

the Bulldogs

Bark

DeSoto County High School

Page editor: Taylor Daughtrey, Marellyn Medina

February, 2016

<http://site.desotoschools.com/dHs/clubspage/Bark/barkmain.htm>

Gebeau chosen Teacher of Year

Yuritza Vargas

The life of an educator can seem tougher than you think. Being a teacher is just not about getting up in front of a class of 20+ students, or giving out homework, or grading tests. A dedicated teacher does much more than just read out of textbook, or put up assignments on a board and expect students to do them. Late nights of lesson planning, long nights of grading exams, staying late after class making sure a student understands the material; that's a teacher. Many rewarding privileges can come out of this; something rewarding as "Teacher of the Year." Given this award was to none Mrs. Jennifer Gebeau.

Teachers throughout the school are nominated by their colleagues, who believe they deserve the award. Being the Math Department Chair, it was a surprise to Gebeau.

"I was surprised to be nominated and even more surprised to win. It is an honor that my colleagues think I deserve this recognition," says Gebeau.

Gebeau has been teaching for a total 12 years, all of which have been here at this school. Although she originally planned to become an Ag teacher, she actually decided to teach mathematics.

Gebeau mentions, "I like the rules and structure that go with math. I am definitely more left-brained than right-brained."

Gaining students' interests is actually not that easy as it seems. With a core class like math, students may have trouble understanding the material being taught. In order to gain students' interest while teaching, Gebeau tries to break things down in a way that is easier for her students to understand.

"The topics that I teach are not always the most interesting..." says Gebeau. "I



Mrs. Jennifer Gebeau, teacher of the year, takes roll. Gebeau has been teaching for 12 years and all have been in DeSoto.

photo - Marellyn Medina

also try to joke around and just be myself so that students will hopefully relate to me more."

Mr. John Worthington is one of her colleagues that nominated her. She has been his colleague since he first arrived to this school, three years ago. He uses a mix

of her teaching method; and in fact, she is an inspiration to him.

"She was my mentor my first year. She's a great teacher, and she cares about her students," said Worthington.

Gebeau attended DeSoto County High School and graduated in 1997. She also graduated in 2003 from the University of Central Florida and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Math Education,

grades 6-12. Although she doesn't necessarily have any hobbies, her favorite color is purple, favorite movie is *The Notebook*, and favorite book is *Water for Elephants*. The food she enjoys eating the most is pizza, none in particular, and her favorite singer is Luke Bryan.

"I worked at a grocery store during high school and a little after. Then I worked at a bank for a few years before finishing college and becoming a teacher," said Gebeau.

Her favorite subject in math to teach is Algebra because she enjoys solving equations.

Gebeau concludes, "My favorite part about teaching is when I can see that I made a difference to a student, whether it's that they finally learned a concept they've been struggling with, or that I positively impacted their life somehow."

School grade moves up

Yuritza Vargas

Last year, our school grade was a "C." Principal Darrell Milstead is content with the fact that our grade moved up to a "B," considering in the several past years, the grade has been kept between a "D" and "C."

"It just shows how well the students and the teachers last year were working really really hard on doing that," shared Principal Milstead. "We've got a lot of room to go, but a "B" is a good place to start with."

Determining the school grade is based on several factors. Mathematic achievements, such as the Algebra I and II, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History EOC scores as well as English test scores are used. The number of students that participate in Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment, and the number of students who get industry certifications also matter. There also several sub-parts to determining the grade, such as the school's graduation rates.

As for the outcome of next year's school grade, Principal Milstead wants it to go up to an "A." He believes there is work to do. He believes there's work to be done in math scores and English scores. Attendance doesn't play a major role in determining a school grade, but if a student isn't in school, then they're not learning. If a student isn't learning, then they're not performing well. Furthermore, attendance is big on the fact that students need to be present every day to make sure they're learning what they need to know.

"We obviously have work to do in our math scores and our English scores, and all our other scores, we need to continue to

improve," says Principal Milstead. He also adds, "I think we can get to be an A school if we really work on our math and language arts skills, and keep up and keep moving our other areas as well."

Principal Milstead wants our teachers make sure they are challenging students every day, and are preparing decent lessons and giving the chance for teachers to work together to prepare those lessons. This way, it can set up to where students are engaged in what they're doing.

"A simple way to say it is, I hope students will come to school every day and do everything they can to get the information out of the teacher's head and put it in their head."

In past school years, the school has managed to earn low grades such as D's or F's, according to the DOE. The way the school grade was calculated before, was difficult to understand, rather than it is now. Reading and math efficiency was below. Now, it's important to keep these scores up, and have students follow through all four years, and graduate on time. These few things can drag down a school's grade score.

"Other than we're working in the right direction, we need to as a school really make sure we're doing everything we can to help each other learn what we need to learn, and working toward a good performance and good graduation rate," mentions Principal Milstead. "If we have every student and every teacher in this school coming to school every day, doing the right things to do, and get good grades and scores, then the grade will take care of itself."

inside

news

Clubs Raising Money..4
A-Team.....4
FFA Competes.....5
Fred Harris.....5

opinion

Tardy Pass.....2
Semester Exam Grade Policy.....2
Barks & Growls.....3
Senior Accomplishments.....3
Flashback.....3
Lunchables.....3

entertainment

EHAS: Mariela Espinoza.....7
Fall Out 4 Review.....7
Ask the Principal.....8
Cody Martell.....8
The Forest.....8

people

Alexia Clark.....8
UF and USF trips.....8

coming up

- Third Quarter Ends (3/11)
- Spring Break (3/14-18)
- Senior Grad Bash (4/23)
- Prom (4/30)

Semester exam grade percentage questioned

Taylor Daughtrey

As a student, I can vouch for the fact that tests have become a big part of our education. We have the Florida Standards Assessments, End of Course Assessments, mid-terms, and final exams. All are important because each affects us in a different way.

With our mid-terms and final exams, it has a few expectations, the first being our attendance. The state/school policy states that if we have more than nine excused or unexcused absences that students must make at least a 70 on the exam to receive credit for that class. That this is a fair policy for a couple of reasons. For one, students should be making a C or higher to pass the class anyways, so it's not an unfair

expectation that you have to make at least a 70. Also if students are going to miss more than nine days, they should know the information in the class they are missing, or getting help from either studying or a tutor.

High school is preparing us for adult responsibilities and college, so if student's are going to be absent, they need to make sure that in the long run, it won't hurt them.

A way bigger issue is how exams are weighted. We work hard all year, well most of us, to keep our grades up. This involves classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests. Our classwork and tests counts for 30% each of our final quarter grade, while homework and quizzes

are worth 25%.

The difficulty comes when figuring semester averages. Each grading quarter is worth 35% of the overall semester grade and the exam is worth 30% of the overall grade. Our mid-term and final exams are then worth 30% of the overall grade. This gives too much weight to a one time test that can severely impact a students' semester credit. This decision may be because EOC tests count 30% but students are allowed to retake those tests and not so with an exam.

If that's the reason then the state needs to take another look at the percent value and see what else that decision impacts.

Tardy students generate new policy

Marelyn Medina

Starting fourth quarter of last year, a tardy pass policy was implemented. Administration saw the need because so many students were late to class on a regular basis, thus putting test scores and ultimately graduation in jeopardy. The most important question is, has the new tardy policy improved the students attendance or not?

Freshman Jose Nuevo, "It's a good thing because, many students are tardy and they need to get to class on time to prove that they can achieve responsibility."

Although, not all statements are positive, Annie Cortes states on the negative side, "I personally don't like it because, you only get one pass per class, except first, and what if you have more than one emergency?"

There're now are more slots available in the emergency tardy pass for the first hours of the beginning of school. The

"It's a good thing because many students are tardy and they need to get to class on time to prove that they can achieve responsibility."

- Nuevo

students have to check in with attendance, with a parent note, in order to be excused. At press time, if you are late and all of your slots are full, students will receive lunch detention. Lunch detention has worked by telling the student to not be late again and to comply with the rules.

"I've had lunch detention a couple times and I've been trying hard this quarter to not get as much as last quarter," says freshmen Sofia Soto.

Overall, the new tardy policy is here to increase the students' personal responsibilities and bring improvement to the school.

Even though students disagree with the fact that the new tardy policy improves in a way towards them, the new tardy policy has had great success, therefore, showing improvement towards students. The realization of the improvement may not be noticeable, but attendance can prove that it's true. "At first I was not on board with the new tardy policy but as time went on, I realized it was a great decision for students to succeed within themselves," says junior Daniel Hernandez.

When the new tardy policy hadn't been established, the average amount of students late was 70-80 students per period. Over a school year that adds up to an enormous amount of students not receiving instruction. Now with the new tardy policy established, the average amount of students being late to school is 8-20 students. Although that too adds up to a lot of lost instruction time it's a great improvement. So it's clear the students are more motivated to get to class on time.

The tardy policy also involves a great bonus to those who make it to school on time and do not have to use their pass. If all of the slots are empty on the student's pass, even the two additional spaces that have been added, the student will receive a award. There hasn't been a set reward, but there has been word of some kind of treat being given.

There may have been a few dents in the last version of the tardy policy but as of now, that has changed, there is now a new tardy policy this year!

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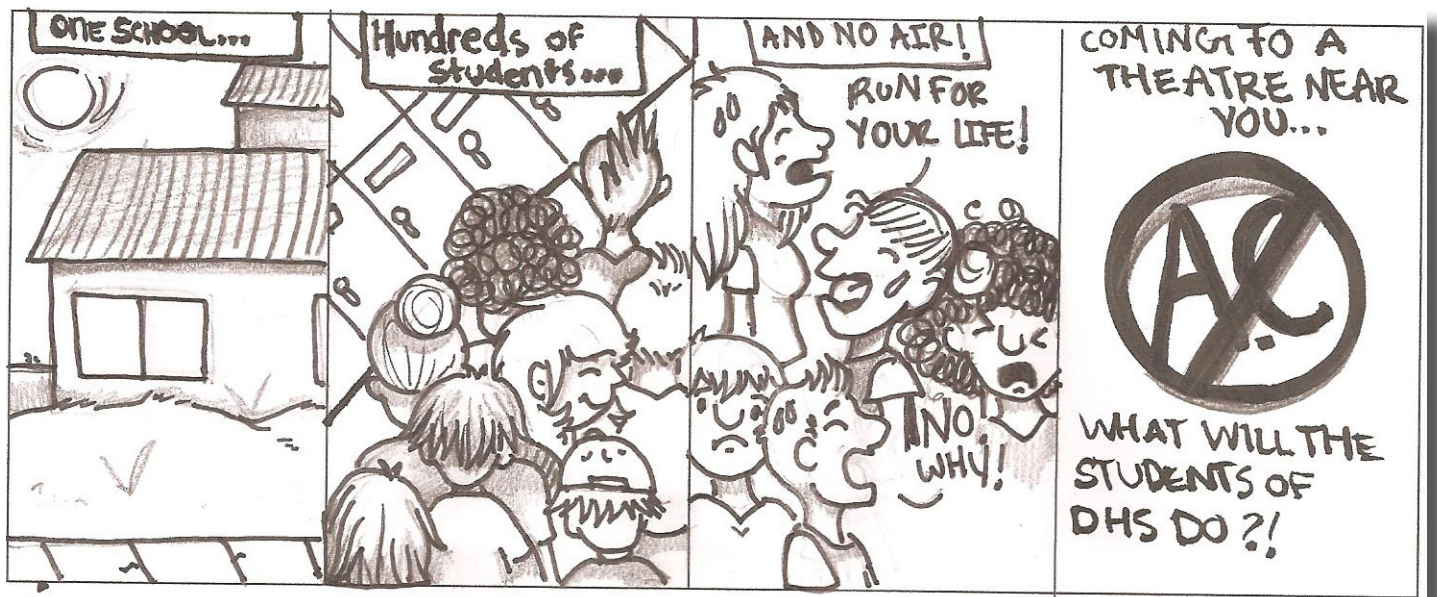
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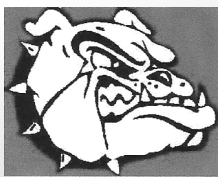
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EXCUSED LATE ARRIVAL DATE: _____ TIME: _____		DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL 2016				EXCUSED LATE ARRIVAL DATE: _____ TIME: _____		
PERIOD: _____ INS. _____		3RD QUARTER EMERGENCY TARDY PASS				PERIOD: _____ INS. _____		
PRINT STUDENT NAME		SAMPLE						
<small>This pass allows for emergency tardies for the 3RD quarter. This pass must be used within FIVE minutes of the bell. This pass allows two excused late arrivals to school per quarter with a legitimate parent note to attendance. Those can only be signed by attendance. Present this pass to your teacher or an administrator to receive an excused tardy for that specific period.</small>								
1ST	1ST	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH
DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____	DATE _____
INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____	INS. _____

