

Higher ed briefs

FGCU hosting community research day

On Friday, the ninth annual Research Day at Florida Gulf Coast University will showcase the research being done by programs, faculty and staff at the university.

More than 240 posters will be on display from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Alico Arena, on the FGCU campus, to educate members of the public about the research and education being conducted in the hard sciences, social sciences, business, health and education. Following Research Day, FGCU will host the 13th annual Celebration of Excellence awards, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in Alico Arena.

FGCU will bestow faculty scholarship, service and teaching excellence awards and internal grant awards at the ceremony. Cash awards include a \$1,000 prize for the overall winner of the faculty Research Day poster competition, a \$500 award for faculty and staff poster winners in each academic area and a \$300 award for student poster winners in each area. Judges for the posters include a member of the FGCU Senate Grants and Research Team, the Faculty Senate president and external judges from across the country and community.

Learn to create edible works of art at LWIT

Dazzle your guests with beautiful entrées, impress your family with a personalized touch, entice your little ones to finish supper or simply add fun and color to everyday meals. Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology will be holding a Basic Garnishing class Thursday, from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants will learn to make fruit bouquets and take home works of art.

The cost is \$27 including materials. Pre-register Monday through Thursday at 3702 Estey Ave., Naples, between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., or Fridays between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Visit www.lwit.edu or call (239) 377-0900 or 377-0813.

FGCU art gallery to present senior project exhibitions

Graduating senior artists' work will be on display at Florida Gulf Coast University through May 2.

The FGCU Art Gallery will present "Finals: Spring Senior Project Exhibitions," with an opening reception honoring the pending graduates from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday at the Arts Complex. The display showcases the projects each art major must complete at the end of his or her studies.

The Art Gallery is located inside the Arts Complex on FGCU's main campus, off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, between exits 123 and 128 off Interstate 75. Parking is available in Lot 7 for gallery visitors. Visit artgallery.fgcu.edu or call 590-7199.

Edison HOPE Scholars giving back to foundation

For the school that has given them a chance, a group of students are giving back.

Scholarship students with the Edison State College HOPE Scholars program presented a check for \$15,800 to the Edison State College Foundation Friday. At the annual President's Scholarship Luncheon, the students presented the money they saved up from textbook buy-backs.

As HOPE scholars, the students have their two-year tuition and book costs totally covered. When students finish a semester, they often sell books back and pocket the money, but the students at Edison instead decided to put the money toward the HOPE endowment, in order to help more students go to school and buy books. HOPE stands for Help One Person Excel.

Friday's luncheon was also an opportunity for donors toward the endowment to visit with the students who have received a scholarship through HOPE. More than 1,200 students have received HOPE scholarships since 1993.



JROTC instructor Lt. Col. Paul Garrah said he hopes seeing the nation's national monuments and history prepare students for the "rights, responsibilities and privileges of being American citizens." **Golden Gate High School**

TRIP WITH PURPOSE

Trip »From 1B

next year when she attends the U.S. Naval Academy, said the trip gave her purpose.

"I realized what we are fighting for," she said. "It gave me purpose. Now I know what I want to do for the rest of my life. ... It was a life-changing experience."

Dolce, who hopes the JROTC cadets will come to the Naval Academy next year so she can give them a tour, said she believes everyone needs to visit the capital and see what the students saw.

"The text books teach you one thing, but to see it is entirely different," she said.

To pay for the trip, the students donated hundreds of hours to participate in community

events, Garrah said.

"We could not do this without the community," he said. "These kids do not have wealthy family members. Many of them could not pay for the trip totally on their own. And not every kid that could go did go because they did not do the things that the others did to earn the trip."

To raise funds, the students worked at the Swamp Buggy Races, Garrah said. They gave presentations to the North Naples Rotary Club. The JROTC program also got donations from 30 community members of \$100 or less, Garrah said.

"People in this community really care about these kids and their development," he said. "And if you work hard, good things happen. That is a lesson in itself."

Education briefs

Recommended Reading "I Spy Fly Guy!"

Written by Tedd Arnold

From The American Library Association 2010 Notable Children's Books

Briefly, from School Library Journal (prekindergarten through second grade): "Fly Guy and Buzz are back in this outrageously funny adventure told in three simple chapters. Fly Guy's propensity to hide in a garbage can when he and Buzz play hide-and-seek results in disaster. Fly Guy is carted off to the dump, and when the boy tries to find him, he is faced with a multitude of flies that look, act, and sound exactly like his pal. And every one of those flies can call his name—Buzz! Fortunately, the one and only Fly Guy thinks they are still playing the game. He has been hanging upside down from the visor of Buzz's cap, as close as any good friend can get. There's no mistaking Arnold's hilarious cartoon illustrations, and in this new addition to a popular series, there are plenty of them to enjoy."

Nightly TV read-aloud show continues

"Storytime," the nightly television show in which community members read books to children, will continue to air at 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays on the Education Channel, cable 99.

The read-aloud show is recommended for prekindergarten through fifth-grade students.

This week's books include: "The Mysterious Tadpole," "Dolley Madison Saves George Washington," "Stanley's Wild Ride,"

"The Island of the Skog" and "The Napping House."

