABILITY.

For more information, visit www.pvp.com.

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

The Sheriff Reports

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Book your visit now and remember to have our licensed Aestheticians or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners match you with the perfect skincare regimen for your skin type and anti-aging goals. We carry OBAGI, SkinMedica, Latisse and VIVITE.

Microdermabrasion
Chemical Peels
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Microlaser Peel

Erbium Laser Resurfacing
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and many more!
As of April 4, your St. Johns County JCP CDD has achieved a 91 percent collection rate with revenue totaling $307,206,951.12, slightly ahead of the collection of 2009 taxes this time last year. Bills for the 2010 tax year were due March 31. Just 9 percent or $18,247,887.86 of the total tax roll of $336,708,014.43 remains uncollected as of April 4. Of that total, less than 1 percent is in litigation or bankruptcy. Bankruptcy accounts include $1,546,048.03, while litigation totals $24,509.09.

Collection of tangible taxes also is strong. The tangible tax roll for 2010 is $12,498,111.38, of which $954,542 or 4.7 percent remains outstanding. At this same time last year, the tangible tax roll was $12,880,982, of which $908,531 or 7 percent was uncollected.

“We are pleased to have collection rates maintained at this level, which reflects not only the conscientious efforts of business and property owners and the diligence of your Tax Collector’s staff, but also the strength of the economy in St. Johns County,” said Lansdale.

JCP CDD Writing scores increase

FCAT Writing scores increase

St. Johns County students continue to improve and scored above the state average on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing. Tenth grade students were first in the state, up from fourth place last year. Eighth grade students moved up from tied for seventh to tied for sixth place. Fourth grade students moved from second to tied for first. Fifth grade bar still increased their average score by nine percentage points.

At every grade level St. Johns County students surpassed the state average on the percentage of students whose performance was rated as proficient. This year the state raised the proficiency level on FCAT Writing from 3.5 to 4.0. The percentage of St. Johns County tenth graders who scored at 4.0 or above was 84 percent compared to the state average of 77 percent, a six percent increase over last year. The percentage of proficient eighth grade scores was 89 percent compared to 82 percent for the state, an eight percent increase over last year. The percentage of proficient fourth graders scoring on grade level was 84 percent compared to the state average of 81 percent, a nine percent increase over last year.

District students also exceeded the state mean level or average score. The district’s tenth grade students had an average score of 4.3 compared to 4.0 for the state. Eighth grade students scored 4.4, compared to the state average 4.2, and fourth graders scored 4.1, compared to the state average of 4.0. Essays are scored on a scale of 0-6 with a score of 4.0 considered proficient.

“I am so pleased with our outstanding writing scores,” said Superintendent Joseph J Kayner. “We issued a challenge when we found out about the increased proficiency level on writing in Grades 4, 8, and 10. Students and teachers more than exceeded it. Staying on par and using last year’s scores, we anticipated a 12 percent drop. That didn’t happen and overall, the number of 4.0s increased at almost every school, some as high as 21 percent.”

FCAT Writing is part of a statewide educational accountability program designed to measure students’ proficiency in writing in grades four, eight and ten. Students are required to write a response to a prompt on an assigned topic within a 45-minute time period. This year all writing prompts were expository essays, and essays were scored by only one reader.

Individual student scores reports are expected to be available by mid-May. Additional information can be found at http://fcat.fldoe.org/.

Imagine if your government lived under the same budget constraints as families and businesses and didn’t raise taxes every time revenue went down or costs went up.

I am Sam Lansdale, one of your five representatives on the Julington Creek Plantation CDD Board of Supervisors. My three goals: Ensure that JCP is a wonderful place to live. The CDD duties and responsibilities should be balanced without raising taxes.

The chart shows how your tax money is used: 43 percent is used to fund the bonds, CDD administration and the landscape contract at 36.2 percent. The Road 13. The other 57 percent is used to operate and maintain the recreational facilities, services and programs.

Currently the JCP CDD is evaluating the job descriptions and salaries. The salary and benefits and associated costs account for approximately 63 percent of the recreation fund. We have a great facility and amazing staff and as costs continue to increase; we need to be able to maintain the facility and continue to provide services well into the future without raising taxes. We should take steps to ensure that our resources are being used effectively and efficiently to provide the level of services the community expects. This will involve an assessment of the organizational structure and compensation plans for the employees. It is also imperative that we proceed with a Risk Assessment Study to identify potential financial risks associated with the current CDD policies and practices.

Recently the CDD sponsored a database study to receive recommendations from a professional on how much money we should save in order to cover maintenance and in the meeting. The next JCP CDD meetings will take place on May 10 and June 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the JCP CDD Recreation Center. I am available to listen to your concerns on the last Thursday of the month at the old JCP CDD Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m. and the next Thursday event is not a CDD meeting, but simply an informal opportunity to share your ideas and concerns with me and other residents. Feel free to contact me day or night via e-mail or phone—509-4902 or SLansdale@jcpcdd.org.
Sabine Kvenberg motivates by example

By Contributing Writer Patsy Heiss, ACG, CL, Vice President Public Relations, The Toast of St. Johns County, Club #9551

Focused. Determined. Charming. These three words describe Sabine Kvenberg who, as one of the newest members of The Toast of St. Johns County Toastmasters, Club 9551, became the first in the club’s 12-year history to earn her Competent Communicator designation in five short months, on her journey toward becoming a professional speaker. Recently, she also won the Table Topics impromptu speech contest and the International Speech contest at the July 2011 District 84 Spring Conference in Lake Mary on May 21-22.

For more information about The Toast of St. Johns County or Toastmasters International, visit http://stjohns.freetoasthost.org. The Toast of St. Johns County Toastmasters Club 9551, meets from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month in the Merrill Lynch Conference Room of the Wherette Building, just east of Outback Steakhouse on State Road 312.

The World Golf Village Toastmasters, Club 1314871, meets from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at Radiant Family Church, located at 1515 County Road 210 West. For additional information, please visit http://worldgolfvillage.freetoasthost.org.

When would summer be without a Toga Party? Well, we aren’t sure the two are synonymous, but they will be for the JCP Toga Party on June 11. Road trip is optional. Come out to Jullington Creek Plantation Sportsplex on Saturday May 28 for a 12 and under contest brought to you by Volcom; Sunrise Surf Shop Kids Surf Shop. Sign up at Noon. Registration is $45 or $20 on the day of the event. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. and the contest starts at noon.

All Happy Hours and special events are open to visitors of the Plantation when accompanied by residents without the use of a guest pass. For more information see www.jpccd.org.

Looking to Buy? Looking to Sell? Get a Question? We are soliciting YOUR action high school football photos for a new publication. Can be professional or amateur shots of Creekside, Bartram or Nease High School.

$10 per picture if used!

Email to editor@thecreekline.com

Photos Needed!

Grace McCorvey Rifa passed away on Friday, April 22, 2011. Our hearts are sad to lose Gra- cie, a loving wife, mother and friend who made an impact on all those she came in contact with. We are inspired by Grace’s faith and her fight as she battled lung cancer (non-smokers form).

Grace’s concern was always for others and her family. During her last weeks she would say how overwhelmed she was by the outpouring of kindness, prayers and support from all those that knew her.

One of Grace’s greatest treas- ures was her family. Grace leaves behind her husband Jamie, Alexander her son and Vanessa her daughter. Jamie wishes to thank everyone for their love and support through this difficult time. Jamie re- minds us of the need to reach out to your love ones everyday, tell them you love them and ap- preciate your time together.

Grace will truly be missed and our hearts grieve for her, but we know she is no longer suffering, she is in a perfect place, away from pain and tears. We are walk- ing with her Savior in perfect peace. God Bless.

Julington Creek Plantation Rec Center update

By Contributing Writer Brad Whitaker, Special Events Director and Food and Beverage Manager, Julington Creek Plantation Club

The JCP Recreation Center is hosting fun this summer. Have you been missing it? April 23 was the ‘Prom’ Party of St. Johns County, Club #9551, meets from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month in the Merrill Lynch Conference Room of the Wherette Building, just east of Outback Steakhouse on State Road 312.

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All Happy Hours and special events are open to visitors of the Plantation when accompanied by residents without the use of a guest pass. For more information see www.jpccd.org.

Julington Creek Plantation, Club #9551, became the first in the club’s 12-year history to earn her Competent Communicator designation in five short months, on her journey toward becoming a professional speaker. Recently, she also won the Table Topics impromptu speech contest and the International Speech contest at the July 2011 District 84 Spring Conference in Lake Mary on May 21-22.

For more information about The Toast of St. Johns County or Toastmasters International, visit http://stjohns.freetoasthost.org. The Toast of St. Johns County Toastmasters Club 9551, meets from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month in the Merrill Lynch Conference Room of the Wherette Building, just east of Outback Steakhouse on State Road 312.

The World Golf Village Toastmasters, Club 1314871, meets from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at Radiant Family Church, located at 1515 County Road 210 West. For additional information, please visit http://worldgolfvillage.freetoasthost.org.

The JCP Recreation Center is hosting fun this summer. Have you been missing it? April 23 was the ‘Prom’ Party of St. Johns County, Club #9551, meets from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month in the Merrill Lynch Conference Room of the Wherette Building, just east of Outback Steakhouse on State Road 312.

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Prom is a four letter word...  
The event of prom is no small matter; endless movies have been crafted around this big dance—can we say “Footloose” without our toes tapping? With nostalgia comes temptation, not only for teens, but parents. Local St. Johns County parents with seniors graduating this year may remember when the legal drinking age was 18. Coupled with memories of your own senior prom, well meaning, otherwise legal parents may be tempted to relax an otherwise firm “no alcohol” policy for this special event.

Let’s talk you off the ledge and back into your parent pants. R” is for planning. Seniors want to have a good time at prom. Regrettably, they’ve grown up in a media culture that has shown them images of good times being had with alcohol and alcohol only. The best way to mediate this attitude is to literally plan for a good time. What happens before prom and after prom are often more important than the prom. Contrary to popular belief, teens are not wired to drink; they’re wired for fun and risky behavior. Pool parties, slip and slides with bubbles, scavenger hunts and other types of crazy and somewhat goofy activities make memorable events. If you’re not planning for fun, they’ll find it on their own.

“R” is for respect. Most teens don’t respect parents who provide alcohol to minors and the largest portion of alcohol to minors come from a small percentage of parents. The adage “they’re going to do it anyway” is a slippery slope for parents trying to convince themselves they’re doing the right thing by providing alcohol. There are many things teens “might” do when given the opportunity – sex, drugs, speed, steal, lie—but at the end of the day, we’re obligated to provide the framework for good decisions, not try to mediate potential bad ones.

“O” is for omnipresent. Defined as “present everywhere,” our teens once believed we were omnipresent. No matter where they were or what they were doing, we somehow knew or found out everything. As they get older, carry more responsibility and prove themselves worthy, we loosen our omnipresent grip. Consider however, that a teen’s brain is rapidly developing until about 21 to 22 years of age. Their decision making still has very much to do with two things – 1) what is everyone else doing? and 2) will I get caught? A healthy dose of omnipresence before big events such as prom reminds your teen that they might not be able to check up on them and gives them a powerful out should they face an override of peer pressures.

“M” is for memories. Remind teens that the best way to remember prom is to add nothing but fun. Who wants to risk having their head end up in a toiler, have a date that pukes all over them or be so hung over you can’t make it to the beach the next day? When they send their own teen off to prom, the memory of how you handled their prom, from pictures to rules to curfew will undoubtedly be fresh in their minds. Let’s keep the parent pants on and enjoy prom. Be the wall between teens and alcohol.