Fly on the wall.... Pyper Skinner



Barks 'n Growls



How do you stack your Lunchable?

“Cracker, meat, cheese.”
-Lorena Resendiz, grade 9

“Cracker, cheese, meat.”
-Miguel Angel Guijon, grade 10

“Cracker, meat, cheese.”
-Jasmin Fuentes, grade 11

“Cracker, meat, cheese, cracker”
-Andrea Paroeva, grade 12

“Cracker, cheese, meat.”
-Alessa Montalvo, grade 9

“Cracker, meat, cheese.”
-Justin Taylor, grade 10

Class of 2016 steps outside box

Taylor Daughtrey

The Class of 2016 has left an indelible mark at the high school. From being the newbies who were trying to find their way around school, they have become a class of much success.

Many have been accepted to colleges. Sierra Pelham earned a full ride scholarship from Take Stock in Children. Stefan Williams signed at South Charleston University to play football on a full ride scholarship. Cody Martell will attend Florida Southern College with \$11,000 per year scholarship. Kirsten Ramos will attend UCF as will Miranda Corbin while Hunter McClendon got the nod at UCF and USF. Brittany Bass will attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia. Kirsten Kent was accepted to USF in Tampa.



graphic - www.libertyhighpatriots.com

Victavia Blandin, Courtney Bonville, Lauren Childs, Elizabeth Edwards, Celine Fitzpatrick, Julio Gaitan, Leticia Gracia, Alma Hernandez, Kirsten Kent, Esmeralda Mar, Deyanira Mejia, Danny Perez, Ronald Polk, Kirsten Ramos, Larisa Randolph, Daysi Rivera, Maribel Torres, Jada Ross and Yuritza Vargas all passed the state exam for Certified Nursing Assistants.

On a musical note Brittany Jarvis earned a superior rating with her French horn in Solo and Ensemble competition and will move on to state. She played “Villanelle” by Paul Dukas which is a level 7 piece.

HOSA students moving on to state in the Nursing Assistant competition is Alma Hernandez and Yuritza Vargas. with Ronald Polk-Harrison and Larisa Randolph in Home Health Aide, Moving on to state in Medical reading is Vivianna Maldonado with Kirsten Kent competing at state in Medical Terminology

Angela Martinez will compete in Medical Law and Ethics.

The following band seniors attended Heartland Honor Band: Mariela Espinoza, Jacqueline Flores, Brittany Jarvis, and Logan Longenecker, and Lauren Stewart.

Lunchables create convenient lunch package

Leslie Delacruz

Remember when your mom used to pack those delicious lunch packages in Elementary schools? Lunchables were designed by Bob Drane, Tom Bailey, and Jeff James. It was a way for the Oscar's to sell more bologna meat.

Drane had the idea of creating a convenient package lunch. They were first introduced in January 1, 1988, marketed by the Oscar Mayer's company. At this time, Lunchables started with lunch meat, cheese, and either bread or crackers. Two years later they had added desert as a side to their packages.

They went to news channels CNN in March 1997, and Sunsible Solution In

January 2010. The Mayer's Lunchables launched its national campaign with a slogan called, “It doesn't get any better than this.” From there Lunchables started to add fruits, candies, and smoothies.

How many types of Lunchables combination are there? There are about 26 different meal combinations, which include crackers, pizza, nachos, and more. Most people eat either the pizza kind or the cracker, cheese, meat. Did you know the creator of Lunchables doesn't feed

their kids Lunchables?

Lunchables help any school by raising money when they recycle the boxes. It doesn't just help schools but mothers too. Whenever a mother doesn't want to cook they can just serve their children's Lunchables which also helps them save time too. When we were younger, we loved the idea of Lunchables being packed for our school lunch, especially for field trips. Both kids and mothers love the invention of Lunchables.



