

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXXI
Number 8

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SUSAN GREEN

view from the Mount LeConte trail looking down at the majestic Alum Cave Bluffs.

Rebirth on Mount LeConte

Mountain hike on the tallest mountain in the eastern U.S. helps to challenge the body and soothe the soul. **See story, page 6.**

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Only the guy who isn’t rowing has time to rock the boat.”

Jean-Paul Sartre



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Class of 2011



Bloomingtondale Senior students are awaiting the call to line up for graduation!

On June 7, The Bloomingdale Class of 2011 took their final walk with 559 of their classmates before they ventured off to new ventures in their lives. The Class of 2011 is a very close knit class as many of these students have made this journey together since kindergarten.

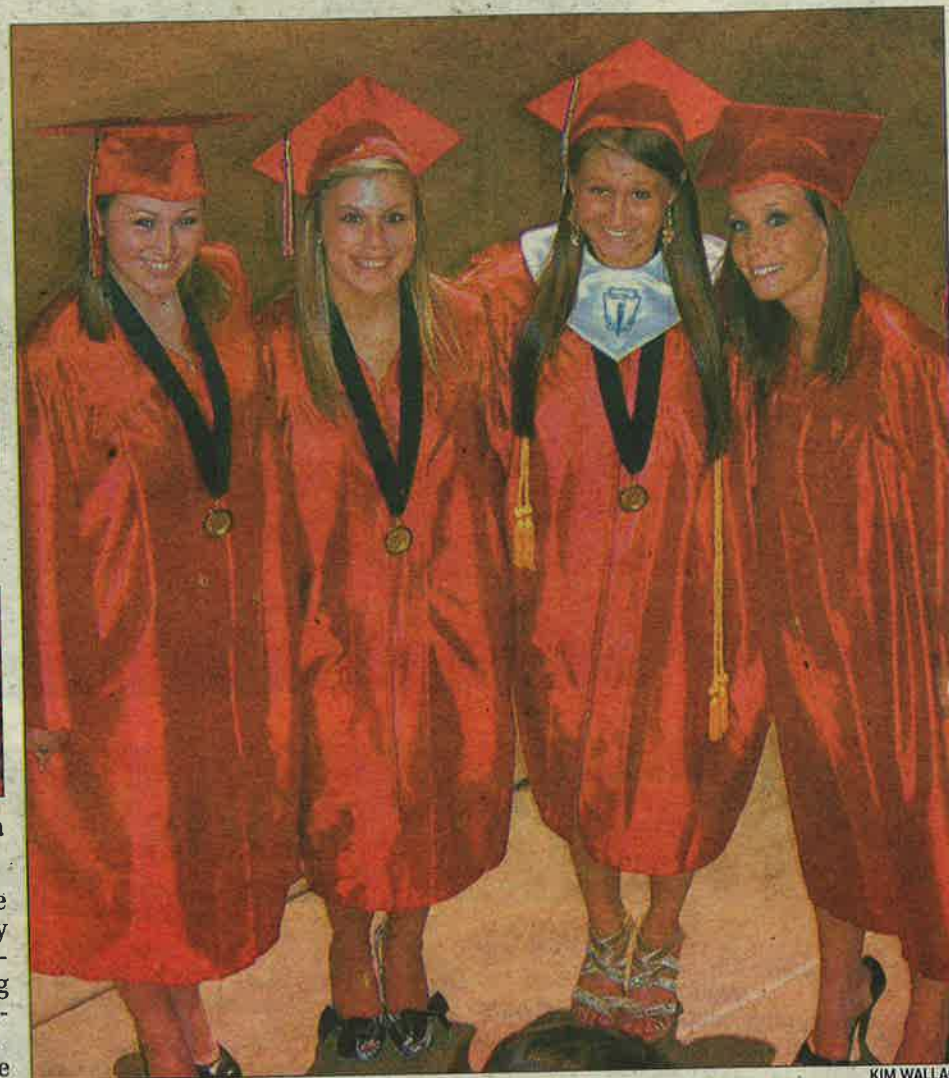
Mr. West commented that this was one of the largest Honor Courts Bloomingdale has ever had. Out of 559 students, 227 students were on court, which made him very proud. The evening



One last signing of the alma mater as a Bull!

started with the pledge of allegiance lead by Shannon McGarrity followed by a very exciting night for these Bloomingdale Senior students. Congratulations to the Class of 2011.