Provided by PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County

Teen Volunteer Orientation  
Wed., May 11 • 4:00 PM  
Bartram Trail Branch Library  
The library is a great place to get your volunteer hours! Orientation is mandatory & counts as your first service hour. Class size is limited! Please call 827-6960 for registration information.

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TBI prevention tip from Mothers Against Brain Injury

by Contributing Writer Tracy Porter, Founder, Mothers Against Brain Injury, Inc.

Car crashes are the second leading cause of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Florida. You know the Click It or Ticket campaign, right? I would suggest “Click it or be ejected brain first out of the window/windshield of your vehicle.” That isn’t as cute and charming as “Click it or Ticket” but it is effective at keeping you from being thrown out of the vehicle. That’s as cute and charming as it gets in the world of safetybelt law.

The Florida safety belt laws apply at all times. Regardless if you are driving in your own vehicle or are a passenger, you must wear your safety belt. If you are thrown from a vehicle, your safety belt can be the difference between life or death. It is against the law to operate a vehicle if all the passengers do not meet these standards.

You are 50 percent responsible for your own injury or death if you are not buckled up. Parents of teenage drivers need to discuss with them the importance of making sure their passengers are also buckled up at all times.

Why is it important to wear a safety belt? Seat belts protect you from being ejected/thrown from a vehicle. If you are thrown from a vehicle you are five times more likely to be killed. By securing you in your seat, a seat belt protects you from being thrown into other people who are inside the car and parts of your car. Seat belts also keep the driver in their seat so they can control the car.

Always wear your safety belt. The Florida safety belt laws apply at all times. Regardless if you are on a short trip in your neighborhood or driving throughout the state - always wear your seat belt.

Full details of the Florida Safety Belt laws can be found in the Florida Drivers Manual.

JCP CARES collecting gently used formal wear

by Contributing Writer Kathy Bravo, Founder and President, JCP CARES

JCP CARES will be working with Camp I am Special this summer and is currently collecting new and gently used homecoming dresses, bridesmaid dresses, tuxedo shirts, bow ties, hats, gloves and costume jewelry. Camp I am Special is held at the Marywood Retreat Center and is for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. They hold eight-week long sessions during the summer and this year would like to hold a Gala Night on the Thursday evening of each session.

JCP CARES is also looking for groups interested in helping with the Gala Nights. The groups would be responsible for preparing and passing out appetizers, potentially helping the campers with their hair, etc. This would be a great opportunity for students to get in some of those much needed service hours when they are not too busy with school work.

Please contact Kathy Bravo at kbravo@jpcares.org if you have clothes to donate and/or would like to help with one of the Gala Nights. The deadline for donations is May 27, 2011.
You have been accused of bringing your work home! Maybe your spouse and family are jealous of the time and energy spent on extra projects at the office. If these are some of the symptoms around your house read on…maybe you want to post this article on your fridge! Because this is about the ultimate dude who brought his work home—literally. In the form of a beautiful 125 pound German Shepard named Buddy*. Buddy is not just another big dog. He is specially trained to sniff out drugs and is Rick’s partner at work. Rick’s on duty as a handler with Buddy at his side as a K-9 dog. Buddy’s adventure began in the Netherlands where he was born and trained to do his work as a special agent “dog.” Therefore his native “tongue” is German—a language Rick and Sunny have mastered.

Buddy’s lifetime of work as a K-9 dog wound up in northeast Florida with Handler Rick. It is not uncommon that K-9 dogs live with their handlers; even when a dog is retired from service, it will be placed with them as a family pet. But what about the wife and family, neighbors, relatives? Will Rick be lucky because Sunny and their two boys took Buddy in like another family member. He “lives” in the living room and basically takes over the whole house. He loves riding around in the family SUV taking the boys to school and running errands. His favorite place is the one whole rack of the fridge, where Sunny lovingly cuts up containers of vegetables and fruit to add to the mix of his daily food intake. The neighbors call him a piece of work, a really unique guy next door! He plays with the boys in the yard and is included in all of their activities except playing ball. The ball is involved in his training as a reward so it’s off limits at home.

But Sunny tells an interesting tale about how Buddy prepares for his work day. As soon as Rick goes upstairs to dress in his uniform Buddy puts on his work “face.” He climbs in the squad car next to his partner and will not look at her! She tries to say goodbye but he will not comply. He looks straight forward and goes into his training mode.

Buddy does have a little weakness in his personality. He has developed a separation anxiety problem if Rick is not around. Family vacations are not his favorite thing; he literally gets sick during the absence of the family. Sometimes it takes weeks for him to get back in shape after the trauma.

So the family is now a family of five; Rick and Sunny have completed their family by adding Buddy as a new edition of their story. Talk about bringing your work home!

Know the Law handbook now available for students

A cooperative effort of the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, the State Attorney’s Office 7th Judicial Circuit, the St. Johns County School Board and the PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County culminated in the producing of a handbook for the young people of our community. “Know the Law” was designed to provide middle and high school age students with valuable information to assist them on the laws of our state and possible consequences.

The making of this handbook took a committee of experts from the four agencies involved nearly a year to research and write the contents of the handbook. It also contains information based on questions and feedback from students to school resource deputies and educators. It is the hope of the committee that students will bring the book home to parents and engage them in a discussion about the contents.

Some of the topics discussed in the book include drugs and alcohol, tobacco, parties, weapons, cyber bullying and threats, computer crimes, gang enhancement and hate crimes as well as driving and future consequences among others.

The message to the youth of our community from the CEOs of the four groups involved is simple: “In order to become a productive, successful part of your community you must understand that your actions now will have a great impact on your future. Your friends and family are not responsible for your behavior, that responsibility is yours alone.”

Parents and students who have not obtained the handbook yet and would like to see it may obtain it from the following websites: www.sjso.org, www.sao7.com, www.sjshs.k12.fl.us or www.pactprevention.org.

APRIL 2011: Aubrey Asplen, Cassidy Traill’s AYCA recipients for 2010-2011: Joss Arcenas, MD, has joined Jess Arcenas, MD, at Baptist South Internal Medicine. She is dedicated to improving your health through preventative care and empowering you with health information. Dr. Pol lace is ready to provide you with a medical home.

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in the Medical Office Building
Baptist Medical Center South campus

BTHS announces Young Youth Character Award recipients

Bartram Trail High School is pleased to announce the American Youth Character Award (AYCA) recipients for 2010-2011. Each year, nomination and selections are nominated and selected for the AYCA based on their daily demonstration of the following qualities outlined in the Character Counts program's Six Pillars of Character. The Character Counts program is a national educational program founded in 1992 by the Josephson Institute of Ethics in California. The program promotes five traits of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Eleven years ago, the Character Counts pro- gram was adopted by the St. Johns County School District to promote and recognize excellence in character traits in students throughout the county.


Additionally, the athletic department has a similar program relating to character qualities called Victor with Honor. This year Elizabeth “Libby” Crowe has been selected as Bartram’s Victory with Honor award recipient.
Be safe when exercising outdoors

By Contributing Writer Meghan Bender, Community Programs Manager, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

As the weather warms up it is nearly impossible to stay inside. Many of us exercise outside when we can and that can mean sharing the roadways with cars and trucks as well as with joggers and cyclists. It is important to stay safe sharing the roadways with cars and trucks as well as with joggers and cyclists. It is important to stay safe and be visible to others.

Nearly 11 people each day are killed in pedestrian motor vehicle accidents. According to PEPSAFE, "Pedestrian crashes are most prevalent during morning and afternoon peak periods, when the traffic levels are highest." This is the same time that most of us decide to go outside to experience the fresh air and scenery.

Next time you decide to go outside for a jog or bike ride, remember these personal safety tips:

• Be sure to stay off the road, if there is no sidewalk then exercise against traffic so that cars are able to see you.

• It is important to let a friend or family member know where you’re going in case they need to look for you.

• Do not exercise alone; find an exercise group to partner up with.

• Always carry identification.

• Wear an ID tag that has your name, phone number and emergency contact information.

• Know your surroundings and be sure to stay alert to what is going on around you.

• Bring your cell phone in case of an emergency. Buy an arm band or fanny pack to keep it safe.

• Stay visible by wearing bright colored clothing or reflective gear.

• Keep your eye out for people that may not see you, make eye contact with drivers at street crossings to ensure their aware of you.

• Limit your distractions. If your iPod is too loud it will prevent you from hearing cars, dogs or anything happening around you.

• Trust your instincts, if something doesn’t feel right leave the situation until you feel comfortable.

These safety tips are brought to you as part of the prevention-education mission of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Look for our upcoming articles in our “Safety Series.”

Vegetable Garden Contest

You work hard in the garden and some recognition can make it all worthwhile. This spring the St. Johns County Extension Office will once again hold the St. Johns County Vegetable Gardening Contest which is being sponsored by the St. Johns County Master Gardeners.

Gardeners can enter in nine categories. The gardens will be judged by the St. Johns County Extension Service. To enter the contest, see our website at stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu under the Lawn and Garden section for the entry form or call 209-0430. Entry deadline is May 14.

This contest is open to all residents of St. Johns County.

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

~Zig Z

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This contest is open to all residents of St. Johns County.
Kids of all ages.

to help fight cancer and support its fair like atmosphere come from all fun-filled event that will appeal to and more. Event planners have bouncy houses, games, live music Vedra and Nocatee will be joining as well as residents from Ponte High School, local businesses, Society. Students from Ponte Vedra Relay For Life® to raise funds and the Town of Nocatee will host during the American Cancer Society's Relay For victims. Participating in the America's vision of a world than 11 million people in America into what they do. As a result, more investing in cancer research, con-
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BAPTIST Medical Center South

Older Americans: Connecting the community

By Contributing Writer Susan Johnson, Council on Aging

Every May since 1963, people in towns and cities across the country have come together to celebrate the enormous contributions of older Americans—borne of wisdom, experience and the will to realize their dreams and speak their minds. Older Americans Month is our chance to show our appreciation and support our seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. St. Johns County Council on Aging is joining the festivities with special activities and events.

The theme of this year’s celebration—Older Americans: Connecting the Community—pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities. Their shared histories, diverse experiences and wealth of knowledge have made our culture, economy and local character what they are today. The theme also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives. In fact, older Americans are more active in community life than ever before, thanks in part to advances in health care, education, technology and financial stability over the last several decades that have greatly increased their vitality and standard of living. Older adults are out and about giving back and making a difference in their community.

Our seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds. They offer a take on times gone by not discussed in any history class—a unique perspective that sheds new light on contemporary issues.

Older Americans step up to help one another as well. Across the country, seniors connect with other seniors by delivering meals, helping with home repair, assisting with shopping, and offering companionship, counseling and care. These efforts remind us that when older adults are active and engaged in their communities, everyone benefits.

Help us celebrate Older Americans Month! Join your neighbors not only to recognize what older citizens bring to our communities, but also to help them continue playing a vital role in weaving a unique and lasting legacy.

Contact the Council on Aging to find out about volunteer opportunities with programs that provide services for seniors and help improve health literacy, increase access to quality health services, deliver food and nutritional services, provide financial and housing counseling, sponsor social and civic activities and more. We think you will discover that when you help seniors thrive in your community, you gain far more than you give.

Visit our website at www.coasjc.com for a complete list of activities, services and more.

The CreekLine YOUR Community Newspaper editor@thecreekline.com

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Nease Happenings
Season’s end
By Brittany Dirks, Nease Student

When the end of the year draws near, major games and competitions do as well. For the summer programs of Nease Band, it meant state championships and for one, world championships.

