

Advice & More

Babysitters improve skills

Posted by Leigh Ann Estrada



Local young people recently participated in babysitters' training at the American Red Cross. The youth spent the day with American Red Cross instructor Gail Sigman learning the necessary skills to care for and supervise children and infants.

By the end of the day the new babysitters were trained in feeding, diapering, how to handle bedtime and discipline issues and important lifesaving skills.
For information on upcoming babysitting classes please call 265-1695 Ext. 19.

STAR recognizes recent grads

Posted by Ellen Murphy



Nineteen students graduated from the STAR Foundation's Employment Readiness Program, an 8-week commitment with the purpose of finding employment or a better job.
At graduation 11 students were employed and two are pursuing higher education with the remaining graduates actively seeking employment.
Ten students achieved perfect attendance and 16 were awarded donated, recycled computers for meeting certain criteria.
Established in 1997, the STAR Foundation is a non-profit organization, with a mission to provide

individuals with limited income training, education and skills that will help them become financially stable citizens and more productive employees in our community. The overview of the program curriculum consists of Computer Literacy, Financial Literacy, Life Skills, and Job Readiness.
In addition to the STAR Foundation Certification of Completion, students earned a certificate from Georgia Work Ready program.
These graduates have a wide range of professional pursuits, but all leave more confident and ready to enter the job market.

Christ Church gives to community

Posted by Barbara Bruce

The Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church, Frederica have announced the distribution of proceeds from their 56th annual Tour of Homes and Gardens and the sale of the Christ Church Cookbook.
Community outreach contributions have been granted to 23 different organizations including: Alzheimer's of Glynn, Amity House, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia, Brunswick Community Concert Association, Student Outreach Program, CASA Glynn, Coastal Coalition for Children, Coastal Georgia Youth Symphony, Coastal Medical Access Program, Ferst Foundation, Harmony Square, Hospice of the Golden Isles, Island Concert Association, Kairos Prison Ministry, Keep Brunswick-Golden Isles Beautiful - Student Recycling Project, Marty Lyons Foundation (Georgia Chapter), Misericordia (Chicago, Ill.), Morningstar Treatment Service, Our Journey Inc., The Episcopal Church of Our Savior at Honey Creek, St. Simons Land Trust,



STAR Foundation, The Gathering Place and Very Special Arts of Southeast Georgia. Pictured are **Catherine Holt**, ECW president, from left, **Nancy Goodman**, **Sue Cansler**, 2009 Tour Chair, **Cathy Foster** and **Alice Barlow**.

Business

PORTFOLIO

	June 19, 2009	
Dow Jones Industrials	-15.87	8,539.73
Nasdaq composite	+19.75	1,827.47
Standard & Poor's 500	+2.86	921.23
Russell 2000	+3.24	512.72

How the major financial markets finished the previous week

CarMax earnings fall, still tops forecasts

RICHMOND, Va. — Auto retailer **CarMax Inc.** said Friday its fiscal first-quarter profit fell 2.7 percent on a double-digit sales drop and increased costs at its auto financing arm, but the results still beat Wall Street expectations. The Richmond-based company, which operates 100 stores, said it earned \$28.7 million, or 13 cents per share, in the three months ended May 31, down from \$29.6 million, or 13 cents per share, a year ago.

House targets Fed in bank investigation

WASHINGTON — A House panel has subpoenaed documents that lawmakers say could shed new light on Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's role in **Bank of America's** acquisition of **Merrill Lynch**.
The subpoena comes ahead of a hearing in which Bernanke is scheduled to testify. Lawmakers have accused Bernanke and President Bush's treasury secretary, Hank Paulson, of pressuring Bank of America Corp. Chief Executive Kenneth Lewis into the deal and urging him to keep quiet about Merrill's financial problems.
— *The Associated Press*

Airlines raise fees while holding fares

By **JOSHUA FREED**
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — As if charging \$15 to check a bag weren't enough, two airlines are asking for \$5 more beginning this summer if you pay at the check-in counter — a fee on top of a fee.

Of course, you could always pay your baggage fee from home. The airlines call it the "online discount."

Rather than raise fares in the middle of a recession, they're piling on fees to make money — fees for bags, fees to get through the line faster, even fees for certain seats.

United Airlines alone expects to rake in more than \$1 billion this year in fees ranging from baggage to accelerated frequent-flier awards. That's more than 5 percent of its revenue.

The most likely new fees are those that some airline, somewhere, has tried. Fees usually originate with one or two airlines, and competitors watch to see whether passengers accept them or revolt. For instance:

- US Airways and United are hitting passengers up for \$5 to pay their baggage fees at the airport instead of online. United implemented the fee June 10, while US Airways will put it into effect July 9.
- If you want to select an exit row seat on AirTran and enjoy the extra legroom, expect to cough up \$20.
- Allegiant Air, a smaller national discount airline, charges a \$13.50 "convenience fee" for on-line purchases, even though most other carriers encourage purchases direct from their Web site.
- European discounter Ryanair charges for something everyone has to do if they want to fly: check in. It's 5 euros, or about \$6.75, to check in online, double for passengers who pay at the airport. Ryanair plans to eliminate airport check-in desks.
- Spanish airline Vueling charges a fee to pick a seat. Any seat at all. A "basic" seat behind the wing runs 3 euros. For 30 euros, travelers can choose an aisle or window seat and guarantee that the middle seat will remain empty.

As recently as last year, most fliers only came across a fee if they checked three bags or sent a minor child across the country. Most people, most of the time, traveled fee-free. But that began to change last spring. Spiking jet fuel prices and passenger resistances to higher fares started airlines looking around the cabin for things they could charge extra for.

Passengers are finding it's a lot easier for the airlines to add the fees than to take them away.

"They're going to keep nudging them up until they run into market resistance," said Ed Perkins, a contributing editor at the Web site Smarter Travel.

That's what happened at US Airways. It tried for seven months to charge for soda and water but gave up in March after no other airlines took up the idea. And Delta scaled back a plan to charge \$50 to check a second bag on all international flights. Instead, the charge will apply only on flights to Europe.

United has been a leader in finding ways to charge passengers separately for things. Some are for perks coach travelers used to get for free, like food. Others are new services altogether, like United's door-to-door luggage service via FedEx.

Airlines say fees are part of "a la carte" pricing that allows them to hold the line on fares. Rather than charge higher fares to everyone, they say, passengers can pick and choose the extras they want to pay for.



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