- KIM WALLACE



KIM WALLACE

Bloomingtondale Senior students Whitney Wallace, Brooke Lott, Bria Bequette and Ashley Parker are awaiting their final walk as a Bloomingdale Bull!



Steven Whitaker Valedictory Address to his Class of 2011.



Bloomingtondale Senior Shannon McGarrity and Senior Ambassadors present Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.

Bloomington Buzz

What should be done to improve education in America?

BY SUSAN GREEN

Youngsters in Hillsborough County public schools will return to classrooms Aug. 23, against a backdrop of continued debate over education reform.

In light of that, we put this month's question to a family leaving the tennis court at Bloomingdale West Recreation Center. Gale Desrosiers of Valrico is a native of Haiti, where people speak French. He came to the U.S. when he was 11 or 12 and learned to speak English without a trace of an accent by painstakingly mimicking the pronunciation of American television newscasters. Today, his family watches PBS educational programs almost exclusively.



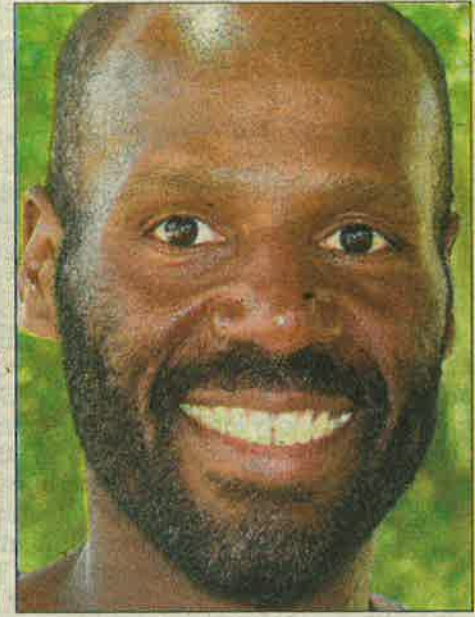
Soleil Desrosiers, 8:

"[In public school,] if one kid doesn't understand, then they all have to stop school and they don't learn. We are home-schooled. ... We learn faster because we don't have kids interrupting."



Ciel Desrosiers, 6:

"I would like to watch educational TV... I want to eat cheese when I watch TV."



Gale Desrosiers:

"We home-school our kids. For a long time, I always said I wanted to be a part of my kids' education. ... My kids grew up on PBS."

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0003066529-01

Mountain hike challenges the body, soothes the soul

BY SUSAN GREEN

Lots of people told me not to do it.

Some gently suggested my days of serious hiking were over. Others tried to steer me to a respectable but less challenging ascent to a different destination in the Great Smoky Mountains, where, let's face it, breathtaking views are a dime a dozen even as they manage to remain priceless.

Nope. It had to be LeConte.

At 6,593 feet, Mount LeConte boasts the third highest elevation in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Measured from base to peak, however, it's the tallest mountain

in the eastern U.S. The shortest trail to the top is about 11 miles roundtrip. It's also the steepest, labeled "strenuous" on park trail maps.

But that's not why I had to tackle that particular peak.

I didn't know LeConte's statistics the first time I hiked up that towering mound of earth and rock. My brother talked me into the climb more than 30 years ago. We were not long out of high school and had energy to spare. Unfortunately, I did not have the right boots, and our journey ended just shy of the peak when we found snow and ice on the rocks, making the trail too treacherous to complete.

Little more than a decade later, I made it to the top with my new husband. We found the renowned Mount LeConte Lodge – highest inn in the East – closed for the afternoon. So we sat at tables outside the rustic cabins and ate snacks we had packed before hitting the trail. We joked about putting so much effort into reaching the lodge, where the only comfort station open to us was an old-fashioned outhouse. A little red squirrel – the locals call them boomers – shunned the trail mix I offered and pestered me for potato chips.