For information or to volunteer: (239) 377-0180, or theeducationchannel@collier.k12.fl.us.

Program to help working families fill in child care gap

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida is participating in the Child Care Executive Partnership Program, which helps to fill the gap in child care funding for working parents.

The program's mission is to "promote public private partnerships to ensure that the children of Florida are provided safe, high quality, developmentally appropriate and enriching childcare while parents work to remain self-sufficient."

All Florida businesses can participate in providing assistance to their eligible employees and for every dollar allotted, the state matches it equally. CCEP is managed and administered by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, office of Early Learning and guided by a statewide board appointed by the Governor. It currently operates a \$15 million budget.

Families are eligible if they are at 200 percent of the poverty level or, for example, a family of four making no more than \$38,700 annually. Parents participate by paying a portion of the costs based on a sliding fee scale, often times only a tenth of the regular rate.

Interested parents and employers are encouraged to contact the local Early Learning Coalition (of Southwest Florida) at 239-267-4105 and ask for Nga Cotter regarding the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership program. The Coalition will then register the company and answer any questions about sign up. New fiscal year partners are sought, with the program renewing on July 1st. More information is available at www.ccep.bz.

Seacrest School to host open house

Seacrest School will hold its April admission open house from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday. Tours will be given throughout the day. Meet current students and faculty, visit classes at all grade levels, step into an elementary Chinese class, enjoy our state of the art technology facility, tour the brand new Upper School gymnasium and science labs and discover what it means to be a part of the Seacrest community.

Seacrest Country Day School educates 595 students from preschool to 12th grade on its 40 acre campus, which is located at 7100 Davis Blvd. For more information or to RSVP contact Director of Admissions Caroline Randall at cranall@seacrest.org or call the school at (239) 793-1986.

Parent night for driver's education planned

If you're the parent of a child who just started driving or is about to do so, then you won't want to miss an important meeting aimed at giving you and your child the necessary tools to help them be safe when behind the wheel. Parent Night for Driver Education, which will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, in room 1-105 of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, 5775 Osceola Trail, will educate parents in several areas associated with teen driving. The event is expected to last approximately one hour.

Sponsored by the Collier County School District, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Nationwide Insurance and the Florida Highway Department of Motor Vehicles, the event will feature a panel of speakers including Robin Browning from the DMV, driver's education instructor Kim Francisco, Darrel Kehne and John Barraco from the sheriff's office and Greg

Spring Creek Elementary School holds auction to aid music program

By Paige Mell
Community contributor

In spite of art and music cuts in Lee County elementary schools, one south Lee school has found a way to grow its music program.

However, Spring Creek Elementary School needs the public's help to get its instrumental music program up and running, and will be holding an auction Monday for that purpose.

Spring Creek Elementary School has 119 children that participate in the band and orchestra programs, which take place after school under the direction of Christopher Parfitt. During the regular school day, Parfitt is a reading and math resource teacher.

This past year Parfitt and Principal Karen Leonardi have worked very hard at getting Spring Creek designated as a School of Instrumental Music. Spring Creek is the only elementary school with this title and program in Lee County.

"This means next year, multitudes of children who have never been able to participate in the band or orchestra programs will now have the opportunity to enroll in ensemble classes and have lessons during their school day," Parfitt said.

The school provides orchestral instruments to most of the students in the strings program, and there is a great need to purchase many more orchestral strings, especially violins and cellos (celli). The band members currently have to rent or buy their instruments.

"Additional method books for all instruments will have to be purchased in order to accommodate all of the new students entering the program," Parfitt said. "There are also many incidental items that need to be purchased, such as rosin for bows, replacement strings, valve and slide oil, a mouth-piece puller and sheet music."

The PTO is having a dinner and silent auction Monday from 5 to 7 p.m., at the school, 25571 Elementary Way, Bonita Springs. The auction and dinner will raise money to help with the needs of the program, as we feel it serves all the children and we are very excited. Reading music and playing instruments is an important creative outlet but it is also linked to improving students reading and decoding abilities.

Thomas from Nationwide Insurance. Topics such as awareness of driver education curriculum, insuring the teen driver, a parent's role in coaching your teen's driving, and traffic laws that affect teen drivers will be covered.

So if your child just received their license or permit, or if they're preparing to obtain either one, make sure to attend this event and learn about the critical areas of significance connected to teen driving.

To learn more, contact Coordinator of Student Drug Testing and Driver Education Nancy Tarrete at (239) 377-0128 or via e-mail at tarretna@collier.k12.fl.us.

Royal Palm Academy students attend high tea at the Ritz-Carlton

Royal Palm Academy kindergarten students and their teachers were treated to a very special event, high tea at the Ritz, thanks to the generosity of parent Kathleen Fabela.

Forty students enjoyed a three-tiered culinary experience, complete with hot chocolate to top off a classroom study on etiquette. The girls and boys arrived in their formal school uniforms wearing wrist corsages or boutonnières.

School Board meetings

The Collier County School Board's next meeting is 3 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, 5775 Osceola Trail in Naples.

The Lee County School Board's next meeting is 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at the Lee County Public Education Center, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers.