

# DOLPHIN PRIDE

April, 2010  
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Digital Design  
Class

"April showers bring May flowers..."

## It's Tax Time

### Uncle Sam wants ...YOUR MONEY!



By Lianet Fleites

Time is up! If you haven't filed your taxes you will have to get an extension from the government. This year the IRS might apply late fee penalties plus interest on taxes owed but fee penalties might not apply for those who will receive refunds. April 15, 2010 was the last day to file federal tax returns for Florida residents. If you have already filed, you may be among the lucky ones to receive your refund early. If you believe your refund was lost, stolen or destroyed, generally you can file an online claim for a replacement check. You'll need to provide the following information from your tax return:

- Your Social Security Number (or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
- Your Filing Status
- The exact whole dollar amount of your refund

Some Marathon High School students filed their taxes this year. Here are some things they said: Selene Garcia, senior at MHS said "I filed my taxes online this year, it was very easy and gave me helpful hints." Another MHS senior, Maylin Ibarra said, "I worked very diligently on my taxes, I wanted to get them finished quickly." Good luck on getting your refund and let's hope the money can help you in these tough economic times.

## 29th Annual Bridge Run

By Kaite Landry

The Seven Mile Bridge is one of the biggest tourist attractions of the Keys and is thought to be the largest segmented bridge. It connects Marathon to Little Duck Key. It was built in 1979 becoming the highest point in the Keys, only costing 45 million dollars. The Seven Mile Bridge not only represents a great amount of history, it also stages one of the most important events in the Keys, the 7 Mile Bridge Run.

Every year the small city of Marathon hosts the 7 Mile Bridge Run. There are a total of 1,500 participants coming from all over the U.S. This year, a North Carolina dentist won the overall men's division for the 5th time. Despite having a phobia of crossing bridges over water, 40-year-old Jason Bodnar managed to post a time of 37 minutes and 43 seconds.

The overall winner for the women's division was 39-year-old physical therapy technician, Marlene Persson, from Deer Field Beach, FL. Her overall time turned out to be 41 minutes and 55 seconds.

These runners proved to be in great shape and with their dedication they were able to portray how ideal fitness is a major key in winning this race.

## Earth Day: Lend a Helping Hand

By Kaite Landry



This year is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Earth is currently in a hazardous stage with climate change due to mankind. Our actions are causing Earth's climate to drastically change faster than the normal rate.

The diversity of nature is currently being threatened by human expansion and pursuit. Americans only make up five percent of the world's population,

but consume 25 percent of the world's resources.

Actions are being made to promote the necessity and importance of Green Industries. They are the choice to offer job opportunities that will produce real, exportable goods that can help save Earth.

## Earth Day Tips: It's That Easy!

By Christina Rios

- Start your efforts, and your day, with a short five minute shower.
- Go through your house and look for materials for school, work, etc. You'll be saving resources and money!
- When grabbing breakfast try to think of what you want instead of leaving your fridge open too long, to the point where you are allowing warm air to waste energy.
- When you make that tough decision on what you want for breakfast, keep in mind that fruits and veggies do not have to be wrapped in anything that is not biodegradable.
- When packing your lunch remember to use reusable containers.
- Try to buy one higher watt bulb instead of two lower watt bulbs, trust me you'll be saving a ton of energy!
- Remember to turn off all the lights, the televisions, water faucets, and try to unplug all the electrical units in your house, before you're on your way!



Bahia Honda Celebrates Earth Day!

One of the biggest EarthDaycelebrations was located at our very own Bahia Honda Park. Free parking was available with great food. Once you arrived there was so much to do! From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. this attraction was filled with fish printing, a

sand sculpture contest, live music puppet shows, and had more than 20 environmental education groups. As you can see, you learned a lot about the keys and our reefs. There was information given about marine wild life preservation and what you can do to help. Every guest was exposed to a fun day for adults and kids!

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Inside this issue:

American Dream  
p. 2  
Talent Triumphs  
p. 3  
Relay for Life p. 4

To See Our Issue  
Online Go To:  
<http://mhs.monroe.k12.fl.us/dp>  
& ASNE High  
School Journalism  
Nationwide Directory  
at <http://hsj.org/Students/>  
Students > HS/teen  
news organizations  
Search by state-  
Florida page 6

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Thank you for your support!

# April is...

## April Fool's Day

By Michelle Saunders

What comes to mind when you think of April Fool's day? Does anyone know its origins? The origins of April Fool's day are uncertain. It could be the celebration of the new season or the adoption of a new calendar. Ancient cultures, mostly stemming from Romans, celebrated the New Year on April 1st –before the calendar was changed by Pope Gregory XIII. Most people rejected the new New Year on January 1st and began to make fun of people who celebrated. Eventually, this practice spread throughout Europe and was adopted in the United States. Nowadays, this “holiday” is celebrated by the commission of hoaxes, pranks, jokes, and spirited attempts to embarrass friends. In some countries the jokes last all day, in others, they only last until noon. But whatever your prank was this year, MHS Dolphins, let's hope it didn't end up with any misunderstandings but just good clean fun.

