Hendricks principal retiring
B.R. Rhoads steps down after 35 years in education

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Temple tries new community outreach
Congregation Ahavath Chesed is branching out into the neighborhood. Called “Temple in Your Neighborhood,” the “meet and mingle” program aims to reach more members in the convenient, comfortable setting of local homes. The informal gatherings of 25-30 people have been held on Saturday evenings around the weekly Havdalah service that marks the end of the Sabbath — a time to pray for peace and well being in the upcoming week. Guests eat, and mingle, sing to music and enjoy being together “without the complexity of formal worship,” explained Sam Griswold, membership and marketing coordinator for Congregation Ahavath Chesed.

Local art supporters honored at awards ceremony

Charlotte Mulkey (Arts Educator); Patrick Golden (Small Business); Will Ketchum (Small Business); Susan Greene (Individual); and Chris Flagg (Innovator) Photo courtesy of Thomas Hagler

Bishop to lead City Council
District 2 Councilman Bill Bishop, a longtime local architect and resident of the Clifton area near St. Nicholas, will be the next president of the Jacksonville City Council.

Charlotte Mulkey (Arts Educator) ; Patrick Golden (Small Business); Will Ketchum (Small Business); Susan Greene (Individual) and Chris Flagg (Innovator) Photo courtesy of Thomas Hagler

Republican women walk runway for politics

See TEMPLE on page 6

See SUPPORTERS on page 6

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville celebrated cultural leaders, performers, and artists at its 2012 “City Lights” Arts Awards on May 8 on the 28th floor of AT&T Tower, in the studio of artist Christina Foard. The Individual Arts Award was presented to Susan Greene for her efforts in community-wide arts advocacy and her volunteer leadership with the Cathedral Arts Project.

See SUPPORTERS on page 6

Say cheese! Friends of Jacksonville Animals announced a new photo contest called “Better Together” in an effort to put its mission into community focus.

For more information on how to submit a photo and complete prize listings, visit www.bettertogethercontest.com.
Last month I learned a lesson in being grateful for our San Marco commercial corridors — torn up streets, detours and all. I hope you will, too.

I hopped the pond to attend a community meeting in Avondale's historic retail area. Surprisingly, many neighbors living nearby the Shoppes who attended the meeting said they don't want a Mellow Mushroom in the historic retail area. As a journalist, I was intrigued. Who in the world wouldn't be happy about Mellow Mushroom coming to the neighborhood? Isn't this kind of retail activity what everyone wants in a challenged economy? Speaking to a nearly full house, restaurant owner John Valentino showcased all the highlights Avondale could be offering new business.

The crowd's reaction would be better described as spitting — as in "spit-in' mad." They said they're tired of the mouthwatering pizza and a product options, live music, a beer garden, parking, Avondale could be at a tipping point. One business owner summed it up best: "The place got so popular no one goes there anymore."

Now, District 14 City Councilman Jim Love has asked for a moratorium on future development in some of Riverside and Avondale's commercial corridors until parking and other growth issues can be addressed. There is discussion of alternative parking solutions like nighttime pedicabs, shuttles to shared parking lots and making more accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians. Building a new surface parking lot in the historic areas of Riverside and Avondale are all but impossible. It's an enviable problem — a neighborhood so popular that there isn't enough room to park all the cars. As a longtime San Marco-area resident, I've been a little bit green over the retail attention the Shoppes of Avondale have gotten in recent years. While San Marco Square has been attracting decent tenants as of late, it didn't seem to be signing up the exciting new family friendly restaurants with live music and patio seating or the cool new jewelry boutiques that our Avondale contemporaries were reeling in month after month. Instead, San Marco was getting road construction, detours and a few "for lease" signs. It didn't seem fair. I've secretly been grumbling about this with my friends during our early morning jogs through the square. "Where are all our cool new hangouts?" I grimaced as we'd pass a vacant storefront. "Why isn't San Marco getting a trendy new retailer downtown?"

And then the epiphany. This was no spiritual moment, although it did happen in broad daylight last month at the community meeting in Avondale's Grace Church. Avondale is an awesome, attractive, historically significant community — and lots of retailers want to be a part of it. But there are big parking issues that need to be solved. And they won't happen overnight. San Marco Square, it's also an awesome, attractive community developed in a rich historical context. But San Marco Square has one feature that sets it apart: it boasts a large surface parking lot within a few steps of the square. There's some breathing room as far a parking goes in San Marco thanks to some smart thinking and good old-fashioned sharing.

The parking lot behind the east side storefronts of San Marco Square actually belongs to Southside Baptist Church. Not too many years ago, the church purchased several homes in declining condition on its periphery. The homes were demolished and the parking lot was born. One Sunday morning, Southside Baptist Church uses the lot for its congregants. But throughout the week, it's available for anyone who wants to come shop or eat in San Marco Square.

The road construction? Well, it's fun to gripe about that but there's an end in sight. Construction crews are expected to wrap things up before the 2012 holiday season. And when they're done, shoppers and diners will arrive via one of the city's most distinguished new gateways. San Marco Square will be easier to access, more beautiful to look at, and with the existing parking there will be better — access.

San Marco Square is in a good place, and we should all count our blessings. Despite the roadwork and the ongoing construction and all the hassles they bring, San Marco Square is right where it needs to be in terms of attracting new business.
Anybody home?

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The vacant lots are grassy and green, but that's about all that's growing on the high profile San Marco real estate.

The property, located at the southeast corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard, has long been touted as East San Marco — a mixed-use development including condominium homes and retail space. Regency Centers, a Jacksonville-based real estate firm, was slated to develop the retail portion which would include a neighborhood Publix store. The homes were a project of The St. Joe Co.'s Arvida.

But more than five years after the project’s announcement, the ground is still unturned.

When reached several times via public relations consultant Bonnie Upright, Regency Centers officials said they would “not be participating in the story.” St. Joe representatives did not respond to several attempts to get comments on the project’s progress.

According to Duval County property records, the development site includes seven sites — all owned by a East San Marco LLC. All have a mailing address at St. Joe’s headquarters in the Panhandle in Watersound.

Dwaine Stevens, spokesman for Publix supermarkets, said the company was still committed to the project but the status had not changed.

...five years after the project’s announcement, the ground is still unturned...

According to the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, the city’s April real estate sales figures clearly demonstrate a rebounding market — and at rebounding prices. While the city’s overall median sales price has slightly increased, Southside residents have seen a 65 percent increase in the past year. The area’s percent of the original list price received also slightly increased in April.

In other good news, the Southside area’s number of days on the market until sale is now 98, down from 130 last April. For more information on northeast Florida’s housing market visit http://www.nefar.com.

Housing market on the rebound

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A historic mural by artist and architect, Elmer Grey, has moved from Naval Air Station Jacksonville to MOSH, where it was recently reintroduced to the public.

The 35-foot mural, which has been fully restored following its removal from the NAS Jacksonville Bachelor’s Quarters in 2011, is on a long-term loan to MOSH.

Grey painted the mural as a gift for the Navy in 1941. The oil-on-canvas illustrates the impact of Spanish and French colonization in Northeast Florida.

NAS Jacksonville and MOSH officials were on hand to re-unveil the artwork at the museum last month. Special Navy guests included Commander Gil Manalo, public works officer at NAS Jacksonville; Len Winter, historic preservation officer and cultural resources section head at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast; and Douglas Trop Thompson, facility director of the NAS Jax Public Works department.

HENDRICKS, continued from 1

for 35 years, joined Hendricks as a principal in 2010, said his time with the school has been "a special treat on so many levels."

"Hendricks is all about traditions — as a leader, it has been a wonderful experience honoring and celebrating the school’s past, while challenging the present and preparing for the future," Rhoads said. "The students, parents and staff collaboratively focus on creating a compassionate community of leaders and learners — expecting, supporting and achieving success for all."

