Goodbye and good luck, Marie Woodard!
Long-time JCE teacher retires

By Martie Thompson

The final week of school was a week of surprises for retiring Julington Creek Elementary School kindergarten teacher extraordinary, Marie Woodard—she attended not one but two retirement parties! A fixture at JCE since 1979, Woodard has seen the school grow from just two kindergarten classes to nine now. The school-wide celebration of her retirement was explained to Woodard as a Summer Safety Program. As she was leading her class around the amphitheater in anticipation of a school assembly, Woodard immediately could tell she had been duped. All of the students, teachers and administration were in attendance. “When I saw my husband [and retired kindergarten teacher] Joanne Espinosa on the stage, I knew something was up,” Woodard laughs.

She was treated to a performance by the JCE Chorus as Marie Woodard cont. on pg. 31

Reach the sky with the Civil Air Patrol Fruit Cove Flight

(by Karl Kennell)

If you want the sky to be your limit and are between the ages of 12 and 19, you now have a unique opportunity. If you are interested in flying, learning to lead, getting in shape and pushing yourself to new limits, you can now take to the sky by joining the new Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program in Fruit Cove. Called the Fruit Cove Flight, it is an extension of the CAP St. Augustine Composite Squadron.

The Civil Air Patrol took flight in the late 1930s when more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Today CAP’s aerospace education efforts have become the focus of many CAP cadets. The programs ensure that all CAP members, both seniors and cadets, have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. To advance within the organization, members are required to participate in the educational program. Workshops highlight basic aerospace Civil Air Patrol cont. on pg. 28

New leaders for Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

The members and families of the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail gathered on Saturday, June 28 to celebrate the Rotary Club’s service accomplishments from the past year. Michael Andreoni was named Rotarian of the Year for his efforts, including leading the annual favorite, St. Augustine Boys Home Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at Cunningham Creek Elementary’s Light the Night, as well as his continuous behind-the-scenes legwork for St. Johns County Teacher of the Quarter recognition.

Local service projects occurred over the course of the past year benefitting the Creekside Interact Club, Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center, Mariners Toys for Tots, Rotary Youth Leadership, St. Augustine Youth Services Boys Home and St. Johns County teachers.

The club’s international focus continued with a PolioPlus Eradication funding and thanks to Chris Sexton, launched High Five Kids, a partnership that enables children to help other children in need, such as providing accessible clean water as a foundation of basic health and hygiene to elementary students in Guatemala. Rotarians also sponsor Rotary Youth Exchange inbound and outbound students traveling around the world to gain global appreciation and work towards peace and understanding in the world.

In November 2013 the club celebrated its 10 year anniversary serving in the Fruit Cove community and looks forward to the next decade living the Rotary Club cont. on pg. 13

Passing the gavel.

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AFTER HOURS INJURY CLINIC
We are open when accidents happen

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of St. Augustine


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The public is invited to attend the NW St. Johns County Republican Club “County Commissioner Candidate Forum” on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. The social starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the forum at 7:00 p.m. All qualified County Commissioner candidates have been invited. The forum is being held at the Champions Club in Julington Creek, located at 1111 Durbin Creek Boulevard. For additional information, please visit Facebook: NW St. Johns County Republican Club or contact Kelly Lorber at kellylorber@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for a huge craft fair for the benefit of Canine Companions for Independence, to be held on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Members come from all around the area hospitals. All skill levels are invited to attend. The program will be “Christmas in July,” featuring the raffle of a Christmas quilt. For more information, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574. The Rotary Club of St. Johns meets at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club clubhouse on Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Members come from all skill levels across the county.

Volunteers are needed for the CDA Memory Enhancement seminars held at Fruit Cove Baptist Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or any time within those hours. Duties include assisting staff with activities, making coffee and lunch set-up. To volunteer or for more information, please call Ginny Davis at 209-3686 or email gdlaper@stjohnscox.com or emollyn@stjohnscox.com.

The July meeting of the Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association will take place on Saturday, July 19 at the Main Library in St. Augustine. meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the First Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard. The program will be “Christmas in July,” featuring the raffle of a Christmas quilt. For more information, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574 or visit www.orgsites.com/f/AllStarQuiltGuild and www.facebook.com/AllStarQuilters.

Get excited! Mom to Mom is coming starting September 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Christian Church. Join us for a time where moms, in all seasons of life, can eat together, obtain support as a mom, make friends with other moms and have fun. Find out more and join us for fun! The program will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Creekside Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard.

The MOMS Club is a wonderful way to meet other stay-at-home and part-time working mothers and is a fun way for your children to socialize with other children. Mothers with children of all ages are welcome. Members for this chapter must live in the 32092 or 32095 zip codes, including all neighborhoods along the 210 corridor. We meet once a month to plan our activities for the month ahead. These business meetings are held at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Children are welcome at all of our meetings and activities. Activities are scheduled for almost every weekday of the month and may meet at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The group is for mothers and their children. For more information, please contact saltmommys@gmail.com.

The July general meeting of the All Star Quilters Guild will be held on Monday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard. The program will be “Christmas in July,” featuring the raffle of a Christmas quilt. For more information, please contact Tony Legro at tlegro@ercsaves.com or visit www.rotarystjohns.org.

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We care about education as a community and St. Johns County Schools achieve excellence because of that. But what about that other local government, our county? Shouldn’t we care about those services too? St. Johns County Government plays a significant role in our everyday lives and we often take it for granted.

Our county services affect many things, from the air we breathe to the water we drink. Our county maintains roads and we funds public safety including the sheriff, courts, jail, fire/EMS and the Emergency Operations Center through our property taxes. These basic services are the foundation to our quality of life and are what most of our county tax dollars are spent on. A small portion of our taxes also fund libraries, ball fields, parks and beach access. These resources are enjoyed by our residents and support our vibrant tourism industry. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, County Golf Course, County Convention Center and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall are now more fully funded by ticket sales and user fees as well as tourist development tax, but there is a modest subsidy of these venues by general county revenue.

I am both a CPA and the longest serving member on the Board of County Commissioners. It is my opinion that the most pressing issues we face as a county is deciding if we want to maintain our level of service and our quality of life. If we do, the next question is how we choose to pay for it. The main way we pay for local services in St. Johns County is with property taxes. We are heavily dependent on them, in part because we don’t charge the other taxes and fees that most other local governments rely on. Below you will see a chart from the St. Johns County Property Appraiser that shows our dilemma. In spite of our growth in commercial and residential development, our taxable value in 2013 hovers at the 2005 level. We have lost a significant amount of tax base to powerful tax reform and falling property values that we will never recover.

While our tax base hasers at the 2005 level, our county has experienced a 33 percent increase in population. We have made some progress in diversifying our economy, but all properties in Florida now benefit from tax reform and tax caps that will keep us from seeing the big double digit increases in taxable value we saw from 2003 to 2007. Not only do we have more people, we have more fire stations, court rooms, libraries, roads, ball fields and parks. These all have to be operated and maintained. This leaves scarce little money to invest in completing sidewalks, maintaining roadways and re-placing failing fire stations.

While the county continues to innovate and find ways to reduce spending, the county staff reported to the county commissioners that there are over $900 million in capital expenditures that will need to be funded over the next 15 years. The county staff have done projections of tax base growth and we will not grow our way out of this issue. We have gotten a long way by cutting cost and reducing some services, but we have already taken the low hanging fruit. It is incredibly difficult to fund significant savings without major reductions in services or eliminating programs altogether. These difficult choices for our county have been on the horizon for years and the time to decide is now eminent. They have been discussed consistently in county budget hearings and town hall meetings. What kind of county services do we want to have and how should we pay for them?

Why is it important for you to vote this August? There are five county commissioners who are elected to staggered four year terms in county wide elections. For the last 16 years, the winners of the Republican Primary have gone on to serve on the Board of County Commissioners. If you are registered as a Republican in St. Johns County on July 28, you are eligible to vote in the Primary. The Supervisor of Elections office can help you if you if you need to choose a party affiliation. Historically our Primary election turn-out can be as low as 15 to 16 percent of registered voters. With three Republican candidates in each of the County Commission races, as few as 5 percent of the registered voters in St. Johns County could choose who will represent all of us for the next four years!

Thank you for all that you do to make St. Johns County a great place to live and work and play. Please take the time to sign up for the St. Johns County Commissioner newsletters online at www.sjclf.us and thank you for taking the time to vote on the upcoming elections. We have important decisions to make for the future of St. Johns County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 209-0301 or beedl@cfl.usr.
Its summertime and our students and our teachers are now getting a well-deserved break. At the District level, we’re still wrapping up the year; however, we’re well on our way planning for next school year.

One area where we’ve been busy is in announcing our school administrator changes at some of our schools. The following changes in leadership will take effect July 1 and they are as follows: Ocean Palms Elementary Principal Betsy Wierda announced her retirement and she will be replaced by Jessica Richardson who is presently the assistant principal (and Assistant Principal of the Year) at Cunningham Creek Elementary.

Steve McCormick will be the new principal at Ponte Vedra High School. He has been our principal at Fruit Cove Middle School for the past seven years and FCMS has annually been a top performing middle school in Florida during his tenure. McCormick will replace Principal Craig Speziale who lost his battle against cancer earlier this year.

Lynn O’Connor, assistant principal at Ponte Vedra High School, will replace McCormick at Fruit Cove Middle School. A replacement assistant principal for PVHS will be announced shortly. Bethany Groves, assistant principal at R.J. Murray Middle School, has been selected to be the principal of Hickory Creek Elementary School, following Dr. Paul Gorick’s reassignment to Crookshank Elementary School. Jay Willets will be moving from Crookshank to Pacetti Bay Middle School as principal. These announcements may appear to be many but with a growing district such as ours, this is on par with changes we’ve made in previous years.

The individuals named will do an outstanding job at their new schools and we’re confident they’ll keep their schools moving forward and upward.

We finished the school year strong with our annual high school graduations, eight grade awards ceremonies, and kindergarten graduation. It would like to extend a big thank you to our awesome classroom teachers, to our smarter-than-ever kids, to our school administrators, bus drivers, maintenance teams, clerical staff, cafeteria workers and to our parents. Without a concerted effort, our schools would not be performing at such a high level and again thank you!!

Our school district celebrated eight high school graduations and it was a joy to watch the excited graduates walk across the stage to receive their diplomas among the cheering of their family and friends. Our six comprehensive high schools, our St. Johns Technical High School and our St. Johns Virtual High School had over 1,900 seniors graduate and their combined academic achievements have never been higher. In addition, this graduating class demonstrated great character, athletic championships, drama, art, music awards and more service hours in our community than any other graduating class.

Congratulations Class of 2014! You’ve made our community and our school district proud. You are now prepared for the next chapter in your lives and we know with confidence that you’ll be successful in whatever you choose to do. We have the best teachers preparing our students and we have the best parents supporting our local schools and this combination makes our community very special.

Enjoy your summer vacation and we’re looking forward to another great school year in August.

A special Thank You to Chamblin’s Bookmine for their contribution to the JCP CARES “Summer Fun” backpack program.

Florida Move Over Act now protects utility vehicles

Utility crews are now protected by the Florida Move Over Act as they work on the side of roads and highways.

Effective July 1, the Act is amended to include utility service vehicles and sanitation vehicles to the list of public safety vehicles motorists must already slow down or move over to protect personnel. The amended language was written by Florida Representative Holly Raschein (R-Key Largo) and Senator Greg Evers (R-Pensacola) and passed as part of a larger omnibus transportation package (HB 9001), spearheaded by Representative Daniel Davis (R-Jacksonville).

Under the new law, motorists are required to:

• Approach law enforcement patrol cars, emergency vehicles, utility service vehicles, sanitation vehicles and tow trucks/wreckers with caution.
• Change lanes away from identified emergency or work-crew vehicle is parked on the side of a multi-lane roadway and you can still move over to the other lane.
• Slow down to a speed that is reasonable under the circumstances.
• Reduce further to the next lane if they are unable to move over safely; or
• Slow down and move over only if it is safe to do so.

The new law will help JEA workers restore service both safely and efficiently. JEA joins all utilities in our appreciation to Representative Raschein, Representative Davis, Senator Evers and the Florida Legislature for passing this important legislation that will reduce accidents and save lives.