graphic - www.time2saveworkshops.com

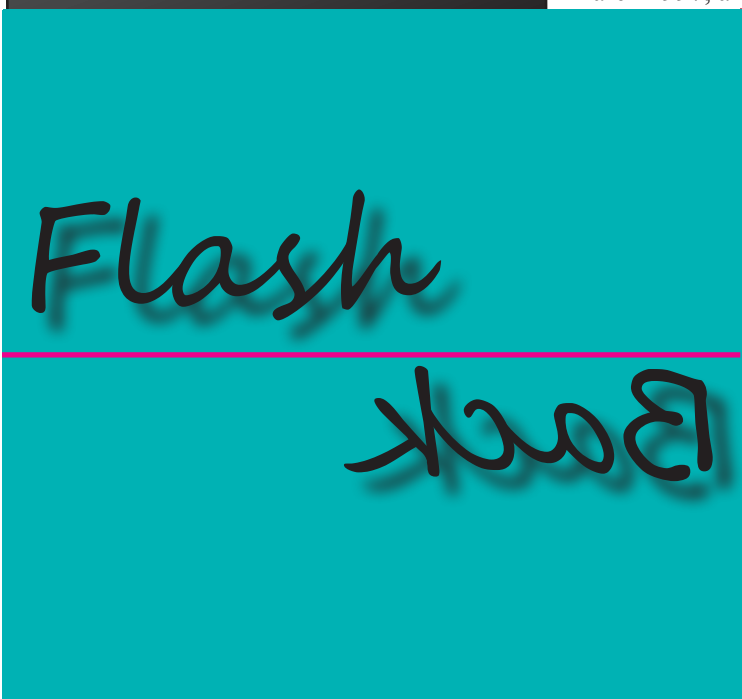


photo - Taylor Daughtrey

Mrs. Adlin Figueroa's door in the pink won first place in most original and best overall for the Christmas door competition. The underwater themed door up above, Mrs. Carole Zawacki's class won second place overall and also in most original.

photo - Taylor Daughtrey

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Fundraising for clubs isn't always fun

Pyper Skinner

Joining a club is an easy task, but being able to pay and fundraise for them is the hard part. All clubs have some sort of admissions fee or commonly known as dues. Dues are paid because each club has their own goal for the year. Most clubs have you pay dues so a club shirt maybe possible. Dues can help with paying for future activities.

These future activities can also be paid for by fundraising.

Basically students sell products or consumer goods. Some of the said products are shirts for the student body or even selling stickers for the stu-

dents drivers. The most common consumer goods sold throughout school would be chips and candy. Occasionally, students are able to purchase a soda of their choosing or go the healthier route with a nice, cold, bottle of water. In the end, fundraising isn't that easy.

The main things potential sellers must know is what do the people want, what's going to sell, or

simply "what's hot". After choosing what to sell, prices must be labeled on each product that is eligible for purchase. Clubs often tend to sell the same snack or beverage but, there are some clubs that take that extra step. FBLA and A-Team take fundraising to a whole new level of deliciousness. Unlike the normal chips, candy, and soda, FBLA sells nachos for \$1.50 every Thursday of every week. They predominantly sell in front of the entrance to the office.

On a similar note, the A-team sells popcorn and sometimes specials

such as homemade cupcakes, authentic quesadillas, and rice water, as well as regular bottled water and soda. Popcorn is sold for a dollar a bag but, if students are looking to spice it up and extra .50 cents is added. Same goes with the cupcakes and quesadillas. For all beverages the price is .50 cents each. They sell every day right after the last bell rings. The A-team can be

found stationed in the commons outside the main hallway.

The more commonly purchased items such as chips, sodas, and candy, can all be found in Mrs. Stephanie Heuer's and Mrs. Julie Chidsey's. Chidsey stated "I started fundraising last year for Cross Country's uniforms and invitational fees for meets."

Chidsey went on to say that once students found out about the goodies she had a constant, equal flow from students coming in and purchasing their snacks. "It was hard to fundraise or get sponsored outside of school because our small community is tapped," says Chidsey. Just like Chidsey, Heuer also fundraises for her Art club. Heuer uses the money to help pay for club shirts as well as helping out with field trips to Art museums.

While the members still pay for some admissions fee the money made still makes a bit of leeway. When it is all said and done joining a new club isn't just about the sponsorships and the fundraising but about having a great experience. Also learning about new things and going through the motions with people that enjoy the same thing.



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A-Team wins big at memorial tournament

Taylor Daughtrey

The third John Schudel Memorial Academic Team Tournament was held at DeSoto County High School with eighteen teams competing.

DeSoto fielded both an A and a B team; the A team tied for fifth place. In the individual statistics team, Captain Blaine Wallace, a Junior placed fifth out of a total of 90 competitors. The captain of the B team, Junior Emily Beard placed tenth.

Students came from the following public and private high schools: DeSoto, Bishop Verot, Lemon Bay, Naples Community School, Hardee, Santa Fe (Lakeland), Chain of Lakes (Polk County), South Fork (Stuart), American Heritage – Boca Delray, and American Heritage – Plantation.

"My co-coach, Carolyn Crews, and I are as proud as we can be," said event director and sponsor of the A Team, Andrew Hagen.

Parents, staff members, and even students arrived at the event ready to volunteer their time to make this event go smoothly. Volunteers included: Caleb Aument, Larry Bailey, John Bois, Ama Burns, Patricia Carcomo, Cynthia Langston, Dutch Mann, Mary Martin, Sally McGill, Cynthia and Mark Mizell, Gloria Montanado, Emily Morris, Juan Perez, Catherine Reichley, Elayna Reichley, Tim Schomburg, Pat Schudel, Joel Serena, Meredith Shattuck, Anna Springer, and Sergio Villafuerte.

"We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who helped make Mr. Shoe's memorial a success. Coaches from visiting teams went out of their way to compliment us on how good the readers were, how clean the building was, how well organized it was, and how good Mr. Mizell's baked spaghetti was. What's more than all that; they were amazed at how mature and sporting the DeSoto team players were," stated Hagen.

The Suncoast Credit Union also donated another \$1,500 in scholarships to the top three performing participants of Mr. Shoe's memorial. Winners of the Suncoast Credit Union scholarships were as follows: 1st place and \$250 to Abishek Venkat Iyer of American Heritage – Boca Delray, 2nd place and \$500 to Alex Simon of Bishop Verot Catholic High School, (Fort Myers) and 3rd place to Edward Tracy Mirkin of South Fork High School (Stuart, FL).

"Thanks also to Martha-Jo Markey, of the DeSoto County Education Foundation for assisting in procuring scholarships."