He described Hendricks as an "exemplary learning community."

Rhoads will retire from school administration, but said he still plans to be an advocate for education. He said he still shares a vision with other educators to help raise standards for academic excellence — but there are many challenges to overcome, particularly in the state of Florida.

"It is my intent to keep beating the drum for children through consulting or serving in some capacity as a change agent for what is needed to reach and teach all students in the global society in which we live today," Rhoads said. "The thought of not being the leader of a school is difficult to think about, however I know a person can lead from any chair."

PTA officials are eager to see who will take over the school this summer.

“Hendricks has truly been blessed to have had the outstanding leadership of Principal Rhoads — he has embraced our school, our kids and all of us parents,” said Stephanie Helton, PTA President at the local elementary school. "His contributions, not only to our school, but to the lives of our children are immeasurable — he will be sorely missed."

A new principal for Hendricks Avenue Elementary School should be announced in June, according to Duval County Public School spokeswoman, Jill Johnson.

Helton said local parent leadership hopes the new principal will "build upon the vision set forth by B.R."

"We are excited to blend our beloved Hendricks’ traditions with a new perspective," she said.
Wolfson Children’s Hospital was able to double the 24/7 transport capacity for critically ill and injured children in the area with the addition of a new ambulance.

The Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Unit, a bright blue aquatic-themed vehicle, is the hospital’s second Kids Kare mobile intensive care unit. The ambulance was funded by The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital and by donations from Mr. and Mrs. T. Wayne Davis, Wells Fargo, Florida Blue, Landstar Corp., Jacksonville University and others. The Florida Blue, Landstar Corp., and Mrs. T. Wayne Davis, Wells Fargo, Hospital and by donations from Mr. Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s

The ambulance was funded by The Kids Kare mobile ICU. The Kids Kare mobile ICU is equipped with advanced monitors, defibrillators, IV pumps, ventilators, medication and everything needed to handle neonatal emergencies. It is designed as a child-friendly, less-threatening environment, including a third seat for parents to ride along on a transport. The ambulance is a custom-designed and built prototype for Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s unique transport program serving children throughout the region.

McBurney qualifies for election

Representative Charles McBurney, District 16, announced today that his campaign has now gathered the signatures necessary to qualify for election in the new District 16 legislative seat. The number of verified petitions needed to qualify is 518.

“Of the most gratifying things about gathering petitions is the opportunity to see old friends and talk with new constituents,” McBurney said in a release.

Due to reapportionment, District 16 now encompasses the San Marco/San Jose/Mandarin area and no longer crosses the Fuller Warren Bridge into Riverside/Avondale areas. Also filed to run for the District 16 seat is Randy Darrell Chambers, a Republican.

Qualifying for the legislative seat begins at noon on June 4 and will conclude at noon on June 8.

Local lawyers wrapping up building construction

Murphy & Anderson’s new building on San Marco building is nearly complete. The firm’s founding partners, Niels Murphy and Gregdes Anderson, Jr., purchased the property in early May 2011 and began construction on the two-story building that fall. They expect the building to be complete by the end of June.

The 20-person office staff, currently working in a downtown Jacksonville office tower, will move into the building in July. The firm employs 10 attorneys who practice litigation involving business disputes, bankruptcy, securities, regulatory, product liability, professional liability, employment and complex personal injury law.

“We chose to relocate our office to San Marco for many reasons — the ability to work and live in an area we love, the proximity to Downtown, lifestyle advantages and ease of access for clients and staff,” Anderson said. “San Marco is a crown jewel of Jacksonville and we are grateful to be part of this vibrant community.”

The building was a design-build project managed by the Weaver Construction Group. The architect was Doug Snead and San Marco-based Almond Engineering provided engineering work. Nearby neighbor Alicia Weaver of Schulte Design in San Marco assisted in all phases of design and decorating. The office will be about 9,000 square feet when complete. Murphy and Anderson said the building was “strategically designed” to complement traditional architecture in the area and achieve a historical “San Marco look” with modern elements.

In addition to investing in the community, firm leadership also has invested in employees. The building will include an onsite gym with showers and lockers and an outdoor green space with bike racks and tables.

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Mike and Joyce Elkin, pictured holding the candle, hosted a Temple In Your Neighborhood event.

**TEMPLE, continued from 1**

So far, the gatherings have been hosted at homes in Mandarin, Queen’s Harbor, San Marco and other areas. This June, an event is planned at a residence in Orange Park. Temple organizers hope to have many more home events in the future, according to Griswold, who developed the program.

"Temple In Your Neighborhood allows us to meet at member homes in an informal gathering to get to know each other better. It is a chance to get to know a little more about our neighbors and to get acquainted with the newest members of our Temple family. We are a community of faith."

**SUPPORTERS, continued from 1**

UNF percussion professor Charlotte Mabrey received the Arts Educator Award. Burdette Ketchum will receive the Small Business Award for its in-kind contributions of public relations and creative design service to the Jacksonville Symphony and Downtown Vision, Inc.’s First Wednesday ArtWalk. The first-ever Innovator Award will be presented to landscape architect Christopher D. Flagg for his leadership in design perspectives benefitting the city through service on the Downtown Development Review Board, the SPARK Redevelopment Plan, JaxPride, and Downtown Vision, Inc. Additionally, the family of Ann M. Baker, a founder of the Cultural Council, was presented with the Individual Hall of Fame Award in her memory.

**TEMPLE, continued from 1**

Here’s some good news for neighborhood commuters: construction on the southbound lanes of San Marco Boulevard from Riviera Street to Naldo Avenue will finally be open June 9. And the boulevard’s northbound lanes in the same section? They’ll be complete by Oct. 31 — just in time for the square merchants’ holiday shopping season. The bad news? The San Marco Streetscape project completion date has been pushed back into early 2013, according to a city press release.

City officials announced the final phase of the project — which includes the Naldo roundabout at the northernmost gateway to San Marco Square — will begin “approximately Jan. 2, 2013.” A construction timeline for the project, a two-year beautification and improvement project stretching from Prudential Drive to Naldo Avenue on San Marco Boulevard, has been up for debate in recent months. Public works officials anticipated a later 2012 finish date, while an April announcement from the city said work was on schedule to be complete by late October — the scheduled completion date. This is the first time the city has shared a revised construction timeline with a 2013 date.

The city has, however, been clear that merchants would not be adversely affected during the 2012 shopping season. District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer has worked with the merchants association to ensure the shops’ holiday access would not be impeded by Streetscape detours. To accommodate merchants and local store patrons, construction on the Streetscape roadwork will be “on hold and roads will be open and accessible during the 2012 holiday season, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, 2013,” the city release said.

The 2012 roadwork bring with it several detours. San Marco Boulevard northbound through traffic will be detoured to Hendricks Avenue and LaSalle Street. San Marco Boulevard northbound local traffic, however, will be able to make a U-turn at Naldo Avenue. And residents within the construction zone will be provided temporary access during construction, the city release indicated.

**Streetscape project pushes into 2013**

The city has...been clear that merchants would not be adversely affected during the 2012 shopping season.
Parking solutions: What can Riverside/Avondale learn from San Marco?

BY STEVE DIMATTIA  RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Riverside/Avondale has been struggling to address its commercial corridors’ parking challenges, but San Marco seems to have found some lasting answers.

While here are significant zoning and geographical differences between the two neighborhoods, there could be some solutions to learn from San Marco’s effective parking environment. And at the very least, there is a shared interest in collaboration and seeing all historic or urban retail centers in Jacksonville thrive.

“One of the things that we have going for us is a healthy mix of businesses that experience peak demand at varying times,” said Doug Skiles, president of San Marco Preservation Society. “Many patrons and employees also walk or bike to San Marco Square, which reduces the overall need for parking.”