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Under the new law, motorists are required to:

• Approach law enforcement patrol cars, emergency vehicles, utility service vehicles, sanitation vehicles and tow trucks/wreckers with caution.
• Change lanes away from these vehicles if traveling on a multi-lane roadway and able to move over safely; or
• Slow down to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit, when a clearly identified emergency or work-crew vehicle is parked and crews are working.

Violating the Move Over Act can result in a fine and points on your license.

“Safety is a priority at JEA,” said Paul McLain, JEA CEO and managing director. “This new law will help JEA workers restore service both safely and efficiently. JEA joins all utilities in our appreciation to Representative Raschein, Representative Davis, Senator Evers and the Florida Legislature for passing this important legislation that will reduce accidents and save lives.”


Be Treated, Not Seated.

At Memorial Emergency Center at Julington Creek we treat you quickly and get you on your way.

Located on Race Track Road, this 12 bed, 11,000 square foot facility is a full-service ER with a dedicated pediatrics area. We can take care of all your family’s emergency medical needs with little to no wait at all.
Hurricane awareness

I would like to once again discuss this month’s column on Hurricane awareness or safety. Hurricane season began at the beginning of last month and lasts until the end of November and meteorologists are predicting a near normal season in the Atlantic basin. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that there will be eight to 13 named storms. Of those they say three between three and six could reach hurricane strength and of those, one or two could become a major hurricane of category three or higher.

You should be familiar with the terms Hurricane Watch and Hurricane Warning. A Watch is issued when conditions are favorable that a hurricane could strike in 24 hours. A Warning is issued when hurricane force winds are expected to strike in 24 hours. By this time you should already have an emergency plan for yourself and family and begin implementation of that plan.

Some things to consider in your preliminary plans are:

• Take photos of your property from all angles; it may not look the same once the storm passes.
• Place elderly/handicapped/invalid care at a shelter or at home.
• Leave pets in a safe during a storm.
• Learn where official shelters are located.
• Trim any dead wood from trees prior to the storm.
• Check for, fix or take note of loose items on your structures (shutters, screens, eaves, gutters, antennas, satellite).
• Get and use a hurricane tracking chart.
• Plan what you and your family will do if you have to evacuate.
• Get necessary supplies and secure them in a safe area.
• Plan for pet care.
• Review your insurance coverage.
• Protect your important documents.
• Show others in the family how to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
• Make outside repairs.
• When a Hurricane Watch for your area is issued you should do the following:
  • Listen to official bulletins on radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio and internet for updates.
  • Check all supplies you already have to see if they are in good condition and include batteries.
  • Fill gas tank of vehicles, check oil and tire pressure.
  • Inspect mobile home tie-downs.
  • Board, tape, cover windows and doors or skylights.
  • Secure heat.
  • Secure any objects and furniture that are outside.
  • Check on all medical supplies, special needs for elderly, handicapped, etc.
  • Plan to evacuate if necessary.
• When a Hurricane Warning is issued here are some suggestions:
  • Stay tuned to TV, radio, internet or NOAA Weather Radio.
  • Move valuable to higher locations.
  • Move furniture away from windows and cover.
  • Fall contains mát (mat, plastic bag) with drinking water.
  • Use phones only in an emergency.
  • Bring in & secure pets (food and water).
  • Shut off water and electricity at main breaker switch.
  • Leave mobile homes.
  • Leave low areas. If evacuating, leave early.
• Sometimes a hurricane path may not be predictable and evacuation orders could come at any time. If you are asked to evacuate, please do so early and know the route you will be taking. Remember there will be many folks taking the same route from a very large area so be sure to give yourself plenty of time to leave safely.
• Finally, if you refuse to leave following an evacuation order, here are some safety tips for riding out the storm:
  • Make sure your building is well-constructed.
  • Turn the refrigerator to maximum cold.
  • Freeze water in plastic containers; if the electricity goes off you can use the ice to keep food cool in the refrigerator.
  • Turn off utilities if told to do so by the authorities.
  • Unplug small appliances.
  • Fill bathtub and containers with water.

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  • Turn off utilities if told to do so by the authorities.
  • Unplug small appliances.
  • Fill bathtub and containers with water.
It’s a busy time at the Elections Office as the election process begins. Candidate qualifications are occurring the week of June 16 through June 20 and the ballot has now been set for the Primary Election. For a complete listing of qualified candidates and the list of candidates who will appear on the August 26 Primary Election Ballot, visit our website votejc.com.

Do you need to register to vote? Change or update your address? Change your party affiliation? Update your signature? Here are some important dates to remember:

July 28: Last day to register or make party changes for the Primary Election
October 6: Last day to register for the General Election

Voter registration applications are available on-line (www.votejc.com) and must be printed, signed and postmarked by July 28 for the Primary Election or October 6 for the General Election. You can also register to vote or submit voter registration applications to the Public Library or the Tax Collector’s Office. Address changes can be made any time. Simply call the office to update your address. It is very important to keep your voter information updated with the Elections Office in order to receive your voter information and sample ballots prior to each election. Remember you can use the Voter Lookup or My Voter Puge on our website to verify your voter registration. Please call 823-2238 if you need any assistance with submitting an application or to update your address.

Since Florida is a closed primary state, in the Primary Election you are only eligible to vote the ballot of the party in which you are registered. All voters may vote for nonpartisan races in a primary. If there is a particular candidate you wish to vote for, you may wish to verify your party affiliation prior to the July 28 deadline.

If you are going to be away or wish to vote by mail, it’s not too early to request your absentee ballot. You can call the office at 823-2238 or make your request online. We will have nine days of early voting for the Primary Election. The dates are August 15 through August 23. Our six locations will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

We are your one source for voting information: www.votejc.com. Our website is updated regularly with candidates, ballot information, early voting dates, times and locations. Visit us regularly to see “What’s New.”

The August 26 Primary will be a very important election this year. A number of our local officials will be elected in the Primary Election, I encourage you to participate and exercise your right to vote.

Preregistration is the way to go for new kindergarteners!

The St. Johns County School District is encouraging parents to register kindergarten students and students new to the county and/or the public school system before school starts on August 18. All NW St. Johns County elementary and middle schools are operating out of their area high school.

Parents may contact schools at their regular phone number for registration information or go to their zoned school’s consolidation site to register their children, which is available at www.stjxk12.fl.us/about/ press/2014-4-620.

The schools are currently operating Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All schools and district offices will be closed during the week of July 14 through 18 and will reopen on Monday, July 21.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old or before September 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. To register for first grade, children must be six years old or before September 1 and have successfully completed kindergarten.

The child’s certified birth certificate is required at the time of registration and only the legal name is acceptable on student records. In addition, parents should bring two proofs of residency, i.e. current utility bill, lease and/or mortgage statement. Florida law also requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of certain immunizations and physical examinations.

A physical examination that has been performed within one year prior to enrollment in school will be accepted. Physical examinations can be acquired from either a private physician or from the county health department. Additional information on registration and school attendance zones can be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

Keep St. Johns County Schools at the Top!

August 26

Keep St. Johns County Schools at the Top!

Award-winning flooring store expands to second location

Residents from San Marco to St. Johns and St. Augustine can now step into a whole new flooring experience as About Floors ‘n More opens its doors in the Bonelsh Shoppin Center, at the corner of San Jose Boulevard and Claire Lane. Owners Richard Scherzer and Rick Costner say they attribute their success to four simple words: Why We Are Different.

“Our people realize we are invested in helping them create a beautiful home for a lifetime, they know we are not just a local flooring retailer, but rather, a partner in their lives well-lived,” Scherzer explains.

Both Costner and Scherzer run a business that has been serving Jacksonville with quality Mohawk products for over 15 years and know the value of integrity and relationships.

About Floors ‘n More is Jacksonville’s only Floorscapes 5-star dealer, recipient of the Angie’s List Super Service award, multiple winners of

The CreekLine!
Housing market stabilizing in NW St. Johns County

By Contributing Writer Amanda Long, Watson Realty Corp.

The median sales price for homes in Northwest St. Johns County is on the rise, according to the most recent housing stabilization report released by the Northeast Florida Realtors Association (NEFAR). The year-to-date median sales price in Northwest St. Johns County as of May is $268,970. This is up from last year’s median sales price of $239,900 by 12.5 percent.

Donna Overman, vice president/managing broker of the Watson Realty Corp. Mandarin North Office, described NW St. Johns County as a highly desirable area due to the reputation of the school system, the quality of life for families and the close proximity to Duval County.

“I feel very positive about the prospects for this area,” Overman said. “Lots of great things are happening in St. Johns County including the upcoming construction of Northrop Grumman.”

Northrop Grumman is a global aerospace defense technology company. The company is making an $80 million expansion to its St. Augustine manufacturing plant. The expansion will bring at least 12 new jobs to the area, which should lead to relocations. New listings are increasing, with 1,200 new listings year to date. Last May, the year-to-date total of new listings was 1,128. This year, new listings are up at 6.4 percent for the year.

Despite the rise in listings, closed sales are down from 2011. At the end of May 2013, the number of closed sales was at 789. This year, closed sales total 706, down 10.6 percent from last year.

The reduction in sales can be attributed to many institutional investors not being as aggressive with acquisitions,” maintained Jane Leslie, vice president/managing broker of the Watson Realty Corp. Mandarin South Office.

With home prices rising, the market is no longer fit for institutions, said Leslie.

The NEFAR report shows even though closed sales are down, the average number of days on the market until sale has decreased from 301 days in 2013 to only 88 days for 2014. The average number of days on the market for May was 85 days.

Overman also noted, “New construction is coming back strong and attracting new buyers.”

The St. Johns County Building Code & Monthly Report shows that there were 252 permits issued for new single-family homes in May. This is more permits than the 227 issued in Duval County in May, according to the Duval County Building Inspection Division Statistical Report.

According to RealtyTrac’s Foreclosure Trends Report, the state average for Florida is 1 in every 4,188 homes. Overall, the market has improved since 2013 with new listings, sales prices and days on the market all recovering.

“We now have a traditional market with moderate price appreciation and appropriate inventory levels,” said Mark Rosener, vice president/managing broker of Watson Realty Corp. “It is neither a buyers’ nor sellers’ market.”

For additional information, please contact amandalong@ WatsonRealtyCorp.com.

E Pluribus Unum: Civics for One and All

By Contributing Writer James A. Lee, jal@rtpublishing.com

In January 1787, Thomas Jefferson, serving as Minister to France, wrote from there a letter to his fellow Virginian, James Madison. That letter is often quoted for one line in particular, “I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.” Jefferson was making the point to his friend that democratic republics offer the best opportunity for liberty and happiness. But he also stated that such governments suffer evils, primarily that of turbulence. Such turbulence is what Jefferson believed to be sometime necessary so as to prevent “the degeneracy of the government.”

I was reminded of this quote recently when I came across a video that has been making a comeback tour on social media. The video is of Matt Damon in 2012 reading an excerpt from a speech made in 1970 by the late historian Howard Zinn. The speech, easily found online, is entitled “The Problem is Civil Obedience.” It begins with the line, “I start with the supposition that the whole world is topsy-turvy; that things are all wrong.” Zinn was a well-known historian and activist. His most famous book, A People’s History of the United States is an excellent and controversial example of critical theory in that he surveys our nation’s history from the perspective of the oppressed African Americans, women, labor unions, Native Americans, etc. Whether you agree with it or not, his is an interesting and vital perspective to consider. Zinn was a self-proclaimed Marxist and anarchist who has been lauded and criticized extensively. Representing the counter-culture movement of the 1960s and 1970s, was arguing that civil obedience allows the people of society to be led blindly into oppression by a government controlled by a self-serving elite. The fact that a celebrity such as Matt Damon’s status chose to read from this 1970 speech in the political context of 2012 (and the now renewed interest in that video) raises the question, for whom is Damon speaking?

