



The Bullpup Press

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Suwannee Middle School, 1730 SW Walker Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064

BEHIND THE SCENES AT UF

By Jennifer Campbell, Key'Arah Gillyard, and Allison Johnson

The Suwannee Middle School newspaper staff toured the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications on April 19.

The Bullpup Press staff had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the live "First at Five" newscast on Florida's 5 WUFT. Students had a rare look at the action behind the scenes of the news world.

"I loved the experience at UF. I learned so much in the few hours I spent there. I am so happy to know when I get to the college level that I have so many resources. The trip made me even more determined to succeed and pursue my dream

of being a journalist," stated Keri Marshall, Copy Editor for *The Bullpup Press*.

Students toured the college prior to viewing the newscast, learning about many parts of making a broadcast, from editing to recording. The students also visited GatorVision, the on-campus broadcast control room for live HD sports broadcasting, primarily operated by university students.

"The field trip was really fun. I enjoyed every single part of it. I especially enjoyed the live broadcast, I thought it was a fun experience seeing how the community gets the news, and it was awesome how everyone cooper-

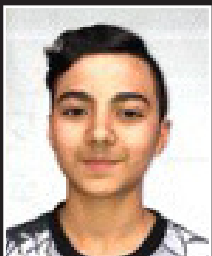
See UF on Page 4



SMS JOURNALISM STUDENTS TOUR UF
PHOTO CREDIT UF COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM TOUR GUIDE



Why do you appreciate your teachers?



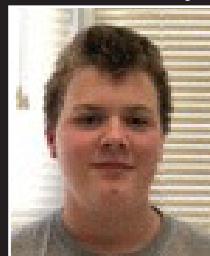
"They are nice and help me with my education."

Albert
Cornavaca



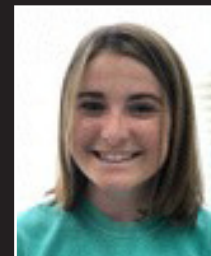
"They see potential in me I don't see in myself and they go above and beyond to ensure my success."

Paris Hall



"I appreciate my teachers because they help me work through my academic problems."

Brody Argo



"They support me in classes and in life. They do their best to make my future the best it can be."

Caroline Simpson

SMS TRACK: RUNNING TO WIN

By Mel Rodriguez



The Suwannee Middle School track teams have had an amazing season this year.

BJ Cohen, the SMS boys' track team coach, stated, "They have a great chance of winning most of the events in the State Championship. This season, 16 members

have qualified for the State Championship in the boys' track inaugural year."

The SMS girls' track team has some of the best female runners in the state. One of the SMS girls' track members, Gorjus Ward, placed first in the state for 100 hurdles and 200 hurdles.

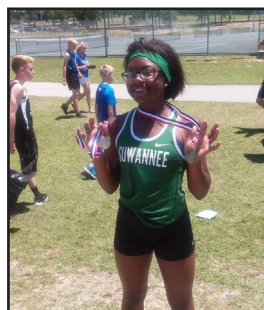
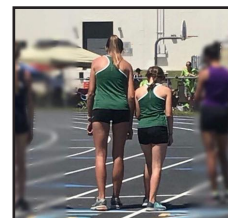
Nellie Lamb, a member of the SMS girls' track team, stated, "I had so much fun this season. Track is my life."

Both coaches enjoy watching their teams improve from the beginning to the end of the season. Kevin Lewis, SMS girls' track team coach, said he is

positive the teams are going to win this season.

"Success doesn't happen on its own; you have to make it and do all it takes to be successful," said Malik Lewis, an 8th grade SMS track member.

Both teams will compete on May 12, 2018, at the FLYRA Middle School State Championship. Good luck to all of our athletes!



Celebrating Mothers

By The Bullpup Press Staff

This month, in honor of Mother's Day, *The Bullpup Press* staff would like to honor all moms by sharing just a few of the many reasons why the mothers and grandmothers in our lives are special.

"I am so grateful for my mother and all that she does for me. I don't know what I'd do without her in my life, supporting me through everything. I love her so much!" - Emma Brown

"I love my mom! I appreciate my mom, since she is always there for me when I need her. She is the best and I love the Mexican food she makes." - Daisy De La Cruz

"My mother, grandmother and aunt have always been such great impacts in my life. I don't know where I would be without them today." - Emily

Gamble

"My mother is an outstanding mother. She has put up with three teenagers and still has been the best mother anyone can have." - Alicia Hall

"My mother is amazing, since she puts up with me. My mom is someone I can be goofy with, but also gossip with. I love you Mommy." - Keri Marshall

"My mom is a nice and amazing person. She cares for others and is beautiful." - Emily Peterson

"I love my mom. She's always looking out for me." - Mel Rodriguez

"My mother is a beautiful, intelligent and amazing mother. I love her so much and I would do anything to make her happy." - Shamira Mendoza

See Mothers on Page 3

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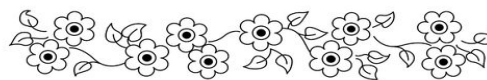
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The Bullpup is a monthly publication of the SMS Journalism Department.



LOCAL NEWS

Memorial Day Getaway

By Emily Peterson

This Memorial Day weekend, be sure to thank a veteran and most importantly, remember the lives of those who have sacrificed their lives in order to provide us freedom. Because of their sacrifice, we can enjoy quality time with family during this important holiday.

If you are looking for something special to do with your friends and family over this three-day weekend, head to White Springs, Florida, for the Florida Folk Festival at the Steven Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. This annual event focuses on many aspects of cultural heritage that make the Sunshine State unique.

The festivities kick off on May 25, beginning with opening ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., followed by performances from Renesito Avich, Dale Crider, Maharajah Flamenco Trio, TC Carr & Bolts of Blue, and Billy Dean. Other special guests throughout the weekend include Ana Cristina Cash and Gailanne Amundsen, presenting House of



Cash: A Historical and Musical Journey with John Carter Cash.

From over 300 performances to workshops on everything from playing the mandolin to making pine needle baskets, this festival will be sure to educate and entertain people of all ages. For 66 years, this event has been giving families the opportunity to make new memories together as they learn about the traditions of their ancestors, while discovering new types of music, activities, and of course, food.

Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to sample a wide array of cuisine, from curries and collard greens to shrimp gumbo and barbecue. Food vendors will be cooking up many special dishes, so treat your taste buds to something scrumptious!

Make plans now to attend this unforgettable Memorial Day celebration. Visit www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest for daily schedules and additional information on this year's festival.

STUDENTS ON A MISSION

By Natalie Smith

Suwannee Middle School's Student Council is on a mission to help as many people as they can.

Samantha Land, 7th grade Language Arts teacher, and Shawn Herring, SMS Guidance Counselor, are the two wonderful women who inspire the 30 young men and women in Student Council to improve our school and community.

This year, they organized the Ugly Christmas Sweater dance in December. Additionally, they participated in service projects, including making pet beds for the animal shelter and creating snow globes for the elderly. Another special project was Pennies

for Patients, a fundraiser where boxes were dispersed around campus. The class who collected the most change earned a reward party. All of the proceeds benefited the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help find a cure for these life-threatening diseases.

Land stated, "Students should join Student Council next year because it's a great place to come together to better our school and our community."

Student Council meets in Land's classroom every first and third Wednesday. Members eagerly come prepared to use their skills and knowledge to help make the world a better place.

Mothers, Continued from Page 2

"Happy Mother's Day, mom. You mean the world to me. Thanks for being a great mom and for supporting me in everything I do." - Julie Romulo-Vazquez

"I love giving my mom gifts. Sometimes I make her a cake or buy her a simple gift. This special day is for all of the hardworking mothers out there." - Natalie Smith

"I don't know what I would do without my mom. She pushes me to do better." - Allison Johnson

"My mom loved me unconditionally. Even though she passed away nearly ten years ago, her positive impact on my life still affects me today. I thank God for such a wonderful mom who was not only my mother, but also my friend. I'm grateful for the fact that I will see her again in Heaven one joyous day!" - Jennifer Campbell

"I am thankful for my mother being there every step of the way." - Key'Arah Gillyard

Did You Know?

According to the National Education Association, the first National Teacher Day was held in 1953 when Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded the 81st Congress to declare a National Teacher Day, thanks to Mattye Whyte Woodridge, an Arkansas teacher who wrote Roosevelt a letter in 1944.



UF, Continued from Page 1

ates to get the news out. The news broadcast behind the scenes was nothing like I expected," recalled Julie Romulo, *Bullpup Press* Sports Editor.

The UF College of Journalism is one of the nation's best journalism programs and has approximately 2,300 students working hard to achieve their goals. Students have the ability to gain hands-on, professional experiences on campus, in order to learn how the world of communications works.

"The college was really big and I had a very fun time seeing the newscast," said Natalie Smith, Photo/Graphics Editor for *The Bullpup Press*.

At the end of the tour,

students had an amazing photo shoot at the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium where the Florida Gators call home.

Special thanks to Angie Hester, SCSB District Blended Support Colleague and Suwannee Virtual School/RIVEROAK instructor, for serving as a chaperone, and to Inez Williams for providing transportation via bus.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to introduce my students to new experiences and help open their eyes to the many exciting career possibilities that are available. This was definitely an experience they will always remember," shared Jennifer Campbell, *Bullpup Press* Editor and SMS journalism teacher.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Julie Romulo-Vazquez



AL JOHNSON, SMS TEACHER
PHOTO CREDIT JULIE ROMULO-VAZQUEZ

Al Johnson teaches 7th grade civics at Suwannee Middle School. He also serves as a co-sponsor of the SMS chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Johnson has been teaching for over 30 years. He decided to become a teacher because he loves history and believes that it is important.

Since he began teaching, he has also taught agriculture, history, geography, and civics. Overall, his favorite subject is history.

Johnson shared that if he could be anyone in history, it would have to be Christopher Columbus, because he would be able to see new things no European had ever seen before.

Johnson was born in 1955. He has lived in Live Oak, Florida his entire life. His hobbies include going to church, reading, and playing chess.

According to Johnson, seeing his former students do well has been the most rewarding part of teaching.

Without doubt, Johnson is a beloved teacher on campus who makes a difference in the lives of SMS students. Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for continually inspiring students to achieve greatness!

GO BULLPUPS!

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