This contrasts with Riverside/Avondale’s current trend toward a concentration of restaurants and bars — many operating the same hours. Skiles also pointed to 414 available parking spaces to serve the 150,000 square feet of commercial building area in San Marco Square. Notably, 108 of those spaces come from a shared parking agreement with Southside Baptist Church. It is a formal agreement wherein the church makes its lot available to the public when it is not in service. San Marco Merchant Association President George Foote said the lot is a primary factor in San Marco’s parking success.

“Communication and cooperation tends to be very good between city representatives, neighborhood organizations, businesses, developers and residents,” Foote said. “The Southside agreement was part of a city outreach that goes back to 1992.”

That also speaks San Marco’s long-term vision in planning for a more pedestrian-friendly area. To that end, SMPS partnered with the City of Jacksonville Planning Department and the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida to develop San Marco By Design.

“It’s a vision of the neighborhood created by all stakeholders that addresses important elements in our community moving forward,” Skiles said. “The end result will be action items.”

Those action items will promote walkability of the area through designs that encourage pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit traffic, said the Planning Council’s Valerie Feinberg.

“In terms of redevelopment, the geography changes when your viewpoint begins from the micro or pedestrian level,” Feinberg.

Parking solutions: How can Riverside/Avondale learn from San Marco?

RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Every year, local educators are nominated and honored by their peers through the Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year program. A teacher is named from each school in the Duval County School District and 15 semifinalists are later named. The Florida Blue Teacher of the Year is announced each spring. This year, the winner was Dr. Scott Sowell from Darnell-Cookman Middle School.

In honor of the 2011-2012 school year’s conclusion, The Resident would like to recognize more Teacher of the Year honorees from our neighborhood schools.

Name: Kristie Putnal
School: Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School

In my role as math, technology, and learning recovery teacher at Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School, I find I play a significant role in the lives of many types of students. The heart of who I am is working with struggling learners who need motivation and self-assurance, as much as they need academic intervention. My best days are the days when I see in a student’s eyes a level of understanding needed for their growth. My goal each day is to give all students the skills, background knowledge and self-confidence they need to move into high school as strong learners and as successful leaders.

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Valerie Feinberg.

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The Grammy Foundation in Los Angeles named Douglas Anderson School of the Arts the 2012 National Grammy Signature School. Said another way — Douglas Anderson has the top, number one high school music program in the country.

This is the second time in three years that DA has been named the national signature school. It had previously earned the award in 2010.

David Sears, senior director of education programs, announced the award in Los Angeles for the Grammy Foundation.

The award honors the entire music program at Douglas Anderson, including the instrumental, vocal, piano, guitar, electronic music and recording arts.

“Winning the Grammy National Signature School award is a huge affirmation for the students and the faculty at DA,” said Ace Martin, chair of the DA Music Department. “We are all focused on achieving excellence both in performance and curriculum, and it’s terrific to get validation of all of our hard work.”

Representatives from the Grammy Foundation were in town last month to present Douglas Anderson School of the Arts with its National Grammy Signature Award. The San Marco-area magnet school was named the best high school music program in the country.

After a press reception and concert, Grammy officials presented school representatives with a $15,000 check. The cash prize will be put toward the needs of the music department.

Last month’s evening’s festivities continued at the Ortega home of local arts supporter, Betsy Lovett.

Martin explained that the Grammy Foundation identifies public high schools that demonstrate exceptional integration of all areas of music — from performance in multiple musical areas, to intensive study of musical theory.

“I always dreamed of our department winning the National Grammy Award,” said Martin, who has taught at Douglas Anderson since 1985. “To win it twice is an amazing achievement that makes us very proud of our students and the music education in Duval County.”
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Off the streets and into grace

Local residents help Philip's Highway's most vulnerable women

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The hardened, broken women strolling Philips Highway are a common sight to neighborhood commuters during their day's travels. Most of them divert their stares and keep on driving. But St. Nicholas resident Jan Miller and her partner in ministry, San Jose resident Kathleen McDaniel, pull over and see what they can do to help. The unlikely pair has made the lost women of Philips Highway a life focus through the nonprofit, Grace Ministry of Helping Hands.

"Don't judge them, they need love, too," said McDaniel, who works at a clothing shop in San Marco. "God loves them no matter what they've done."

Support for the outreach has been growing. Now more than 30 people — many from Southside Baptist Church in San Marco Square — are part of a team that helps prostitutes through the process of emancipation and rehabilitation. Often beginning with detox and short term housing, the team helps women get back on their feet, reconnect with family and put prostitution and drug use in their past.

"It's turned into this amazing ministry and I'm thrilled at how many ladies hearts have turned to want to help," Miller said. "I felt bad because I used to go down Philips Highway as a short cut to get to the club and play golf, I didn't think very much about it. But this has been the most rewarding thing I've ever done. It's a whole new world I knew nothing about."

Grace Ministry began in 2006 when McDaniel and Miller were both imprisoned — one literally, the other when McDaniel and Miller were both new to the area where they could operate a temporary home of their own for prostitutes seeking a way out.

"We are seeing a big increase now because we've gotten more organized with our letter-writing and visits — we're seeing that it really works," Miller said. "Most of the girls want to get off the street if they think there's a chance at all it can happen."

For more information about ways to help Grace Ministry of Helping Hands visit www.graceministriesjax.org.

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Designed Events caters zoo gala

San Marco-based Designed Events Inc. was selected to cater the 7th Annual ExZOOberation fundraiser in late April. More than 500 guests attended the gala, which has raised nearly $3 million for zoo animals and educational and conservation programs.

“We are delighted to be selected for this fantastic zoo event,” said Mark Shine, company co-owner. “It has been several years since our first experience with the zoo catering the opening of the Range of the Jaguar.”

Bolles names shell for history-making alumnus

If Bolles’ new Vespoli eight-person rowing shell can move half as fast as the military leg-end for which it was named, the Bolles crew will surely win every race. Last month, the crew joined other school officials in the dedication of the school’s newest shell. It is named in honor of Col. Joseph W. Kittinger, an alumnus and highly regarded Vietnam military officer most widely known for his accomplishments in human flight. Kittinger was at the San Jose campus to christen the boat.

“Thank you Colonel Kittinger, for inspiring the Bolles men’s varsity this year,” said Al Muzaureta, crew captain, during the ceremony. “Our motto throughout the season was courage, in the name of Colonel Kittinger and his accomplishments.”

Kittinger’s accomplishments are remarkable — and record-breaking. In 1960, Kittinger became the first human to reach an altitude of almost 20 miles in a hot air balloon. During the free fall that ensued, he became the first human to break the sound barrier without an aircraft with a speed reaching 714 miles per hour. The jump earned him a monetary gift that came along with the award.

“This will be put to good use as I have made plans to visit Paris this summer for a teacher seminar and to make contact with art galleries.”

Local teacher focuses on art award

Jim Smith, a visual arts teacher and San Marco/San Jose resident, received the Memphis Wood 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award during a ceremony last month at MOCA Jacksonville.

MOCA gives out the award each year in honor of Wood. Jacksonville’s “First Lady of Art.” As part of the honor, Smith received an honorary. He also received a guided tour of the museum for 30 students and the opportunity to be featured in the museum’s annual First Coast Portfolio Exhibition in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Gallery.

Smith said winning the award is important to him for two reasons. “First, when I began to teach in 1977, I had heard of Memphis Wood — she was a great artist and teacher and well known in the art world outside of Jacksonville,” he said. “To be a part of her legacy is very humbling that MOCA would think so well of me.”

The second reason is the monetary gift that came along with the award. “This will be put to good use as I have made plans to visit Paris this summer for a teacher seminar and to make contact with art galleries.”

Baptist Health nurses hold a special place in the heart of our community.

