



The Brunswick News

HANGING

Grab some joe with friends at Palm Coast

By **MELISSA MCBRIDE**
The Brunswick News

Lots of college students and young twenty-somethings in the Golden Isles – myself included – often have a hard time finding cool new places to spend time hanging out with friends.

So I've taken it upon myself to locate some fun alternatives to the movie theater.

Palm Coast Coffee, 318 Mallery St. in the Village on St. Simons Island, offers a unique atmosphere to hang out and socialize.

Along with their superb coffee drinks, both hot and iced, the shop serves delicious desserts and pastries.

Southern Soul Barbecue is located in the back of Palm Coast and there's an open mic

night on Mondays as well as live music at different times. If you are over 21, the tiny pub on the side of the building serves alcoholic beverages.

Palm Coast also offers free wireless to its customers. While enjoying your favorite cup of coffee, you can sit on the comfy couches and browse Facebook or YouTube with your friends.

Overall, the atmosphere of Palm Coast Coffee can best be described as laid-back and fun, the perfect place to catch up with friends and enjoy a good cup of joe.

Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.



ODDNEWS

Michigan teen survives lightning, then wins lottery

The Associated Press

BLANCHARD, Mich. – No one quite understands the term "striking it lucky" better than 16-year-old BreAnna Helsel.

The Michigan teen survived being struck by lightning and went on to win \$20 in the lottery the next day.

Helsel was at her home in Blanchard, about 50 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, watching thunderstorms roll by on June 6 when she noticed rain entering an open window.

"She went to close the window and the lightning came through and hit her," her mother, Linda Johnson, told The Daily News of Greenville.

Helsel struggled to describe the sensation she felt as the electricity passed through her body.

"It felt like when your foot falls asleep," she said.

Helsel said she saw the electricity shoot out of her fingers and into the overhead lights,

immediately knocking out the house's power.

At first, the teenager didn't want to be checked out at a hospital, but when she started complaining about a tingling sensation in her arm, she and her mother drove through the rain to get to Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital in Lakeview.

Helsel was checked out and the only signs of the lightning strike were some darkened fingertips on her right hand and a shaking arm from damaged muscles that will require some therapy. A full recovery is expected.

"Everyone said I'm really lucky," she said.

Hospital employees suggested that Helsel was on such a lucky streak, she should immediately play the lottery. She's too young, so her mother went out the next day and bought a Michigan lottery ticket for her.

"And we won \$20," Johnson said, laughing. "What a way to start the summer."



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Coastal Georgia Community College students Kristina Stradtman, left, and Jon-Shea Johnson are both attending classes this summer.

HIT THE BOOKS, NOT THE BEACH

College students use summer to get ahead

By **MELISSA MCBRIDE**
The Brunswick News

For most students, summer and schoolwork just don't mix.

For others, though, the call of the classroom is much too loud to ignore.

College students trying to get ahead in their classes and those who just want to put some extra hours and "boring" classes behind them find summer school is a popular option. An added benefit is that students who choose to enroll at local colleges can live at home.

At Coastal Georgia Community College – soon to be College of Coastal Georgia – the campus continues to bustle with students well after the spring semester has ended.

John-Shea Johnson, a rising sophomore at CGCC, says summer school helps him get classes out of the way so he can graduate sooner.

"[I'm going to summer school] so I can get done quicker," he said.

Johnson, originally from the Atlanta area, chose to come to Brunswick for classes in hotel management, which he named as his major.

"There were only three schools in Georgia that had hotel management classes: Georgia State, which is in Atlanta, where I'm from, so I didn't want to stay there, Georgia Southern and here," Johnson said.

Johnson chose to come to CGCC and the Golden Isles because of the large tourist attraction.

"It's a tourist town here, with Saint Simons, and there's good networking for me," he said.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Registration for Session II of summer school at Coastal Georgia Community College continues through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes run June 23 through July 28. Course offerings, class schedules and hour credits vary. For more information, go to www.cgcc.edu and click on Summer Semester Class Schedule or call 264-7253.

Johnson also wanted to go to school during the summer months so he could graduate quicker in order to begin his upcoming internship.