The next "Shoe-morial" will be held December third, 2016. Those interested in volunteering, please email Hagen at andrew.hagen@desotoschools.com

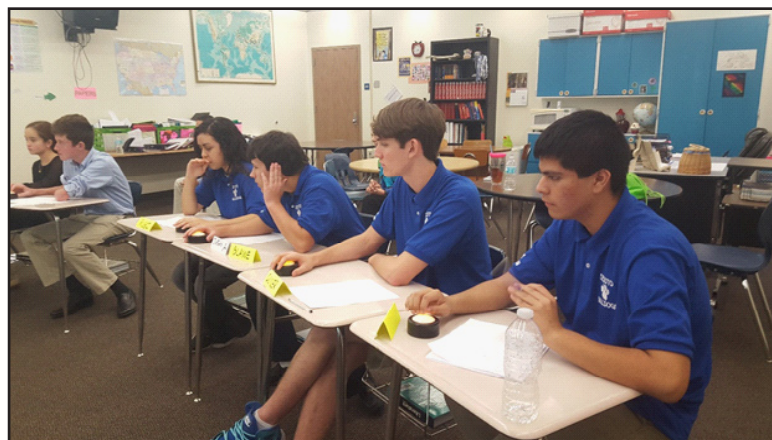


photo - Carolyn Crews

Rubi Barajas (Senior), Blaine Wallace (Junior), Oliver Carey (Junior), Ricardo Arreguin (Sophomore), practicing for upcoming competitions. They listen to the question being asked, so they can buzz in their answer before the other team.

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- FFA competes
- Fred Harris, employee of the year

Fred Harris named top employee for year

Marelyn Medina

Fred Harris is the Employee of the Year. Harris, known as the friendly all around and helpful custodian, was born in North Carolina where he attended the high school and graduated in the year of 1981. Harris is also married and has three children.

Harris has been working for 35-40 years. He previously was a mason who fixes blocks, bricks, and concrete for construction. "I've had a lot of jobs which makes me more well rounded," said Harris.

"He's been at the high school for 4 1/2 years," Mrs. Cynthia Barrera, Dean, stated, "He does everything all around the school and works hard while doing it,"

Harris added, "Working with the kids and working around the kids, is the most enjoyable part of my job!"

Additionally, Harris does have a few favorable mentions. His favorite color is red, his favorite actress, is Halle Berry. "Halle Berry is my favorite actress because, she is so beau-



photo - Marelyn Medina
Fred Harris was named Teacher of the Year. When he's not at school and in his spare time, Harris enjoy fishing at Lake Okeechobee.

tiful," says Harris.

Harris's favorite movie is, 'Tweety and Sylvester'. "The movie, 'Tweety and Sylvester' is enjoyable and hilarious," says Harris.

Sports is important to Harris. His favorite team is the basketball Tar Heels of

UNC, with his favorite college, the University of North Carolina. When he wants to relax, he lists his favorite place to vacation is Seattle, Washington. "Seattle is a very beautiful place, the air is so fresh and my experience there was

"Working with the kids and working around the kids, is the most enjoyable part of my job!"

- Harris

breathtaking," Harris states.

Favorite hobbies also include fishing and boating. That is what leads him to his biggest surprise of having the opportunity of experiencing Ice Fishing, with his friend, where he got to catch Brown Trout.

"The main place that I fish at, is Okeechobee freshwater," says Harris.

"Harris has always been friendly, helpful, hardworking, and a nice man," says Mr. Matt Kane, assistant principal.

Harris is happy to say "I am the employee of the year!"

FFA members excel to state competition

Taylor Daughtrey

In December, Future Farmers of America (FFA) members Savannah Barney, Taylor Day, Cody Martell, Riley McKetrick Macey Mullins, and Ayla Renard competed as a team in Parliamentary Procedure. Parliamentary Procedure is a way of running the meeting, also known as the Robert's Rules of Order.

"Being the only one that has competed in this competition before, I am very proud to see how well the team has come together and improved as a whole for the better of the group. We are truly a winning family team," stated Martell.

Stephanie Whitmore was the Creed Speaker. Creed speakers compete and are judged on accuracy and how the speaker delivers the Creed. The FFA Creed was written in 1928, but adopted in 1930. It has only been revised twice at the 1938 and 1963 conventions. "It was my first time competing, so I was very nervous. I didn't think that I was going to win because one of the questions at the end were tricky, but I was so surprised and thrilled that I did!" said Whitmore.

Laryn Skinner competed in the Prepared Public Speaking. A prepared public speaker writes their own six to eight minute speech. The speech can be about anything dealing with agriculture. Skinner talked about her journey through life as an FFA member. "FFA has done a lot for me, including helping me on a personal level, so I wanted to tell the judges more than just facts. I wanted to let them know that FFA is more than workshops, that it helps you become a better person," Skinner explained.

Edgar Santana was the Extemporaneous Speaker. In this competition the speakers were given a prompt and each speaker had to write a speech in 30 minutes. Once they wrote the speech, they had to present it to the judges.

"Even though it was my second time competing, I panicked once it was my turn. The experience was well worth it and I know that each time I compete, I will improve," explained Santana.

Cody Fussell also competed in a tractor driving competition. Fussell had to take a test before he was able to drive. The test was given to make sure that competitors knew the safety precautions of tractor use and how to operate the machine properly. This competition consisted of driving a tractor with a trailer hooked up to it. They had to drive the tractor and trailer through a course. "It's always a good day to drive a 6.0," exclaimed Fussell.

All members who competed in sub-districts placed. The Parliamen-

tary Procedure team compose of Fussell, Mullins, and Whitmore placed first in their category. Santana placed third for his speech.

All FFA members who competed were able to repeat their first place finish in their category again, making them eligible to compete at state.