## National Frog Month

by Maylin Ibarra

April is National Frog Month. It is dedicated to helping out scientist figure out where all the frogs are going. Since frogs are disappearing from our world, maybe they are all going to Marathon, FL. The keys have many various kinds of frogs such as, the tree frog. This frog has about 300 species throughout most tropical & temperate regions. These frogs usually blend in with their surroundings. In one certain group of tree frogs, the eggs are carried in a mass on female's back, exposed or in a pouch of skin. What these scientists are trying to do is to try

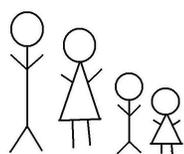


Photo courtesy of <http://www.casarioblanco.com/poison-dart-frog.jpg>

and help frogs, not just in the Keys but all over the world. There is also another group trying to help save frogs from becomin extinct. It's called, the Amphibian Project. This project focuses on saving one of the world's highly endangered amphibians, the Large-crested Toad. This organization works with all types of people- from teachers and students, to communities. The Amphibian Project is saving this type of frog one step at a time.

## Child Abuse Prevention

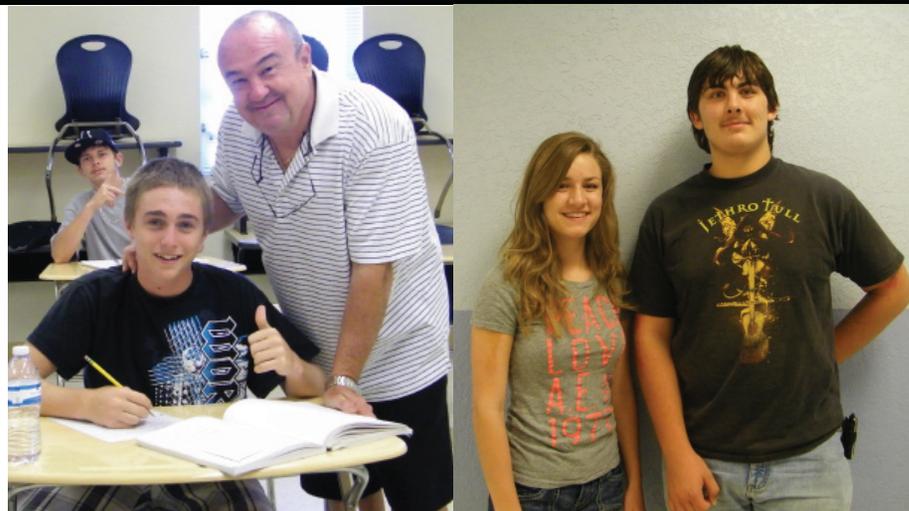
By Selene Garcia



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Florida Keys Children's Shelter is an organization that has helped children for many years. They have worked hard to protect and provide children with the best they can. Their goal is to help children and families that don't have a place to go to seek assistance and refuge, if necessary. Every kid deserves to know they're special and we can all do small things every day that help children to have healthy, safe lives and the opportunity to grow in a home free of violence. So if you're a parent going through some hard times at home don't think that you're alone. The Florida Keys Children's Shelter has voluntary placement to help you and your child.

The Florida Keys Guidance Clinic in Marathon also provides families with assistance. Furthermore, our three county high schools have a master's level life skills counselors ready to help students with problems. These counselors can be reached by contacting your local high school. Here, at Marathon High School, teachers are required by law to report child abuse if they suspect it. Students are very happy that they have others to turn to for help or just to talk to. Mrs. Matthews, Life Skills counselor, wanted to remind us that at MHS students are recommended to her by teacher or parents and friends that are concerned about kids. Also, she has been here for so long that students know where to go if they need to talk. Senior, Lianet Fleites says, “They provide help for many of the people that need someone to help them.” If you need more information please call these agencies directly, they are all listed in the local telephone directory or the Internet.

## April Accolades



**Pictured above-Left:** Congratulations to Mr. Dennis Doll for having been selected the Teacher of Year by the American Legion Marathon Memorial Post 154 in recognition of his service as a Veteran of the United States Army. He received a certificate and monetary award. **Right:** Natalie Wright, Nicholas Galjanic and Thomas Ryan (not pictured) were the winners who received monetary awards and certificates for submitting winning essays to The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) who sponsor an essay contest as part of their scholarship program. The students were asked to write an essay on "Does America Still Have Heroes." This is a county-wide contest and is open to all public and private schools. Congratulations students!