Might he be speaking for the liberal left that Damon himself professes to support? That would make sense and certainly Zinn’s speech supports much of the thinking in today’s liberal agenda, i.e. gay rights, increased minimum wage, removal of troops from Afghanistan, etc. However, if we approach the “topsy-turvy” supposition from the point of view of current political movement, we find some interesting similarities. In the current political landscape is scattered with the rubble left from the inter-party battles between moderate “establishment” Republicans and more extreme conservative Tea Party Republicans. Consider the talking points of people like Iowa Congressman Steve King, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Sarah Palin and many others. Their declarations that our government (IRS, NSA, etc.) has become too large and too intrusive could have fit perfectly into either Zinn’s speech or Jefferson’s letter. Maybe, if Thomas Jefferson were here to comment, he might say that Damon channeling Zinn and the Tea Party movement are merely two contrasting and equal turmoils attempting to prevent the “degeneracy of government.”

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William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abatiello, alabat@comcast.net

Your William Bartram Scenic Highway Group is now enjoying a well-earned summer vacation. The group may be vacationing, but its officers are still moving the ball forward. We’re involved in helping edit a recently completed historical analysis, completing arrangements for a September fundraiser, furnishing news on developments in the area and writing these articles. We are keeping busy.

The Scenic Highway officers continue to work keeping group members informed of the progress of our current, history project for the county school district and the happenings in St. Johns County that potentially affect State Road 11.

In our most recent meeting of June 12, we discussed the historical narrative created by Charlie Phillips, as part of our contract with Brockington Associates. We also discussed status of our website including the addition of two new site pages. Decisions were made and the project is now forward to a September conclusion.

Copies of the historical narrative are being distributed to the group asking for their feedback on or before the end of June. In addition, we were advised that one page summaries of the 12 proposed radio scripts for the radio show, Florida Frontiers, are being completed and will be distributed to the group for approval. The radio script summaries are intended for use by the host of the radio show. This radio program airs interesting stories of Florida history on NPR radio at 6:30 on Mondays.

On reading the historical narrative and radio script summaries, I can assure my readers they will be impressed and will become extremely well informed of the early history of NW St. Johns County. They’ll learn facts about the early inhabitants of Northeast Florida from prehistoric times through the present, including Timucuan Indians and French, Spanish and English occupation periods.

The role of the St. Johns River in Florida’s commerce is extremely interesting as the river was very important to early commerce of the region due to the treacherous nature of the Atlantic Ocean at St. Augustine. It was much safer to travel up river and across to St. Augustine by land. Northeast Florida, NW St. Johns County and St. Augustine also have a civil war history that will surprise and interest readers.

The Brockington Team is also preparing a short historical video (per contract) to accompany the historical lesson plan. On completion, all the elements of the history project will be shared with everyone via the William Bartram Scenic Highway website (www.bartramsscenichighway.com). The website will give readers a better understanding of the William Bartram Scenic Highway Group, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization. Tax deductible donations are always welcome.

The annual Antique Appraisal event will again be held at the RiverTown development on the Scenic Highway: the date is September 20. Details will be in my next column in August.

Our next meeting is on September 11, 2014—a sad date in American history but the start of another active year for the group. Date, time and location in my next column.

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Dr. Aylin Ozdemir, known as ‘Dr. O’ to her patients, was the winner of the 2011 and 2012 Patients’ Choice Award, a distinction received by less than five percent of America’s practicing physicians.

She provides an integrative approach to healthcare, which balances traditional medicine with complete nutrition, mindfulness, spirituality, and education, Dr. O and staff are proud to provide the best pediatric services in Jacksonville. With offices in Ponte Vedra, Julington Creek and Intracoastal West, Dr. O and incredible healthcare are also convenient, too.
Jullington Creek Plantation will be retiring its old property owners’ association (POA) website name in July and replacing it with a shorter and easier-to-remember name: www.jcppoa.org. No more www.jullingtoncreekplantation.org; give your typing fingers a break! There are also more website services for our property owners. Please note that the Recreation Center website name, www.jcppool.org, will not change; this only affects the POA website.

This spring the POA website was enhanced in several ways:

- The site was reorganized to make it easier to find the information you need including subdivision Covenants and Restrictions, maps, almost 50 Frequently Asked Questions, forms, current news, site search and site index features.
- Property owners with a property login can list a lost ornament, lost key, event or anything else on the POA website.
- Passages now offered at Patriot Oaks Academy for incoming sixth and seventh grade girls entering POA on Tuesday, July 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The cost is $10. This brief program will focus on acclimating to the new POA school changes.
- For more information about Passages or to enroll your daughter in POA’s session, please contact Kerry Hale at 904-273-8796 or use the email contact forms on www.jcppoa.org.
- Thanks for your patience while we work through the name change. And think about volunteering for a committee. Just a few hours a month can make a big difference for our community. Good things do happen when we all work together!

Before those yellow school buses start pulling through our subdivisions here in North Florida we should all execute a plan for a “final fling.” This could be a short day trip around our area—not an expensive day but a fun one. So I pulled my favorite planning guides out of our bookcase and thought I would share some ideas with you.

A day trip in St. Augustine is always a fun getaway! Have you taken your little ones to the Splash Park at the Pier? It’s a blast for the kids and free! Also a “freebie” for us St. Johns County residents is a tour of Ponce de Leon Fountain of Youth. It’s a legendary spot with old Florida ambiance and for sure you’ll find me taking a long look around. There is lots of history and Indian artifacts that have me captivated. And of course I suggest you end the day with a picnic. I love the picnic area in front of the Lighthouse and Museum. It’s canopy-covered with fabulous old trees and is on the waterfront. Of course you could pull into Anastasia State Park and picnic and then take a swim in the ocean to end the day. And you may as well have a visit to these areas that have side benef ts like looking at alligators, bald eagles and other water birds. Then enjoy a dip in the 72 degree spring that is adjacent to a beautiful shady picnic ground—but for fun have lunch at the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant, you can cook your own pancakes at your table! Whatever you do go out and enjoy the First Coast before you get into that hectic school schedule this fall! For my recipe this month I am publishing my family’s favorite dish, deviled eggs. I can make simple handwipes, pick a bunch of our green thumbs up at the grocery or any other drive by food, but if we don’t have deviled eggs it’s just not a picnic!

My Family’s Favorite Deviled Eggs
6 hardboiled eggs 3 tbsp. mayonnaise 1 tsp. mustard Salt and pepper

Cut eggs lengthwise in half. Remove yolks; place in medium bowl. Mash with fork. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Spoon into egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.

* Must have* local periodicals: The Florida State Park Guide for Families and Family Fun on Florida’s First Coast (Barnes and Noble).

We are happy to announce that Passages, a transition program for incoming sixth grade girls, will be offered at the new Patriot Oaks Academy. This two-day summer program will introduce girls to many middle school skills including changing classes, making the best use of her locker, opening her combination lock, dressing out for P.E., study and organization tools, managing pressures, and much more. It will be held at their actual middle school with seventh and eighth grade middle school girls to mentor them during the program.

Last year’s participant, Bailey C, said, “Passages was so much fun. I feel so good now that I know where everything is. I love how you feel after the program—confident.”

The Patriot Oaks Academy (POA) program is offered on July 30 and 31 (Wednesday and Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The price for the two-day session is $40.

There will also be a brief half-day program offered for incoming seventh grade girls on Thursday, July 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The cost is $10. This brief program will focus on acclimating to the new POA school changes.

For more information about Passages or to enroll your daughter in POA’s session, please contact Kerry Hale at 904-273-8796 or use the email contact forms on www.jcppoa.org, indicating POA in your email.

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Hospital's new staff uniforms provide safety layer

Baptist Health is the first health system in the world to widely adopt specialized staff and patient garments that repel fluids and minimize the risk of transmission of organisms. As part of a continued commitment to patient safety, Baptist Health is partnering with Vestagen Technical Textiles of Orlando, a global innovator in the development of advanced textile technologies.

More than 30,000 pieces of staff uniforms, lab coats and scrub jackets for employees are being distributed in phase one and will feature Vestex® textile technology, which has a durable fluid barrier, an antimicrobial and a special breathable material for wearer comfort. Baptist Health plans to rollout patient apparel featuring the same technology in September. The fabric’s fluid barrier binds to individual fibers, resulting in material that is highly repellent to bodily fluids, water, oil and dirt. This high repellency has been shown to synergize with Vestagen’s embedded antimicrobial technology to prevent organism from being acquired and retained on the fabric. Soft surfaces, like uniforms, are vectors for the spread of organisms in acute care settings.

“Patient safety is the bedrock of what we do,” said Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene. “There is nothing more important than the safety of our patients and these garments are part of an organization-wide emphasis on quality and safety to create the safest possible environment for our patients and staff.”

More than 6,000 Baptist Health inpatient staff with frequent patient contact, including nursing, imaging, respiratory therapy and environmental services personnel are converting to the new uniforms during the phase one distribution. Staff uniforms will also be color-coded by function so that patients can more easily recognize who is caring for them.

Baptist Health is focused on making health care safer for everyone, both as patients and their families. The more than $1 million Baptist Health is investing in phase one for the uniforms and patient garments represents this commitment to safety and the brand promise of “Changing Health Care for Good.”

Diane Raines, Baptist Health’s senior vice president and chief nursing officer, said patients ages one year and older will also receive newly-designed apparel made from Vestex protected fabric that “provide them with dignity as well as protection. Baptist Health is not making the change because of a problem with infection, but to be proactive in our use of technology to enhance our environment. The technology is part of a broader safety strategy designed to reduce exposure to pathogens.”

Hand washing, Raines said, remains the primary strategy as well as rigorous cleaning of rooms and other surfaces, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, appropriate preparation of patients for surgery, and other measures.

“We know that this technology is not the ultimate answer to achieving zero infections. Raines said, “However, as with many patient safety ‘bundles,’ the adoption of this technology combined with an enhanced emphasis on other infection prevention techniques will elevate our level of protection for patients and staff and enhance the safety of the health care environment.”

The health care industry nationally is moving toward improvements in infection control. Baptist Health is a pioneer in the field well before guidance came out in February from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America on recommendations to prevent transmission of health care-associated infections from health care personnel attire. The report points to studies demonstrating that clothing of health care personnel, including the traditional white coat, may have a role in transmission of pathogens and that future studies are needed.

“We believe this is not just an investment in uniforms, but in an innovative technology that will make our environment safer,” said John Wilbanks, Baptist Health chief operating officer. “This is a symbol of our commitment to our staff and their families, and our patients and their families.”

When Tracy Porter’s 16-year-old son suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) after a car crash 10 years ago, she realized what would be necessary for other families arriving at the hospital facing the same fear with their loved one.

For the past nine years, Porter has pioneered traumatic brain injury support and awareness throughout the state of Florida through her 501c3 organization Mothers For TBI Hope, Inc. and the Totes of Comfort and Hope Program. Thanks to Porter’s program, within 24 hours after a family arrives at the hospital, they receive a multi-purpose tote bag filled with personal toiletries, comfort items, useful tools, statewide resources, information about brain injury hospitalization, along with a toll-free number dedicated to her for hope and encouragement and to connect with others who have experienced the same crisis with a loved one. Porter’s organization provides approximately 1,200 totes a year through more than 26 Florida trauma centers and has provided more than 13,000 totes to date.

To help with Porter’s efforts, she reached out to an organization that helped her son with his recovery.

“My son received all of his therapies from Brooks Rehabilitation and so I have wanted for so long to offer support to the survivors while at the same time providing comfort information and hope for families new to the injury,” Porter added.

Members of the Brooks Clubhouse, a day program dedicated to helping people return to a productive life after a brain injury, will begin combining Porter’s program with their mission to provide physical, cognitive and vocational skills to help them on their road to recovery,” Porter added.

Currently, 210,000 Floridians are living with a brain injury and 92,000 Floridians experience brain injury each year, according to the Brain Injury Association of Florida.

Mothers for TBI Hope is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization, those resources are an investment in uniforms, but a necessary resource as a resource for the immediate family of those who have suffered brain injury, “Porter explained.

Mothers for TBI Hope, Inc. has been shown to provide an enormous benefit for other families arriving at the hospital facing the same fear with their loved one.

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Helping Hands' adopted puppy, Adele, who is in training, but taking a break on Facebook under Helping Hands.

Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valusa

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, July 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church, 14420 County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. This month’s project will be to plant the garden. The garden is winding down. A young man working for his Eagle Scout badge is interested in the garden, so he will be donated to Community Hospice to be given to Peds families at Christmas.

In June, the group was able to donate several hundred towels and washcloths along with detergent and toiletries to Home Again St. Johns for the homeless at the drop in facility on County Road 207. The group also enjoyed a baseball game after all the hard work they have been doing both for craft fair and community garden. Celebration Food Bank has been the recipient of fresh vegetables and fruits over last three months and Community Center. Members will also get to know our ESE population. It meets the last Friday of each month for the community. It meets 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center. Members will be able to donate several hundred

The Lowe's Charitable Foundation has awarded a $5,000 Lowe’s Toolbox for Education grant grant to Cunningham Creek Elementary for a Special Needs Library Enhancement and Garden Project. CCE is one of more than 600 schools across the United States to be awarded a Lowe’s Toolbox for Education grant this year. CCE serves as a hub for students with exceptionalities for north- ern St. Johns County. Currently, 171 students are in the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Program. The school’s librarian, Sarah Moukhilss, worked with the PTO in applying for the grant.

Moukhilss identified improvements indoors and out- doors to the library better serve the ESE population. She recommended alternative seating options more accommodating to students with excep- tionalities. Moukhilss selected seating that allows for a certain amount of movement. She cited studies demonstrating how seat- ing designed for slight move- ments can allow for a release of energy while remaining in one’s chair, thereby improving con- centration among exceptional students, particularly those with Autism or ADHD.

She also proposed a Liter- ary Garden, transforming an ordinary garden bed into a living expression of children’s literature by featuring plants read about in their books. For example, the Literary Garden will have chrysanthemums from the book Chrys- anthemum by Kevin Henkes. Moukhilss has pro- posed a sensory section to the garden, allowing students to see, smell and touch stories. For example, children will be able to examine the fragrance of rosemary and feel the softness of lamb’s ear.

Cunningham Creek’s library serves a very diverse population with varying abilities. In order to better allow all children to experience the joy of literature, CCE is working to reach ESE students in diverse and special ways.

“It has been an honor to get to know our ESE population at Cunningham’s. Our students’ unique needs and learning styles encourage me to look at literacy with a new set of eyes. I now contemplate how sensory activities can tie into the joys of reading. The act of living expression and smelling are integral to so many of our students’ learning experience. I feel lucky to work with supportive principals, a strong

PTO, a dedicated staff and committed business organiza- tions, such as Lowe’s, who see the value and can help turn a vision of a literacy/sensory garden into a reality,” said Moukhilss.

“Lowe’s Toolbox for Education program has benefi- ted more than five million schoolchildren since its incep- tion,” said Maureen Ausura, chairman of the Lowe’s Charita- ble and Educational Foun- dation. “Lowe’s is committed to continuing to improve the educational environment for students across the country.”

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Introducing Jaime Kibler, DO

Donald J. Levine, MD. is pleased to welcome Jaime Kibler, DO, to Baptist Primary Care Julington Creek. They offer you and your family a med- ical home, where you enjoy an ongoing relationship with your personal physician — someone you can talk to and trust. Someone who will see you the same day if there’s an urgent need, and coordinate your care with an electronic medical record shared across Baptist Health’s comprehensive network of providers. Convenient. Caring. Connected. That’s changing health care for good.

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For more information, please contact jacuphill@aol.com or check us out on Facebook under Helping Hands of St. Johns County.

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A team of Nease students recently returned as finalists from Iowa State University where over 2,400 students from Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and most states within the United States of America competed in the 2014 Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP) International Conference (IC). The conference featured four days of competitive team and individual problem solving (written and action based), scenario writing (individual and group) and educational semi-scenario writing (individual and group) and educational semi-scenario writing (individual and group). The Future is the Key team, made of students from Nease: Diksha Brahmbhatt, Shambhavi Khanna and Lucas Sanders.

Johnson, president and executive director for the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASS) was the featured speaker. He has logged over 5,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft and contributed to the assembly of the International Space Station (ISS). He piloted two Space Shuttle missions and one of his crew members was a former FPSP student. He was so impressed with the program that he stayed around after his presentation to meet, talk and work with many of the students.

Founded by creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, FPSP stimulates critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for their future while they develop skills of teamwork, communication, research, critical and creative thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. These skills are applied to situations that are futuristic but oriented to real life. The competitive aspects of FPS are fun but benefits include learning a process that can be used lifelong.
Multi-specialty vision practice welcomes Dr. Jones

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons welcomes Dr. P. Vernon Jones to their practice. Dr. Jones has been in private practice for over 25 years and recently decided to transition his solo practice to a larger, multi-specialty group. Dr. Jones officially joined Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons in May 2014 as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and will primarily be based in their Riverside and Orange Park practice locations.

Dr. Jones completed his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and his general surgery residency and ophthalmology residency at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

“Dr. Jones brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to our practice and we are looking forward to his contributions,” stated John Donovan, M.D., ophthalmologist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons is a comprehensive ophthalmology practice with dedicated and caring physicians who treat approximately 14,000 patients annually. They have been providing eye care to the North Florida region since 1977. Their main focus is the evaluation and treatment of eye disease and the overall advancement in the field of ophthalmology.

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Summer fun at Alpine Groves Park

By Contributing Writer Jennifer Yarbrough, Friends of Alpine Park

Looking for some summer fun in a natural setting with a little Old-Florida charm mixed in? Then add Alpine Groves Park to your “To-Do” list! Alpine Groves Park is located at 2030 State Road 13 in Switzerland. It is owned and maintained by St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department and is 54.5 acres located on a beautiful bluff overlooking the St. Johns River.

At the front of the park you will find an old barn, dinner bell, Butterfly Garden and shaded children’s playground with orange grove themed play equipment hearkening back to the park’s days as an orange grove. Meander down the shaded, paved foot trail towards the river or drive your vehicle down the road to the river area parking lot and get set to explore. You will enjoy beautiful views of the St. Johns River from a magnificent bluff. Enjoy the view from the covered dock or while swinging on lovely double swings placed along the river. Stroll the Ruth Harris Bennett Butterfly Garden and enjoy Florida Native and Heritage plant that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

The crowning historical jewels of the park are the 1890s farmhouse, fruit packing shed and curio building; wander around them and peek into the past. The farmhouse was recently decorated for the Fourth of July by the Friends of Alpine Park and provided the backdrop for many patriotic pictures.

The exterior of the farmhouse and fruit packing shed were previously stabilized by St. Johns County, but the interiors have yet to be restored. The Friends of Alpine Park are currently raising the funds necessary to restore the interior of the farmhouse back to its 1890s state; the group is looking for new members interested in helping this worthwhile cause. They are also looking for members with a love of nature who would like to maintain the Ruth Harris Bennett Butterfly Garden and the serene, natural habitat of the park and those interested in decorating the exterior of the farmhouse in seasonal decorations five times a year.

If this interests you, then they would love your help! Please email friends@alpinepark@gmail.com or “Friend” them on Facebook, “Friends of Alpine Park.”

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Friends of Alpine Park members and their families enjoy the farmhouse newly decorated for the patriotic holidays of Flag Day and Independence Day.
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Everyone who lives or works in Saint Johns, Flagler, Duval, Baker, Clay, and Nassau counties can join.
I sat in utter amazement, nestled in the back seat while my driver, a Sikh wearing a turban, somehow maneuvered the car through a frenzied traffic jam of epic proportions. Seven jumbled lanes of misaligned vehicles squished within three officially marked lines. As far as I could see, no rules of the road existed. A cacophony of honking and beeping horns seemed to simply announce, “I’m here.” Bicycles, rickshaws, motorcyclists, hundreds of tiny Tok-Tok three-wheeled cars (occasionally outfitted with people like clown cars at the circus) plus regular size vehicles, buses and trucks and ox carts vied for space. Every once in a while a stray cow would wander in. I’d been warned the traffic in Delhi is insane—multiply that times 10. Its sheer madness but for some reason I didn’t feel anxious.

While my itinerary called for adventures in the southern part of the country, my tour of this distant land would absolutely have to include India’s most famous landmark: the Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal means “Crown Palace” and it is in fact the most well preserved and architecturally beautiful tomb in the world.

To understand the building you must know the background story. The Taj Mahal was built by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, in 1631 in memory of his third but most favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Shah Jahan was utterly devoted to Mumtaz Mahal, who was his constant companion and trusted confidante. She died after giving birth to her 13th child while accompanying him on a campaign. Her death so crushed the emperor that all his hair and beard were said to have grown snow white in a few months. I would tour at sunrise to avoid crowds and had expected the pre-dawn streets to be quiet, but I was totally wrong. In fact, I would quickly learn almost all my preconceived ideas about India were wrong. Residents in India arise very early. The park near the entrance to the UNESCO World Heritage site was bustling like an American high school at dismissal hour, except daylight was barely breaking.

First came a red brick building, the gateway to the Taj. Here you nab the initial glimpse of the majestic marble domes through a grand arched doorway. Whoa—the hair on my arms rose in excitement. The sun’s rays, just beginning to project from the East, cast an array of pale pinkish hues. And me... literally tickled pink to be there.

I needed to simply stand still and appreciate the renowned building with its indefinable beauty. No high definition photos or videos do justice. Seeing this structure in person becomes a moment of awe. Graceful and delicate, clean and pure, literally shimmering like a fiery diamond ring—the Taj Mahal is a true wonder of the world.

Construction began in 1631 and was completed in 1648. About 20,000 workers were recruited: sculptors from Bukhara, calligraphers from Syria and Persia, inlayers from southern India, stone cutters from Baluchistan, a specialist in building turrets, another who carved only marble flowers. The outlying buildings and gardens were finished five years later.

I was pleased to see preservation a concern. Everybody must place cloth booties over their shoes before climbing the stairs and walking on the marble terrace. The detailed inlay work beckons closer observation and near by, it could discern exquisite detail. Marble lattice screens cut in oriental designs enclose the tombs. The actual graves lie below in the basement, undisturbed in quiet environs. The play of the sun’s filtering rays reflecting off the river and through the lattice work creates a mood of solemn respect.

After leaving the interior, I walked toward the river and gazed across where the merest foundation for the Black Taj remains. Shah Jahan intended to build a replica in black marble opposite the current monument; however, a war with his sons interrupted his plan. The sons placed him under house arrest as they were opposed to his lavish spending for another shrine. As you glance further upriver, you see the red sandstone fort opposite the current monument; however, a war with his sons interrupted his plan. The sons placed him under house arrest as they were opposed to his lavish spending for another shrine. As you glance further upriver, you see the red sandstone fort opposite the current monument; however, a war with his sons interrupted his plan. The sons placed him under house arrest as they were opposed to his lavish spending for another shrine.

I strolled through the gardens and was very glad that I had come at dawn. Within a few hours tourists had mushroomed like well watered weeds, pushing forward and disrupting the serenity.

Many photographs of this site show its varying moods from dawn to dusk. My guide told me a full moon gives the Taj a golden, sensuous appeal and that it shines like a pearl. All I can say is see it for yourself. The romanticism and sheer majesty of the structure is undeniably real.
We are in-network providers for Metlife, Delta, AETNA, Cigna, United Healthcare, and most other PPO insurance plans.

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A COMPLAINT FILED AFTER COMMISSIONER BENNETT USED HER OFFICIAL AUTHORITY TO INFLUENCE THE VOTE

As a candidate, one works on getting his/her message out and expects the opponent(s) to campaign against you. However, on June 4th, I was met with a surprise from current County Commissioner Rachael Bennett, who is not up for re-election. (I am running against Commissioner Ron Sanchez.) She injected herself into my campaign – using her title and County email to influence residents' votes, which I believe violated Florida Statute 104.

Commissioner Rachael Bennett sent out hundreds of emails to residents attacking my credibility and made statements like “... when it comes time to vote, please remember...” Even though there were many slurs made on my integrity, the Complaint is due to use of Bennett’s title and county email in interfering with an election.

Election Laws are there for a reason – to keep elections fair. F.S. 104.31 clearly states that no county official can use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person’s vote or affecting the result thereof. Nor can they use the county (taxpayer’s) email server in doing so.

Even though I was on the receiving end of this, I still gave Bennett an opportunity to simply fix it. On June 4th, I emailed the County Commissioners, County Administrator, and County Attorney, requesting retraction of these statements to those residents Bennett had emailed and to publish in the local newspapers. Otherwise, I would hold a press conference and file a Complaint. Despite the seriousness of this issue, no formal response was received.

Since Bennett decided to bring this to my front door, I had only two options on how to respond. Neither option is what a candidate wants to face when trying to focus energy on their campaign. Since this happened to me, I could either “ignore it” and continue to allow Bennett to misuse her authority to influence others’ votes – or I could stand up and say “stop.”

Every candidate sees himself/herself as the best one for the position. My teammates and I simply want to run our campaign and get our message out. So, now we have stood up to this and are moving on. We sincerely hope this kind of activity by other sitting Commissioners does not happen to any other candidate.

For more information on Kim J. Kendall’s campaign, visit www.VoteKimKendall.com

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Over 30 local nonprofits will receive United Way funding in 2014-2015. Representatives of those agencies met recently at Ring Power. In each of the organization’s 57 years of existence, United Way of St. Johns County has run a county-wide campaign raising funds to address community need. Focused on the building blocks that lead to a good quality of life—education, health and income—United Way recognizes that we all gain when children are successful in school when families are financially stable and when people are healthy. To give, to advocate or to volunteer with the United Way, please visit www.unitedway-sjc.org or call 829-9721

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Kendall Gracie, daughter of Mike and Rhonda Gracie and a rising eighth grader at Fruit Cove Middle School, has been named as a 2014 Brine National High School All-American and has been selected to represent Florida at the 2014 Brine National Lacrosse Classic to be held in Boyds, Maryland June 30 through July 3, 2014. The Brine National Lacrosse Classic brings the top-ranked high school lacrosse players in the county to one venue, where regional teams will compete to become the 2014 National Champion. Congratulations, Kendall!
Swiss Point student experiences Greece and Italy

By Contributing Writer Julia Gorick, Student, Switzerland Point Middle School

This summer the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus had the exciting opportunity to perform on tour in Greece and Italy. We spent seven days on a cruise and three days bus touring in Italy. We visited Corfu, Santorini, Mykonos, Olympia, Venice and Rome.

In Corfu we walked around for a little bit before we went to our first performance of the tour. It was a quaint island with beautiful scenery and lovely people. We sang with the Corfu Children’s Chorus and they were amazing! Our next stop on the cruise was Santorini. Santorini was filled with blue and white buildings that overlooked the sea. We took a guided tour through that island and sang in the center of an amphitheater area and we loved the reactions of the Greeks when we sang in their native language.

We then went to Mykonos and saw a lot of the private churches. Did you know that there is only one Roman Catholic Church on that island? All the rest were Greek Orthodox. Everyone was so nice to us and welcomed us with warm smiles.

Olympia was nothing like I’ve ever seen before. The ruins of where the ancient Greek Olympics were held were amazing. The monuments were pretty well preserved for being 2000 years old and the tour guide did a great job of informing us of what we were looking at.

When we arrived at Venice, we sang at mass at St. Mark’s Basilica and we got to walk around a little bit and experience the Italian culture. Rome was beautiful. We had the chance to tour the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Basilica. St. Peter’s Basilica was especially interesting; the architecture was pretty and the mosaics and statues were so cool. We saw the Pietà by Michelangelo and that was fascinating.

It was a great trip and experience for all of us and I am grateful to have been invited to come along.

LPA: Looking back and looking ahead

By Contributing Writer Diana Sarama

Looking back, the 2013-2014 school year was a success for the Liberty Pines Academy (LPA) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO each year supports the staff and students with various activities and fundraisers.

Some of this past school year’s activities included the Boosterthon, the Liberty Parade, Family Fun Night, the LPA Golf Tournament and the Night of the Arts. Hopefully, each family had some fun and make some good memories at one or more of the PTO sponsored events.

The support received from the different fundraisers and business partners was more than we had ever anticipated when the initial budgets were made during the 2013-2014 school year. This year the funds raised will go towards purchasing 30 new computers at LPA for the 2014-2015 school year.

Technology will always be a need to be met each year because it is constantly changing. Also, the computers get a lot of use when there are almost 1,400 students attending LPA. Since LPA is not a new school or a Title I school, then LPA has to find ways to fund these technology needs. The funds received through the PTO are very much appreciated.

Looking ahead, the 2014-2015 school year will be here before we know it. The new PTO board is already making plans for another great year. There is always a lot of work behind the scenes for each activity and everyone’s help is much appreciated.

Thanks to all who have supported LPA and the PTO! Have a fun and safe summer!
Fairy Tale Ball at Hickory Creek Elementary
By Contributing Writer Sommer Dolce

The first graders at Hickory Creek Elementary School recently held their annual Fairy Tale Ball. Students dressed up as their favorite characters from their favorite fairy tale. They enjoyed an all-day affair of activities that celebrated the end of their study about fairy tales.

Many of the girls were dressed as beautiful princesses. The boys came dressed to impress as characters such as Prince Charming, Robin Hood and other beloved characters from their favorite fairy tale books. Dr. Paul Goricki, the principal at Hickory Creek, served as the Royal Reader. He sat in his royal chair and read his favorite fairy tale, Rapunzel, to the first graders. They did special crafts in their classroom and enjoyed a showing of the Paper Bag Princess. The culminating event of the day was the ball.

The first grade house was transformed into a beautiful ballroom with glittering lights. The students were paired up and were able to show off their dancing skills. Even the teachers joined in the dancing fun! For many of the students, this was their first opportunity with ballroom dancing. Teachers enjoyed watching their students practice their dance skills with their partners.

“Teaching the students to dance with a partner is a lot of fun,” said Laura Eads, first grade teacher at Hickory Creek. “Although reading the different versions of the fairy tales, comparing them and creating new twists to the tales are my favorite part of this unit.”

The fairy tale unit is not only exciting for the students, but also fun for the teachers. It offers many learning opportunities for first graders. By studying the story structure of fairy tales, it allows students to grasp the beginning, middle and end format of a story. With this foundation, students can refer back to their prior knowledge when they are composing their own stories. There are also great connections that can be made across the curriculum with math, science and social studies.

Open house celebrates opening of free standing ER

Memorial Hospital is now serving patients at the Memorial Emergency Center – Atlantic. The cover over the Emergency sign was taken down to signify the full-service emergency room to the families who call this neighborhood home.

“The Memorial Emergency Center – Atlantic is a full-service ER complete with advanced imaging and lab services. This facility is licensed by the State as an Emergency Department and operates just like an ER that is attached to a hospital.

Features include:
- 9,960 square feet
- 10 beds
- Full-service ER, licensed by the state of Florida
- Staffed 24/7 by trained emergency room physicians
- Ability to serve all ages from infants to the elderly
- Open 24/7
- Wait times will be posted online at memorialhospital-jax.com
- “When it comes to emergencies, every second counts,” said Emergency Services Administrator Amy Riley, RN.
- “Our new, state-of-the-art emergency room offers adults and children easy access to care in a convenient setting with a highly trained, compassionate staff ready to serve adults and children.”

The Memorial Emergency Center – Atlantic is Memorial Hospital’s second free-standing ER. In October of 2012 Memorial opened its first free standing emergency center, the Memorial Emergency Center – Julington Creek. Since opening, the Julington Creek location has seen thousands of patients.
Trevor Walsh, a student at UNF and graduate of Bishop John J. Snyder High School (2013), won a prestigious student film competition in Hollywood for his film “The Timekeeper.” Approximately 120 colleges/universities participate in the annual Campus MovieFest (the world’s largest student film festival) which focuses on short films. Planning time is unlimited, but the movie must be shot within a specific one-week period and the movie must not exceed five minutes in duration. At UNF, there were 68 entries. “The Timekeeper” won “Best Drama,” “Best Actor” (Brian Shields) and received a special award, rarely given at universities, a “Silver Tripod Award” for cinematography. Walsh’s movie and another movie from UNF (Salts) won all the awards and they both advanced to Hollywood to be judged against the winners from other universities. Walsh then learned he was nominated for the “Golden TriPod Award” for cinematography.

Walsh and his dad, Brian Walsh, flew to Hollywood to attend MovieFest where 1,000 delegates attended workshops with presenters such as Grant Heslov (Academy Award winner for Argo). On June 19, the winning movies from the various universities ran simultaneously in three theaters at Universal City Walk. They showed six movies, then question and answer sessions were held featuring the representatives who were present. Walsh was asked about his equipment, lighting and theme development.

Sunday’s final awards were presented at the Globe Theater with presenters such as Carl Reiner and Kathy Bates. Missi Pyle read the nominations and Walsh’s competition was from San Francisco State University, San Diego State, South Carolina and Georgia Tech. Then came the announcement: The Golden TriPod Award winner for cinematography was “The Timekeeper.” Assisting Walsh in the production of “The Timekeeper” was his friend David Olveros.

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

For more information about the events below, please call 940-6905 or email us at camph eritage@heritagelanding.com. Unless otherwise noted, these events are for Heritage Landing residents and their guests.

Family Movie Night is on August 2 at dusk. Closed Caption upon request.

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

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

Student Band Rehearsal is held on Sunday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All Heritage Landing resident band students are welcome. The Student Band is led by resident Mr. Farquhar. Please call 940-1199 for more information.

The Heritage Landing Business Networking Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Heritage Landing business owners or representatives, come introduce your business to fellow residents. The meeting is free and a $5 fee gets your business card published in this month’s newsletter.

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

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

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

As ever, we look forward to your comments and suggestions and appreciate your kind feedback.
**Vacation Bible School**

- **Sunday, July 27 - Thursday, July 31, 2014**
- **6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**
- **VPK–8th Grade**

- **Everyone’s Invited!**
- **Science-themed VBS!**
- **Fun experiments!**
- **Music, games, crafts!**
- **Grow closer to God!**
- **Awesome adventures for Middle School youth also!**

Mark your calendars for the SAYs charity golf tournament

The 19th annual St. Augustine Youth Services Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, September 22, 2014 at Marsh Creek Country Club. Ocean Grove RV SuperCenter is the title sponsor of the tournament. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the shotgun start goes off at 9:00 a.m. There will be an awards lunch immediately after.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), a therapeutic group home for abused and neglected children, is celebrating 25 years of service. SAYs employs a staff of caring professionals who are specially trained to deal with problems unique to children from abusive homes. The SAYs facility provides the homelike environment so important for the healthy development of these special children.

The tournament proceeds will help support the SAYs Hutton Family Campus to continue to provide a safe, stable home for the boys in which to love, learn, grow and heal both physically and emotionally.

For more information to become a sponsor or to play in the tournament, contact Robin Burchefield, director of development, at 829-1790 or robinb@sayskids.org. Registration is available on line at www.sayskids.org/golf.

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**St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church**, located at 1221 State Road 13, is excited to announce the addition of a new program. On Tuesday mornings, we are now offering Stories and Smiles, a summer storytime and creative move-
Bethany Groves, assistant principal at R.I. Murray Middle School (MMS), has been selected by Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner to be the principal of Hickory Creek Elementary School (HCES). Her nomination was presented to the St. Johns County School Board during its July 8 meeting. She will replace Dr. Paul Goricki who was recently named as principal of John A. Crookshank Elementary (CES).

Groves began her career in 1994 as an elementary teacher in Kentucky. She continued her love of teaching for eight years at Southwest Elementary in Indiana. In 2006, Groves moved to St. Johns County where she taught fifth grade at Julington Creek Elementary School (JCES). She then became an administrator serving as an assistant principal for the past seven years at CES, HCES and MMS, respectively.

As a teacher, Groves earned the Golden Apple Achievement Award for the Southern United States for excellence in teaching and her academic team in Kentucky earned the state championship title in 1998. While at Southwest Elementary, Groves was a lead mathematics teacher for the state of Indiana presenting best practices to teachers, serving as a speaker at academic conferences and as a member of the curriculum design team. In addition, while teaching at JCES, her math team placed third in Florida and sixth in the Southern United States for the Kentucky Achievement Award for the outstanding choice to replace Dr. Paul Goricki at Hickory Creek Elementary, said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. “She is a skilled instructional leader who has experience in the community. I have a great deal of confidence in Bethany Groves and I know she will continue the excellence that has been established at Hickory Creek.”