Fast forward two decades, three kids, and a never-ending whirlwind of job and parental duties. I



SUSAN GREEN

A hazy view doesn't deter from a sense of achievement after hiking to the top of Mount LeConte, the tallest mountain in the eastern U.S.

had recently left my long-time career to focus on family. Then my marriage hit the skids. I needed something, not just a distraction but a goal.

LeConte beckoned.

Hiking has always been my favorite form of exercise. Long walks on the beach, brisk jaunts in the park, even neighborhood strolls offer opportunities for meditation and exertion – a melding of mental and physical exercise –



Susan Green stands in front of the Mount LeConte Lodge dining hall after a 5-mile ascent up the mountain near Gatlinburg, Tenn.

HIKE, Page 13

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Bloomington resident looks to fill classrooms at new HCC facility

BY SUSAN GREEN

Bloomington resident Dann Berkowitz has found a way to cut his job commute, and now the long-time student services professional wants to share the secret with would-be college students in his neighborhood and surrounding communities.

"I'm trying to get the word out," said Berkowitz, who recently became the off-campus credit/center manager for Hillsborough Community College, overseeing the school's new satellite facility, The Regent, in Riverview's Winthrop Village.

The HCC branch accommodated students this summer in four new classrooms and two computer labs in the downstairs portion of The Regent building at 6437 Watson Road in

Riverview. Classes have been limited, with few enrolled, but Berkowitz is hoping that will change as people discover the convenience of an education away from one of the busy main campuses of HCC.

In mid-July, he pulled up an online registration form and demonstrated that basic English classes, part of HCC's requirements for many degree programs, were already booked for fall at the Brandon campus near Columbus Drive and Falkenburg Road.

Less than half the 25 spots at The Regent branch had been filled, however.

Berkowitz said he and his staff of three have the flexibility to offer evening and weekend classes and compressed classes, or



SUSAN GREEN

Dann Berkowitz

courses that cover the required material in eight weeks instead of a full semester.

Even Sunday sessions are an option. Unlike its larger counterparts, Ber-

kowitz said, The Regent makes it cost-effective to turn on lights and air conditioning for a single class to meet.

"One staff member can come in here and open the

place up and let the faculty and students in," Berkowitz said.

He said he also hopes to work with guidance counselors at Bloomington, Riverview, Spoto, East Bay and Newsome high schools to encourage more dual-enrollment classes, or college level coursework for high school students. The smaller setting could be less intimidating.

"We're kind of a nice stepping stone to the bigger campuses," Berkowitz said.

HCC also makes the computer labs available for community use during operating hours, when no class is meeting.

Berkowitz has had a 20-year career in student services, including two years at the University of South Florida. He and his wife,

Kate, moved to Bloomington West in 2009 from Boston. They have two children: Sam, 14, who will be a freshman at Bloomington High in August; and Nick, 10, who attends Cimino Elementary.

The family has been pleasantly surprised at all the professional and retail services available along Bloomington Avenue, Berkowitz said. Now the new HCC branch, only about two blocks south of the busy commuter road, has joined the list.

Berkowitz said he would like to hear suggestions for classes from community members. He can be reached at (813) 253-7845 or dberkowitz@hccfl.edu. The facility also has a Facebook page, where announcements will be posted.

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Bloomingtondale Senior High School facelift under way

BY SUSAN GREEN

Twenty-four may seem young for a facelift, but not for the rooms and hallways of a school building where thousands of teenagers tread each year.

Renovation work started sweeping through parts of Bloomingtondale High School in March, with about 30 classrooms getting a makeover, said school principal Mark West. This summer, most of the school was closed to anyone not wearing a hard hat, as workers ripped out floor and ceiling tiles, replaced duct work and wiring, painted walls and replaced a stairwell.