"DeSoto Senior FFA has never worked so hard! The students drive to succeed is amazing and I look forward to seeing what's yet to come at state," said FFA advisor Christi Pryor.



photo - Beth Fussell
Cody Fussell, Cody Matell, Pyper Skinner, Savanna Barney, Taylor Day, Ayla Reynard, Macey Mullins, Christi Pryor, Riley McKetrick, and Stephanie Whitmore represented local chapter at district competition. For the first year ever, everyone who competed won.

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- Alexia Clark
- College trips

Page editor: Marelyn Medina, Pyper Skinner

Bulldog's Bark

February 2016

Expanding her horizons; Alexia Clark goes to Virginia

Pyper Skinner

Toward the end of high school, it is a good idea to visit colleges. While academics are the number one reason to choose a college, several other factors will affect your experience. Many colleges are on the same academic level regarding your potential major, and the differences in atmosphere will determine your ultimate choice. Just like many other students Alexia Clark plans on attending a college.

So just like her a great deal of students went on college trips to see how life is like on a more mature campus. Going on college trips is a key part of deciding which college to go to or if seeing if college is a good fit for you. It is also a great way to get more information about a certain school that interests you because you can get an abundant amount of answers in person.

For her college trip, Clark went to George Mason University in Fairfax, VA on July 17-23. The campus is only 15 minutes away from Washington D.C. Clark said, "The campus is roughly the same size of the University of South Florida's campus." Clark thought the campus was going to be really small since she hadn't heard of this particular college before. "It's really pretty with a lot of forestry", says Clark. Throughout the trip they toured the capital, went on a moon light monument tour around the national mall. In which they saw the Lincoln Memorial and Jefferson the

"The campus is roughly the same size of the University of South Florida's campus."

- Alexia Clark

World War II Memorial. She goes on to say that her first impression was "really good as everyone; the staff and the people I met were super nice from the night I got there."

Don't forget to get business cards, too, so you'll have a real, live contact if you have a question about admission or financial aid. Student newspapers and activity calendars give you a sense of what campus life is really like. Check out bulletin

boards to see what bands are coming to the campus, what parties are advertised, what internships are posted and generally what the day-to-day

energy of the place.

To prepare for this trip Clark raised the money by selling candy at her church and her mother's job at Desoto Memorial Hospital. "I also had a go fund me account so people could donate online as well as help from my mentor Ms. Ashley. My other mentor Ms. Terri Womack sponsored me for my deposit and the plane ticket.

On the trip Clark says she met Pulitzer Prize win-

ning photographer, Carol Guzy. She continues with how Guzy showed the audience some of her work which had them all in tears. A quote from Guzy's speech that stuck with Clark was, "It's not about you, it's not about the pictures you take, you're the vehicle telling these stories." She also met Sonya Ross at the National Press Club." During Ross's speech Clark says that she told them to repeat "I have no limits. Where I start is not where I will finish. The world is bigger than the here and now so am I." The senior says "I used that same quote for my senior quote in the yearbook".

Her advice is if you are not familiar with college trips you should expect to start the college visits with a presentation by someone representing the campus. As you walk around, make sure to ask questions and pay attention to your surroundings.

"Make sure you are interested in some of the

activities! Some colleges allow you to attend a class, club meeting, or sports practice. You may also want to eat in the dining hall or see about an overnight stay in a dorm," advises Clark.

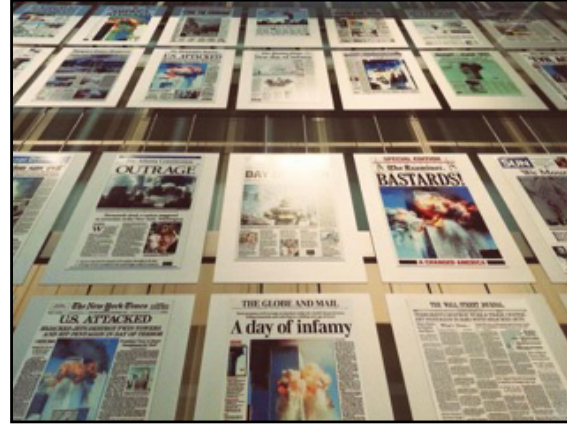


photo - Alexia Clark

On her trip, Alexia Clark went to the newseum. This photo captures the most historical front pages in newspaper history.

Students travel to UF, USF for college experience

Leslie Delacruz

The University of Florida and the University of South Florida trips give the opportunity for students to explore more colleges. Both trips are a part of the curriculum through the graduation coach Laurel Padgett.

"To be able to qualify you must have excellent grades, attendance, and also discipline. To be a participant for the USF college trip you must be a sophomore or a junior. For the UF college trip, you must be enrolled in an advanced placement course or honors class. You have to be a freshman, sophomore or a junior. The UF and USF trips have the same requirements", said Padgett.

Sophomores, Savanna Barney and Katelyn Jordon went on the UF college trip, where they were given a tour around by a student enrolled there. During the tour, they saw many different buildings, with many interesting features. One of the buildings they saw had a square in the middle of it. Another building had a bell tower that chimed every half an hour. They watched students play a melody from a three story building. For lunch, the two saw a whole floor filled with tons of different types of healthy foods to eat.

"Everyone is friendly, everyone is like a family", said Jordon.

Both students enjoyed the trip and wished they could have spent more time because they were in a rush. They loved that the UF is always building something new in their campus.

"You can't make a small college feel big, but you can make a big college feel small", said both Barney and Jordon. Barney and Jordon would like

to thank Miss Laurel Padgett,

The students that went to the University of Florida field trip were, Romualdo Albitier, Hollie Altman, Angela Banda, Savanna Barney, Callie Cassels and Seth Collins.

Also on the trip were Jasmine Fuentes, Vianry Garcia, Jessica German, Emma Heitman, Daniel Hernandez, Kalley Johnson, Katelyn Jorodon, Kayla Lara, Gloria Macario, Jaylin Maynard, Laurel Marcer, and Emily Milstead

Completing the list of students who went on the trip were Maiminio Montoya-Vazquez, Enrique Moreno, Ja'kayla Noble, Cateria Parhams, Erika Prestipino, Alexander Reichley, Blaine Wallace, Ariana Washinton, Emmanuel Wesley, Eme Wuthrich, Sayra Zamora, and Estrella Zavala.