Photos courtesy of Stacie Colon and Maylin Ibarra

## OP-ED: The American Dream...

### At What Price?

By Cindy Zaldivar

Many students around the world and their immigrant parents are fighting one of the obstacles on following the American dream. Students go to school while their parents dare to go to work, praying not to be sent back to their country. People say that young kids like us don't have anything to worry about, but they're wrong. Every day it's a sacrifice, wondering if their parents will make it through the day without being caught. While the immigrants suffer from humiliation and worries, their kids do too. Watching their parents cry every night because their boss decided not to pay them or because while working under the sun, immigration officers decided to come and interrupt their work making them run and hide as if they were criminals. It shouldn't be a crime to try to find a better life.

Becoming a citizen in the United States it's not as easy as before where you could get married to an American and go through a process where they investigate if you got married for the citizenship. Things are tough for immigrants today. Joseph M. Arpio, the Sheriff of Maricopa, California had many immigrants wearing pink uniforms and handcuffs. He made them walk around with them. Even for Halloween, prisoners' uniforms were black and white and included an alien mask making fun of immigrants as illegal aliens. All of this is an insult for the immigrants who came here to pursue the American Dream.

All our United States borders are protected by the border patrol, however their job should be to protect the national security and not go after innocent people who just want a better life. There's also a border patrol in Marathon. Though it's not fair why there's a wet foot dry foot policy for specific people, I think it should be the same for everyone. I think since we're a border area the reasonable thing is to have a Coast Guard for border protection as we are surrounded by water.

Everyone has the right to try and better their future no matter who they are or where they come from; after all we're all only following the American dream.

# MHS... out and about.

## Why are gas prices so high?

By Brenden Frailey

Gas prices have been really high lately. In the spring of 2004, gas prices skyrocketed, and they never went back down. Some people blamed the war; others blamed the oil companies, which were raking in huge profits. There are two expenses involved in getting the oil out of the ground and to consumers: the oil itself, and the refining process. Crude oil itself has risen in price for two main reasons. First, access to crude oil has become increasingly tricky. Regions that produce most of the world's crude oil, like Nigeria, Iran and Iraq, are increasingly unstable. This has a major effect on the price of oil.

But even more important is the increasing demand for oil all over the world. The economies of rapidly developing countries such as India and China are growing beyond anyone's expectations. They need oil for automobiles and heavy industry, and this is putting a strain on the oil supply.

The oil itself is pricey, but the cost of refining the oil adds more than 50% to the cost. For the United States, this has become increasingly expensive over the years because we do less of our own refining. Newer and stricter EPA regulations have made oil refining more costly and less profitable for companies to do stateside. In addition to this, the recent hurricanes Rita and Katrina caused major damage to United States oil refineries in the gulf, and the oil industry still hasn't recovered.

So, what do high gas prices mean to us in the Florida Key? Well for one, people living on Big Pine Key and working in Key West have an expensive fuel cost because that's about a 60 mile round trip every time they go to work. Also, the local fisherman are affected by the rising gas prices and in turn they are raising their prices and people will think twice before paying that kind of money for a fishing trip unless they have a reputable name. For MHS students this also means more students will take the school bus rather than drive to school. So, hopefully, this summer prices will go down and we will be able to drive and plan trips without worrying about the cost.

Resources: <http://www.energy.gov/pricetrends/index.htm>



The chart on the left shows the rise and fall of gas prices over the past few years. Looks like we're headed for another steady climb upward.

Resource: retrieved from [http://www.floridastategasprices.com/Retail\\_Price\\_Chart.aspx](http://www.floridastategasprices.com/Retail_Price_Chart.aspx)

## Middle School News

### Upcoming Events:

**Dancing Classrooms District Competition in Key West- May 22, 2010**



## Talent Triumphs at MHS

By Sahalie Smythe & Cynthia Garcia



Tom Davis, Cassie Smith, Stormy Bezanis, Kyra Simcic-Swanton and Cynthia Garcia line up for a pose. Photo courtesy of Sahalie Smythe

On Monday, the 22nd of March, MHS held its first talent show. This show was put together by the sophomore class as a fund raiser. Admission was 5 dollars and all proceeds will go towards school events such as prom. The show was very entertaining and enjoyable. Marathon High has many talented singers and dancers. The contestants all did a great job preparing for this event. The top three contestants were the following: First place, Stormy Bezanis; Second, Cynthia Garcia; and last but not least, third place, Cassie Smith and her accompaniment, Thomas Davis on guitar.

The following day the top three contestants received a prize in the library for their great performances. I had the chance to interview one of the contestants after the show. I asked Cynthia Garcia how she prepared for this performance. She replied, "I practiced every day and for the previous week, we had rehearsals Monday through Thursday so I felt

as prepared as I could."