The \$15 million makeover is the first thorough upgrade since the school was built in 1987, although

some painting and repairs have been done over the years and the roof was replaced about a year ago, West said. The renovation is being done in phases, with a target completion date of late 2012, but a big chunk of the work was scheduled this summer while students enjoyed their annual hiatus from classes.

West and his office staff set up shop in portable buildings behind the school. Within hours of moving out of the administration area, workers had transformed the once-familiar main hallway into something that looked like a war zone, West said.

Since then, office staffers have been busy in their temporary digs, enrolling new students and sched-

ing interviews for job candidates.

"It's been a little challenging because we're working out of boxes," West said. "It's not been too bad."

Teachers have been excited about the prospect of spruced-up work spaces, and many have stopped by to check on the progress, the principal said.

When students return to classes Aug. 23, they will find unscuffed floors and fresh paint in much of the school, new shelving in the media center and new furniture in many areas.

The renovation will continue with another 30 classrooms closed for work in the fall, West said. Classes normally held in those rooms will be temporarily assigned to portables.



SUSAN GREEN

Mark West, principal of Bloomingtondale High, stands at the entrance to the school's media center, which will receive all new shelving, along with other renovations, by the time students return Aug. 23.



Cami's 5k Fun Run

Sunday, June 5 Brandon's Westfield Mall hosted Cami's 5k Fun Run. 77 runners showed up to run at 8 a.m. It was a lot of fun and the top four place winners won a \$50 gift card from our sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods. The 5K was just one of Cami Gibertini's mayoral events as she strives to be Brandon's next Honorary Mayor. You can follow her on Facebook, search "Cami For Mayor". Pictured are Tory Hurat, Top Masters Female; Ryan Chadderton, Top Overall Winner and Overall Male; Lynn Langowski; Cami Gibertini; Tom Brinegar, Top Masters Male; and Kelly Desmond, Manager of Dick's Sporting Goods. Pictured at left are Lynn Langowski and Rae Ann Darling Reed, Top Overall Female.



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Bloomingtondale Senior High School announces new volleyball coach



Margeaux Sinibaldi

Bloomingtondale High School is pleased to announce that Coach Margeaux Sinibaldi has been promoted to Head Volleyball Coach. Coach Sinibaldi served as Junior Varsity Coach and teacher this past year. Coach Sinibaldi was an All-American libero at the University of Tampa from 2004 - 2007 and was a member of their 2006 Division II National Championship Team where she was named to the All-Tournament Team. She set the University of

Tampa and Sunshine State Conference All-time Career Digs Records and was an Academic All-American while at UT. Please join us in congratulating Coach Sinibaldi in her new position as Head Volleyball Coach.

Hess signs with University of Montevallo

BY KIM WALLACE

On June 6, 2011, Bloomingtondale High School catcher David Hess signed a baseball scholarship with the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Ala.

David started playing baseball when he was 5-years-old. David has played for four years varsity high school team and played in seven games this past season. He'll join a Division II Falcons squad that went 22-26 this past season. Hess will also join Tampa Bay area players Justin Burgess (First Acad-

emy) and Will Fulmer (East Lake) on the Montevallo roster. David commented that it takes hard work and dedication.

With the support of David's dad and mom he is getting that chance to further his career. David's father John commented that he is proud of his son who is ready for the chance to learn and take responsibility as he starts this new chapter in his life.

David said that if it had not been for his coaches and parents, he would not be where he is today, and he greatly appreciates all



KIM WALLACE

Mr. West, principal; Mr. Hess; Mrs. Hess; David Hess; Mrs. Shotwell, AP of athletics; and coach Wilken during David's baseball signing to the University of Montevallo in Alabama.

that they have taught him over the years. Bloomingtondale Coach Wilken stated that David is devoted to his sport both on and off the field and his work ethic. David was always positive about where he would like to see his

team go. Coach Wilken is excited to see him move on to the next step in his life. He knows he will do well.

David is excited and looks forward to playing ball with University of Montevallo this fall.

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KIM WALLACE

Barrett Farrell plays the guitar blindfolded.