Groves holds a bachelor’s degree from Ohio University, a master’s degree from Northern Kentucky University and Educational Leadership Certification from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

“I could not be more thrilled to have this opportunity to return home to Hickory Creek,” said Groves. “Dr. Goricki has laid an amazing foundation of excellence. To work with the staff, parents and community there to build on this foundation is a great honor for which I am humbled, incredibly grateful and very excited.”

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Troop 280 has a new Eagle

By Contributing Writer Lisa Leavins

Sorenson joined Troop 280 where he has earned a proficiency in outdoor skills, leadership and scout craft. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow in September of 2012 and remains active in the Order. Earning 22 Merit Badges and serving in leadership for the troop as the senior patrol leader, Sorenson began the process of planning and implementing his Eagle Scout project, with an impressive presentation to the committee. His project was to re-build the sign for our local St. Johns County Library at Davis Pond Road/State Road 13. He planned, raised funds for and implemented the project with the help of others.

Troop 280 has a new Eagle Scout in 2013. Blocker has been deployed rookie recruiter of the year in the United States Marine Corps, Blocker was recently honorably appointed assistant to Abraham Blocker as assistant manager, pleased to announce the addition of Erik Sorensen of Troop 280 to the Eagle Palms. We congratulate him for his leadership and scout craft. He has received an award at the ceremony as well as participate in the event before his ceremony.

Veteran appointed assistant to president of realty company

Watson Realty Corp. is pleased to announce the addition of Abraham Blocker as assistant to the president, Ed Forman. Blocker was recently honorably discharged from active duty in the United States Marine Corps, where he served for 10 years. He most recently served as a recruiter in Jacksonville Beach, where he received multiple awards and was recognized as a rookie recruiter of the year in 2011. Blocker has been deployed as an infantryman and small unit leader in support of combat operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan. “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work for Watson Realty Corp.,” Blocker said. “Its core values and commitment to legendary quality service are what attracted me to this outstanding organization.” He is a licensed Realtor® and is currently attending Jacksonville University for business management.

“Abraham has a proven history of leadership and dedication,” explained Ed Forman, president, Watson Realty Corp. “He shares the company values and will be an excellent resource.”

Blocker, a proud husband and father of three, is actively involved in his church and continues to serve in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He enjoys exploring northeast Florida with his family.

St. Johns County Medical Alliance announces 2014 Scholars

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance recently awarded five new academic scholarships to St. Johns County high school graduates pursuing their education in a medical related field of study. Two former scholarship recipients also received funds for continuation of their studies. This year, a total of $3,500 in scholarships was awarded. Recipients include Kelli Herin, a graduate of Nease High School. She plans to major in nursing and will attend the University of Florida. Jessica Putts, a Bartram Trail High School graduate, plans to major in physical therapy and will attend High Point University in North Carolina. Maggie Borganes, a graduate of Bartram Trail High School, plans to major in pre-med and will attend the United States Air Force Academy. Matthew Guthrie, a graduate of Creekside High School, plans to major in biology/pre-med and will attend the University of Florida. Mimi Haley, a graduate of Ponte Vedra High School, plans to major in bio-medical science and will attend the University of Central Florida. Danielle Marchanko and Hunter Green, former award winners, will receive funding for continuation of their studies.

For more information visit www.sjcma.blogspot.com.
Nease IB juniors volunteer at Habitat for Humanity

Each year Nease International Baccaulaurate (IB) students volunteer hundreds of service hours in support of various causes. This year 39 IB juniors volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in St. Augustine. Student team leaders Erin Wadjard and Daniel Schwartz and Justin Hams, Jessica Koros, Ben Koros, and Austin Wadjard helped to organize this worthwhile effort.

Daniel Schwartz said that he found the experience to be “interesting and enjoyable, demonstrating how people can take a hands on approach to help make a difference.” In all, a total of 351 service hours were earned by Nease IB juniors for their humanitarian efforts.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County builds homes, communities and hope for those in need. Since 1994, they have provided a safe, decent home to over 500 hard working families. Globally, Habitat for Humanity is present in all 50 states and more than 90 countries worldwide. To date more than 800,000 houses have been built or repaired serving more than four million people worldwide. Their mission is “elimination of poverty and homelessness from the world to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.”

ElderSource, a nonprofit organization that works to empower elders and their caregivers age with dignity and independence, is currently recruiting volunteers in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties to help citizens become better informed about their Medicare choices. Volunteers are a vital part of ElderSource’s SHINE program (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders), which helps elders make informed decisions about their Medicare health benefits and other health insurance issues.

By Contributing Writer Lisa Leavins

The “Iceman” becomes an Eagle

On April 19, 2014 Austin “Iceman” Blizzard earned Scoutings highest award, the Eagle Award. The family hosted an Eagle ceremony at the JCP Recreation Center with family, friends and fellow scouts in attendance. Bliz- zarzard planned and implemented the construction of a 179-foot long five-foot wide, ADA regulation path connecting the school patio at Cunningham Creek Elementary School to the newly constructed track. After many road blocks that could have ground this project to a halt, some of which included weather hovering in the upper 20s with 15 mph winds during the construction, the project was completed successfully in time to celebrate the opening of the track with the school’s annual Spring Fling celebration.

Blizzard is the son of John and Marsha Blizzard of the JCP community and is currently a student at Creekside High School. We celebrate Austyn and his accomplishments over the years and wish him well in all future endeavors.

Volunteers needed for ElderSource’s SHINE program

ElderSource Volunteers, by July 13 pre-registered volunteers must be orientated and participate. Inter-ested volunteers can call ElderSource at 391-6644. SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Services, funded through a grant from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and operated in partnership with the state’s 11 area agencies on aging.

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Ester Kosik, a level 5 rhythmic gymnast from St. Johns, proudly represented World Rythmics at the nation’s biggest international competition, the Spring Ring, in Columbus, Ohio. Kosik won first place All-Around in her age group, bringing home gold for Floor and Ropes and silver for Hoops and Ball. She also received a trophy for finishing second place overall from 02 gymnast at her level. Congratulations to Ester and her coaches, Mila Hanly, Lauren Best and Stan Picus.

Kids Helping Kids raised more than $55,000 for Dreams Come True

Dreams Come True is proud to announce more than 20 schools participated in the Kids Helping Kids program during the 2013-2014 school year. Funds raised during the school year came to $55,233 and sponsored the dreams of 22 local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Kids Helping Kids is a signature program of Dreams Come True and brings together students and young people with dream recipients. Through the program, money is raised to sponsor the dreams of local children who are battling a life-threatening illness. Fundraising projects can include car washes, bake sales, dances, talent shows, coin collections and many more activities. Following the events, 100 percent of the funds raised by Kids Helping Kids go directly to dream fulfillment. Each group is given the chance to host a Celebration of Life dream party, which in turn provides an incredible opportunity for the students to meet and spend time with their sponsored dream child.

Through the Kids Helping Kids program, students experience the amazing satisfaction that comes from helping others; and the dream child meets some very caring students who made his or her dream come true.

The 2013-2014 Kids Helping Kids program included the following NW St. Johns County Schools:

- Bartram Trail High School
- Fruit Cove Middle School
- Cunningham Creek Elementary School
- Durham Creek Elementary School
- Switzerland Point Middle School

Schools, youth groups, clubs or any service/religious organization interested in participating in the Kids Helping Kids program or would like additional information, can contact Dreams Come True at 296-3030.

Founded in 1984, Dreams Come True has made dreams a reality for more than 3,000 children in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Dreams Come True directs 100 percent of all donations, unless otherwise specified, to the dreams of children battling life-threatening illnesses. For more information about Dreams Come True, please visit www.dreamscometrue.org or call 296-3030.

Market Day at Timberlin Creek teaches producer and consumer roles

By Contributing Writer Laurie Lear, First Grade Teacher, TCE

On May 23, students at Timberlin Creek Elementary School recently explored producer and consumer roles at First Grade Market Day. Instructional objectives included creating a product in demand, advertising posters, determining price point and creating their products.

Students produced items such as pencil toppers, bookmarks, molded shaped crayons and pet rocks to sell to other first graders at the school. Parents helped students at home by assigning chores for which they could earn a dollar to purchase items on Market Day.

Market Day was a hit! Students took turns buying and selling their products, while learning valuable lessons in economics and teamwork. When asked what they liked most about the day, many students stated they liked working at the store because they got to collect money.

After Market Day the first graders learned a final lesson – charity. Dr. Lisa Hill, from the Animal Medical Clinic at St. Johns, brought her dog, Florida and delivered a moving presentation about dog care. All proceeds from Market Day were donated to help with medical needs of rescue dogs like Florida.
The Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people identify trees in a simple, step-by-step process. The book, What Tree Is That?, is available for a $5 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization. What Tree Is That? is a fun, easy-to-use tree identification guide that features hand-drawn botanical illustrations highlighting the distinguishing characteristics of many tree species.

Nature lovers and professional arborists alike have come to this pocket guide for the expertly illustrated species identification in just a few easy steps. The Arbor Day Foundation offers this book to help people identify trees in Florida and throughout the Eastern and Central regions of the United States. What Tree Is That? uses a unique step-by-step approach for identifying the species of each tree, explaining what to look for in the shape of the leaves, differences in the leaf stems and twig structures, and specific characteristics of flowers, fruits, buds and bark.

“What Tree Is That? pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees”, said John Rosene, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The Arbor Day Foundation strives to help people enjoy and appreciate trees, and we feel our pocket field guide will do just that.”

What Tree Is That? is also available as an online interactive version at arborday.org. To obtain a tree identification guide in full color, send your name, address and $5 for each guide to Arbor Day Foundation, P.O. Box 90, Iowa City, NE 68410. You can also order online at www.arborday.org. "What Tree Is That?" is a registered trademark of the Arbor Day Foundation.

How to encourage kids to read in the summer

Reading can have a profound impact on a child’s life and is out of the classroom. Reading can help a young student develop a more extensive vocabulary and a study from the federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics found that reading to young children promotes language acquisition, making it easier for them to learn a foreign language. That’s a significant advantage for children growing up in a world that is increasingly global.

But reading has benefits outside the classroom as well. Reading can provide an escape from the daily grind, which is something even today’s young students can appreciate. Reading also is a great way for kids to relax and unwind while simultaneously giving their brains a workout.

While many parents recognize the impact reading can have on their children, it’s no secret that getting kids to embrace reading can be difficult. Distractions such as video games, social media and even the great outdoors are all there to draw kids away from reading. But parents who want to instill a love of reading in their children can still take steps to get kids to develop a love for books so that they don’t miss out on the benefits of a good book.

To read your children: New research has discovered various benefits of reading to children when they are young. The National Center for Education Statistics notes that children whose parents read to them typically become better readers and perform better in school. Children who read early on is the first step toward fostering a love of reading that kids will develop and continue throughout their lives. Many parents read to their children at night before bedtime, but any time of day will suffice. Don’t discourage if kids are not interested in books. While reading fiction can help develop a youngster’s imagination, anxiety-shy children should not be discouraged if kids don’t want to read books. Reading the newspaper, magazines and even comic books can help kids develop strong reading skills and an extensive vocabulary and, in the case of comic books, inspire their imagination. Young sports fans might be more inclined to read up on the sports pages than a novel, so let them do so. Kids are more likely to embrace reading if they’re reading books that interest them, so encourage kids to read up on those interests even if that reading does not involve picking up a book. Give your younger sister or his own library card. Thanks to the popularity of e-readers, many adults would be hard pressed to locate their local library or remember how to use it. So do. But visiting the library is a great way to encourage kids to read. Kids create their own library cards and have their own library cards. Kids with their own library cards can lead their own charge to visit the library as shopping trips where they get to pick out their own books. Then they can take home what they’re reading with them. And once in a while in the certain age, they can visit the library on their own.

To share your reading experience with your children: Kids look up to their parents and often want to mimic their behavior. So parents can set a good example by reading as well. On trips to Summer reading cont. on pg. 27

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own books while you

might not want to discuss
every book you read with

your children, discuss the

books they're reading.