"I'm hoping to intern at the Crown Plaza in Hilton Head, S.C. I've already applied and now I'm just waiting to hear back," he said.

Along with taking classes, Johnson works in the college welcome center several hours each week.

This summer, Johnson is enrolled in six classes, totaling 12 hours a week. Johnson's goal is to finish school by Spring of 2009.

Said fellow student Kristina Stradtman, "He's the overachiever!"

Stradtman has been attending CGCC since spring of 2006. Because she works during the academic year, Stradtman uses summer school to "knock out classes" and make up any lost hours.

"I work during the year so I'm catching up [during the summer]," said

Stradtman.

Stradtman, who was born and raised here, is a communications major focusing on public relations.

"I'm taking three classes this summer: Two this session and one next session," she said.

Like Johnson, she also works in the college welcome center when she is not in class.

Another popular option for college students in the summer is to take online classes.

Rising junior Kailey Temmer, who attends Miami University of Ohio, chose to take a class over the internet rather than spend her summer away from St. Simons Island.

"I'm taking micro-economics 218 online," Temmer said.

However, instead of taking her online class through Miami University, Temmer chose to take it through a community college in Ohio.

"I'm taking it through Sinclair in Ohio," she said.

Temmer, who majors in social work, said the class was required for her major.

"It's four credits and they said I'd be doing about 10 to 15 hours of work a week," Temmer stated.

On top of that, Temmer works as a nanny from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. five days a week.

"It's worth it to get classes over with in half the time," she said. "It lessens the work load for the next semester."

For students still hoping to take classes this summer, second session registration at CGCC continues through Friday.

DOWNLOAD THIS | CHRIS BRENNAMAN

Imagine the surprises you'll find on an old laptop



My weekend project of getting my old laptop back up and running after its meltdown took on a life of its own when, after meeting with success, I found a folder first created about eight years ago named "Chris' Bag."

Being that it had been a very long time since I had even powered up the old laptop, let alone scanned its contents, I had no idea what I would find in a bag claiming to be mine. So with excitement, curiosity and dread (after all, anything could have been in that folder) I clicked it open.

What I found was a trove of MP3s, songs that I found myself smitten with a half decade ago (like I said, it had been a long time since my lap-

top had collapsed).

Many of the tracks gave me the warm fuzzies. There was some good stuff in there, stuff that for some reason or another I had forgotten about in recent years, while other MP3s kind of made me embarrassed for at one time thinking they were worth committing to my computer's memory.

I felt like apologizing to my laptop for having to tote them around for so many years.

Good and bad, here are some of the highlights from the long forgotten "Chris' Bag." I'll let you decide what's worth downloading yourself for posterity:

Rage Against The Machine's "Renegades of Funk" – Hadn't heard this song for years and, as it opened for me for the first time in years, I was left with a feeling of anger at myself. When that uber-hard guitar kicks in, bass blaring, you know

this song should have been a regular on your iPod since Day One. For me, this is one of the socially aware band's best.

Angie Aparo – I found out about this guy in college from one Robbie Bragdon, who insisted one night that I hadn't heard anything until I'd heard Aparo. Not bad stuff, but nothing too outstanding, either, though "Spaceship" has somehow maintained a place in "songs from yesteryear I'm fond of." Aparo is a rocker, to be sure, but a little too much on the ballad side of things. At least the older stuff I have is that way. I haven't heard anything new from him in years, so he could have changed everything, who knows?

The Ramones' cover of the "Spider-Man" theme song – The old "Spider-Man" theme song is already iconic to say the least, but to hear The

Ramones do it makes it sound like a new song all together. No, they didn't change the tune of it, they just made it sound like one of their hard core, kick'em-in-the-teeth punk tracks that everyone to this day remains amazed by. Yep, this one is a gem.

t.A.T.u. – Remember those two girls from Russia from a few years back, the ones with "All The Things She Said?" Me too, and evidently Chris of six years ago had their album. I know, I'm losing some serious street cred over this one ...

Those are just a few of the items from "Chris' Bag" and, believe me, there's more. Maybe one day we'll revisit and see what other wonders and points of shame I can dig up.

Until next time, keep the e-mails coming to downloadthis@excite.com.