Before going into details about placements and medals, it would be best for one to understand the “classes” of percussion and Winterguard. Novice and cadet classes are for beginning groups who are just learning the basics, which are always middle schools. Then high schools have the word “scholastic” preceding their class to identify them as a guard or percussion that is affiliated with a school. Scholastic teams start in B class and advance through classes AAA (triple A), AA (double A), A, Open and World. There are also “independent” teams that usually start in A class and are not affiliated with a school. These teams are also considered more advanced than scholastic groups, because most rehearse only on the weekends in order for members to have normal work hours that won’t interfere with it. Percussion follows the same class order, but also have interfere with it. Percussion follows the same class order, but also have

Nease Indoor Percussion is in Scholastic Marching A Class and placed first in state championships. Their show, “Haka,” was a crowd favorite because of its intense, tribal feeling. Their incredible season included first place in nearly every competition and defeating their long-time rival, Fleming Island.

For Nease AA Winterguard, state championships took place on Saturday, April 2. Their show was called “Cannonball” and after a fun, productive season, placed seventh in their final competition. Considering the top six teams were meant to be in A class and not competing with Nease AA at all, this was a great accomplishment. In their whole season, they were either first or second in their class. They had a great time and some members hope to move up to Nease’s other team next year!

Nease A Winterguard placed second in state championships on April 3, after a wonderfully successful season. The team was ecstatic while receiving their shiny silver medals in front of a large audience for their show “Shortcut to a Dream.” However, their season was far from over. Two days later the entire team of 20 was up at 3:00 a.m. to be at the Jacksonville International Airport in time for their early morning flight to Dayton, Ohio.

At this point, most people would be thinking, “Why are they going to Dayton, Ohio?” and they would be right. There is very little about small city except WGI World Championships. WGI stands for Winterguard International and includes only teams from A class to World class. Teams from Japan, the Netherlands, England, Canada and of course the United States gathered in Dayton to compete for the title of World Champion. The competition is divided into three parts: preliminaries, semifinals and finals. Every guard is welcome to attend if they can afford the trip. However, only 48 teams make it to semifinals and only 15 of those make it to finals. These all take place within a span of two exhausting days, but the higher classes are more spread out. And after the best two of their lives, Nease A placed 13th in the world.

Overall, it was a very successful season for Nease Band and its indoor programs. With summer looming, it’s time for everyone to come together again for marching band and hopefully an even better season!

TRUST
Just five little letters but a really big word.

Why do we have more than 30 full-time agents, many of whom have received the prestigious “5 Star Best in Client Satisfaction” award multiple times? Why do we back up those agents with a comprehensive support staff, ready and waiting to do their jobs? Because we care, dates from 1872 and is held on the last Friday in April.

Jill Hillier’s fourth grade class coordinated all of the activities for the celebration. Groups of students designed and put up posters to raise awareness of Arbor Day; and made a presentation to all the other fourth grade classes to educate them about trees in Florida. Three students even wrote and performed a rap song about orange trees. The entire class participated in the planting of an orange tree that can be a centerpiece for future Arbor Day celebrations.

The tree was obtained with the proceeds of the school’s recent “Surf EMS” school-wide event.

Visit our website: www.TheCreekLine.com

Arbor Day observed at Timberlin Creek
By Contributing Writer Jill Hillier, Fourth Grade Teacher, Timberlin Creek Elementary

Timberlin Creek Elementary celebrated Arbor Day on April 29. Arbor Day is a national observance that encourages tree planting and care; dates from 1872 and is held on the last Friday in April.

Jill Hillier’s fourth grade class coordinated all of the activities for the celebration. Groups of students designed and put up posters to raise awareness of Arbor Day; and appeared on Timberlin Creek’s morning announcements program to explain why it is celebrated and the importance of trees; and made a presentation to all the other fourth grade classes to educate them about trees in Florida. Three students even wrote and performed a rap song about orange trees. The entire class participated in the planting of an orange tree that can be a centerpiece for future Arbor Day celebrations.

The tree was obtained with a grant from the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association.
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**Same-day acute appointments**

The Neighborhood Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, the Rural Letter Carriers Association, the AFL-CIO and United Way of St. Johns County, will be collecting non-perishable food items on Saturday, May 14 for distribution to food banks in St. Johns County. Last year, St. Johns County residents generously donated 81,225 pounds of food, which was a record amount.

Please place a food donation by your mailbox on Saturday May 14. Your letter carrier will pick it up and deliver it to a St. Johns County food bank. Help us help our community!

For information or if you would like to volunteer, please call Nancy Burns at United Way at 829-9721 or 285-2606.
2011 marks the 10th anniversary of a very special music organization that contributes so much to our area. The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival grew from a dream in the heart of Christopher Rex, now the general and artistic director. As a musician himself, he stimulated interest in the project by presenting a performance for a small group of beautiful Amelia Island Plantation in the summer of 2001. By the end of that year they had raised $50,000 in seed money and the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival was born! It has grown steadily since then and is now in its eighth year. It was the first “Decade of Musical Excellence.” It will feature the most expansive and varied program in its history, ranging from Chamber Ensembles, Tango and Flamenco, to American Roots music, Jazz and Contempo-

The 2011 Festival runs from May 20 to June 19, with performances being held at a variety of venues, ranging from churches to the Nassau County Courthouse, Fernandina Beach, the Amelia Park Concert Pavilion, Walker’s Landing on Amelia Island Plantation, Fort Clinch State Park, the Ritz Carlton and the historic Palace Saloon among others!

Performances will include three “Retro Concerts” from the past decade. The first “From Russia with Love” featuring Zuzil Bailey, the second “Jazz and the City” with Sabina Tharcher, viola and will be performed on May 25. The second “Retro Concert” will take place on June 12 and will feature one of the world’s most renowned violinists, Rachel Barton Pine. Retro concert number three will be presented on June 14 and 15. Alison Buchanan, Philip Pan, Terrance Patterson and Elizabeth Pringle will be the featured arised.

Other presentations will include the Air National Guard Band of the South on May 22 and world class artists including the Tokyo String Quartet on May 27, classical guitarist Sharon Isbin on June 19, pianist Valentina Lis-

It was on June 17, Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakas on June 11, Jazz vocalist Luciana Souza on June 9 and Jazz Urged and Ambly Mason, who wrote and performed the theme music for the PBS Series “The Civil War” on June 2.

This is just a sampling of what you can see and hear! A few concerts are free, others range in price from $15 to $50 per ticket. For additional information you can call (904) 261-1779 or go to the web-

The Film opens with Eddie and in a forever period of writer’s block has a meteoric rise into the world of finance. Along the way, he falls in love with Linda, played by Abbie Cornish, who is brought into the world she never dreamed of. Dang-

The film opens in a sequence that almost makes you believe you have tried the drug, leading to the beginning of just how uninspired Eddie’s life has been. Bradley Cooper plays his part to perfection and his changes are just as riveting, as well as the potential this experimental drug displays. However, those from his past that had raised NZT, and rabbit addicts and that is just one of its dangers. One down side is that there were too many dangers from the drug that had little follow through. Robert DeNiro is perfect at the self-made man of millions, portraying the character with a math capable and he starts finding new ways to make money.

In one day this drug shows he can accomplish many things, including beating writer’s block and changing his means of living.

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Movie Review

Limitless


Rating: Great Movie, May See It Again (5 out of 5)

This month’s review belongs to the recently released Limitless—an action and suspense film, packed with both.

The movie begins with Eddie Morra, played by Bradley Cooper, in a forever period of writer’s block and down-on-his-luck behavior. He resembles a homeless man or drug addict at times in the begin-

Next, consider the wiser choice for your family. Is “green” one-play paper towel better than the thicker one? Savings are often accused of; help your children cultivate this character as-

As Sharlyn, mom to three teens, pointed out on Facebook, “The ‘green’ movement is every-where,...you see it in every major brand from toilet paper to furni-

Everybody is “going green.” It’s trendy, like saving whales, listen-

Letter Carriers’ Food Drive

Saturday, May 14

Non-perishable food should be set out by your mailbox on Saturday morning, May 14. Your letter carrier will pick it up and deliver it to a St. Johns County food bank.

Help us help your community!

For information or if you would like to volunteer, please call Nancy Burns at United Way at 829-9721 or 285-2606.

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The end of the school year is just around the corner. Let Solantic Baptist help you get ready for summer. Stop by one of our walk-in urgent care centers and take advantage of $35 summer camp or sports physicals. We also offer back-to-school immunizations, so while you’re there check that off your list too! Do it now... and beat the summer rush!

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www.TheCreekline.com • May 2011 • The CreekLine, Page 17
Helping Hands will meet at Faith Community Church Community Center on Friday, May 27 at 11:00 a.m. This month the group is inviting old and new members to come and get to know one another and plan for the balance of the year projects. There will be a gift bag lunch exchange. Anyone wishing to attend may bring a sandwich or salad, dessert and beverage in a gift bag exchange—much like a grab bag and the person who picks the bag will get a chance to meet who made it. This is strictly voluntary and those with special food needs may keep their own lunch. Contents need to be on outside of bag for dietary reasons. There will also be door prizes.

April’s projects were Mother’s Day gift tote bags filled with new clothing, jewelry, toiletries and accessories. The tote bags, which were given to the group by Winn Dixie, were donated to Betty Griffin House for abused and battered women. Betty Griffin House offers safe shelter to women in need. Many thanks to everyone who donated items or helped with the project!

In March, the group filled and gave 149 Easter baskets to Christ’s Cupboard food bank at Celebration Lutheran Church. The gaily decorated baskets were filled with chocolate bunnies, juice boxes, stuffed animals, healthy snacks and toys donated by Burger King on County Road 210. A number of the baskets were also brought to migrant worker children in Armstrong through the church.

Youth Helping Hands met for the first time on March 16 to plan their future projects. They are currently running a used clothing drive for a local rehabilitation facility. Clean, pressed, clothing on hangars may be brought to the church. They are in need of men’s and women’s clothing and shoes all sizes. They do not need children’s or casual clothing, but clothing suitable for school, work, job interviews or church. On April 20, over 20 very enthusiastic young people met again for Youth Helping Hands at Faith Community Church Community Center. The teenagers have decided to call their part of Helping Hands the Y-Double Hs. They made 60 “Bags of Cheer” to be given to the children at Wolfson Children’s Hospital and seniors at Westminster Woods. The bags were filled with jokes, motivational and inspirational sayings and good wishes. Women from Helping Hands are mentoring the group and had as much fun as the teenagers did. Community hours were earned through the project.

On May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center, the group will be making friendship bracelets for the children at Community Hospice. Linda from Helping Hands will be instructing the group. All supplies will be provided. Please bring a wooden spoon to wrap your bracelet around as you work. Anyone is welcome to join the group, as in Helping Hands there are no dues or officers. The group is non-denominational. Suggestions for the projects come from the group itself.

This is a wonderful way to teach your teenagers about helping others in a small way.

Helping Hands was formed in 2007 to foster fellowship and to do a small project for the community. Faith Community Church Community Center is located on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. The adult group typically meets the last Friday of the month. Anyone is welcome.

On May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center, the group will be making friendship bracelets for the children at Community Hospice.

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Sea Turtle season began May 1

The sea turtles are on their way back to nest on the beaches of St. Johns County as the official nesting season began Sunday, May 1. To ensure compliance with the St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan and Incident to Take Permit, which protect five species of sea turtles and the native Anaus-tias Island Beach Mouse, beach driving and lighting restrictions also went into effect.