Chances are you read many of those

same books yourself when you

were a child, and discussing

books with your child is a

great way to improve his or

her reading comprehension.

Distractions abound for
today's youngsters, who might

not embrace reading as readily

as they do video games or

social networking. But parents can

take many steps to instill a love

of reading in their kids that will

last a lifetime.

According to the National
Sleep Foundation, a short nap
on 30 minutes can improve
alertness and performance
without creating feelings of

fatigue or interfering with

nighttime sleep. A NASA study

that examined sleep pilots and

astronauts found that those

who napped for 40 minutes

improved their performance by

14 percent. While napping

be beneficial, napping can have

a negative impact as well.

For example, those who nap too

late in the day may struggle to
get a decent night’s rest later

that night, when the length and

quality of sleep may not be as

long or as stamina. And it

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Find a safe place to stay ahead of time: Some communities have groups that have solely focused on providing emergency sheltering for pets and some communities simply don’t have the resources. Before disaster hits call your local office of emergency management to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and that there will be shelters that take people and their pets in your area. And just to be safe, set up a pet-friendly safe place for your family and pets.

If you evacuate, take your pet. Rule number one: If it isn’t safe for you, it isn’t safe for your pets. Even if you think you will only be gone for a few hours, take your pets.

Pet supplies are non-perishable and can be carried easily. Any dry pet food should be stored in air-tight containers and refrigerated every six months. A basic disaster kit contains food and water for each pet, bowls and a manual opener if you are packing canned pet food. Keep an extra gallon of water on hand if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or fluids, and needs to be rinsed. Medications and medical records stored in a watertight container away from other supplies. A first aid kit. Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop, garbage bags to collect all pets’ waste.

Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened cats may hide; move dangerous items such as toxic prod-

emergency officials have been
told to leave their pets behind.

If you’re away from home

fly safely. If your family and pets

must wait a storm or other disas-

other states’ disaster and pets’

checklist you can start.

Start getting ready now:

ID your pet: Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. You’ll increase your chances of being reunited with a lost pet by having him or her microchipped. Put your cell phone number on your pet’s tag. It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative who lives in your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

Pet supplies that make up the pet shelter kit: Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate. You’ll also need supplies for your pet. Stock up on favorite food, pet food should be stored in air-

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Cunningham Creek Plantation POA update

By Contributing Writer Linda Stuart

The board of directors for the Cunningham Creek Plantation Property Owners Association met in June. Besides the usual business, the board is working on having a neighborhood event and revising the Architectural Guidelines.

We have had several new homeowners in the area. We send them an official welcome letter, but I am welcoming them to the area. New and existing homeowners are welcome to attend the association board meeting; look for the signs put up a few days in advance. Homeowners are invited to join a committee and get involved!

Our next meeting will be held July 28.

If you are a new homeowner or have a new kindergartner, you are encouraged to register your children for their new school as soon as possible. It makes it easier for the school to have everything ready for you and your children on the first day of school. If you are transferring from another state, a visit to the school or your physician is necessary to make certain your children have all of the required inoculations.

You might even be given a list of what materials your children should bring to school on the first day, so they will feel as well prepared as the children who have been attending the previous year. You can also find out what not only the dress code for the school is, but what the proper dress code for the teacher is as well. Your children have a better opportunity to feel comfortable. Going to school for the first time can be stressful for many children, so help make it as easy as possible for the parents to organize as soon as you can.

We are lucky the Bartram Trail Elementary School has them. They have excellent programs for your children to attend and many families have asked us to keep them from checking and read over the summer. Incidentally, your child might make a new friend. The school your child will attending might have a list of suggested book to read for the grade level. The librarians at the library are wonderful in assisting all of their patrons.

INTERCONNECTIVITY DOES AFFECT EXISTING COMMUNITIES – Toll Brothers’ Julington Lakes proposed gated community (4740 homes) in the Julington Creek area, with only one gated entrance. Yet the county stated that the approval of their development is in jeopardy unless additional access points are provided.

Toll Brothers has only four options to provide access for bikes/walk-emergency vehicles. Two connection options are a “no.” Option 1 was with the Gate parcel (Gate wanted to connect instead with EXISTING Aberdeen neighborhood); Option 2 was to connect with the EXISTING Julington Creek Plantation, but their HOA said “no.”

Toll Brothers is left with only two other options. Option 3 is to place a gated bike-walk path connecting to Veterans Park. The county has requested Toll Brothers have their GATE OPEN during day hours and closed at 6 pm.

Toll Brothers’ Option 4 is to connect to the EXISTING Aberdeen neighborhood. This would be a bike, walk and emergency vehicle road.

OLD NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO PUSHED CONNECTIVITY – St. Johns Golf & Country Club (SJG&CC) on CR210 was approved in the 80’s – yet in 2004, when the developer bought a few more acres to add a few more homes, the county pushed very hard for SJG&CC to connect to the neighborhood one mile south. The county wanted the connection to link to a closed-off SJG&CC already has four access points, a major collector road, a major sidewalk connectivity, and is not gated – yet the county pushed very hard against the will of the residents.

NW SECTOR PLAN – The proposed changes are to the NW Sector Plan Land Development Code. It has been argued that under the 14th Amendment Establishment Clause all citizens must be treated of personal property rights.

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The St. Johns Suns Sixth Grade AAU basketball team took first place in the Memorial Day Classic, held May 23 through 26 in Orlando at the ESPN Wide World of Sports. They defeated seventh grade Brevard Bulls 26-25. This is the team’s first year competing in AAU and they also placed third in the girls’ State Championships in Tavares, Florida on May 17 and 18. Pictured are Emily Smith, Bri Lane, Tess Goff-Hill, Taylor Wright, Madison Lippy, Coach Scott Clark, Bella Weary, Taylor Bonazelli, Tori Grambo and Channing Chappell. (Not pictured are Avery Patterson and Jayden Fields.) Way to go, Suns!

Congratulations to the U-18 Creeks Krush Class of 2014 and Coach Dave Silverberg! The following graduates will be competing in college soccer this fall: Susannah Anderson, Elon University; Taylor Berry, Florida Gulf Coast University; Madison Caldwell, Florida Atlantic University; Bailey Dotkins, Jacksonville University; Genevieve Henderson, College of Charleston; Mikki Lewis, Troy University; Mikayla Olson, University of North Florida; Jessica Potts, Hugh Point University; Megan Rogers, United States Naval Academy; Courtney Schell, Auburn University; Jordan Tindell, Valparaiso University; Tanner Wallace, Texas Christian University; Hanna Parado, University of North Florida; and Mecca Cobbin, Troy University.
Marie Woodard
Continued from page 1
well as the display of banners and laminated pictures signed by teachers and students wishing her a happy retirement.

Then on Friday evening, she was again surprised by an after school hours event attended not only by friends and family, but by current and former faculty and students.

She wore a shirt designed by Fruit Cove Middle School band director Don Isabelle as well as former JCE principal Paula Gericki provided musical entertainment and Pastor Wes Slough led the invocation. Speeches honoring Woodard who was responsible for education of becoming a teacher and would spend her afternoons helping other students who were having trouble. As the teacher’s daughter, and as the teacher’s sister, Woodard did finish first place in the 100 free, 50 breast and 50 fly. Alex Subochotz got first place in the 200 IM and second in the 100 free, 50 breast and 50 fly.

Emma Chaseang was the singular kindergarten teacher at JCE, which was then only a few years old. Espaniols promised to put in a good word for Woodard to get a job at the school and the rest is history. The two friends taught side by side for 17 years until Espinosa retired. Woodard taught side by side for 17 years. They knew all the children, she says.

Jullington Creek families over the years have recognized Woodard’s unique ability to reach and relate to young children and their young minds. Her classroom was known for always being respectful, encouraging and polite.

"Kids are so perceptive," Woodard shares. "They know if you want to be there. And I always wanted to be there."

"Oh, I have very exciting things to do!" she says. "Like clean my house of all the school stuff!"

Woodard has many fond memories of her time at JCE. Of particular note to her are the contributions of Beverly Flemings, who was responsible for educating the students about nature and gardening in a hands-on way for 25 years. Woodard is also pleased with the number of former JCE students who have returned to work for all 10 of the principals who have led JCE.

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Good Deed Brigade

13 Virtues that stand the test of time, change and technology

By Contributing Writer David Wolf

Over the past year, the Good Deed Brigade has featured articles on modern day local heroes who have given their time, skill and heart to perform good deeds and wonderful acts of kindness. Hopefully, these profiles have inspired you to be a better person and to be part of the movement and philosophy promoted and embodied by the Good Deed Brigade. There is a well-known hero who graced this country with his wisdom, courage, intellect and, yes, acts of kindness and good deeds from 1706 - 1790 by the name of Benjamin Franklin.

Most people recognize the general work and contributions of Benjamin Franklin as a statesman, postmaster general, printer, writer, founding father and inventor. Among Franklin's body of work was his autobiography which was not quite finished as it was still being written up to the time of his death. Within the book, there are gems of knowledge, advice and philosophy that we all can use even in this modern fast-paced world we live in.

In particular, the 13 Virtues are worthy of mention and study. At the age of 20, Franklin created this system to track his day, good deeds, faults and progress. His plan was to attain a form of perfection. Franklin learned later in life that was not possible; however, he realized that the attempt at perfection through the mastery of the 13 Virtues made him a better man who was content and very productive.

Franklin put the 13 Virtues in a particular order with the idea of focusing and mastering one virtue per week while keeping track of the slips of the virtues down the line from the virtue at hand. He kept a handwritten chart listing each virtue and each day of the week. Here are the 13 Virtues along with a brief description provided by Franklin himself for each.

1. Temperance: Eat not to dullness and drink not to elevation.
2. Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself. Avoid trifling conversation.
3. Order: Let all your things have their places. Let each part of your business have its hour.
5. Frugality: Make no expense but for health or offspring; never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another’s peace or reputation.
7. Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit. Think innocently and justly; and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
8. Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
10. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.
11. Industriousness: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring; never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another’s peace or reputation.
12. Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles or at accidents common or unavoidable.
13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates. As readily admitted by Franklin, nobody can be perfect or maintain the above virtues 100 percent of the time, but we can all strive to be better and do better. In addition to tracking his daily virtues, Franklin made it a point of maintaining a calendar with his general work and personal activities for the day. It is interesting and quite enlightening to see that Franklin listed two important questions on his daily calendar as follows:

- The morning question: What good shall I do this day?
- The evening question: What good have I done today?

Like the virtues, Franklin’s use of a calendar and focus on these two very important questions stand the test of time, change and technology.

For those of you interested in reading more about Franklin and his 13 Virtues, here is a link to his autobiography to check out: www.uushistory.org/franklin/autobiography/singlehtm.html

The Good Deed Brigade salutes Benjamin Franklin for his awesome body of work and his timeless advice and methods he provided for future generations. Follow the example set by the actions and words of Benjamin Franklin. Remember, wherever you see the Good Deed Brigade, it’s all good.

If you have a story to share about your good deeds or the good deeds of others in the community, please email us at GoodDeed@brendafla@gmail.com or visit our Contact Us page on the official website, www.good-deedbrigade.com/
Native Plants 101: What’s the big deal?

What’s the big deal about native plants anyway? Learn from the experts on July 17 from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Windstorm Training Center, located at 3111 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Florida Native Plant Society associates will help you adjust to the Florida gardening experience. Create or enhance your yard utilizing tips from Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant; Beverly Fleming, nature columnist; and Eric Powell, president of the local Sea Oats Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

After 20 years in the Washington DC area, including five years as a “personal gardener” (hand-pruning, planting and landscaping yards), Powell’s life “went south” to St. Augustine where he couldn’t get enough of Florida’s native plant abundance. Over the last three years, Powell has used his acquired knowledge and experience to transform his own large native “yard” and was recognized locally for his award-winning landscape.

Come discover the advantages of Florida’s native plants! This free program is open to the public and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. For more information, please visit www.nativeplant-consulting.com or call 209-0430.