BY KIM WALLACE

This year hosted the Ninth Annual Talent Show at Cimino. The students auditioned their talents to a panel that was chosen by Mrs. Minicbauer, guidance counselor. There were so many children with wonderful talents that they had to limit the entries. Maybe next year they will have a much bigger show. Here are just a few of the many entries.



Talyn Olney showed her singing talent.

Cimino Elementary has talent



Brianna Gregorio shows her talent in a ballet dance with grace.



Julia Bohner plays the piano.

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They built a life in Bloomingdale

BY SUSAN GREEN

When Oscar and Geraldine Kanahan first laid eyes on the spot where they would make their home for 32 years, it was nothing but woods and weeds and a sign: Bloomingdale Estates.

The couple, then with three young children, wanted to flee the snowy winters of Chicago. Geraldine's cousin had bought property in a planned development near booming Brandon, outside of Tampa. Oscar couldn't get away from work, so Geraldine made the trip to take a look. She picked out her house from sales pictures.

Bloomingdale Avenue was a two-lane stretch that met Bell Shoals Road without benefit of a traffic light.

Cow pastures and a nursery marked the intersection.

"There was no Wal-Mart, no Publix," Oscar recalled.

Homes had been built in the first phase of the subdivision that later would be called Bloomingdale East. But they were buffered from new lots by woods. To Geraldine, city born and raised, the development promised quiet country living.

They bought their property in 1979 and moved into their home in 1980.

"We were the very first house in the [Phase 2] subdivision," Geraldine recalled.

While the couple waited for their Chicago home to sell and their Bloomingdale home to be built, Oscar began having second

thoughts. People told him Florida was a magnet for old people. His children – then ages 2, 6 and 10 – would have no one their own age to play with.

When the family finally relocated, his fears were allayed when school started.

"There were 40 kids at the bus stop in front of my house," Oscar said.

None of today's Bloomingdale schools – Alafia, Cimino, Burns or Bloomingdale High – had been built. The couple's oldest child, Rick, attended Buckhorn Elementary, McLean Junior High and Brandon High School.

The family traveled to State Road 60 in Brandon for groceries and dining out. They attended Mass at Nativity Catholic Church. St. Stephen, the church

they now attend, had not been built. When Wal-Mart opened on the southwest corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale 25 years ago, Geraldine became one of the store's first employees. She still works there.

As the Kanahan children grew up, Bloomingdale subdivision grew up around them. Oscar said he used to play a game with his children, offering them money to count the cars that drove by their house. He jokes that he would never dare to do that today, when cars zip by one after another.

Most of the family's original neighbors have moved or died, Geraldine said. But the family has stayed put.

Oscar, 79, is an insur-



Geraldine and Oscar Kanahan

ance agent and president of the Hispanic Republican Club. Geraldine will be 69 in September and just invested in a bakery business in Bloomingdale run by her daughter, Cindy Shoemake. Her oldest son lives nearby in Boyette Springs, and her younger son, Marco, lives in Cape

Coral.

The Kanahans have eight grandchildren.

Geraldine said she misses the change of seasons in Chicago, but she is happy with the family's decision to put down roots in Bloomingdale.

"It was a great place to raise kids, and it still is."



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Bloomingtondale cheer candidates carwash



Bloomingtondale cheer candidates show up to help raise money for camp.



Cassie Fox and Cierra McLaughlin help promote the carwash.



KIM WALLACE

Raising money for camp involved a lot of soap!!!

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The girls work hard to make sure that there are no spots on the car!



Asia McCray, Bethany Wallace, Brenna Keeler, Cheyenne Dougherty and Taryan Keyser were enjoying helping out their team to raise money for camp!

Hike

From Page 6

It's tough to beat.

Exercise had taken a back seat to other priorities in recent years, however, and I was woefully out of shape.

Last fall, I joined Lifestyle Family Fitness in Bloomingdale, where I worked out three to four times a week. I joined primarily for weight loss, but the exercise translated into renewed energy and served as an outlet for shedding anger and angst along with the pounds.