Between May 1 and October 31, vehicles allowed on the beach are allowed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. After 7:30 p.m. no vehicles are allowed to enter the gates until the beach are open the following morning at 8:00 a.m. Additionally, all beachfront properties are required to reduce the impacts their lights have on the beaches and eliminate all non-compliance interior and exterior lights.

About sea turtles: St. Johns County is home to several species of endangered or threatened sea turtles that arrive every spring and summer to nest along our beaches. County residents and visitors have a special opportunity and responsibility to protect these magnificent creatures and their vulnerable nests and nesting grounds.

Record Breaking 2010 Season: The 2010 season was record-breaking for St. Johns County with a total of 867 turtle nests on the 41 miles of beaches, including over 56,000 hatchlings. This is the most since the county began keeping records in 1988 and far above the previous annual average of 255. Already in 2011, two nests have been documented on St. Johns County beaches.

Guidelines for beach use: Beach visitors are encouraged to protect sea turtle nesting habi-
tat while enjoying a diversity of activities including beach driving, horseback riding, recreational fishing and commercial fishing. In addition to following the regulated beach driving hours and lighting restrictions, residents and visitors are encouraged to follow these guidelines:

• Use trash and recycling receptacles at the beach.
• Remove oil and wet leaves left by vehicles and sand castle building.
• Do not leave chairs, umbrellas or canopies on the beach over night (they will be removed by county staff).
• Flashlights, fireworks and open fires are strictly prohibited.
• Sea oats activities (sitting, standing, storing personal prop-
erty, driving, horseback riding, etc.) are prohibited in the sand dunes and the Conservation Zone (15 feet seaward of the dune line).
• Please refrain from using balloons for events, as they fall into the ocean and can harm marine life.

New option for getting in shape this summer

What better way to stay active this summer than swimming, bik-
ing and running? Whether you are a seasoned triathlete or just want a new challenge, the Endurance Club kicks off activities for adults and youth just in time for sum-
mer. People from all walks of life are flocking to triathlon, one of the fastest growing mainstream sports in the world.

Sal Palmieri, local business owner and founder of the club, is for everyone from first timers to seasoned athletes and triathletes to those who enjoy one particular sport. They also invite youth, ages eight and up, to be a part of the club—something they believe will be a very positive influence for them.

The Endurance Club is a USA Triathlon registered club and features activities for members including group training sessions, coaching, motion analysis, work-
shops and camps. Since its kick off in April of this year, it has attracted members from Georgia to St. Petersburg. Much of their com-
munication and training is done online and they will host planned training opportunities for out of town members to attend.

The club offers online training plans as well as individual on-
one training and features training from USAT Coaches (youth/ adults), USA Cycling coaches, Cer-
tificated Fitness Instructors and Road Runners Club of America coaches. The club will also hold camps for kids this summer that are drill-orien-
ted, emphasizing proper tech-
nique, which will lay a good strong foundation.

The Endurance Club currently offers sprint races to individual

New Panache location opening in Jul-
ington Creek!

I began Panache of St. Augustine in 1987 after graduation from college with a degree in Psychology and Business Com-
munications. I soon after decided to go to barber college to become a stylist which turned out to be a great roundabout way to a fun and creative salon experience. In 2000 I returned from performing hair services to fully concentrate on our salon’s business develop-
ment which fortunately I enjoy also.

I am one only employee at Panache though. It is our fabulous team of staff members that create our success. We offer you different levels of service providers at Panache: Artist, Designers, Master and Top Stylist. The level is determined by education, experience and skill. Prices will vary depending on your stylist. We have

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Liberty Pines Academy PTO news and happenings

By Contributing Writer Stephanie Bradford, LPA PTO

Liberty Pines Academy PTO is excited about kicking off the 2011 LPA Boosterthon Fun Run! The PTO is hopeful that this will be their biggest fundraiser to date.

On Monday, May 9, the school will begin with an energetic pep rally. From then until Wednesday, May 18, the Boosterthon team will be promoting fitness, leadership and character to all of the students. Each student will have an online account set up for donations.

LPA’s School Advisory Council (SAC) invites you to be a part of our first annual “Community Leaders Day” on Monday, May 23. SAC is seeking leaders in our community who represent a variety of careers to come and speak to our students about their jobs and how leadership plays an important role in their success. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please email Dr. Brian Schoonover at schoonb@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Thanks to Lori McGinnis, LPA has been designated as a recipient in the Dick’s Sporting Goods Reward Program. Anyone with a Dick’s ScoreCard Reward account can log on to the program and choose LPA as their assigned school. After that, 2 percent of all eligible ScoreCard Rewards purchases will be donated to LPA. To participate, families can visit www.MyDickssportingGoods.com to assign LPA as their “team.”

Thanks to all of our wonderful LPA families for helping to make our Goodwill donation days a huge success. LPA students surpassed the goal of 60 percent student donations for our drive. As a result, Goodwill is generously donating a dance party to our kindergarten through fifth grade students on June 7. And on that day all kindergarten through eighth students will be eligible to win a family four pack to Walt Disney World or a week at Jacksonville Theater Drama Camp. Thank you to our LPA families for your generosity.

Important dates to remember as the end of this school year quickly approaches:
May 9 – 18: PTO Boosterthon Fun Run
May 30: Memorial Day student/staff holiday
June 9: Last day of school

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Activities Guide

BTHS Choral Department presents spring concert: Music of the Night

By Contributing Writer Diane Parker, Treasurer, BTHS Chorus Booster Club

The Bartram Trail High School Choral Department would like to invite everyone to attend their spring concert on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the BTHS Auditorium, located at 7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway. Admission is $5 and children 12 and under are free. Refreshments will be available for sale during intermission. All proceeds will benefit the activities of the BTHS Choral Department.

Choral students will be performing classical, pop and show music, including songs from the Broadway musicals The Phantom of the Opera, Wicked, Little Women, Children of Eden and Godspell. Student groups featured will include the Vocal Ensemble, Concert Choir, Men’s Ensemble, the newly formed Glee Club, as well as student soloists and ensembles just back from state level competition.

BTHS choir performances this year have included concerts with the St. Augustine Community Orchestra, Disney Epcot’s Candlelight Processional and Massed Choir, Florida Vocal Association districts and state adjudicated events and community performances in the St. Augustine and St. Johns areas. The students especially enjoyed singing with the students at Crookshank Elementary School and performing with the Hickory Creek Elementary Chorus at the annual BTHS Holiday Concert.

Barbara Mattingly, in her ninth year as choral director at Bartram Trail, recently completed a Masters of Music Education degree from Florida State University with a summer at the FSU Study Center in London. BTHS choral students regularly qualify for Florida’s All-State choral groups and BTHS choral alumni have gone on to study music at University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida State University, Stetson University, Southern Virginia University and the University of Texas Austin, among others.

We hope many of you will come support the talented and dedicated students of the BTHS Choral Department on Tuesday, May 17!

For more information, contact Barbara Mattingly at 547-8340, extension 22580, or email mattingb@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

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The way in which making school meals healthier while, at the same time, enhancing students’ knowledge and focus on health and wellness. Recently, the United States government passed a new version of the National School Lunch Program that tightened regulations over which foods could be served in school cafeterias, while expanding funding to allow schools to purchase higher quality fruits and vegetables. This change was needed to address the national issue that over half of our children are now overweight and at risk of developing type 2 Diabetes.

Last June, Kathleen Damiano TCE’s food service manager, took a step further by establishing the school’s own garden. Her desire is to have the garden be utilized both to improve nutritional offerings in the cafeteria as well as to serve as the foundation for nutritional education. TCE was one of three area schools to be awarded a grant from Slow Food First Coast and local businesses to assist them in establishing school gardens that will be integrated into the curriculum. The first “crops” are being enjoyed this spring in school lunches with plans both to add fruit trees in May as well as to expand the vegetable plantings for the fall.

The garden is part of a pilot program geared toward furthering students’ knowledge and focus on health and wellness. Students assist with the planting and care of the garden. The program will also possibly include the formation of a 4-H club and after school culinary classes to utilize some of the food grown in the garden.

TCE would like to partner more with local, organic produce growers to supply additional foods for the cafeteria and to provide ways to make that a possibility. However, due to the required bud process, farmers must bid to supply foods county-wide which can be infrequent for some growers. That challenge increases the importance of TCE’s own garden in its endeavor to provide increasingly nutritious and healthy meals to students.

For her efforts, Damiano was awarded the St. Johns County School Related Employee of the Year.

“We are so lucky to have Mrs. Damiano and so grateful for all she does for the students and teachers here at TCE. Her love for her job and sharing her talents is just one of the many ways that Mrs. Damiano touches so many of us,” TCE Principal Cathy Hutchins commented.

Anyone interested in learning more about the TCE garden and nutritional awareness initiative or those wishing to volunteer or to make garden material donations, may contact Kathleen Damiano at damiank@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Thank you, Switzerland Point Middle School Teachers!
Swiss Point PTSA gives a big “shout out” to the SPMS teachers!
THANK YOU for your talent & dedication to making our school great.
First of all, our teachers are talented and share it with the kids! You make them better and inspire them to go on to do great things.
Second, our teachers are dedicated to the children. They spend countless hours working with them getting them ready for High School and life beyond school. Often these times are not seen by others. But the children know your dedication and commitment to them. We also see this commitment and want you to know we appreciate it.
Thanks again TEACHERS! ~Swiss Point PTSA
JCE’s Got Talent!
By Contributing Writer Cathy Ragusa, Kindergarten teacher, JCE

Faculty and staff at Julington Creek Elementary School showed off their talents on Friday, April 15. The students and families of Julington Creek Elementary were treated to a show like no other in the school’s history. In a special Relay for Life fundraising event members of every grade level, paraprofessionals, maintenance personnel and even administrators entertained the standing room only audience with skits, spoofs, dances and musical performances.

A panel of lucky fifth grade students, who bought chance tickets to be selected, judged each act of the evening. In the end there was a three-way tie of perfect scores from the judges’ panel, thus an applause measure from the audience was the much needed tie breaker. Bringing down the house was the Administrative Team, with a special guest appearance from our previous assistant principal, Melissa Norwich and a grand finale of participation from all the acts of the evening joining together on the stage to perform the Electric Slide.

In the end, the biggest winner of all is the American Cancer Society, who will receive the almost $2500 raised from this event, along with all the additional monies raised by Julington Creek Elementary’s Relay for Life team. They have sponsored mini events all year long at the school to give students the opportunity to support this great cause.

The team’s goal was to raise more than $5000 to contribute the Bartram Trail Relay for Life event on April 30 at Bartram Trail High School.

Photos Needed!
We are soliciting YOUR action high school football photos for a new publication. Can be professional or amateur shots of Creekside, Bartram or Nease High School.
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Symposium
Bartram Trail student’s field trip to Lou Frey

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Bartram Trail student’s field trip to Lou Frey Symposium

By Contributing Writer Mallory Kee, BTHS Student

Each year, Congressman Lou Frey generously provides the funds to high school government classes across the state to visit and participate in the Lou Frey Symposium of Government and Politics. Jimmy Lee’s AP government students from Bartram Trail High School attended the Lou Frey Symposium at the University of Central Florida on April 4.

As a senior in the class, I was lucky enough to be a part of the field trip. At the symposium, we were given the opportunity to listen about China’s relations with the United States and learned how important it is to maintain a good relationship with them. We were told the future of our country depends on them.

The speakers at the symposium included Minster Deng Hongbo, Steven Clemons, Dr. Ruan Zongze included Minister Deng Hongbo, Steven Clemons, Dr. Ruan Zongze, and Jimmy Lee’s AP government students from Bartram Trail High School attended the Lou Frey Symposium at the University of Central Florida on April 4.

