

# dolphin PRIDE

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DOLPHIN PRIDE STAFF  
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## Getting Paid & Getting a Grade

By: Brianna Packer

Getting paid while getting high school credit? It is possible. With the pre-apprenticeship program at Marathon High School, you can receive three high school credits and earn at least nine dollars an hour at a job that can both interest and educate you.

Although this program may interest numerous students, there are some eligibility requirements. You must be a responsible student, a junior or senior in high school with access to transportation, and a genuine interest in the career after graduation. After completion of the program, students may continue in this career path or choose to go on to college.

Student apprentices are graded by Mr. Naklicki, the teacher/career coordinator and the employer. This grade becomes part of the student's GPA. According to Mr. Naklicki, "Students work in a meaning-

ful position, acquire the skills to take on a position with that business after graduation, while acquiring credits toward graduation and getting paid for the reference."

Some of the positions available are lineman jobs with the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative, maintenance technicians with Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, marine mechanics with various marinas; hospitality and culinary positions with resorts and restaurants; and teller trainee positions with various banks. About eighteen students participate at this time; I had the opportunity to interview three of them to find out more about their experience in the program.



Ashley Jackson is a 16-year-old junior at Marathon

High School, and she works at Keys Insurance posting deposits, doing expiration notices, and handling the paperwork for community inspections. She has been in the pre-apprenticeship program for two weeks now. "I enjoy going to my job and getting paid while receiving high school credit." She added, "I do not plan on doing this as a career, being in charge of people's insurance is too stressful. Right now I am just participating in this program to learn about insurance, make money, and experience different career options."

Cody Stricklin is a 17-year-old junior at Marathon High School, and he works at Lobster Monster Corporation grading and packaging stone crab and lobster. Cody described the program as, "cool because I get to work,



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make money, and still get credit for school while I get the experience of the real world."

Chris Piazza is an 18-year-old senior, and he works at the World Class Angler repairing reels and helping customers. "I enjoy working there because it gives me the opportunity to experience different job possibilities," said Chris. "The program is both



fun and educational."

Being a pre-apprentice gives students at Marathon High School an extraordinary opportunity to enhance their education at school and work. Not only do these students learn practical skills, but there is also the possibility of a career waiting for them at graduation. If you are interested in exploring these opportunities see Mr. Naklicki in P25.

## TRAGIC SIGNS

By: Alisha Anisko

You've probably seen them, the small white circular signs that are positioned all along the sides of the roads. They urge motorists to "DRIVE SAFELY;" usually adorned with flowers, stuffed toys, and photos. Have you noticed how many there are? I have, and I'm stricken with a bit of remorse each time I see one, because I know what they represent, a life lost in an automobile accident in the exact spot that they are placed. These memorializing signs have been erected by employees of the state highway department since 1990. Sadly, they are only present in the state of Florida.

In the United States, the leading cause involved in accidental deaths is motor vehicles. While over 2 million people suffer injuries related to car accidents, there are more than 40,000 auto fatalities every year in the U.S. alone. As time progresses, these numbers continue to rise on a regular basis. The majority of traffic accidents result from driving under the

influence of drugs or alcohol, and otherwise careless driving. The total amount of money that these devastating accidents cost the United States is annually estimated to be over \$200 billion. I think it's appropriate to quote Bob Dylan and ask, "how many deaths will it take till he knows that too many people have died?"

I think that these road signs of remembrance help drivers grasp the concept of how many unnecessary sorrows ensue from acts of recklessness. How many signs will people have to see before they realize that if not used responsibly, an automobile is a deadly weapon?



## How to Get Good Grades

By: Sandra Day

There is no secret to getting good grades, but here's some advice from Junior Johna Rudzin when asked how she gets them. She said: "Write down all work and due dates and do all your homework because that's what keeps your grade up. Even if you're a bad test taker, homework will keep your grade up because it is a large percentage of your grade. Study moderately, (not too much or you'll get a headache), do not lose important papers, and be

prepared." How does she stay focused? Johna confides, "procrastination isn't for all, but it works for me. I stay focused because I wait till there is just enough time to do the project and then do it. The pressure helps me stay focused."

What makes her thrive for good grades? Desire for a good income, freedom from her parents, and her own want to excel. Her favorite class is math and her favorite teacher is Ms. Doll.



Johna Rudzin, hard at work

## 10 steps to succeed in school

- 1) Pay attention
- 2) Avoid talking
- 3) Do your work
- 4) Move away from your friends if necessary
- 5) Worry about yourself - not everyone else
- 6) Take good notes
- 7) Be organized
- 8) Stay focused
- 9) Participate in class
- 10) Be on time

# PRIDE OF MARATHON HIGH

## Accepted! By: Vanessa Hernandez

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is notorious for their high quality of education and their low acceptance rate of undergraduates. This college, located in Boston, is a prestigious school that has educated many highly successful people including Nobel Prize winners and rocket scientists. Thousands of high school graduates from all over the world compete each year for those few precious spots, but only a few actually get accepted. One of those lucky few was Suzie Greenman.

Suzie, a senior at Marathon High School, is a very well-rounded student dedicated to both her studies and

many extra curricular activities. She is at the top of her class and participates in many organizations including Interact and NIKE. She spent her junior year of high school as an exchange student in Germany, where she learned fluent German and experienced their unique culture. She applied to MIT with an early application.