Those who attended the University of South Florida field trip were Halley Allen, Eppy Alvarez, Eppy Alvarez, Emillio Angel, Elisa Antonio, Gisselle Avila, Maria Barajas, Sirianeli Benitez, and Bailey Bryant, In addition to those Tiffany Burhans, Erandy Castro, Delaney Cole, Ciera Crews, Zach Dalton, Yazmin Espinoza, Jacqueline Flores, Steven Garza, Maria Jacobo, Caroline Livingston and Sha'Terrica Luther, were on the trip.

Also Miguel Morales, Heather Murphy, Shakeria Nicklow, Leigha Osceola, Amber Pelham, Oswaldo Perez, Reda Prestipino, Victoria Randolph, Elizabeth Reyes, Veronica Ruiz, Juana Ruiz, Mildred Stroman, Brittany Valdiviez, Jacqueline Valencia, Carlos Valenzuela, Eli Wilhelm, and Seth Zolkos.



photo - Laurel Padgett

On the 3 hour trip to the University of Florida 25 students were given a tour of the respected college. This is an annual trip for students interested in college.



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Mariela Espinoza wants military career

Taylor Daughtrey

Everybody has a story, no matter what grade they're in, if they participate in clubs or sports, or how they spend their free time. Each story is always unique and never starts or ends the same way.

Senior, Mariela Espinoza was born on March 18, 1998 in Arcadia and she's attended school in Desoto all of her life.

Espinoza ran Cross Country her senior year and has been a member of the Blazing Blue Band all four years of high school. During her junior year, Espinoza became a drum major. She loves to play her instrument and run whenever she has free time.

"I have played the clarinet for almost seven years and I am starting on playing the saxophone," said Espinoza.

Espinoza has traveled out of the country to Mexico, which has been her favorite place to travel. If money wasn't an object, she would love to travel to Hawaii.

"My most favorite place that I've traveled to was Camecuaro, Michoacán in México. I really enjoyed traveling there because the water was crystal clear and beautiful. I loved the environment there and really enjoyed being there with all my family," Espinoza exclaimed.

She has other favorites as well, like her favorite

color is blue. Espinoza has two favorite books which are "American Sniper" by Chris Kyle, Scott McEwen, and Jim DeFelice. The other book is "The Fault in Our Stars," by John Green. She loves the movie "Polar Express," and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Julie Chidsey.

"I loved both the movie and the book of "The Fault in Our Stars". I cried during both of them and thought they were equally amazing," stated Espinoza.

Espinoza is the oldest child in her immediate family. She has one younger sister and brother, Yasmin and Efrain Espinoza. Her favorite memory was the day her little brother was born.

"Even though being the oldest can be frustrating, I love every bit of it. Knowing that they look up to you and admire you is a great feeling," Espinoza exclaimed.

She is both excited and nervous about graduating, because thinking about the 'real world' can be scary. As it has been difficult to manage good grades and enlist in the Marines, she knows she is capable, so it

will all get done. Espinoza loves environmental science because she loves learning about nature and how it functions.

"My favorite high school memory was when I went to Disney for the very first time on a band trip," she said.

Espinoza plans on joining the United States Marine Corps. She would like to be a part of the Military Police. She decided to join the USMC because she wants to make her parents proud by facing challenges that the USMC provides. Espinoza also wants to show her family and friends that anything in life is possible, if you put your mind to it. She has started

the process of becoming a Marine, she is just waiting to enlist. If everything goes accordingly to her plan, she will be leaving for boot camp two weeks after she graduates.

"I decided to join the United States Marine Corps because I want to make a difference. I've always admired people in the Armed Forces and their bravery. I feel like becoming part of the military and defending my country is where I belong," Espinoza stated.

"I feel like becoming part of the military and defending my country is where I belong."

-Espinoza

Ask the Principal

Random students were chosen to think of a question that they would like to have answered by the Principal Darrel Milstead.

Leslie Delacruz

Why can't we go out to eat?

There are a couple of reasons that students cannot go out to eat. First, DHS is a closed campus. What this means is no-one is to enter or leave the campus without check in/out through the front office. This is for obvious security reasons. For me it's not the food that is the issue, it is more concerning to me as to what else is coming in and out of the campus. Secondly, with thirty minutes for lunch, most students simply do not have the time to get and eat a healthy lunch by going off campus.



photo - Marelyn Medina
Principal Daryl Milstead took time to consider and answer questions put to him by his student body.

Why does the dress code count for some people, but not others?

This is a perception versus reality question. The dress code applies equally to all students. While it may be perceived that only some students are held accountable, I can assure you that Mrs. Cynthia Barrera and Mr. Tim Loughren treat each student in the same way. Fact is most students dress appropriately. Other than hats on in the building, we do pretty well in

this area compared to other schools I have seen.

What sports did you play in high school, and did you go to college for it?

I played a few sports in high school. I played basketball, football and ran track. Of the three, I was better at track, and had the chance to run in some college meets while in college.



graphic - www.engadget.com

Fall Out 4

A must have in gamer world

Pyper Skinner

The new open world action roleplaying video game "Fallout 4" is ranked third for PS4 and 10 for Xbox One in the "Top 10 Global Top Sellers".

Bethesda, who is the developer and publisher of the game Fallout 4, sold 12 million copies and generated over \$750 million in the first 24 hours in retail on November 10. Those numbers obliterate the \$550 million that Activision-owned developer Treyarch earned in 72 hours, with Call of Duty: Black Ops 3.

Digital sales for this most preordered title of the year were also strong, with sales over \$100 million across digital stores. The initial release date was November 10, 2015.