Amateur astronomy is a mainstream hobby for more than 50,000 people in the United States. Struck by the wonder of the stars and the availability of relatively inexpensive and effective telescopes, many people are traveling to the stars in their spare time. If you’re interested in getting to know your universe a little better, here’s a good way to start stargazing:

- Start with naked-eye astronomy. Check out the monthly charts and online versions (such as Sky & Telescope and Astronomy) for the current positions and share knowledge and tips.
- Join an astronomy club. You can learn from others and swap binoculars and telescopes.
- Pick up binoculars. A good starting point is a pair of 7x50 binoculars. Consult star charts or use a telescope to view the nebulae and star clusters that will be visible with the binoculars.
- Explore the universe from your back yard. The sky is a great place to start.

The school year is wrapping up, just under a month left until the last day of school, and what a year it has been! The Pacetti Bay PTSA would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers, business partners, school faculty and staff and anyone else who contributed to making this school year such a great one! Special thanks to our business partners and contributors: The Law Offices of Christopher W. Adame; Davidson Realty; Orthodoxic Associates of St. Augustine; Florida Get Fit/Florida Get Dancing; Advantage Home Builders; B&G Signs, Inc.; Shelby Heinemann, International Golf Realty; Donna Mancini Stegner and Redesign, Inc.; Bosard Ford, Advance Auto Parts; Mill Creek Family Care; The Village Dentist; Brown Jordan, International; The Publicity Queen; Rainbow Muffler / Muffler Man; Home Depot; Bed, Bath and Beyond; Starbucks; and Publix.

We hope that you all enjoy your last few weeks of school and have a great summer. We are looking forward to gearing up for another great school year. Please visit the Pacetti Bay website at www.phonusbhs.com for more information regarding Pacetti Bay PTSA.
BTHS senior selected as Beta Scholar

The National Beta Club has announced that John “Mac” Culkeen has been named a Beta Scholar which entitles him to a scholarship award of $1000. Culkeen, a senior at Bartram Trail High School, competed against more than 1000 candidates nationwide for this honor. Two hundred nineteen scholarship recipients were chosen. Culkeen plans to attend Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida. He was recommended for this award by the local Beta Club sponsors, Lori Gallaher and Sarah Goebel and BTHS Principal Brenton Asplen.

“This outstanding young person represents the true spirit of National Beta, having excelled not only academically, but in leadership and service to school and community as well,” said Ken Cline, executive director of the National Beta Club.

Culkeen is the son of Bob and Beth Culkeen of Fruit Cove. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dorsey of Sun City Center, Florida.

When asked about how she felt about Culkeen’s accomplishments Gallaher said, “As a veteran teacher of 29 years, I can say that Mac is one of the most outstanding young people I have ever worked with. He certainly deserves this honor.”

After learning about Culkeen’s achievement, Principal Asplen commented, “We are all very proud of Mac and wish him the best as he begins college next year.”

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Cassidy Langford selected as a finalist for the UF Lombardi Scholarship

Cassidy Langford is not your ordinary high school senior. In fact, she is the only St. Johns County high school senior and one of only 18 statewide to be interviewed for the coveted Lombardi scholarship at University of Florida.

Beginning in January, guidance counselors across the state were allowed to pick one of their school’s graduating seniors to nominate for the prestigious Lombardi scholarship. The scholarship is named for the former University of Florida President John V. Lombardi and recognizes incoming University of Florida freshmen who have demonstrated academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities, leadership, strong moral character, creativity and are in the top portion of their high school graduating class. Once the nominations were narrowed down by review of the application essays and a phone interview, the 18 scholarship finalists were invited to the University of Florida to participate in a day-long interview and special activities.

The eight Lombardi scholarship award recipients will receive $2,700 each fall and spring semester for up to 10 semesters at University of Florida. Students will also participate in summer enrichment programs, international study, leadership activities and community service. The award recipients also have opportunities to interact with visiting faculty, speakers and researchers through their participation in the Lombardi scholarship program.

Langford says that it was “exciting” to make it all the way to the final selection process. Unfortunately, she was not chosen as one of the final eight Lombardi Scholarship recipients, but she still plans to major in Health Science at the University of Florida and eventually earn her master’s degree in occupational therapy. Her long-term goal is to open a business assisting patients with therapy in their own homes.

One of the reasons that Langford was chosen as Barrtram Trail’s nominee was her well-rounded high school portfolio. She maintained a 4.5 GPA, participated in various sports, was a Miss Barrtram Trail contestant, amateur photographer, yearbook member, Beta club officer, volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, high school mentor, tutor, Youth Leadership participant, National Merit Scholar Commended student, AP scholar and summer office intern. Additionally, during her time at BTHS, Langford was instrumental in establishing a college bound resource library to help other students prepare for the SAT and the ACT.

BTHS registrar Aretha Graham said the following about Cassidy: “I firmly believe that she will continue to be an asset to society and will be a shining example of a great leader.”

CR 210 and Helping Hands host Pet Parade!

Sammie and Nah-Nah along with their dog Peppermint the 210 Pet Parade, which was held at St. Johns Golf and Country Club on April 10 and sponsored by Helping Hands for the benefit of Whiskers and Wags no kill shelter. The shelter received much needed pet food, bowls, leash, beds, toys and old towels. Peppermint was the first place winner!

I recently made a trip to San Antonio, Texas and sad to say, I didn’t remember much about the Alamo. Sure, I’d heard of bloodshed and bravery, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Travis. But, I didn’t understand the background of the battle that occurred in 1836. Fortunately, I had an excellent tour guide who provided me with details concerning the events and left me with a desire to learn more.

Since then I have learned:

The original Mission San Antonio de Valero (now the Alamo) was constructed in 1718 and for 70 years served as a home to missionaries and Native Americans who converted to the faith. In December 1835, during the Texas Revolution, a Mexican contingent was forced to surrender to and Texans and Tejanos volunteers (Texans of Spanish descent) fighting in San Antonio. The Texas group then used the Alamo as their base.

In January 1836, Sam Houston requested permission to “blow up the Alamo” as he didn’t think that group had enough men to defend it. He wanted the supplies and cannons moved to Gonzales for his use, but Texas Governor Henry Smith denied the request. A group of only 200 defended the Alamo for 13 days against General Santa Anna and his 5,000 strong Mexican army. On March 6, 1836, the final battle erupted before daybreak when the Mexicans scaled the walls, rushed into the compound and seized the property.

In 1884, the Alamo was sold to a grocery firm who wanted, in turn, to sell to a hotel developer. Many people voiced their opposition and eventually a plan was worked out for the state to purchase the property.

In 1905, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) became custodians of the Alamo and remain so today. The Alamo receives no taxpayer funding and offers free admission to an estimated 2.5 million visitors each year. This year they are celebrating the Alamo’s 175th anniversary.

No photos may be taken inside the Alamo. And, Uncle Sam’s music legend, Phil Collins, has the largest private collection of Alamo memorabilia in the world.

So, there you have it, lessons learned from travel: I better understand the sacred piece of Texas history and promise to Remember the Alamo. For more information visit www.thalamo.org.

Teen Gamers Saturday, May 28 5-7 pm

Teens (grades 6-12) bring your friends and come on out for an evening of gaming: X-Box 360, Guitar Hero, Rock Band, DDR, and more!

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On April 9, 129 Nease International Baccalaureate (IB) freshmen and sophomore students joined their forces to clean-up the entire stretch of St. Johns County shoreline spanning 39 miles – from Ponte Vedra Beach to Fort Matanzas in St. Augustine. Students in 36 teams of two to five persons combed the beach foot in one to two mile intervals collecting and documenting thousands of trash and debris items.

This fourth annual event was a culmination of months of planning and preparation efforts. Students in each team were equipped with garbage bags, gloves, Ocean Conservancy data sheets, cameras for documenting their findings and a lot of enthusiasm. The Nease IB beach cleanup not only resulted in cleaner beaches but also provided an invaluable record of a complete snapshot of the conditions of the entire St. Johns County coastline captured on a single day.

Nease IB students collected a total of nearly 7,000 pieces of garbage. The top categories of collected waste in terms of quantity were 2,117 cigarette butts (a single mile at the Donganville access in St. Augustine yielded an astounding amount of 284 cigarette butts), food wrappers and beverage containers (1455 pieces) and plastic bags and debris (384 pieces), indicating that the majority of marine litter is created on land by humans. In addition to ubiquitous plastic waste, the students collected a significant amount of fishing line and lures, and building material debris.

“It was astonishing how much trash we found within the first mile of Mickler beach. The clean-up put a lot of things in perspective for me,” said Nease IB freshman Paige Farrar. The students also observed an unusually large number of soggy jellyfish: 1627. Also, several dead fish and birds were observed along with a snake and a large sea turtle.

This Nease IB freshmen and sophomore students’ annual volunteer effort began four years ago as an environmental initiative to improve the condition of St Johns County shoreline. Every spring, Nease IB students perform the cleanup of our community’s beaches at the end of the spring break period when our beaches see greatest numbers of visitors and larger quantities of trash. The students collect garbage and debris, analyze data on the collected garbage and present their findings to biologists at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Education Research Reserve (GTMNERR).

The beach cleanup results will ultimately be used to document the scope of the problem of waste and litter. The Nease IB 2011 beach cleanup is a great experience for our students to be able provide service to their own community,” said Kim Hollis, Nease IB Program coordinator.

The Nease IB 2011 beach cleanup was held with generous support from Advanced Disposal, the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, Seaboard Waste Systems, the Sports Corner and Nease IB Booster Club.

Dine on the Wild Side to benefit wildlife on May 14

Ever dined next to a Hungry gator or a nesting heron? This May, you can while supporting a very worthwhile organization! HAWKE, The Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education, a 501 (3) not-for-profit charity that rescues and rehabilitates orphaned wild birds, mammals and reptiles announces their annual "Dine on the Wild Side" fund-raising dinner.

The dinner will be held at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm on Saturday evening, May 14. The Alligator Farm and Zoological Park sponsors this popular event every year for HAWKE.

The dinner will feature Jerry Stalvey’s BBQ chicken, coleslaw and baked beans. There are also limited tickets for a vegetarian dinner featuring tofu sautéed with vegetables and served over a bed of rice from the Gypsy Cab on Anastasia Island and a pasta dish do

ated by Jim's Place in Elkton. All meals will be served with dessert, tea and a roll. Also, beer and wine will be available for purchase at the Alligator Farm's Snack Bar.

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ated by Jim's Place in Elkton. All meals will be served with dessert, tea and a roll. Also, beer and wine will be available for purchase at the Alligator Farm's Snack Bar. Live music will be provided by Anastasia Spiecker, a St. Augustine native who has been performing around Northeast Florida since 1998. She has composed over 50 original songs and has an ever-growing, eclectic collection of cover songs the plays as well.

A ticket to the event includes an all-day pass to the park and exclusive use of the park beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Enjoy a guided tour of the bird rookery from the boardwalk and view thousands of birds in all stages of life, from courthouse to nestling, and be sure to bring your camera for unique photographic opportunities. Also, during the event, a segment for the television show “Wildlife Nannies” featuring HAWKE’s Melanie Caine will be televised and the HAWKE rehabilitation facility will be shown in the education room. Heeding, Twigg and Barney the owls will also be on display.