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No wonder the local community has named Baptist Health as having the area’s “Best Nurses” for more than 20 years. As a community-focused healthcare system, we can think of no greater honor.
There is a new place in town to get ‘inked’.

Jimmy Riggs recently opened Full Custom Tattoo, a shop that emphasizes premium custom tattoo art, at 1550 Hendricks Ave. The San Marco shop owner specializes in realism styles, black and gray portraits, color portraits and wildlife scenes.

Riggs prides himself on doing top quality work in a clean, sterile environment. He and the shop’s other artists accept walk-ins as well as appointments.

To see artwork galleries, visit their website at www.fullcustomtattoo.com. Pictured: Justin Griner, Jimmy Riggs and Mark Wright

San Marco gets inked

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Tropical Storm Beryl caused minor flooding and took down some neighborhood trees, but did not bring widespread damage to the city’s historic neighborhoods during its late May visit. While power went out sporadically in some areas, electrical outages were not widespread — about 20,000 homes lost power across JEA’s service area. JEA dispatched 15 tree crews, 30 electrical crews and 20 water crews to address utilities issues citywide. As precautions, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority suspended bus service on Memorial Day and regularly scheduled waste disposal service was canceled. Garbage collection was rescheduled for Saturday, June 2. The Resident toured the neighborhoods in the aftermath of Beryl and discovered many down trees and branches — and some expected flooding — but, thankfully, there were no major catastrophes!

Have a look...
Republican women walk runway for politics

The Republican Women’s Club of Duval Federated hosted a sold-out crowd last month at a fashion show last month. The show was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Models included Jean Thrasher, Deborah McBurney, Linda King, Abby Bean, Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll and public defender, Matt Shirk. Clothes were provided by Patchington in St. Augustine. More than 20 raffle prizes were given away during the festive event.

RiverHops a real fiesta

The 3rd Annual RiverHops, held last month at the riverfront home of San Jose doctor, Abhijit Deshmukh, helped raise funds for the North Florida School of Special Education. This year’s event featured a Cinco de Mayo theme along with a four-course seated dinner prepared by San Marco chef, Trum Gray of Bistro Aix. Daniel Nacs of Anheuser-Busch provided complementing beers during the dinner.

Residents on the move

The 2012 On the Move Luncheon benefiting the National MS Society was another beautiful success, raising $20,000 for the cause. Held again at the Garden Club in Riverside, the event was chaired by local resident Carrie Inman. Inman, who lives with MS, has hosted the lunchtime gathering for three years. Speakers included Eric Twisdale and Dr. Megan Weigel-Barrett.

Fundraiser a hole-in-one for Dreams Come True

The 11th Annual Sam Kouvaris Dreams Come True Golf Tournament presented by MacPapers was held April 30, 2012 at San Jose Country Club. The event raised $123,000 for the programs and services of Dreams Come True, the First Coast’s only locally based nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children battling life-threatening illnesses. Since the tournament’s inception in 2002, it has netted more than $1 million for the local nonprofit.

‘Bond’ joins Pine Castle to celebrate 60th anniversary

‘Diamonds are Forever’ was the theme at Pine Castle’s 60th anniversary celebration gala held at Deerwood Country Club in May. The event featured special guest 007 impersonator, John Allen, and music by “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg.” Pine Castle’s dance troupe also entertained attendees with a special performance. Guests enjoyed “diamond-tini’s” and a fine wine cork pull.

River Club venue unleashes good time for animal fundraiser

The 2012 Art UnLeashed fundraiser for First Coast No More Homeless Pets included a juried art show and silent auction. Set against stunning skyline vistas at The River Club, the art event featured animal inspired fine art by local and regional artists and live music by Gina Martinelli. More than 500 guests came out for the fundraiser. Art show judges included Craig Eyskine, William Mc mahon and Nofa Dixon.
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San Jose - Spacious home on beautiful corner lot in great community. The gorgeous kitchen is totally new and open to large family living area. Bedrooms are large in size with many windows. Within walking distance to Robie & San Jose Elementary. $250,000

Beverly Smith REALTOR®
904-993-4202
beverly.smith@legendsofrealestate.net

Orange/Verona - Outstanding and classic 4bd two-story built in 1956 in fantastic location in proximity to shopping and downtown. Abundance of natural light through every room. Every desired feature on the “gated floor” is right here. $399,000

Dee Benson REALTOR®
904-708-3173
debenson251@gmail.com

Patience - 4/2 with formal and informal living areas, light, bright, high ceilings, new appliances, a first class pool and JANUS solar heated. Split bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, tile flooring throughout most of the home, plantation shutters to much more. $299,000

Holly McMurry REALTOR®
904-655-2292
hollymcmurry@att.net

Selby Kaiser REALTOR®
904-626-8800
selbykaiser@bellsouth.net

San Jose - Elegant spacious home with huge public spaces perfect for entertaining. Large enclosed patio. Highest quality built on cabinet and shelves in family room, island room and office. Beautiful views of the river. Sparkling pool, dock and boat house. $1,875,000

Epping Forest - Beautifully maintained "Chesla" model condo, built in 2004. Large screened balcony overlooking the river and a private couryard off the guest suite give peaceful enjoyment of the outdoors. $759,000

Linda McMorrow REALTOR®
904-626-9900
lindamcmorrow@bellsouth.net

Karan Zambetti REALTOR®
904-537-4744
karanzambetti@comcast.net

San Marco - Come see this remodeled San Marco home. Gourmet kitchen has granite and newer cabinets, gas range, double convection oven, and travertine tile. Completely new master bath has fancy style vanity, granite, shower, and Jacuzzi. $375,000

Granada - Spacious living room with adjacent sun room, dining room with butler’s pantry. Updated kitchen, breakfast room and large family room with fireplace, overlooking, private patio. First floor guest suite. $1,250,000

Susie Johnston REALTOR®
904-651-8334
susiejonston@comcast.net

Epping Forest - This gracious 5 bedroom house provides the perfect backdrop for entertaining family and friends. The home is situated on a magnificently landscaped, expansive, hilly lot with the highest level of privacy. $1,490,000

Donna Smith REALTOR®
904-607-1552
donnasales@tmac.com

San Marco - Well maintained two-story by corner lot lot near the San Marco Village. Beautiful original wood floors, large living room with fireplace, separate formal dining room, updated kitchen and huge family room. $350,000

Bunny George REALTOR®
904-635-3034
bunnygeorge@bellsouth.net

Jane Bracken REALTOR®
904-982-0905
janebracken@bellsouth.net

San Marco - Spacious two story on poolside corner lot. This San Marco home is an amazing home for the price and square footage. Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, formal living rooms with wood burning fireplaces, spacious dining room, eat-in kitchen, and backyard. $279,000

904.739.7100 (Office) | (904) 425-3989 (Fax) | info@sellinglegends.com | LegendsofRealEstate.net
Nearly 40 years ago, Wine Cellar opened as a small retail wine shop with a 28-seat bistro. In June, the restaurant will celebrate its 38th anniversary as one of Jacksonville’s finest dining institutions. Owner Vicki Dugan originally opened the restaurant to serve fondue and a few other menu items. Over time, the culinary options at Wine Cellar began to evolve. Chefs from around the world, including Canada, France, Russia and Hungary visited and cooked in the kitchen. With their international influence, the menu expanded.

Today, Wine Cellar – in keeping with its original traditions and roots – still presents special weekend menus from other regions such as Provence and Florence.

Wine Cellar’s regular menu includes favorites such as Fresh Almond Encrusted Grouper with Galliano Sauce, Rum Glazed Filet Mignon and New Zealand Lamb Chops.

In addition to the menu, the restaurant itself has evolved. Once quaint and small, the restaurant is now spacious and light – with dining and social venues fit for any occasion. In the “Mingle Room”, guests enjoy appetizers and wine while relaxing with friends. Winding down after a long day is easy at Wine Cellar, which offers more than 150 wine varieties as well as cocktails. There also are rooms available for private dining.