Once I seized on the idea of returning to Mount LeConte, I began to push myself to increase the number of "floors" achieved on the Stairmaster and the number of minutes logged on the treadmill. I started to feel as if I could take on the mountain again.

I asked some kin to accompany me on my climb. They declined, citing work schedules or physical health. They tried tactfully suggesting that I think about stopping at Rainbow Falls or Alum Cave Bluffs, both part way up LeConte.

I began to realize that not only did I need to re-live the triumph of reaching that particular



Llamas, fresh from packing in supplies to Mount LeConte Lodge, eat a lunch of leftover pancakes before trekking back down the mountain. Pack animals and helicopters are the only ways to deliver food and staples to the rustic mountaintop inn.



Mountain laurel remained in full bloom on Mount LeConte in mid-June.

peak, but I needed to do it alone. I needed to do it to affirm that, in spite of everything that was happening, and everything that had happened, I was still me: an independent woman who loved the outdoors, a woman who could do the things she loved without someone to lean on.

Long story short, I succeeded in my quest. I traveled at my own pace, stopping for photographs – or to catch my breath – as I wished. The mountain remained largely unchanged, and in a world of instability, I was grateful to see the familiar vistas. I saw quite a few climbers who were my age (early

50s) or older.

I reached the lodge, where thankfully the restrooms have been upgraded with running water and a septic system. One of the workers there said an 82-year-old man made the hike recently, ruefully proclaiming that it would be his last time.

Bolstered with hot coffee, I proceeded through a fragrant forest of fir and spruce trees to the Cliff Tops beyond the lodge and would have lingered at the summit if a massive rainstorm hadn't sent me scurrying back down. I wasn't fast enough, and got drenched even though I huddled for a couple of hours in the shelter of those majestic Alum Cave Bluffs.

Even with the downpour, the hike was worth it. For me, no matter how many times I visit LeConte, this one will be the trip of a lifetime.



SUSAN GREEN

The blooms of mountain laurel and rhododendron frame a less arduous stretch of trail up Mount LeConte.

Here are a few tips for those interested in a mountain hike:

1. Make sure you are in shape for the journey. See a physician if there's any question.
2. Wear appropriate shoes. Remember, if you're hiking on slopes, coming down can be as hard on the body – especially the feet – as going up. I went to Flint Creek Outfitters on FishHawk Boulevard near Bell Shoals Road and got hiking boots with good ankle support to keep my feet from sliding forward in my shoes on the descent. (I suffered severely bruised toes on a previous hike and vowed never again.)
3. Dress in layers. The air at the top may be significantly cooler than at the bottom.
4. Do as I say and not as I did on this one: Take a companion. Although I thought there would be plenty of traffic on the trail, there actually were periods of an hour or more when I saw no one and encountered some hazardous stretches. My cell phone lost signal about two miles from the top. Make sure someone knows when you left and when you plan to return.
5. Take snacks, water, sunscreen, raingear, a hat and a flashlight. If I had not stopped at a Wal-Mart store for a \$3 poncho before I went up, my camera and cell phone would have been soaked and ruined. And though you might plan to get back in the daylight, unforeseen delays or bad weather might find you tripping on rocks or roots in the dark.



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Community Station Notes

School starts this month – obey the laws!

It is hard to believe but school starts back this month. Following are some very important rules that MUST be followed to keep all of our kids safe:

1. Drivers must stop both ways for school buses making stops for children on roads without median dividers. Example: Bloomingdale Avenue

2. Drivers must not speed in school zones!

There are no excuses for speeding, especially in school zones. Speeding fines are doubled in school zones.

3. Notice: traffic fines have increased

For those drivers that don't slow down and obey the traffic laws, be warned – your actions will cost you!

Here are a few examples of what breaking traffic laws will now cost you:

♦ Running a red light =

\$216

♦ Failure to stop for a school bus = \$191

♦ Speeding in a school zone = \$141 up to \$416/court

♦ Child restraint violations = \$151

♦ Not wearing your seat belt = \$101

Save your hard-earned money – obey the traffic laws; respect the rights and safety of others and save lives?

