



4-H out to help save people's lives

By KRISTA HARRIS
The Brunswick News

Lend a hand

The Therapy Dogs of Glynn are always looking for new recruits. If you think your pooch has what it takes to make people's days a little brighter, give the organization a call.

The most important part of the test for certification is the socializing. Your dog should have the type of personality that it doesn't know a stranger. It can't be scared of wheelchairs or canes. Obedience is also a must. Obedience training is highly recommended for your dog.

Once your dog has those skills, you can travel to Savannah to be tested by the Coastal Therapy Dogs, Therapy Dogs International.

For more information, call Hank Fahl, Therapy Dogs of Glynn coordinator, at 265-8065.

School lunches

Glynn County elementary school lunches offer chef's salad plates and a choice of milk daily. Other selections available during the week of May 14 will be:

Monday

- Select 1: Crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce and tomato, steak nuggets or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- Select 2: Smiley potatoes, juicy grapes, steamed broccoli and a sugar cookie.

Tuesday

- Select 1: Shrimp poppers and fish with hushpuppies, hot dog with coleslaw or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- Select 2: Macaroni and cheese, baked beans, cucumber slices, carrot sticks with dip and cinnamon belly bears.

Wednesday

- Select 1: Cheesy beef nachos, turkey sandwich, both served with lettuce and tomato, or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- Select 2: Field peas, chilled pineapple cup, seasoned rice and a carnival cookie.

Thursday

- Select 1: Corn dog, spaghetti with meat sauce and breadstick or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- Select 2: Corn on the cob, green limas, chilled pears and clodhoppers.

Friday

- Select 1: Cheese pizza, chicken Caesar salad or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

- Select 2: Green beans, garden salad, fresh fruit and Jell-O with topping.

Teenagers around Glynn County are delving into the world of Geographic Information Systems and global positioning.

Glynn County Senior 4-H students have utilized the technology to help local residents prepare for natural disasters, like hurricanes and wildfires.

Robi Gray, Glynn County 4-H agent, said the group got involved with GIS in September 2005 when students were headed to the Georgia Youth Summit at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Weather intervened, however, and the camp was pulled in to service as a home to 609 Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

But instead of being down and upset, the students became inspired to help Coastal Georgia.

They decided to use their GIS skills, which they learned from the Orange Tide program — where they dropped oranges into area waterways to see how they would travel — to prepare residents for disasters.

The community pick-up map the group created helps those with no personal means of transportation.

It allows residents to see where the nearest pickup points are, lists Emergency Management Agency contact



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

Glynn County Senior 4-H member Laquita Ferguson practices her presentation on making disaster relief maps with Geographic Information Systems and global positioning systems.

information and prompts readers to think about making plans in advance — such as remembering that no pets are allowed on public transportation.

That's not all they're doing.

At the national level, the students are traveling up and down the East Coast teaching community preparedness GIS workshops.

The group goes by the name Pirates of Evacuation Mapping.

"They're teachers of GIS," said Gray.

Member Levi Pembroke, 17, says "it's an entertaining program."

The members of the group, who range in age from 14 to 19, train individuals with geospatial technology.

They help people plan evacuation routes and shelters by creating databases and maps.

The group just returned from the University of Nebraska where members

taught a community preparedness GIS workshop. Before they went they honed their skills by learning to develop evacuation maps and teach ArcView 9.1 through training conducted by Glynn County GIS specialist Chris Chapman.

After the success of the training in Nebraska, the National Geographic Society became interested and in September 2006 flew to Brunswick to film the 4-Hers

teaching classes in McIntosh and Camden counties.

The group was awarded \$20,000 to become part of the nationwide community readiness training program called Alert, Evacuate and Shelter.

Their first training session was in April at the University of Virginia.

The Glynn County 4-H group is the "evacuate part" of the 2007-2008 Alert, Evacuate and Shelter teams. Their goal is to assist 120 coastal counties with preparing for the impact of a hurricane.

The program will take a hiatus as summer approaches but will pick up again during the new school year.

The local senior 4-H club is comprised of teenagers from various schools and even counts some home-schooled students among its members.

Keno Terrell, 15, joined the group at the urging of his friends.

"I like making maps and going out of town," he said.

Sixteen-year-old Carrie Ma appreciates that her work with the group allows her to express her creative side.

"It isn't all about technology," she said.

"There are arts and crafts." And there are also loftier motivations.

"We're helping the community ... you have to feel good about that," said Jeremy McGuire, 16.

Samaritan's gift drives woman to future

By KRISTA HARRIS
The Brunswick News

The shock hit her with such force that she became speechless.

That one phone call changed her life.

Tonya Britt had just been given a gift of immense importance that most people take for granted. She was given a car, a 1993 Saturn to be exact, from good Samaritan Roger Frobe.

"I had a car I didn't need anymore," Frobe, a semi-retired chaplain, explained. "I thought why don't I just give it away ... I knew (STAR Foundation) could use it."

Britt is a student at STAR Foundation, an organization established in 1997 that focuses on workforce development by emphasizing computer instruction and job readiness training.

"Ellen (Murphy, executive director of STAR Foundation) called me and said, 'I have something to give you,'" said Britt. "She handed me the keys and I was like, 'No, no ... it couldn't be for me.'"

Britt remembers when she first saw the midnight blue car at the foundation.

"I was amazed," she said of Frobe's generosity. "I teared up and thought to myself, 'Look what God can do.'"

Britt was dependent on others for her transportation to and from work, to doctors offices and any other tasks that needed to be done. Now, she's gained a sense of independence and is able to drive herself around not worrying about upsetting someone else's



STAR Foundation photo

STAR Foundation student Tonya Britt sits in the 1993 Saturn given to her by Roger Frobe. Frobe donated the car to the organization after learning how it helps people learn skills to improve their place in the workforce.

schedule.

"It's had a huge impact on my life, especially my kids," said Britt, a mother of three who now is able to attend school meetings like parent/teacher conferences.

"I'm more involved with them and their school," she said.

This was the first year Britt was able

to take her children to the circus at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds. Next she's planning a trip to the Jacksonville Zoo.

"I really want to experience (the zoo) with my kids," Britt said.

Before donating the car, Frobe wasn't exactly sure what the STAR Foundation was about. He said he had

seen the organization's sign off of Gloucester Street and knew "they dealt with computers and gave computers away."

"I walked in one day and I wanted to know about STAR and Ellen (Murphy) stepped out of class and we spent an hour together (talking about the foundation)," Frobe said.

After learning about the work the group does for individuals who are seeking computer skills and job readiness training, Frobe knew where to send his car. He knew it would go to someone who needed it more than he did.

Murphy said more than 725 people have graduated from the program in the past 10 years.

"Our mission is to assist individuals in becoming financially stable through computer literacy, life skills and job readiness training," she said.

"We strive to assist our students in managing other barriers toward successful employment such as transportation, child care and professional attire."

The success rate is a 14 percent increase in salary after one year, 50 percent increase in employment after six months and 81 percent after one year.

"Over 150 students have been awarded a donated computer based upon certain requirements," Murphy said.

Not only did Britt find reliable transportation through the STAR Foundation, but she also thanks them for helping her find a job and advancing her skills on computers.

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Contact reporter
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