Starting May 1, the ticket price is $40 and a limited number of tickets for $45 may be available at the door (depending on availability). You can obtain tickets by contacting HAWKE at the above phone number or by ordering them through their website (www.hawkewildlife.org) or by calling 904-1277-1777. For more information please visit the HAWKE website (www.hawkewildlife.org) or call 904-1277-1777 and help HAWKE help wildlife!
On Sunday, May 15, River of Life United Methodist Church will be holding a ground breaking ceremony for the new church building. The church has been in existence since January 1975 and is located at 1755 State Road 13. After a competitive vetting process, the church selected Paul Kalfa as their new Senior Pastor. The smooth transition from the founding pastor completed a six month process led by diverse cross-section of church members. The church leadership fully supported founding Pastor Chuck McArthur’s new mission, teaching and training pastors to lead restoration in the country of Liberia.

Paul Kalfa came highly recommended from within the pastoral community of peer churches and from his prior church, Seven Rivers. Kalfa and his wife Lisa joined Cross Creek in January 2011. Kalfa, a New York City native (Queens) had ministry experience in both central Florida and metropolitan New York. Kalfa, a first generation Greek-American, whose parents immigrated to the United States, was assistant pastor at Seven Rivers Church, in Leucanto, Florida prior to New Hope Church, New York. Kalfa is a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary (M.Div. ’97) in Orlando and is currently completing his disserta- tion for his Doctorate of Ministri degree.

Lisa Kalfa, a native of Brooksville, Florida, is an English teacher with experience in both public and private schools. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida. Her passions include music, singing, reading, and travel.

Riverdale United Methodist Church (RUMC) located at 1028 County Road 13 South will be holding their annual huge Yard/Garage/Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, from 8 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days. This community event will feature tons of items donated by neighbors of Tocqui, Riverdale and Racy Point plus you can enjoy hot dogs, chips and beverages for a nominal fee as well as purchase bake sale items. The proceeds of this event will go towards the building fund for the laying of a new roof for the church. Mark your calendars, tell your friends and join us at the river for a great day of bargain galore, while enjoying the beautiful rural setting and have your participation support a very worthy cause.

St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church is offering a parents’ evening program for the 2010 - 2011 school year. If your child(ren) are between 12 months and five years old they can be enrolled in our program. The program runs on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The children are taught different prayers, bible verses and do this while having lots of fun. The goal of the program is to help parents’ get a little time off. For more information please contact Mimi at 880-4014 or email Isabel at catskillgal@comcast.net.

HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling Resource Center is now open at THE CHURCH of Jacksonville, located at 8313 Baymeadows Road and Philips Highway. Free and confidential HIV testing is available on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or by appointment. HIV is preventable – learn facts about HIV/AIDS, learn how HIV is spread, and learn how to prevent the spread of HIV. Most importantly get tested! Please call 739-6900 ext 1523 for more information.

Join us this May for exciting worship and events!

May 15th

• Graduation Sunday
• GROUND BREAKING
• A Celebration of Ministry honoring Rev. Kim Salat
More than 100 students were recognized for their exemplary character at the Eleventh Annual American Youth Character Awards Banquet held April 29 at the World Golf Village Convention Center. Honorees included three percent of the junior class and one percent of the senior class from each high school who were identified as students of character. Twenty-five of these seniors were recognized, along with 70 juniors including 11 from Bartram Trail High School, 12 from Creekside High School, two from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, 10 from Pedro Menendez High School, 10 from Nease High School, 11 from Ponte Vedra High School, 11 from St. Augustine High School, two from St. Johns Technical High School and two from St. Joseph Academy. Students also invited their parents and a mentor who has served as a character role model for them.

Criteria for the AYCA awards are based on the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. These awards recognize students for serving as good role models for their generation. Nominees were evaluated on the basis of the influence of the Six Pillars in their lives, especially as they relate to overcoming obstacles, making difficult choices, generosity and self-sacrifice, and community service. All honorees received certificates and school letters. In addition, each honoree received a $400 award in recognition of their exemplary character.

The NW St. Johns County senior award recipients were: Aubrey Aspen, John “Mac” Culleen, Jonathan Daguihit and Cassidy Langford from Bartram Trail High School; Khala Hurst, Savannah Robinson and Jacob Sambursky from Creekside High School; and Brad Bennett, Virginia Beverley, Brandon DeAgurto and Conner Holland of Nease High School. NW St. Johns County junior nominees were as follows: Bartram Trail High School Jason Agee, Abbie Dowert, Dena Fisher, Casey Holmes, Allen Kapelka, Taylor Knowles, Erin McDonald, Sydney Plinko, Christopher Pupil, Tiran Register and Tyler Worthington.

Creekside High School – Rachel Buff, Douglas Calderone, Alyson Giambalvo, Dylan Klee, Danielle Krusemark, Albert Gilovoy, Daniel Gomez, Shannon Granite, Kathy Hill, Marian Langford, Danielle Mitchell, E. Subastian Rivas and Garrison Wermote. Six years ago the law firm of Upchurch, Bailey and Upchurch, PA, established the David Macau- lay Memorial Victory Scholarship Honor Award to recognize a varsity athlete who exhibits the Six Pillars of Character. David Mathis was a 1999 International Baccalaureate graduate of Nease High School who was active in the Naval ROTC, student council and was a member of the varsity basketball team.

This year’s Pursuing Victory with Honor Award winner was Libby Crowe of Bartram Trail High School. The other school finalists were Jimmy Clark of Creekside High School, Matthew Macaulay of Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Gabriella Samuel of Pedro Menendez High School, Amanda MacNaughton of Nease High School, Ali Fehling of Ponte Vedra High School, afar Ducks from St. Augustine High School and Katie Burchfield of St. Joseph Academy.

Major sponsors for this year’s banquet were The Bailey Group, Northrop Grumman, Prosperity Bank and Upchurch, Bailey and Sanders. Business lots contributed to the event. Each major sponsor, along with several other business, civic organizations and individuals also contributed to this event.

By Contributing Writer Becky Reichenberg

BTHS Happenings

1500 Bartram students to take AP Exams in May

By Ray Tuenger, Jr., Bartram Trail High School Student

By the end of May, about 1500 Bartram students will know whether they have achieved college credit for advance placement (AP) courses they have taken this year. If they do not pass the AP exam, they must retake the course to gain college credit.

Students who have taken AP courses in high school have two ways to gain college credit. One way is to pass the AP exam. If they pass the exam with a grade of 3, 4 or 5, they will get credit toward their college degree.

Each year, more than 22 AP courses are available to BTHS students who are interested in gaining early college credit. Some of Bartram’s most qualified teachers have been trained to teach AP content in the AP program. The AP program uses specially prepared course descriptions that ensure the subject matter is appropriate and consistent throughout the nation. The involvement of college faculty at all levels of exam development and scoring ensures that the AP Exams truly reflect college-level achievement. However, teachers are free to use their own teaching methods to ensure AP students adequately learn the material and help them pass the exam.

The AP program was developed by the College Board over 50 years ago and has been a great success. AP exams are prepared by college committees and AP high school teachers to evaluate how well students have learned the AP subject matter and more importantly, how well they will be able to perform at the college level. Each AP exam is scored on a scale of 1 to 5. A score of 3, 4 or 5 earns college credit, but consists of a free-response section and a multiple-choice section. In addition to free-response and multiple-choice questions, AP world language exams have an extra oral section and AP Music Theory students are required to complete their exams. AP exams are scored using both computer and human readers and college and high school teachers.

Bartram students who pass their AP exams are eligible to receive college credit and achieve advanced standing at thousands of universities worldwide. And they will also save their parents money.
Switzerland Point Middle School will be hosting its annual Summer Basketball Camp for boys and girls six through 14. The camp will have three one-week sessions on June 13 through 16, June 27 through 30, and August 1 through 4. This is a fun filled camp where “teaching never stops.” Don’t be left out of this year’s camp because the camp fills up quickly. Please check the website at Switzerland Point Middle School to download a brochure. Also, we are seeking donations or prizes for the students. (Examples are gift certificates, T-shirts, coupons, drinks or candy). If any area is gift certificates, T-shirts, coupons, or prizes for the students become better musicians, helping me and countless others learn to read music. Joe had a positive impact on me.”

Barton has been taking trumpet lessons from Ben Barton, age 11. Barton has been preparing for his next concert which is on June 29th. Barton will perform at a Creekside High School football game during halftime. Barton will be invited to perform during halftime at a Creekside High School football game during the season. Barton is working on mastering his trumpet skills and looking forward to his next performance.

The Creekside High School varsity cheer team is hosting their annual Summer Cheer Camp. The camp will be held from June 27th through June 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day. All girls enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade at St Johns County Schools during the 2011-2012 school year are invited to attend. The cost of the camp is $85 if registered before June 1st, $90 if registered on June 2nd, or $95 on June 3rd. Every camper can expect interactive and fun instruction from varsity cheer coaches and varsity cheer team members. Activities at camp will focus on fun, cheers, jumps, stretches, dance, and other fun events. Campers will perform for their family and friends on the last day of camp and will be invited to perform during halftime at a Creekside High School football game during the season. Contact the school website, click on Athletics, and then Camps, and then Cheer Camp.

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Mandarin Pediatrics offers care for your child through every stage of life, from birth to adolescence. Because we are affiliated with Wolfson Children’s Hospital, your child has access to the area’s only hospital just for kids should you need it.

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Nease Sports Roundup

By David Varga, Nease Student

The month of April was very exciting one as it came to Nease athletics. Nease athletes had a very successful month which concluded the year. This year, they have had many young players and many talented players that will only get better and also some seniors. Thus they hope to have a large improvement for next year and hopefully go far.

The boys’ and girls’ tennis teams had a great year and a good finish to the season. Many individuals advanced further in the district and regional tournaments as they managed to finish in districts or divisions. They hope to continue their success through the district and regional tournaments all the way to the state championships.

Both teams had a very notable season with many definitions in victories. With many of the players being seniors they hope to put together one last push and win the state championship. The boys hope they need is the support of the fans so get out there for the last few games of the season and support your Nease Panthers!

BTHS Sports Roundup

By Jared Freitas, BTHS Student

One of the toughest accomplishments in athletics is the accomplishment of completing a marathon. This 26.2 mile long race is not only physically difficult, as the body suffers from hours of stress, but it is also mentally draining, as one must keep one’s focus and compose oneself in order to finish the race. The spring sports season is very similar to a marathon, as teams start out fresh and optimistic and soon, like a runner who starts off too quickly, need to make adjustments in order to finish first in their district or division.

The BTHS track and field team reached the final few weeks of their season, their races decisively at the district and regional tournaments. Both boys and girls had a successful season. The boys’ and girls’ lacrosse teams fell short this year; however, it was still a good year which brought many memorable moments. Both teams kept a very positive outlook on the year and are hoping that next year brings more luck and rewards.

The girls’ softball team did not put together the season they were hoping for this year, yet they have had many young players and many talented players that will only get better and also some seniors. They hope to have a large improvement for next year and hopefully go far.

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Haven Hospice hosts “Care of the Caregiver” seminar

Caring for loved ones at the end of life is a loving and selfless task that requires a lot of time and attention. Oftentimes, the caregiver’s needs become secondary.

Haven Hospice is hosting “Care of the Caregivers,” a seminar for caregivers, this Saturday, May 21 at the Southeast Branch Library, located at 6673 US Highway 1 North. The seminar is free of charge. To register, call 855-586-CARE (2273) or email events@havenhospice.org. The presentation will be conducted by Haven Hospice Director of Content Development, Linda Scar, RN, PhD and will address ways caregivers can take care of themselves and receive support while helping those they love.

This seminar is offered as a community service by Haven Hospice and there is no charge to attend.