Vicki Dugan feels dining is much more than just going out to eat. Many of the restaurant’s patrons came to Wine Cellar to celebrate momentous life events such as birthdays or anniversaries and have been coming back ever since. These personal experiences help make dining at the restaurant exceptional. Wine Cellar’s elegant, yet laid back atmosphere has been making diners feel like special guests for nearly 40 years. As the restaurant celebrates its latest milestone, guests are invited to come in and share more unforgettable dining experiences.

Located at 1314 Prudential Drive. Lunch is served Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:15 PM. Dinner is served Monday – Saturday 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Reservations are recommended. Visit www.winecellarjax.com or call 904-398-8989 for additional information.

To celebrate its anniversary, Wine Cellar is offering 38 percent off all dinner entrees June 4th – June 30th.
More than 60 local restaurants, caterers and beverage wholesalers will be at EverBank Field Touchdown Club next month to compete for the best culinary presentation — and raise money for Second Harvest North Florida food bank.

The event is June 7. Organizers hope to raise at least $100,000 from the last event.

“Doing a good thing and having a good time is truly the theme of this great event,” said Eddie Fink, chair of the food fight committee, which coordinates the event. “That goes for all who participate – vendors, volunteers and guests. The restaurants and beverage distributors do an incredible job knowing that 100 percent of the proceeds from the event go to Second Harvest to aid in the fight against hunger and food insecurity in our community.”

Tickets for the event are $60 for general admission and $100 for VIP access, both of which include tastes of dishes prepared by the top restaurant chefs in the city, along with numerous beverages and live entertainment. The VIP admission entitles partygoers to exclusive access to the Jaguar Suite level, which will feature an additional 20 restaurants and vendors. VIP access also comes with access to all restaurants on the second level from 6:6-6:30 p.m.; a private seating area available throughout the event; entry into a prize drawing for a variety of special items on the Jaguar Suites level; and a commemorative wine glass.

Demand for resources from Second Harvest increased by more than 150 percent in the last three years, and that increase has not slowed in 2012, according to Second Harvest Executive Director Bruce Ganger. The food bank is moving more than two million pounds of food per month through its warehouse on Jessie Street – the equivalent of nearly 1.7 million meals for people in need.

“People are reaching out for help,” Ganger said. “We are answering the call for many of those individuals and families, but it is a challenge that grows each day.” To order tickets or purchase sponsorship packages, visit www.JacksonvilleFOODFIGHT.org or call 904.739.7074.

Whole Foods donates to Children’s Home Society

Whole Foods Market in Jacksonville recently contributed more than $2,300 to the Children’s Home Society of Florida, Buckner Division, as part of the store’s 5% Day.

Individual Whole Foods Market stores hold this initiative three times a year. As part of the initiative, Whole Foods donates 5 percent of its total net sales that day to a local or regional non-profit organization.

“Whole Foods Market’s generous donation will help provide critical, life-changing services to Northeast Florida’s most vulnerable children and families,” said Kimberley Cook, Buckner Division’s executive director. “We appreciate the commitment to the children in our community.”
Fishing ban lifted in time for Father’s Day

The ban on recreational and commercial fishing for deep water snapper-grouper in depths greater than 240 ft. in the South Atlantic has been lifted.

The closure, put into effect on Jan. 31, 2011, was designed to reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper, two species subject to overfishing.

However, after taking into consideration the high economic cost of the ban to the sportfishing industry, and a new analysis of fisheries data, the South Atlantic Council determined that the ban was not necessary to achieve the goal of ending overfishing for speckled hind and warsaw grouper.

“The deep water snapper-grouper ban demonstrated the severe impacts that can result from faulty science and inadequate consideration of socioeconomics,” said Mike Leonard, ASA’s Ocean Resource Policy director. “Thankfully, the South Atlantic Council and NOAA Fisheries acknowledged the severity of this ban and are now contemplating other, less restrictive measures to address overfishing issues without closing off a massive area of the ocean to fishing.”

The South Atlantic Council is currently exploring different management measures to effectively address overfishing of speckled hind and warsaw grouper at a lesser cost to the sportfishing community.

JumpingFish wins Community First grant

JumpingFish, a nonprofit group that advocates for First Coast waterways through athletics, won a $1,000 grant from Community First Credit Union’s Investing in You contest to fund its Up the River 12-Mile Swim for the St. Johns awareness initiative.

“The Up the River project is the first of six winning community improvement ideas to receive $1,000 each in the contest. “Our overall mission to preserve our waterways was a perfect fit with Community First’s public outreach for improvement ideas,” said Jim Alabiso, founder of JumpingFish and the Up the River project. “With the St. Johns River being our city’s largest and most valuable natural resource, anything we do to help it improves our entire community.”

The upcoming Up the River awareness event is Jacksonville’s first-ever long-distance swim in the St. Johns River. Alabiso completed a 3.5 mile swim across the river last summer and now has a small team joining him for a 12-mile journey on June 9. The swim will launch from Walter Jones Park in Mandarin at 7:30 a.m. and conclude at approximately 11:30 at the Riverside Arts Market. The swimmers will be accompanied by kayakers, two crew boats and the St. Johns Riverkeeper boat, Kingfisher, for safety reasons and to transmit real-time progress updates to supporters at the Riverside Arts Market.

“Up the River stood out as a project that can better this community for many generations to come,” said John Hirabayashi, CEO of Community First Credit Union. “Based on the caliber of ideas submitted so far, we’re looking forward to discovering and funding even more innovative community improvement concepts.”

Opportunities remain for five more winners to be awarded grants through the Investing in You campaign. The initiative launched in April, inviting anyone with an idea to make the First Coast a better place to participate. Entries can be submitted through Community First’s Facebook page. The credit union awards $1,000 every two weeks for 90 days, with the last winner being chosen July 13. Semi-finalists are chosen based on which ideas received the most “likes,” with a panel selecting the winners that will receive grant funding from Community First.
Summer scalloping: Pick a good time for a family trip to Steinhatchee

BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

With summer here and kids out of school, parents have been filling up their calendars for the past few months and camps and family vacations are probably planned by now. Some of these vacations fall in the beginning of summer, and others fall somewhere in the middle. But you can’t overlook the family opportunities that can be enjoyed towards the end of summer, right before school resumes. I can’t think of a better way to wind down the summer break than to take your family scalloping along the west coast of Florida.

Family-friendly activity can be enjoyed from Crystal River northward around the Big Bend of Florida and over to the Port St. Joe area. But with the clear water conditions and close proximity to Jacksonville (under a 3 hour drive) people from our area tend to focus on Steinhatchee (STEEHN-hatchee).

If you want to make a weekend out of it, there are several places to stay (although it does require some planning ahead). Many of these waterfront cottages fill up early in the summer, and most require a two-night minimum. So making last-minute plans for a weekend can be difficult. Over the past few years, there have been large groups from Jacksonville that go over for long weekends, typically in late July or early August. But if you are unable to commit an entire weekend to it, you can always go over for the day and catch up with everyone on the water. Cell phones work over there so the group’s location is just a phone call away.

Scalloping does require access to a boat, as these gulf flats are several miles either north or south of the inlet. The grass flats are just off the shore, so there is no run out into deep water. Running out of the inlet between the channel markers until it is deep enough to make your turn is the program. Then a turn north or south (depending on your best guessimates where you will have success) to your destination is the next step in getting there. You must keep a safe distance from any boat displaying a dive flag (more on that in a minute) until you reach your targeted area.