The Suwanee Valley Agricultural Extension Center (see http://svaec.ifas.ufl.edu/) in Live Oak serves the small family farms and also offers programs for homeowners. Staff run an experimental farm using catch crops, cover crops and plants to attract beneficial insects and consequently help control pests which have all helped to virtually eliminate the need for crop spraying. The farm was originally run conventionally and, as we found out in a recent workshop, was routinely mowed on one Friday and sprayed the next, year round; every two weeks chemicals were used to keep pests under control.

When they decided to avoid using chemicals on their crops, it wasn’t at all clear to the extension service staff who would benefit. They guestimated that within two to three years their new practices would have begun to take effect. Imagine their surprise when all it took was a season or two to discover that these measures were already making significant differences. By various trapping methods and observation, they determined that insect balances—between harmful and beneficial insects—were adjusting in the farm’s favor.

Now the fields are edged with sunflowers (“Giganteus” variety) which “catch” and provide food for leaf-footed bugs, whereas before they would have made their way directly into the tomato crop. Once the bugs are established, the sunflowers are sprayed to wipe them out before they can spread. The important point is that the food crops don’t need to be blanket sprayed; if pests on them ever reach unacceptable levels, they can be dealt with by spot spraying. We also observed insects galore on the next line of defense—a dozen or so rows of buckwheat. Predictably large wasps were happily flitting around and homing in on their prey—caterpillars, whitely and so on. Big-eyed bugs were attracted too. These would be so helpful to the homeowner with a chinch bug infestation; indeed, chinch bugs wouldn’t necessarily escalate to “invasion” levels if there was a population of the beneficial big-eyed bugs to prey on them.

So, may you be wondering, what is the point of this for the homeowner, with maybe a couple of pots of tomatoes, a lawn and a shrub border or two? Well, basically it comes down to trying to adjust your own ecosystem to avoid an imbalance of insects, encouraging a wide variety into your yard ensures that those you want will help deal with those you don’t.

For a nicely illustrated article on the good guys, check out: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/beneficials/beneficials.html

In a mixed border, grow simple flowers and flowering shrubs—include natives and select for year-round blooms. In my yard I like the “weed” (according to some) Virginia spiderwort. Early in the year the honeybees flock to its beautiful blue flowers. As the year goes on, good insect attractants include the chaste tree (Vitis agnus-castus). All manner of good bugs flock to its blooms. Later in the summer, the horseman’s flower (Monarda punctata) simply comes alive.

For information on the bloom times and other characteristics of some of Florida’s native flowers, check out http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep061

The CreekLine, July 2014

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Student Writers Needed!

BTHS, CHS and Nease students needed to write monthly columns on general school happenings and school sports. Perfect for those who would like pursue a career in journalism!
Contact Martie Thompson
editor@thecreekline.com

We saw beneficial insects galore on the next line of defense—a dozen or so rows of buckwheat. Predatory wasps were happily flitting around and homing in on their prey—caterpillars, whitely and so on. Big-eyed bugs were attracted too. These would be so helpful to the homeowner with a chinch bug infestation;
Captain David’s Fishing Report
By Captain David Ulka
It is time to take advantage of summer time fishing as fishing begins to peak. Whether you fish from the shore, a dock or pier or own your own boat, our area offers us a variety of fishing choices that are just moments away from our own backyards. Making a fishing trip happen may be easier than you thought.

We can start with our neighborhood ponds as nearly all our ponds offer some pretty good fishing that the whole family can enjoy. With bream, bass and catfish being plentiful, Dad can work his haircaster or practice casting flies, while the kids and mom are soaking worms, bread balls and even hot dog pieces waiting for that bream or catfish to bite.

With just a little more effort we can pack the gear and the family into the car and make a quick trip to one of the many nearby docks that are located on the St. Johns River or one of its tributaries, Historic County Dock off of Mandarin Road provides great river accessibility to nearly every species of fish that an angler may encounter in our area of the St. Johns County. The dock located at Mandarin Park off Mandarin Road on Julington Creek or the old Pacetti’s Fish Camp docks and bulkhead located south of Orangedale on State Road 13 on Trout Creek are certainly worth a try. The Mandarin Park dock comes with amenities that make it a family-friendly location. Besides being a safer than usual platform for the younger ones to fish from, there is also a playground, picnic tables and restrooms. If you are hoping for a trophy bass or a stringer of bream then the old Pacetti’s Fish Camp is definitely enjoyable to visit and worth the drive. With a variety of live baits for sale right across the street, Pacetti’s Fish Camp is definitely a friendly location. Besides being a safer than usual platform for the younger ones to fish from, there is also a playground, picnic tables and restrooms.

If you happen to own a boat, you too can take advantage of what our area has to offer and he just be moment away from fishing the St. Johns. For most boats, nearby access would include boat ramps at Goodby’s, Hood Landing, Mandarin Park, Pacetti’s, Trout Creek and Palmo Fish Camp.

Whether it’s freshwater fishing or saltwater fishing, from shore, dock, pier or boat, our fishing opportunities are many and just moments away from our own backyards.

Fishing Report: Summer rain has slowed much of the fishing for saltwater species. Start looking for improvement in coming weeks if heavy rains hold off. Bream and bass on docks from Buckman south. Start testing the waters for shrimp.

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

St. Johns County boys win 16s and 14s main draw
Gator Bowl Juniors Tennis Tourny has record-breaking registration

The 2014 Gator Bowl Tennis Recruiting National Event sanctioned by the USTA was held on June 28 through July 1. UNF hosted the Boys 14s and all the 16s and 18s while Glen Kerman Country Club hosted Boys and Girls 12s and Girls 14s. Matches won counted toward player Tennis Recruiting ranking; additionally USTA ranking points were awarded based on the L7 point table. Very few doubles tournaments are available statewide, but it was offered to all registered singles players. The Gator Bowl was open to all USTA members. Tournament Director Randy Jenks was assisted by coaches Scott Miller, while the head official was Lou Keith with a team of referees.

St. Johns County (SJC) Boys swept the 16s and 14s events. Brandon Pham (number one seed) of St. Johns won Boys 16s Singles with an exciting 2-6, 6-3, 11-13 finish against Alex Guzhva of Ormond Beach. Will Rose of St Johns (number four seed) won the Boys 14s Singles with a decisive win over James Emslie (3) of Tamarac, Florida 6-1; 6-1. Thomas Salmon of Ponte Vedra Beach battled his way to the Boys 18s Singles Consely Finals, finishing second. Patrick Hawkins and Jay Kirkley, both of Ponte Vedra, made it through the quarterfinals of the 12s. Several other Jacksonville players successfully reached finals in both the main and Consely rounds.

St. Johns County girls made their presence known by the numbers of participants. Playing in the Girls 18s event, Marisa Ruiz (1) of Jacksonville made it to the finals and Lauren Stuckey (3) of St Augustine to the semis. Katherine Jakeway (6) of St. Augustine played through to the 16s quarterfinals while Carrigan Blanchard of Jacksonville (3) played to the round of 16. The 14s were filled with SJC girls: Maureen McCormack, Alyssa Hendry, Emily Kastles, Cynthia Kemar, Jeminah Tasopoulos, Valerie Rehrig and Azurane Bolt.

A majority of the 216 players live in the greater NE Florida four-county area with more than 20 St. Johns County residents. Alabama, Georgia, Illinois-Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Puerto Rico were also represented. The Gator Bowl has enjoyed a long standing history in Jacksonville. The time of year and host sites have varied. Players, parents and coaches look forward to participating in this annual event. The Main Draw winners are listed below below; please visit the website for details of the other divisions.

Winners in Main Draw Singles:
Boys 18s - Davis Stewart of Haig, Georgia, def Topp Tuff (8) of Jacksonville Beach, 6-3; 6-3
Boys 16s - Brandon Pham (1) of St. Johns def Alex Guzhva of Ormond Beach 2-6; 6-3; 12-11
Boys 14s - Will Rose (4) Jacksonville def James Emslie (3) of Tamarac 6-1; 6-1
Boys 12s - Liam Vakili (4) Longwood def Ivan Cedric Esquerra (4) of Brevard 6-4; 6-2;
Girls 18s - Lauren Hidalgo-Smith (2) of Boca Raton def Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 6-2; 6-4
Girl 16s - Elizabeth Traynor of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina def Emily Dush of Gainesville 6-3; 6-2; 10-8
Girls 14s - Willa Brench (1) of Savannah Williams (2) both from St. Lucie 6-1; 6-4
Girls 12s - Alisa Popov (4) of Mary Beth Whitlock (2) both of Panama City 6-3; 6-3
For more information regarding USTA Florida junior tennis, including the very popular 10 and under tennis program, tournaments, events and Team Tennis, please visit USTAFlorida.com and search Youth Tennis for information about the monthly Grand Prix boys’ and girls’ singles events (both open) at www.thecreekline.com, www.baptistjax.com/ymca.
Creekside High School’s annual Running of the Knights a big success!

By Contributing Writer Debby McKernan, Creekside Athletic Booster Club

We would like to thank our sponsors who have generously supported Creekside High School and Running of the Knights:

Academy Sports and Outdoors; Jacksonville Running Company. Supporting Sponsors: The Law Offices of Anne Marie Gemmusa; The Law Offices of Beller and Bustamante; Tiffany’s Automotive; Crown Trophy; Blackstone Grille; Occupational and Rehabilitation Center, Dr. Tan; The Center for Health and Sports Medicine, Dr. Ross Osborne; Avequina Medical; Test Prep for Success; Moe’s The Vivicid Agency; Spectrum Signs and Graphics; The UPS Store in Fruit Cove; Panera Bread; Daily’s; and Sign It Quick.

Creekside High School would like to give a special thanks to the following businesses and organizations for supporting Running of the Knights: Danielle Walker Photography; Kathy Scott, State Farm Insurance; RPM Automotive; Firehouse Subs on State Road 13; Publix Supermarkets; Bruce’s in Fruit Cove; Tropical Smoothie in Bartram Walk; Zach’s in Bartram Park; FDQ in Bartram Park; United States Army; United States Marines; Jax Sports Nutrition; 100% Play Harder; Creekside Spirit Wear; Fun and Fit, LLC; Premier Designers – Linda Nelson; Silpada Designs – Kathy Zimardo; Thirty-One Gifts – Ginger Handler; Mary Kay Cosmetics – Pricilla Pulliam; Rodan and Fields – Jenny Adams; and JCP Cares.

Thank you to all students, coaches, staff, parents, volunteers and community members who participated in Creekside’s fourth annual Running of the Knights 5K, Mile Fun Run, Centipede Team Race and Festival on May 16. With over 600 people registered, this event continues to foster spirit among our school and local community! The proceeds from this event, over $24,000, go directly back to our athletic teams, band, and performing arts.

The overall male 5K finisher was Matt Buleza (16:18) and overall female 5K finisher was Amy Purcell (21:27). Congratulations to Sarah Schreck, winner of the 2015 Logo Design Contest. She presented a $500 scholarship and her framed artwork by Leonard’s Photography.

We offer a full suite of pet services including:
- Dog walking
- Pet taxi
- Pet Reiki and massage

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this annual event, please see our website, www.runningoftheknights.com.

This event could not have taken place without the time, dedication, energy and talents of the Running of the Knights planning committee. Parent Volunteers: Michelle Clark and Susana Vantze, Co-Chairs; Jennifer Bias, Graphics; Monica Chachra, Event Booths; Stephanie Collins, Volunteer Coordinator; Entertainment; Anne Marie Gemmusa, Sponsorship and CK-ABC President; Luke and Phyllis Guthrie, Registration; Heidi Hess, Centipede Chair; Maria Petos, Communications; Melissa Posey, Graphics, Sponsorship; Frances Sanfilippo, Sponsorship, Entertainment; and Ashley Schaefer, Event Booths; Staff and faculty committee members: Guy Harris; Tina Northcut; Susan Wyatt; and Eric Frank. Student committee members: Hunter Clary and McKayla D’Angianni.

A huge thank you also to our announcer James Scribner, the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club and the Creekside Band Boosters, as well as over 40 wonderful volunteers who helped.
MAY Management Services has provided management of the Association for over 25 years, offering a comprehensive set of services which include access control, architectural review, common property, and financial systems for control of the Association’s annual budget.