For more information, please contact Haven Hospice at 904.237.3737.
The Northeast Florida Fellowship of Christian Athletes selected Bartram Trail High School varsity football coach Darrell Sutherland, as the recipient of the 2011 FCA Coach of the Year award. Sutherland was recognized during the FCA “Sharing the Victory” spring banquet on Tuesday March 1. The FCA selected Coach Sutherland for both his successes on the field and for his commitment to “building men for others,” which is a term he often uses with his players.

The FCA recognized that the “coach” is the most influential professional in the lives of teenagers and in today’s culture and works with coaches to help them leverage that influence to positively impact the heart of their student-athletes. The best coaches don’t just coach the physical skills of the sport but coach the personality, emotions and the heart of their athletes. They use the game to build confidence, character and leadership into the life and soul of the kids they coach. The FCA defines that coach as a “3-Dimensional Coach.” Sutherland models that in every way; his commitment to his players goes far past teaching them football.

Sutherland coaches with the philosophy of “building men for others” by teaching the values of putting others before yourself. A man built for others considers how his decisions will affect the people in his life. Learning these principles and values will shape what kind of teammate they will be, what kind of husband will he be and what kind of father they will be. He understands that the quality of his relationships and the success he commits himself to successful relationships.

“I am truly honored to receive this year’s award and represent the many coaches in northeast Florida,” shared Sutherland. “We have so many fantastic coaches in this area; coaches who serve as such great role models and mentors through the vehicle of FCA. I consider it a real honor just to get to be a part of this organization. FCA played such a big role in my own growth and development; it’s really gratifying to be a part of something that has such a positive influence in the lives of young people.”

NE Florida Area Director Clint Hendry commented how he witnessed Coach Sutherland end a practice in the week of homecoming by taking the time to instruct his players on how they should treat their dates for the evening. These type of life lessons are common to Coach Sutherland’s coaching methods.

The examples can go on and on, but it is easy to see why the Northeast Florida Fellowship of Christian Athletes selected Coach Darrell Sutherland as their Coach of the Year.
Peter Shutters.
Team Florida/Fightin’ Possums; Coach Joseph Byrns, Creekside
he is a four year varsity starter. Pictured are Coach Tom West of
ida, Florida Fightin’ Possums and Creeks High School, where
Wesley Shutters signed with Savannah College of Art and Design

CHS’ Wesley Shutters signs with Savannah College of Art and Design

Wesley Shutters signed with Savannah College of Art and Design to play lacrosse and seek a degree in art. Shutters is a long stick midfielder (LSM) and has played with Creeks Lacrosse, Team Florida, Florida Fighting Possums and Creekside High School, where he is a four year varsity starter. Pictured are Coach Tom West of Team Florida/Fightin’ Possums; Coach Joseph Byrns, Creekside High School; Wesley Shutters, mother, Carol Shutters; and father, Peter Shutters.

Reminder of Beach Rules
Beach driving season officially began on March 1. Get weekly updates on beach conditions by calling the St. Johns County Beaches information line at 209-0331.

Please remember to follow the rules. A complete list is posted on the St. Johns County website at www.sjcf.las/beaches.

Here are some highlights:

- Please properly dispose of litter and marine debris in the appropriate garbage and recycling containers.
- Prohibited items include alcoholic beverages, glass containers, unleashed animals, loud music, open fires and overnight camping.
- No items may be left on the beach overnight, such as tents, chairs and towels.
- The speed limit on all driving lanes is strictly enforced at 10 miles per hour.
- All pedestrian activities are prohibited within the Conservation Zone, which is 15 feet seaward of the dune line and designated by signs.
- Vehicles are to remain within the driving lane (cones).
- Parking is permitted on the west side of the driving lane only.

NFL 101 – Workshop for Women is coming soon

The Jacksonville Jaguars are gearing up for the upcoming sea-
son and want to invite the women in our community to participate in workshops designed to teach you everything you need to know about football.

NFL 101 Workshop in the past has boasted a sold-out at-
tendance as fans eagerly await their opportunity to learn what the pros know and talk the NFL talk.

There are four opportunities to ensure everyone has the ability to participate in this unique and exciting event.

- The 2011 locations are as fol-
lows:
  - Thursday, May 19: Latitude 30
  - Tuesday, May 24: Albatross at Tapes-
try Park (off Southside Boule-
vard)
  - Thursday, June 16: World Golf
  - Hall of Fame and IMAX The-
ater

These workshops will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. The attendance fee is $40 per person. Seating is limited at each location and will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis. Each attendee will receive an NFL 101 Workbook, a special gift and a ticket to a Jacksonville Jaguars 2011 home game. Attendees will also have a chance to win great prizes. To register call Rahab Hickey at 398-8179 or go to www.priproductions.com.

New group for aspiring cheerleaders with disabilities
Sparkle Effect coming to Nease High School

Ted Barbato, varsity cheer coach Linda Carnall and PE teacher Sharon Cox about how to make this program a success, the Nease Sparklers were created.

The Nease Sparklers, in their inaugural season, will consist of six girls with special needs to cheer alongside the varsity cheer squad at two home football games. Barranco will serve as captain of the squad with Carnall and Cox acting as advisors. A core group of cheerleaders will act as buddies for the participants assisting in cheer routines and stunts at practices and the football games.

An informational meet-
ing will be held on Wednesday, May 18 in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. for any interested parents and students. The meeting will answer questions about the program and include a cheer demonstration.

The Nease Sparklers are open to any St. Johns County female student from middle through high school age.

Be sure you mark your calen-
dars and come to the meeting.

Reis invited to compete at Junior Olympic Tournament

On Sunday, April 17, Allen D. Nease High School sophomore Rachel Reis earned an invitation to compete at the Junior Olympic National Invitational Tournament in Long Beach, California on May 15. The tournament will feature the top Level 10 gymnasts in the nation. Reis finished fourth on the balance beam at the southeast regional meet April 17 in New Orleans, Louisiana to solidify her 10th place All Around. As a Level 9 gymnast, Reis earned a bronze medal on balance beam and finished sixth on uneven bars at the 2009 Eastern Nationals Championship.

Reis is a two-time regional bars champ and regional silver and bronze medalist on balance beam. She trains at TNT Gymnastics and Fitness in Jacksonville.
Help Wanted

Flor Stylist - Work is a beautiful task located in the City of Palencia Golf & Country Club of St. Johns County, FL. This is a great opportunity for an experienced, truly gifted florist. Position is perfect for a person of outstanding work and has the potential for advancement. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call (904) 405-057. Salaries Adjusted - Perfect opportunity for someone who wants a flexible work environment. Work Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Call (904) 849-6199 on day job (Tuesday through Saturday) while doing odd jobs during the evenings. Must have great people skills, good work ethic and a desire to learn the trade. Day job, flexibility and evening availability. Position is located in a beautiful sales location in Palencia, St Johns County. For more information call (904) 405-951.

Promote Your Business

Join the Baptist South circle of cars. Visit one of our locations for the most up to date list of job openings. Listings are updated daily and are current and if you have any questions, please call Human Resources at 271-0708.

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Gardeners can enter in nine categories. The gardens will be judged on the number of plants offered, variety, design, presentation and overall quality. The gardens will be judged by County Master Gardeners. 

Sun safety with children

(Via USA) - With the arrival of warmer temperatures, fear for fun outside may be high on your list of priorities. But too much fun in the sun can be dangerous. Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation can cause serious health effects, including increased risk of skin cancer.

Children’s skin in particular should be protected from the sun at all times. According to the National Children’s Cancer Society, childhood skin cancer is the critical stage during which UV radiation can do the most damage. It takes only a few episodes of skin damage for children’s health and the damage is permanent and cumulative.

The National Children’s Cancer Society encourages everyone’s practice sun safety with the following tips:

• Apply sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or more about 20 minutes before exposure to the sun. 
• Sunscreen with an SPF of 15 will block out 93 percent of UV rays. Apply sunscreen in a thick layer and reapply every two hours or after swimming. Be aware that sunscreen has a shelf life of only two years.
• Limit time spent in the sun and avoid the peak hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
• Wear a hat, preferably one that’s wide-brimmed. If it doesn’t cover the ears, be sure to apply sunscreen to the ears.
• Use sunglasses to protect eyes from exposure to UV light.

Some things that can help reduce skin damage include wearing lightweight long-sleeved shirts and pants when appropriate.

With the warmer weather, the closeness of the weave is the most crucial factor. Set a good example. Teach your child to practice sun safety and your child will too.

The National Children’s Cancer Society says that sun safety is especially important for the growing population of childhood cancer survivors. For more information about health-promoting habits for cancer survivors, visit beyondthe- curtain.org.
The students who attend the extended day enrichment program at Julett Creek Elementary School are always busy actively learning in all seven centers that the program provides. While each center specifically focuses on different physical, social and emotional development of children, the centers has reached beyond the walls of Julett Creek Elementary and has touched the lives of those in the neighborhood, community and beyond.

The Community Service Center, a favorite at JCE Extended Day, regularly serves our neighbors at Westminster Woods senior community. Jacksonville’s Daniels House the oldest child serving agency in Florida that helps abused, abandoned and neglected children and our military men and women serving overseas.

Every month each organization receives some type of communication from the dedicated students of JCE Extended Day. It might be a package of goodies, a handmade trinket to decorate their space or just a note to “say hello” and “you matter”. However, April was an egg-strastic month in the Community Service Center. Some of our students joined together a special package, filled with Peeps, treats and egg filled goodies for the men to and women in the military.

“Concerns about your drinking water?”

Call the Water Treatment Company Jacksonville has trusted for over 20 Years.

“I have watched Brennan over the past six years and have a tremendous respect for his leadership and integrity,” said the Superintendent. “He is a perfect match for this critical role in Human Resources, and I look forward to his joining the district office team.

Jim Springfield has been an incredible leader and will be sorely missed,” Dunson added. “However, I am confident that Brennan will continue to make an excellent addition to the district department even better.”

During his tenure at BTHS, the school maintained a grade of “A” and won six state championships in sports.

They are one of only three high schools to win the Five Star Award for community involvement since 2008. They have also consistently won the Golden Key Award for their parent volunteer program and the Silver Award for student voluntarism.

“Pregnancy: Presenting Conceptions of Children’s Disease From Families in America” LIVING COMMUNITY. Spring Issue One New York City Adoption 1804-613-623, 367 Tradewell Blvd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brennan W. Asplen, principal of Bartram Trail High School (BTHS), has been selected by Superintendent Joseph Jernigan to be the new executive director of Human Resources. His nomination will be presented to the School Board and he will assume his new position on July 1. Asplen will succeed Jim Springfield, who is retiring June 30 after 22 years in the district.

Asplen has 23 years of experience in education and has served as a teacher, coach and administrator. He has been principal at BTHS for the past five years.

“Brennan has demonstrated his ability to lead a large and diverse group of educators and staff. His leadership, integrity and commitment to the students of Bartram Trail High School will be a tremendous asset to the district,” Jernigan said.

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Here are some of duct tape’s most unorthodox uses:

• Angle support. Wrapping a few layers of duct tape around your ankles and joints can give you added stability when playing sports.

• Wart removal. Place a piece of duct tape over your wart and let it sit. It might fall off, but it will usually pop right off with it. (Some recommend applying a little salicylic acid to the wart prior to putting the duct tape on.)

• Daniels House. When a hurricane or severe thunderstorm threatens, place some duct tape in your bathroom and walk-in closet to prevent breakage. Also, seal up your doors and windows to keep out water. (Remember, it’s waterproof.)

• Bandages. Duct tape can be used as a temporary bandage to keep small cuts and scrapes covered while you wait for proper medical care is available.