This is an outdoor event, so weather can be a factor. The ideal conditions for visibility will be during clear and calm days when the water is at its highest clarity. Typically a mask, snorkel and fins are used to allow you to look for longer periods of time and cover more ground (I have tried goggles and personally I am not effective this way). And when you see one, often others are close by. There is no need to go digging. They will be sitting on top of the green turtle grass or brown moss that inhabits these flats. When you find one, just reach in from behind and grab it. Even if the conditions are cloudy and not ideal, the scallops are still there. And limits are certainly obtained under these less-than-ideal conditions.

The 2012 scallop season begins July 1st and runs through September 10th. Reports seem to vary throughout the season. Some years the reports suggest there is a vast region along the gulf coast. But you will never too late to go (unless it is after September 10th).

Anyone between the ages of 16 to 65 who wants to harvest scallops will need a saltwater scalloping license. And the limits are as follows: 2 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell per person, or a maximum of 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell per vessel. So it is important to know where you are regarding your legal limit. I recommend taking two 5-gallon buckets with you. If you have four people or less on board, mark each bucket in 2-gallon increments. If you have five people or more, fill the two 5-gallon buckets (whole with shells) and you are done!

Question: Once you have your scallops, what do you do with them? Answer: Pay someone THERE to clean them.

Once you get off the water, you will see home-made signs just about every corner that will point you in the direction to one of these cash-seeking locals. And they make short work of it too. Typically you can drop off (provided it is not too late in the day), get cleaned up and go get some dinner. By the time you get back there after a couple of hours, you will have a plastic bag full of fresh bay scallop muscle. (I made the mistake many years ago of bringing buckets of uncleaned scallops back to Jacksonville and will never do that again).

A few recommendations to consider:

• Use a dive flag (it’s the law). The flag must be 20” x 24” and have a “stifferen” so the entire flag is displayed, even in calm weather. The flag must be displayed at the highest point on the vessel. Divers must make a reasonable effort to stay within 300’ of the flag in open waters and other boats must reduce to idle speed within the same area. The flag must be removed when all divers are out of the water.

• Know where your kids are. The depths will vary between 3 and 5 feet, but could be slightly deeper. There will also be a lot of other boats out there, and you never know who is driving, so use caution.

• Use a mesh dive bag to collect your scallops when you venture away from the boat to look. They can pinch a little, so I would not recommend putting them in your pockets.

• Make sure your boat has some shade and take plenty of drinking water.

• Watch the weather. Storms are likely to move in this time of year so watch the radar on your XM weather or your smart phone.

One final note, I can’t possibly end this without a few recommendations based on our experience gained over the years:

• Stop in the Sea Hag Marina for a t-shirt
• Get some smoked mullet dip and/or barbecue ribs from Skully’s
• If you see a dirt-boat ramp, stop and watch for a while. And have your video camera accessible
• Watch your depth monitor
• Again, pay someone to clean your scallops
• Eat dinner at Fiddler’s Restaurant
• When you see a “danger shoo” marker marking underwater debris, they mean it

This truly is a fun event to do with your family. It may require a little work getting a boat over there (or to jump on someone else’s). Boat rentals from Sea Hag Marina are options as well. But I am reminded of a quote that became the slogan and the most commonly used phrase during a spring break several years ago with some friends: “It’s all about the kids”.

Enjoy.
Most pet owners consider their animals to be more like their children, at the very least a major part of the family. Like parents of children, they want their pets to look nice, eat well, have a style that stands out from the crowd and have the best care when they’re not around. It can be hard for parents to find a place that can satisfy all the needs of being a pet owner, but one Riverside shop owner is making it easy.

In 2009, Jamee Yocum opened BARK Boutique in Riverside’s 5 Points, bringing a retail store to the area for dog owners where they could shop for every accessory imaginable—and in just about every style. “When I started BARK three years ago, my goals seemed lofty, but attainable: open the best dog boutique in Jacksonville, provide unique yet affordable products and services, and treat my clients as well as I treat their dogs!”

Since the BARK inception, the store has expanded an additional 4,500 sq. ft. to include much more than retail and grooming. The most recent additions include doggy daycare, boarding and training. Whether the owner is gone for a week or just for the workday, BARK’s daycare and overnight arrangements are sure to make for both a happy dog and owner.

Summer is famous for vacations and many dog owners are faced with the task of finding a trustworthy place to put their pooches during their out-of-town stay. The usual go-to pet sitters include kennels, many of which have cages and dozens of dogs to be cared for. Jamee has a different vision.

When dogs come to spend the night at BARK, they are each given an individual suite, as if they are checking in to a hotel. Each room has a raised bed with a washable cover filled with fluffy pillows, a chandelier, and a painting to provide a more intimate atmosphere. A spa-like soundtrack softly soothes guest who tour the facility and comfort pets “in residence”. Jamee also has cameras keeping her connected to the well being of guests, as the video feed goes straight to her phone; she is always plugged in to what is going on. Owners can rest assured that they will be well cared for.

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Whether your dog enjoys playing all day with their friends or maybe prefers a quiet place to rest, BARK accommodates most breeds, size and energy levels. Daycare counselors will ensure your dog enjoys hours of fun running, playing, and exploring with all their doggie friends. “Most people work 8-10 hours a day and sometimes their dogs are at home alone...bored,” said Jamee. “They’ve spent all day waiting for you to arrive...there ready to play! Daycare is the answer! Drop your dog off for the day to socialize with other dogs, interact with our staff and burn off energy. At the end of the day you will pick up a happy and tired dog ready to go home and snuggle!”

For dogs who want to make their parents even happier, BARK is now offering beginner and regular obedience training classes. Training in smaller groups allows a more one on one experience with the trainer along with socializing amongst a few other dogs at the same time. You and your dog will receive 6 weeks of indoor and outdoor training along with field trips around 5 Points!

This one-stop shop also offers a full grooming salon and a wide selection of baked goods, everything from birthday cakes to cookies. All of the special treats are made with organic ingredients by Jamee and her family. Visit her website www.thebarkboutique.com to find more information on the many goods and services available for your dog.

The BARK Boutique is located at 1021 Park Street in Suite A. Call 904-356-4530 for more information.
The Way we Were

Betty Sterling

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Betty Sterling and her husband Stu were looking to move from Memphis, TN in 1972 after Stu retired from being a Captain in the Navy, they had a wealth of familiar choices. The couple had lived in several U.S. mainland states, as well as more exotic locales such as Hawaii, Canada, and Italy.

After careful deliberation, however, they decided that Jacksonville, Florida would be ideal. They had visited the city before and thought it was beautiful and inviting. But once they made the decision to move, their choice of a home was a bit more spontaneous.

“Stu was in town and he saw this house for sale in San Jose Shores. It was on the river, and people were shrimpning nearby,” recalled Betty. “He bought it on the spot, and I had never even seen it.”

It turned out to be the perfect selection for the couple, remaining their home until 2007. Many of Betty’s favorite memories revolve around the home, neighborhood, and life on the banks of the St. Johns River.

San Jose Shores was originally built and populated by a number of employees and executives of Prudential Insurance Company, which had selected Jacksonville in 1952 to be headquarters for their Southeast operations center. The Sterling’s home was 12 years old when they purchased it.

At that time, in the 1970s, residents cherished the river’s thriving ecosystem. From jumping schools of mullet to the roving alligator who swam by each evening, the water was an enthralling and inspiring backdrop for the Sterling family’s life.

“The river was full of water hyacinths, all along the bank and all the way out to the end of the dock. The manatees would come feed on the way out to the end of the dock. The hyacinths, all along the bank and all the way out to the end of the dock. The manatees would come feed on them,” Betty shared. “I remember neighborhood kids swimming out and riding on their backs.”

Stu kept crab traps constantly baited with chicken necks and wings, and he caught crabs nearly every day. Grandchildren Tracy and Bobby, who spent their afternoons after school at Tutu and PopPop’s house, also caught crabs with nets while wading in the river’s edge. (Betty had become attached to the nickname Tutu – Hawaiian for grandmother – when she heard a Hawaiian neighbor’s granddaughter use it.)