A REMINDER - PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW

A friendly reminder – the primary seat belt law passed and is in full effect. In fact it has affected several drivers' budgets already. Numerous citations have been issued in the amount of \$101 each.

Surely there's something you would rather



Deputy Curtis Warren

spend your hard earned money on other than an expensive traffic citation with a possible increase in

your auto insurance rates! All it takes is simply buckling up your seat belt? We can talk about this until it snows in Florida in August but it all comes down to a simple personal decision, buckle up or pay and pay not only in money but possibly a serious injury or death!

Please note this very serious fact - Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death for Florida's teenagers and this cause of death is preventable in nearly 80, that's eighty, per cent of the crashes. Change that 80 percent into the number of teenage lives it repre-

sents and the number of families and friends that are directly affected is in the thousands.

This critical issue is very simple. Wearing set belts saves lives. It shouldn't have to take legislation or a citation to protect our teenagers. It takes them forming the right habits and parents setting the right examples. If you as parents are not wearing your seat belt, it's likely that your teens won't wear theirs.

Those of us in law enforcement know what it is like to investigate an accident scene where a teenager or teenagers have been killed and they did not have their seatbelts on. It hits you right in the gut and you just want to yell "why!" This young life could have been saved.

For you teens, maybe you don't think it looks cool to have a seatbelt on. Well, the same type of belts are used by EMTs to strap the bodies down on the gurneys so they can take them to the morgue. You decide what type of belt you want to wear. Set the right example, wear your seatbelts!

DRINKING AND DRIVING – IT REALLY CHANGES LIVES!

We've all heard many stories of how drinking and driving can seriously effect the lives of those involved in DUI accidents. There are all kinds of statistics available to prove that drinking and driving do not go together. It's just like mixing gasoline and fire. Eventually someone is going to get seriously injured or killed. In too many cases it's usually someone who is minding their own business and they just happen to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Last month a family driving in the Bloomingdale area found themselves at the mercy of a man who chose to drink and drive. He was headed north on Highway 301 and approached the intersection at Bloomingdale Avenue. The family was riding in their van and was turning east on to Bloomingdale Avenue. Because he was drunk and not able to make safe driving decisions he plowed through the cars at the intersection and into the family's van. As a result of his inexcusable actions the family's precious little 5-year-old daughter was killed and the father and two other children had to be hospitalized.

Please, those of you who chose to drink, stop and take the time to consider the consequences of drinking and driving. Once the cars are piles of twisted, broken metal and plastic and the bodies are being taken to the hospital or morgue, there is no turning back.

VANDALISM – A VERY COSTLY CRIME!

Vandalism can be very costly, not only in dollars but in how it effects the lives of those chose to do it. Making repairs or replacing property that has been vandalized is very expensive. When the vandals are found and prosecuted, if they are minors, their parents can be held liable for these costs. The vandals can also wind up with criminal records that can affect their future.

Most of you probably saw the article about the vandalism that took place in Bloomingdale back in May. Three Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Citizen's Patrol vehicles were vandalized. All of the windows were broken and the lights broken. The costs of the vandalism was more than \$6,000. Since these vehicles were used by the dedicated volunteers who work with the HCSO Citizen's Patrol, they were unable to complete their patrols in your neighborhoods.

Enhanced security measures have been taken in the area where the vandalism took place. A reward of \$1,000 is being offered by Crime Stoppers of Tampa Bay to anyone who provides HCSO with information that leads to the arrest of these vandals, just call (800) 873-8477. Calls are anonymous. Your cooperation and help are needed.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with Home Instead Senior Care of Sun City will hold the next special collection of expired and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications on Oct. 14, 2011 from 0900 to 1200 at the Hawthorne Village of Brandon Assisted Living Facility, 851 West Lumsden Avenue, Brandon. Start collecting your old medications for proper disposal and please, spread the word. Let's make your homes and our environment safer!

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Taekwondo comes to Bloomingdale

BY SUSAN GREEN

At World Champion Center in Bloomingdale, the feet kick and fists fly in a fast-paced exercise accompanied by pulsating electronic music and surrounded by neon colors.