• Space travel. Duct tape was perhaps most famously used during the Apollo 13 mission to attach square carbon dioxide filters to a man’s breathing mask enabling the system to remove CO2 from the air in the lunar module to maintain an oxygen level. Duct tape was also used on the moon to repair the Lunar Rover during the Apollo 17 mission.

• You can fix anything with . . . duct tape. Duct tape has unorthodox uses:

"Concerns about your drinking water?”

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You can fix anything with duct tape.
Captain David’s Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

The most prevalent fish that inhabits the waters surrounding St. Johns County, all of Florida and the entire southeastern United States is the “bream.” The bream’s various species include the bluegill, redbreast sunfish, red-ear sunfish (shellcracker), spotted sunfish (crumbackknocker) and more. Bream vary in size, but are usually hand-sized or smaller. However, the Florida state record for a bluegill is 2.95 pounds and a whopping 4.86 pounds for a shellcracker.

Bream are found just about anywhere you can find fresh or brackish water. They are an easy fish to catch with no need to spend a lot of money on bait and tackle. A light spinning or push button outfit along with a float, split-shot weight and hook is all that is needed for a fishing adventure. Most any store that sells fishing equipment can help you find what you need to get started.

The bream is an aggressive fish that has an appetite for a variety of baits. Worms and crickets are always a favorite, but not always available however. Choices are that you have something in your kitchen pantry that will work just fine.

The most common household bait for bream is fresh or bread rolled up into a ball of a pea and placed on a size 6 or 8 hook. Other household baits would include a piece of peeled uncooked shrimp, uncooked bacon, chicken livers, even a hot dog. If you want to have some fun try this secret bait recipe: Take a half cup of flour, add water till you have the consistency of dough, add red food coloring, then microwave for 20 or 30 seconds.

Pour round for the bream will offer a light tackle fight that would make any bass proud. Time of year and weather conditions do not seem to bother these fish. Best of all, young anglers love catching them.

Fishing Report: Local lakes and ponds have been providing plenty of bass and bream. Our freshwater creeks and tributaries have been red hot for large bream along with some nice catches of bass. Julington Creek (west of the bridge) and the St. Johns River have been producing a mixed bag of big bream and catfish, along with redfish, drum and an occasional Border. Your best bet is to fish the docks with shrimp and a moving tide. Start looking for croaker and yellow mouth trout in some of the deeper holes as the summer season approaches.

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

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary update

By Contributing Writer Joe McCoy, PA Offi cer, Flotilla 14-7

It was previously announced that United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7 would conduct courtesy Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Boat Ramp on the second Saturday of the month and the Vilano Boat Ramp on the second Sunday of each month. This has been changed. Starting Sunday, May 8, Vessel Safety Checks will be offered (weather permitting) at the following locations and times:

Vilano Boat Ramp – second Sunday of each month from 12:00 noon until...
St. Augustine Lighthouse Park Boat Ramp – second Sunday of each month from 1:00 noon until...

There is no charge for the safety check and it takes from 15 to 20 minutes. The VSC is a complimentary check of your boat conducted by members of the Auxiliary, confirming that it meets both federal and state requirements for safety. No citations are issued and the results of the safety check are not reported to any enforcement agency. A decal is awarded to display if the vessel has passed the examination along with a West Marine discount coupon for the purchase of safety items. An example of some of the items checked include during a VSC include:

- Fire extinguishers
- Distress signals (flares, horn, etc.)
- Registration and numbering
- Navigation lights
- Vessels Other
- Battery cover and connections
- Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets)
- Mullch 

All of these items are currently required by state and federal laws and, if missing or non-operating, can result in a citation if your vessel is inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard or other law enforcement. The VSC provides a risk-free way to check that your vessel meets the legal minimums and to potentially avoid a citation later. A successful VSC may result in lowered insurance rates for some boaters.

To complete 20 step comprehensive detailed cleaning routine that focuses on the pool and deck, as well as the condition of the pool equipment.

Since 2002, Paradise Pool Service has served Jacksonville and Northeast Florida with swimming pool repairs, renovations, remodeling and maintenance. Our goal is to make sure that your pool is safe, satisfying and a key element of your personal backyard paradise. Paradise Pool Service specializes in weekly pool service, maintenance and repair of swimming pools throughout Northeast Florida. Our capable service fleet can get your pool ready for the season and maintain it all year long. Dependability, quality service and reliability are our watchwords: you can set your clocks by us!

Our maintenance and repair technicians are well trained and will treat your pool with the same care as if it were their own. Our reputation for consistent quality and reliability is what has earned us referrals from our customers and fueled our growth through the years.

We let our customers know about possible problems before they happen. That means you can schedule repairs and replacements at your convenience.

- Weekly pool maintenance:
- Full Service, Chemical Service or Custom Service
- Pool acid clean ups
- Pressure wash and pool equipment cleaning
- Cleaning of green pools
- Pool inspections for home sales and realty

In addition to the service and maintenance we’re known for, our renovation and remodeling experts also bring creativity and expertise developed through a combined decades of experience. Our swimming pool renovations are of the highest quality and durability. A pool remodel can be all you need to create a new backyard paradise.

We can update your pool surface with exciting new pebble or glass bead finishes or your deck with a new look in pavers or acrylic texture patterns. Modernize your systems with energy saving variable speed pumps and electronic automation to make your pool and spa easier, more convenient and more economical too.

We offer screen enclosures, Loooploc custom safety covers, baby fences and solar. Interested in making your pool dreams a reality? From top to bottom for any of your pool service or renovation needs, let us help you make your dreams come true! Contact us today or read more about us at www.paradisepoolservice.net.

www.thecreekline.com • May 2011 • The CreekLine, Page 37
**Gardening**

**Banish invasive aliens from your yard**

By Contributing Writer Master Gardener Camille Hunter with Duval County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS

Florida is a wonderful place to garden and many plants thrive here. Unfortunately, some plants that thrive here are not native to Florida and have become invasive aliens. They are plants growing outside their natural range, displacing native species and disrupting existing ecosystems. You may be surprised to learn that one or more of these destructive aliens may already reside in your yard. Many are still sold at garden centers and you may have unknowingly planted them. Invasive plants are often admired for their vigorous growth and/or attractive flowers but they are all demons in disguise.

Another invasive, Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica), is a popular landscape plant brought here from China and Japan. It has bamboo-like stems, lacy leaves and colorful berries. It thrives almost anywhere, sun or shade, and is the very quality that makes it invasive to native areas.

Just about every gardener is familiar with a plant called Elephant Ears (Colocasia esculenta). Prized for its huge, bold foliage it can be found in many Southern yards. Once established it takes over and spreads rapidly. If you have this in your landscape and have tried to eliminate it, you know why it is on the invasive plant list.

One nemesis I have personally fought with is Asparagus fern (Asparagus sprengeri). At one time this was a popular landscape plant and I had a bed of it that came over an area once pristinely native. One invasive plant you may have already encountered is the Mexican Petunia (Ruellia tweediana). It is colorful, has pretty flowers and is seductively easy to grow, but as many gardeners have learned, it spreads like wildfire. Once brought into your yard it is almost impossible to get rid of. If you must have this plant, look for a new sterile variety. The seeds will grow but it will still vigorously spread underground.

How can they be a problem if confined to your yard? They are spread by winds, birds, animals and storms. One seed is all it takes to start an invasion that takes over an area once pristinely native.

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Another personal encounter was with Japanese Honey suckle (Lonicera japonica), a seemingly attractive but extremely invasive plant. What you see when you plant it is a beautiful, vigorous vine with fragrant white flowers. What you really have is a plant that is spreading underground throughout your yard in a march to take over the world. I spent many hours pulling up the insidious roots.

There are many more invasive plants to watch out for, such as Wedelia (Sphagneticola tribolata), Chinese Tallow tree (Sapium sebiferum), Chinese Ligustrum (Ligustrum sinense) and Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin). Remember, it takes just one pant to start an invasion. What you have planted in your yard can have a big impact on Florida native flora and fauna.

For more information and a longer list of pest plants, check out the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council at www.feppc.org.

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**Julington Creek Plantation Junior Academy Players win Big!**

Congratulations Julington Creek Plantation Junior Academy Players! At the Timuquana Spring Clay Court Classic the weekend of April 9, Jordan Thorn won the Girls 12 Singles, Imani Graham won the Girls 10 Singles, Austin Van Dyke won the Boys 10 Singles and Jacob Van Dyke and Jordan Thorn won.

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**The Best Vacation for You and Your Pet**

Julington Creek Animal Walk is a state-of-the-art pet boarding facility for dogs, cats, and exotics providing:

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Nine members of Villages Football have been named to the American Youth Football and Cheer All American team. This honor is granted to athletes who maintain exemplary academic standing while participating in extra-curricular activities and community service. We would like to recognize the hard work and dedication that these student-athletes continue to show, as well as the positive examples they set for their peers.

Jacob Allsup – A Honor Roll, Citizenship Award, Responsibility Award, VFA flag football, Viper baseball and Odyssey of the Mind team.

Carter Davis – A Honor Roll, Citizenship Award, Responsibility Award, VFA flag football, Viper baseball and Odyssey of the Mind team.

Cooper Jackson – A Honor Roll, Citizenship Award, Responsibility Award, VFA flag football, Viper baseball and Odyssey of the Mind team.

At Home With Nature

Conserve water to protect our river

By Contributing Writer Jimmy Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper

One of the easiest ways for us to be “river friendly” is to conserve water. Because of inefficient and wasteful water use practices, we are reaching the limits of what nature can provide. Each of us living in the watershed of the St. Johns River uses approximately 140 gallons of water every day. Over 50 percent is typically used outside the home for lawns and plants. This is the same water that we drink, feeds our wetlands, creates our springs and provides 20 percent to 30 percent of the flow of our river. If we continue using water at this rate, we run the risk of degrading our aquifer and damaging our wetlands, springs and the St. Johns River.

By paying close attention to our actions and making more informed choices, we can all dramatically reduce the amount of water that we use. In the process, we can avoid the need to extract water from our river and we can protect our water resources for future generations.

Here is how you can get started on the “river friendly” path. Frequently adjust your irrigation schedule and timers based on weather and rainfall patterns. Often, rainfall provides all of the water that our lawn and plants need. Over-watering (and over-fertilizing) can actually result in a disease, fungus and insects. Also, carefully inspect and adjust spray heads on a regular basis, making sure that sprinklers are not also watering the sidewalks, driveways or streets.

The type of plants and grasses that we use has a major impact on our watersheds. By choosing appropriately expanding beds with native or drought-tolerant plants and reducing the size of our lawns, we can significantly save a tremendous amount of time, money and water. The rule here is “right plant, right place.” Pick the plants that are the most appropriate for the specific conditions of your yard (sun or shade, moist or dry soil, etc.) that will require the least amount of water and fertilizer.

If you have an irrigation system, consider installing a soil moisture sensor. These inexpensive devices can cut your sprinkler system water usage in half by preventing your sprinklers from operating when watering is not needed. Finally, follow local irrigation ordinances.

• During daylight savings time (March – November), only water up to two times a week, before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. and only when needed.
• Early morning is often the most efficient time of the day to water due to lower wind speeds and radia evaporation.
• Odd number street addresses may water Wednesday and Saturday, even number street addresses on Thursday and Sunday and businesses and non-residential on Tuesday and Friday.

Finally, consider installing a rain barrel to conserve water and prevent runoff that can wash fertilizers and chemicals down storm drains and into our waterways.

By working together to use water more efficiently, we can save money, conserve our precious water resources, and protect our precious St. Johns River. Learn more about “river friendly” practices and how to build a rain barrel by visiting www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

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