Let's congratulate our top three contestants and give a round of applause to everyone who participated. We are all looking forward to see these talented students and others perform in future MHS talent shows.

## Art Students Compete

By Chris Falcon

Every year Artists in Paradise Gallery hosts an art scholarship student show that exhibits the art talents of Monroe County high school students. The show is limited to juniors and seniors only. This year, art teachers from Key West High School, Island Christian School and Marathon High School submitted student works. They chose seniors and juniors who best represent their own individual art style. There isn't a set limit to the amount of students allowed to compete in the art show, but there is a limit to the quantity of work submitted: three per student. For each work submitted they need to be entered into one of the categories provided which are: oil or acrylics, pastels & charcoal, graphics, mixed media, traditional photography, enhanced digital photography, and watercolor. The show is in the name of Pete Rosen, a deceased local artist and funding for the scholarship was provided by a 2010 Art Auction held in March. Winners of each category, and the honorable mentions were posted Friday afternoon, April 16th. Three MHS art students submitted their works for judging. The results of the judging resulted in all three students receiving recognition. Eleventh grader, Shane DiPaolo won

first place for his work entitled, "Salvation" and Honorable Mention for his graphic, "Lady Liberty." Senior, Thomas Herb won third place for his photograph, "A View from Sombrero Beach." Twelfth grader, Chris Falcon received Honorable Mention for his work, "Tunnel Vision."



Above: Tom Herb's photo sports a winning ribbon. Photo courtesy of Chris Falcon.

# DOLPHIN PRIDE *Extra! Extra!*

## MHS Tennis

By Jose Galicia



The MHS Tennis team had their last regular season match against bitter Keys rivals, Key West. This was their last match before heading to Colonial Park for the district tournament. The Lady 'Phins dominated the Key West girls by winning all matches. The boys, on the other hand, had less than perfect matches with Weston Wiatt being the only victor. The Dolphins will now head to districts. Good Luck team and come back with a win.



Tennis Team posed above in this year's team photo. Photo courtesy of MHS Website

Good Catch! After school practice before playing Woods Haven. Photos courtesy of the Dolphin Pride staff.



## Baseball Update

By Jose Galicia

Marathon Dolphins played Palmer Trinity at home on Wednesday, the 17th. The game ended 7-3 and it also made the path to the play-offs a lot easier. Marathon will now have to face Palmer again in play-offs and a win would mean that Marathon would head to "states." Marathon will now face Woods Haven Prep Academy on Monday which is also senior night. That will be one of the last three games they will have for regular season before play-offs begin. Good Luck Dolphins!!



"Pitcher Matt McKeon tags the runner for the final out of the fourth inning in Wednesday's game against visiting Palmer Trinity. McKeon pitched a complete game for a 7-3 win for Marathon."

Caption and Photo courtesy of Dr. Kathy Lancaster

# Relay for Life

Edited by Dolphin Pride Staff

Ms. Lori Denny, MHS Health Careers teacher provided the Dolphin Pride Staff with the following description of the final events of the 2010 Relay for Life event held at Switlik Elementary School on April 9th.

"The 2010 American Cancer Society Relay for Life in the Middle Keys was a huge success. The theme this year was Paradise and what paradise is to you. The Middle Keys teams raised over \$101,000 for the cause. Ginger Snead was phenomenal with her enthusiasm and endurance to make this event successful. Many individuals, school staff, and parents in the community dedicated numerous hours or services to the cause. The MHS Captains: Acacia Grube and LaTasha Coleman; and team members worked diligently showing leadership skills, teamwork, and dedication. The Disney theme The Little Mermaid- "Under the Sea" represented what the team members felt was their own paradise."

Our MHS team sponsors –Lori Denny and Jan Dorl volunteered numerous hours behind the scenes to support the students with their goal. "MHS raised over \$1900 for the American Cancer Society and without the support of the community, staff, and parents this could not have been accomplished."

Also working for the cause was Christina Belotti who helped the MMS students as the team sponsor. Taylor McGirr, the MMS Captain and Zamaira Ricart, the Co-Captain, pulled the MMS members together to create cruism' towards a cure as their paradise. Ms. Denny was equally proud to report that, "the MMS team raised over \$1,400 for the cause and team members were excited to be able to participate in such a beautiful event. Both teams are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this yearly event to support a cause that is so beneficial to many."

The Dolphin Pride staff is also proud to have dedicated caring teachers, students and parents as members of our school. Thank you Ms. Denny, Mrs. Dorl and Ms. Belotti for your time and effort spent organizing such a worthy cause.



Anthony Green and Lori Denny do laps for the cure.

Photos courtesy of Karen McKeon & MHS/MMS Relay for Life Teams

From dancing to releasing butterflies and the glow of the luminarias, the Relay for Life event touched everyone present.