“My grandfather would clean a whole bunch of crabs about once a week,” Tracy said. “Tutu was a great cook, and she would make stuffed crab, put them in shells, and freeze them. I remember the wonderful hot appetizers appearing when company came over.”

Betty and Stu loved the river at night, enjoying the beautiful sunsets and watching the lights up and down the river from other residents enjoying their own outdoor spaces.

On weekends, the family often went to the beach. Mickler’s Landing had no houses built around it at the time, and they would trek right through the dunes to the beach. Sand dollars and shells were abundant then, and the grandchildren brought them home by the dozens.

In 1974, Betty began volunteering for Baptist Hospital, and she just celebrated her 38th year with the organization. She served as president of the Auxiliary in the 1980s.

In addition to continuing to volunteer at the hospital, Betty now spends plenty of time with her abundant family. She and daughter BJ share a home, and son Bobby now lives in her former residence in San Jose Shores. Oldest son Skip is in Washington, D.C. Two out of five grandchildren and five out of 12 great-grandchildren also live in the Jacksonville area.

On tap! Dancers perform at JCA

The Sassy Tappers of the Neptune Beach Senior Activity Center performed their show, “Reminisce with the Sassy Tappers” at the Jewish Community Alliance for their Mature Adults group luncheon in early May.

A favorite act was the finale, “Will Rogers Follies.” The show is a compilation of dances through the decades from the Roaring 20’s to the Disco 70’s.
Tropical Storm Beryl
Helps with Importance of Planning

Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans. Get Ready Now.


Do you have a plan, are you prepared for the worst of the worst when it comes to evacuation? The most important thing is to have a plan, for yourself, making your family. Does it include everything, including your ages parents, your pets and other crucial communication lines. These are all excellent questions to have in mind, especially when you have a Tropical Storm roll through your city and remind us of how much impact these storms can have upon our property, our loved ones and our community.

Oaklawn and FEMA have teamed up to provide residents a special offer, a free seminar to help make our lives a better, safer place when facing emergencies. In focus: Hurricane Preparedness and evacuation planning.

The likelihood that you and your family will recover from an emergency tomorrow depends upon the planning and preparation done today. While each person’s abilities and needs are unique, each and every individual can take steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies from hurricanes, tropical storms, fires, floods and potential terrorist attacks. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan that fits those needs, you and your loved ones can be better prepared. This intensive session contains comprehensive measures older Americans can take to start preparing for emergencies before they happen. Preparing makes sense for older Americans. Get Ready Now.

Kathy Barrett, from the State of Florida will hold this Senior Preparedness Seminar at Oaklawn Cemetery & Funeral Home, a Dignity Provider. 4801 San Jose Blvd, 32217.

Prepare yourself and your family for a disaster by attending this vital seminar, creating your emergency plan in advance. The event will be held on Wednesday, June 20th at 10:30am. Winston Bailey will also be on site presenting home preparations for hurricane season. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 904-737-7171. For more information about specific types of emergencies, visit www.ready.gov or call 1.803.BE READY.

HURRICANE PREPARATION PRESENTATION
JUNE 20th 10:30am
at Oaklawn Cemetery & Funeral Home
4801 San Jose Blvd. 32217
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Save $500
if purchased by July 15th
Summer is here — but it’s not too late to plan a vacation that will create lasting memories of fun and adventure for your family. One of the blessings of living in the United States is the diversity of our country offers something fun for every age.

A favorite vacation destination for Jacksonville families is North Carolina. Easily accessible by car or plane, the state offers a wide range of choices for family fun.

Last summer Ortega residents Jim and Kim Gleaton with their children, Ford and Lilly, enjoyed a lazy vacation in a rental cabin on the shores of Lake Lure near Chimney Rock in western North Carolina. There, they fished off the dock, enjoyed paddle boating, swam and fed the ducks.

“We spent a day at duPont State Forest hiking and visiting falls. We visited three of the six falls in the park: Hooker Falls, Triple Falls and High Falls. High Falls is the most impressive but all are well worth the hikes. Be sure to wear swimsuits and shoes that can get wet as we jumped in two out of the three falls. We couldn’t resist even though the water is cold!” Kim said.

Other family favorites were Chimney Rock and Pisgah National Forest.

“As you leave Pisgah National Forest, a fun stop is Dolly’s Dairy Bar at the entrance of Pisgah in Brevard,” she suggested. “A great way to end a perfect day!”

Ortega resident Ashley Daw calls Kanuga in Hendersonville, North Carolina “Heaven on Earth”. The Episcopalian retreat for the Southeast is open to all. Ashley, husband Keith and their three children, Andrew, Elizabeth and Caroline, have vacationed there for more than 15 years.

“Meals are family style dining, three meals daily — I love that,” Daw said.

Every day there is a range of activities for both children and adults. Housing choices are the Inn, cottages built in 1926 and guesthouses. You can find more information at http://www.kanuga.org.

Chattanooga, Tennessee is famous for its tourist attractions. The Ellis family of San Marco would agree it has earned its claim to fame. The Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, Ruby Falls, the Incline, the Children’s Discovery Museum offer families plenty of fun to fill their days. Jeff and Pam Ellis took their two oldest children, Olivia and Davis there when they were young and were pleased how family friendly the town was. One favorite was the beautifully renovated train station, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, which includes a restaurant, hotel, shops and a miniature train museum.

“We spent nearly all day there,” Pam said. “We ate lunch in the dining room which is housed in the old station and is very elegant. Then we visited the miniature trains and toured the actual train cars which are a part of the hotel.”

Another favorite outing for the Ellis family was walking across the Walnut Street Bridge, which is now pedestrian only. It spans the Tennessee River from downtown near the Aquarium to Frazier Avenue on the north side. Frazier Avenue is lined with a host of local restaurants, fun shops and a riverside park with a carousel. Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park is another stop for...
family fun.

Families with children over the age of 12 could enjoy a day of white water rafting on the Ocoee River, site of the Olympics white-water competition.

The West called to the DeStephano family.

“It’s amazing that all of this is in the same country,” Patty Destaphano. For several years, the Ortega Forest family has used Tauck Bridge Tours for family vacations.

Last summer they ventured out west visiting Yellowstone Park and staying at the Yellowstone Lodge; Big Horn National Forest including the Crazy Horse Memorial; Mt. Rushmore and Cody, Wyoming, home of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Also included in the trip was a float trip down the Snake River, a rodeo and a visit to Ucross Ranch. Patty, her husband Don DeStephano and youngest son, Dave, enjoy the Tauck Bridge have enjoyed the well planned nature of the trip.

Whether you want to stay in the South or travel afar, we have much to see and explore in our country. Grab the family, hit the road and make lasting memories!

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The debutante social season will begin next month with a presentation of the 2012 Jacksonville Debutante Coterie the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club. The young women will be presented again in December during the Commodore’s Ball at the Florida Yacht Club. This year’s Jacksonville Debutante Coterie, their parents and current college includes:

- MaryAnna Margaret Bliss — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Austin Chandler Bliss; Auburn University
- Ruth Curry Clements — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Austin Chandler Bliss; Auburn University
- Margaret Beckwith Davis — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mossier Clements; Vanderbilt University
- Susan Palmer Davis — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cummings Davis; Florida State University
- Heather Jean Klempf — daughter of Mr. Kevin Jacques Klempf of Ponte Vedra Beach FL and Mrs. Shelley Dorsey; Rancho Mirage, CA.
- Elizabeth Stuart Morris — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Howard Morris; Southern Methodist University
- Camille Montgomery Pilcher — daughter of Dr. & Mrs. George Stapleton Pilcher, Jr.; Samford University
- Austin Elizabeth Saffell — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kenneth Saffell; Florida State University
- Anne Marie Sullivan — daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Patrick Sullivan; Creighton University
- Caroline Elizabeth Sullivan — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Philip Sullivan; Florida State University

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2012 Debutante Coterie to be presented

A. M. Sullivan Saffell Pilcher E. Sullivan Morris

Klempf M. Davis Bliss Clements S. Davis

Phone: 904-733-9877
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Church Ladies
Harriet Newkirk
Place of worship: Lakewood Presbyterian Church

God-given strength: What an amazing lady she is. Harriet obviously does not let her age (85 years young) slow her down at all!