Taekwondo Master Dongnyeok Kang stops the music here and there to mark out new directions, and then the flurry of activity starts again. As parents huddle on bleachers, watching through glass panes, children age 3 and up jump, twist and slice their hands through the air.

The setting may be far removed from the Korea of where taekwondo originated. But World Champion Center instructors say they encourage children to develop the same discipline and courtesy that accompanied the

sport at its founding.

"The Korean culture is very rooted in respect," said Sungjae Hwang, one of the school's master instructors. "We teach that."

World Champion Center opened June 30 with a summer camp and evening classes at 1015 E. Bloomingdale Ave., just east of Bell Shoals Road. In August, the center will offer after-school pickup along with a program of homework time and taekwondo workouts, Hwang said.

The center previously operated in a location on State Road 60 east of Valrico Road. The owners chose the new spot to be closer to Bloomingdale and FishHawk Ranch families willing to enroll children in extracurricular activities, Hwang said. Students range in age from 3 to 17.



SUSAN GREEN

Taekwondo students at World Champion Center pair off to spar under the watchful eyes of instructors.

Other instructors who have achieved the distinction of master are brothers Dongnyeok and Yonghyun Kang.

Although taekwondo is an art of self-defense, the sport also teaches discipline, focus and respect for parents and teachers, Hwang said. Dongnyeok Kang said youths who build their skills in the program also will have

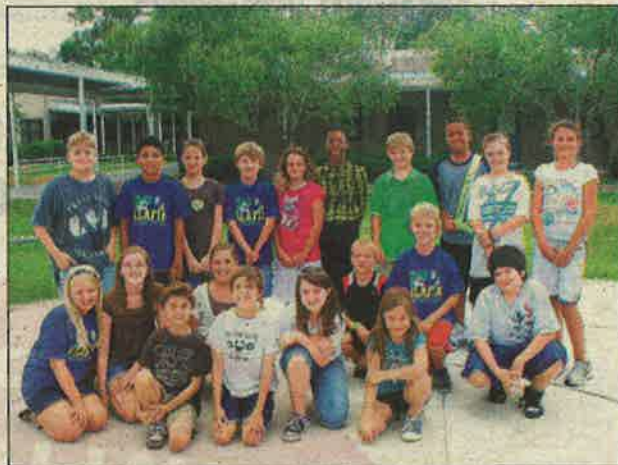
leadership opportunities in classes and competitions. All three of the master instructors majored in taekwondo at the university level and have received at least one gold medal in World Champion compe-

dition, according to information provided by the school.

Membership and program fees vary, depending on student needs and performance levels. For information, call (813) 643-4262.

20 Alafia fourth graders perfect on FCAT Writes

Alafia had 20 fourth graders who scored a perfect 6 on their FCAT Writes, the highest score possible. Two years ago Alafia had one student with this distinction, last year they had eight students. As is tradition, these students were honored as the "Principals for the Day" June 3 and later launched with Mrs. Jackson. The students who have earned this honor are (alphabetical order): Aar-



LYNN CHADDERTON

on Archuleta, Dylan Brakob, Jonathan Catala, Mason Cervi, Lauren Chadderton, Katrina Connors, Nicole Demarest, Lindsay Gaertner, Logan Halverson, Joshua Harbord, William Hutton, Evan Hy-

dock, Thomas Jensen, McKenna Lafferty, Corey Maurello, Madeline Pena, Sydney Pomerleau, Corinne Thomas, Adam Utley and Austin White.

- Alafia Principal Jackson

Second annual Back To School Bash

On Saturday, Aug. 20 from 3 to 6 p.m., Florida Life Church, 1310 East Bloomingdale Ave., will sponsor our second annual Back to School Bash.

We are giving away 300 back packs filled with school supplies to needy families in the area. There will be food, drinks and games as well. This is a completely free event. If you are struggling with getting school supplies please come and be a part of this community wide blessing.

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-L. Pittard

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