Suzie is all smiles after learning of her acceptance to MIT

The requirements for MIT are extremely difficult to accomplish and only the most dedicated students are considered for admissions. One of the requirements was to get a high score on both the SAT and ACT. The average student in high school receives around a 1000 on the SAT; Suzie got a 1330 on her SAT. She did even better on the ACT with her composite score of 34 when the national average composite score is a 20. She also needed to take the SAT 2 math, science, and another one of her choice. Another requirement is to have an interview with an MIT staff member. Suzie's interview

was held at the University of Miami where she had to show her portfolio to this MIT staff member and discuss her accomplishments. Besides those requirements, MIT also looked at her grades and her participation in multiple organizations to see if she was a well-rounded person.

Suzie wants to go to MIT because of the excellent education opportunities and the Boston community. She said, "I can't wait to start this new experience in a new environment, and meeting different people from all walks of life." She has impressed both the teaching staff of Marathon High School and her fellow peers.

## Life as a Musician By: Whitney Dunham

Christian Davis, a renowned guitar player in town, works hard off stage as well as on stage. When he's not a part of the opening act for the Bash at the Bridge, he's attending school and working on his academics. He's a senior and a member of the school's Jazz Band. To him, Jazz Band isn't a class, it's just another time when he gets to play guitar.

Outside of school Christian plays in another band. The members of the band are MHS alumni Fred Vanderveer, Vinson Fox, and Brice Lankford. Christian also has two jobs which happen to involve music. One is teaching at the J.A.M. organization where he shows beginner

to intermediate guitar players the basics. His other job is playing for sunset cruises. Although playing guitar is a major part of his life, he adds, "my favorite thing is being with my girlfriend Mary Ellen. I love her."

Christian has been playing guitar for almost four years now. He's been strongly influenced by Jimi Hendrix, Joe Satrani, his father, and many others. Currently he is taking lessons with Kynch O'Kaine, a U.M. professor, studying the complexities of jazz and improvisation. After high school, Christian wants to take some time off and find out what it's like to be a real working class musician. He wants to attend college, but he has

not yet applied. He plans on having a double major in jazz and music education. After college, he wants to become a music teacher in an elementary school.

Christian and his guitar are never far apart



## Teacher of the Year



Jessica Richard

# Local Government Wants Pretty City

By: Lyia Stuart

When you drive down Marathon what's the first thing you notice? Is it the 1950's buildings? Is it the damage the last hurricanes have left? Or, is it the lack of plants and things like palm trees? How about the unaffordable housing? It's obvious that we need some serious help to get Marathon looking beautiful and our state and local government representatives think so too. Recently, some of these representatives came to Mrs. Loggie's American Government classes; they included our State Representative Ron Saunders; County Commissioner George Neugent; and City Councilman Jeff Pinkus.

The two most talked about topics were landscaping and affordable housing. Democrat Saunders is no stranger to the Keys, he's lived in Key

West since he was born. So presumably he would know what the Keys need to improve, like lower wind insurance and affordable housing. Saunders is in full support of FIRM (Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe) and he believes that the state's wind insur-

State Representative Ron Saunders



ance shouldn't be so high because most of the damage from hurricanes come from flooding. He looks forward to winning the battle in Tallahassee for fair insurance rates in Monroe County and all of Florida.

County Commissioner Neugent who is in charge of District 2, (from the K-Mart

traffic light to Shark Key), wants to "make Marathon and the county more aesthetically pleasing." When asked what the county was doing to make the city more pleasing, Neugent said "The



County Commissioner George Neugent

County was the first to think of putting a community park in Marathon." Neugent, like Saunders, believes things that should be on the top priority list are waste water treatment and affordable housing.

Jeff Pinkus, City Councilman of Marathon, was asked what the number one issue was in Marathon. "Getting land development regulations passed," he

responded. A lot of the buildings in the city aren't up to



City Councilman Jeff Pinkus

code and a lot of them can't and don't stand up against hurricanes. Before Pinkus's term ends in March of 2007 he and the city council plan on putting a shelter and paving the area by the bus stop after Sombrero Beach Road. This would be after getting the sewer system installed, hopefully in about three months.

It's a regular theme going on in our community. Not only do the people want attractive landscaping, but they also want to be able to live here.

## Valentine's Day: A Romantic Holiday or Waste of Time?

By: Gaby Brossard



To some, Valentine's Day is the most romantic holiday of all, full of roses, teddy bears and chocolate. To others, it is simply an overrated, Hallmark holiday. I had the opportunity to ask students around the school their opinions on Valentine's Day, and what their plans consisted of.

Senior Aaron Cherniavsky said that for Valentine's Day he is planning on spending the day with someone special, followed by a romantic dinner and a walk on the beach. Then, "to snuggle up and watch *The Notebook*." Vanessa Hernandez says that she plans on spending

Valentine's Day with her boyfriend. They plan on going out to dinner, and then going home to watch a movie, and of course eating chocolate. The majority of students at this school feel that if you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, Valentine's Day is romantic and an excuse to celebrate.

However, some students have a different point of view on Valentine's Day. Senior Abi Meyer calls Valentine's Day a "pointless holiday." She describes this holiday as either being really good, or really bad. She replies that around this time of year, you are more apt to think about

all the heartbreak and about the lack of people that actually have solid relationships. Many students such as junior Jay Hegland, say that they have no plans for Valentine's Day yet, but are hoping to find someone to simply spend the day with. As we can see, many people have different views on the true meaning of Valentine's Day, so whether it is just another day, or the most romantic holiday of all... Happy Valentine's Day everyone!



## Black History Month

By: Cassie Dickson

Established in 1976 and set in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, Black History Month is celebrated to honor the contributions African Americans have made to our country. Florida's history has been shaped by many great African Americans and the Florida Department of Education hopes that everyone will take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate their heritage.