The game itself is set in Boston, in the year 2287. According to reviews, the style of the

game is set to have a post-apocalyptic setting, 210 years after a nuclear war. Within the game the player's character emerges from an underground vault, and is given various tasks and quests that they need to complete to earn experience points (experience points help you level up your character). Players have the ability to roam anywhere on the map that is given to them to help complete the task. They also have the ability to customize weapons, which includes over 50 base guns options.

You can find all kinds of Power Armor throughout the game, which is a type of armor/suit that has been recreated to be more like a vehicle. It can also be modified, by adding items such as a jetpack or separate types of armor for each part of the suit.

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Cody Martell's love of racing takes him far

Marelyn Medina

Born on October 8, in 1997, senior, Cody Martell's favorite hobby is racing. His favorite part about racing is the ability of competing in races and meeting new friends.

"My family inspires me to cross the finish line, with the help of my father who helps me fix my cars," says Martell.

Martell has been racing for six years starting at the age of 12.

"I am in two racing classes, the first class is The Pro Truck Division and the second class is The Super Late Model," says Martell.

A family friend, Ross Chastain, who is Martell's favorite racer in NASCAR, at the age of 23, got Martell interested in racing. Ross Chastain is also one of the others that inspire him to become better every day.

"I better myself in racing, by practicing a lot because, my father always told me, practice, makes perfect," says Martell.

One of Martell's biggest accomplishments was winning a three-foot trophy and prize money of 700 dollars. He put the money towards more racing equipment, like gas and tires.

"I admire the year of 2011 because, that was the year where I had the most points in the championship and achieved five wins throughout the year," says Martell.

One of his favorite memories of racing was the race he participated in after taking a year off. During one of his races, he blew the car motor and at the time,

Martell and his family were searching for the right vehicle.

"It was amazing how much I loved racing again and how I was able to get right back on pace. It would drive me crazy to take a break for that long again in the future," says Martell.

Martell's favorite racecar is a Super Late Model. Currently, Martell drives in Chevrolet models.

"The Late Model is an entire different level, it is a constant adrenaline rush with the amount of power and speed that it is capable of," says Martell.

Safety requirements are to be followed to be able to race. Racers need fire shoes, a fire suit, fire gloves, a helmet, a neck brace, a safety harness, and a full containment seat.

"If I'm in a rush, I can get completely dressed with a suit, shoes, a HANS device for neck safety, gloves, and a helmet in less than 5 minutes. The biggest hassle would be trying to get the seat belt over my HANS device correctly," says Martell.

Following, the scariest race Martell has ever competed in was in the second year of his racing where he hit the wall and totaled the car he was driving.

"I only had bruises where my seat belts caught me and nothing more extreme," says Martell.

"It seems dangerous, but

the car and my safety equipment are made to protect me. People get hurt everyday doing common things, if I get hurt, it would be while doing something I enjoy to do," says Martell.



photo - Robert Howell Photography

Senior Cody Martell has been racing since he was six years old. One of Martell's most satisfying accomplishments was winning a three foot trophy and seven hundred dollars to go along with it.

Review: "The Forest"- previews prove better than film

Taylor Daughtrey

Previews of movies set such anticipation for movies because they always show the best parts. That can quickly lead to disappointment when the only entertaining scenes are the ones you've already previewed a hundred times.

With that being said, The Forest lands in that category. It was written by Ben Ketai, Nick Antosca, and Sarah Cornwell. The horror film was directed by Jason Zada and starred Natalie Dormer as the leading role. Dormer was casted as Sara, a concerned twin, desperately trying to find lost sister. Jess (also Dormer), the other twin was a teacher in Japan. After Dormer finds out that her sister is in trouble, from a 'feeling' that she got, she starts to investigate. Once she finds out that her sister has disappeared into the Aokigahara Forest, which is known for suicide once entered, she rushes to Japan.

After her arrival to Japan, she tries and finds clues around her classroom, apartment, and a bar that Jess would go to, to try and understand what is going through her sister's head. While Dormer is at the bar, she meets Aiden, a reporter played by Taylor Kinney. As Dormer and Kinney are talking, we find out that her parents were killed in a car accident that was caused from drunk driving. We also find out that Jess, the missing twin witnessed the crime scene right when it happened, which explained why Dormer is so protective over her. After talking for a while, Kinney tells Dormer that she can tag along with him and a Park Guide, Michi played by Yuki Yoshi Ozawa, to find her sister. Dormer also gave verbal consent to Kinney that he could write a story on her and her sister.

The next day comes and the three venture in to the forest. It is said that if you have sadness in your heart that it is easier for the demons/ghosts to tempt you

to commit suicide. After hours of hiking the forest, Dormer recognizes a tent that is Jess' along with other personal items. Once her hope was restored, she was not leaving the forest, no matter what. Ozawa continued to warn her that the forest only gets worse at night, but she was determined to find her sister. Ozawa refused to stay in the forest after the sun set, so Kinney stayed to make sure she would make it through.



Graphic-www.comingsoon.net

While she was waiting at the campsite for her sister to return, she was awaked by 'demons' in the forest and left her tent to investigate, one of her many mistakes. After making it through many hallucinations and demons, she finally finds her sister. She is chasing her sister through the forest, but Jess thinks it's a hallucination so she keeps running until she reaches the end of the forest where she is greeted by cops and Dormers husband Rob (Eoin Macken) who had just called off searching until the next morning. Jess is informed that Sara went into the forest looking for her and her husband assured Jess that they would find her. Jess told Macken that she couldn't feel Sara anymore, and it leaves us with a twisted ending.

Overall, I do not recommend that you spend your money at the theater to watch it, I also wouldn't recommend that you buy it on DVD either, for a couple reasons. It was not at all scary, be warned though, you may jump once or twice. Also, the way the film ended made me want to go insane. The Forest was very twined with puzzling details that made you rethink everything that occurred, so if you decide to watch it, make sure you are wide awake.

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