How her gift/ministry is shared: Lakewood Presbyterian Church was founded in 1952 and Harriet and her husband Lawrence (who died in 2004) were among its founding members. Being a lifelong member of the congregation, Harriet has been involved through the years in so many ways. She has served the congregation as an Elder twice, first in 1976-78 and then again in 2008-2010. Harriet has been the moderator of Presbyterian Women and because of her extensive work in the church, she was given the Honorary Life Member Award by the Presbyterian Women in 2009. Today Harriet continues her activity at church and for the church family by playing in the Hand Chime Choir. She also drives for Meals-on-Wheels and has been doing that for a dozen years.

Most memorable blessing/accomplishment:
One of the most amazing things she does is every Sunday after church, she loads her car up with the worship flowers and delivers them to members who are either homebound or in the hospital.

Do you know someone who gives of their time, talent or treasure to their church or synagogue? Please send us the information below, plus a photo of this angel on earth, to editor@residentnews.net.

Color Trends 2012 revealed
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Many local churches, nonprofit organizations and community groups are planning summer workshops as an outreach to neighborhood families. With costs that are often far less than for-profit operations, these venues provide fun resources for children in a setting close to home.

For the second consecutive summer, Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is branching into the Riverside area to offer programs for local girls. The nonprofit organization will host “Reaching for the stars and learning about them too!” a three-session summer experience based at Riverside Baptist Church at the corner of Park and King streets.

The summer camp offering is a partnership with NASA and the Kennedy Space Center, according to Girls Inc. officials.

The first session is June 25 through July 6, and focuses on the type of adjustments astronauts have to make while in space — including their physical training requirements. The girls also will explore the question of whether life exists on other planets and what is necessary for survival. Field trips during this session are to a yoga studio and MOSH. Girls will take a field trip to the movies and Pump it Up. During this session are to a yoga studio and MOSH. Girls will take a field trip to the movies and Pump it Up. During the third session, July 23 through Aug. 10, campers who have completed PreK-4 through fifth grade, can experience visual art, music and other specialty classes. The camp is daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs $130 per week.

For low-cost, big fun — sometimes free — summer fun, be sure to check out the many churches in the neighborhood for their vacation Bible school schedules. With a goal of outreach to area families, church organizers spend many hours preparing a week’s worth of Bible-centered activities. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church will host its activities from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. July 9-13 for potty-trained three-year-olds through rising fourth-graders at a cost of $30 per child. A special camp for fourth-graders through sixth-graders will be that same week from noon to 3 p.m. at a cost of $40 per child. Ortega Methodist is hosting “Wild West at Ortega Art Camp” for rising first through ninth-graders June 11-15 and June 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The camp costs $180 for both sessions or $100 for a one-week session and tuition includes materials.

In San Marco and San Jose, a long list of VBS opportunities is open to local youngsters. Southside United Methodist Church, for example, will hold its VBS June 25-28. That’s the same week South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church and Lakewood United Methodist Church will host their VBS programs. All Saints Episcopal Church’s VBS “BabyBo.”

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Stacey Drilling, a Bishop Kenny high jumper, has signed an athletic scholarship with FSU. Drilling has been jumping at the high school since her sophomore year, achieving personal best goals as well as the title of 2011 State Champion in Class 2A. Assistant track and field coach Randy Reagor, who has been working with Drilling for all three years, praised her determination and mental strength. “When she won state, I thought it would make her complacent, but she has worked harder this year than ever,” he said.

Her hard work paid off when she heard she had received the scholarship from her top choice school. “I’m so excited,” said Drilling. “FSU is my dream school.”

Reagor said everyone close to her agrees that FSU is a good fit for Drilling. “I don’t think this could have turned out any better for her,” he said.

The memory of a much loved young San Marco student who passed away nearly two years ago lives on in a new work of music commissioned by the Bolles Middle School Band. Composed by Ralph Ford and published through Alfred Music Publishing, the new work is called “Sailing Onward until Dawn.” It was written for Jonathan Soud, a former band member who died after a courageous battle with leukemia. Soud played the piano, and was learning to play the clarinet in the school band when he passed away. He and his family hold longtime connections to the school. Soud’s parents, Cathy and Steve, are Bolles faculty and his siblings and many cousins also attend the school. The piece was commissioned through generous memorial donations.

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“Sounding the postcard” that so many other middle school kids will come to know Jonathan through this music once it is published and available to school bands everywhere,” said Don Zentz, director of fine and performing arts. “Music forges a bond between people that is highly unique and meaningful — through the performance of music, the hearts and souls of people are revealed and shared with others in an unguarded manner. When I think about how other people will come to know Jonathan for the first time through this piece, a tremendous sense of joy fills my heart.”

Middle school band students performed the piece during a recent spring concert. The music will be available for purchase across the United States this August. Maggie Vance, Bolles’ middle school fine and performing arts coordinator, said “working in this music has been a healing influence for the group.”

Music named in Soud’s honor

Pine Forest Elementary School staged its 14th annual second-grade show in the school’s auditorium last month. Titled “The Science Machine,” the show featured all five classes of second-graders performing in singing, dancing and acting numbers. The fourth- and fifth-grade dance ensemble opened the show.
The Bolles middle school baseball team finished the season with a perfect 22-0 record on their way to capturing the 2012 IMSC (Independent Middle School Conference) championship.

In the tournament’s championship game, the Bulldogs battled back from an early deficit to top University Christian 9-7 in an exciting finale to the season.

Throughout the season, the Dogs averaged 9.9 runs a game while limiting their opponents to only 1.7 runs. The offense was paced by 8th graders Bryce Newman (.661 BA, 41 runs, 22 SB), Austin Henson (.460 BA, 17 RBI), and Joey Frisco (.420 BA, 4 HR, 25 RBI). Pitching and defense were also strengths for the team with 8th graders Ty Smith (7 Ws, 29 Ks), Jonathan Dewane (6 Ws, 41 Ks), Hamp Skinner (6 Ws, 33 Ks) and Will Myhand (1.31 ERA, 13 Ks) leading the Dogs on the mound.

Bulldogs’ coach Ricky Barnes noted that this year’s team worked hard and deserved the success they enjoyed this season. “It’s a special group of young men and they were determined not to be outworked. They enjoyed coming to practice every day and understood the importance of trying to win every pitch.”

Middle school baseball team claim undefeated season

Representing Hendrick was: 1st grade: Chase Caven, 2nd grade: Sam Davis, 3rd grade: Isaac Pimentel, 4th grade: Andrew Lopez and 5th grade: Meredith Abz. Caven took home the first place trophy for 1st grade.

Akice Agwa
Grade: 8
GPA: 4.0
Favorite subject: English/Language Arts
When not making straight A’s I like to...”read and write. I’m writing a novel and hope to have it published someday. Also, I’m involved with a dance group called Undignified Dance Girls at my church, St. Peters Episcopal. I’m really looking forward to the dance camp (for girls ages 7-14) that we hold each summer.”

Secret to learning success:
My secret to learning success is knowing that I can do better. I do not want to get a reputation as a lazy slacker. I know that I have to give everything my all. Also, reading helps me understand the world around me.”

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