



The Brunswick News



HANGINGOUT

Take time to explore your artistic side

By **MELISSA McBRIDE**
The Brunswick News



For those of you with an artistic side, the Golden Isles has a plethora of resources to keep your creative juices flowing.

The Glynn Art Association at 319 Mallory Street on St. Simons Island offers many different classes concentrating on all types of mediums.

If you're handy with a brush (or even if you aren't), the association gives several painting classes in watercolor, oil and acrylic. For those interested in getting their hands dirty, Debbie Craig teaches pottery classes for adults (high school students included) and children. Earlier this summer, the organization had

classes in digital photography and drawing as well.

If, however, your attempts at creating art prove futile, you can still check out several exhibits at the organization's office. Local artists often display and sell their artwork, including paintings, photographs, sculptures and even pottery, at the studio.

To find out more information about the Glynn Art Association and to look at a class schedule, visit the organization's Web site at www.glynnart.org.

DECISION TIME

Many young people who'll be voting in their first presidential election this November are excited about finally feeling a part of the process.

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Now that you've learned how to vote, it's time to see how politically active teens in the Golden Isles are. Some of the most frequently asked questions about this new generation of voters are: "Why are you voting?" "Why is voting important?" "Are you even interested in politics?" After talking to three young first-time voters, it became obvious that politics prevails among the area's youth.

Allison Shephard, a 19-year-old sophomore at Georgia Southern University will definitely be voting this November.

"[Voting] is important. It's important so that Americans have a say," she said.

College junior Rhett Smodic, 20, feels the same.

"In this election particularly, the U.S. is looking for a change and if people want a change, they need to take part," she said.

Rising Frederica senior, Zach Johnson, who will be turning 18 in September, agrees.

"The people get to decide who our leader is," he said.

"I'm voting because they can use my vote to win... And also because P. Diddy told me to," he added with a laugh.

Well, what about celebrity influence? Does it sway teen voters' opinions?

Rhett says no, they don't affect her. "Definitely not. They're not credible."

Allison doesn't think they influence her, either.

"No, not really for me," she answered.

But, she said, she is still interested in politics.

"I don't know everything about it, but I'm interested in current events and I'm still learning what there is to know," she said.

"I like politics a lot," Rhett added. "I keep up with it through T.V. and family conversation."

Zach, however, isn't really into it. "I don't really like politics," he said.

What about your friends? Are they interested? Are they voting?

Rhett said her friends will surely be voting.

"Yes. Definitely so. My friends and I have conversations about voting all the time," she said.

Allison and Zach said their friends will vote in the election as well.

Allison, Zach and Rhett are just three of the area's first-time voters but they represent the Golden Isles' vast youth population. After meeting with them, you can't help but hope that there are more students like them - students who want to make a difference and who want to get involved.

But one thing's for sure: It's an exciting time to be a first time voter!

HOW TO REGISTER

One easy place to start is the Web site www.rockthevote.com. They have the form already loaded and all you have to do is fill it out and print it.

When you type your address into the form, the Web site will tell you where to mail it after you've completed it. Keep in mind that the application should be handwritten and must have your MAILING address on it so that you can receive the ballot.

As a resident of Georgia, you'll need to register in state. Contact the Elections Division Office of the Secretary of State, 1104 West Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-1505 and they'll mail you a voter registration application.

After you've mailed the form back in, you should get something back from the department telling you where to go when you vote. If you are in Georgia, you just show up election day with valid identification and cast your ballot.

Georgia residents may apply for an absentee ballot starting 180 days prior to an election and ending the day before an election. The application for an absentee ballot can be found at sos.georgia.gov/elections/elections/voter_information/absentee.htm.

After printing and filling out the form, applicants should mail the form to their county Board of Registrar's office.

NETCULTURE

Facebook tells users to cut out the bad grammar

The Associated Press

NEW YORK -The online hangout Facebook is getting more serious about grammar. No more should users see jarringly incorrect declarations such as "Debbie changed their profile picture."

Users who haven't specified their gender in their Facebook profiles will be asked to do so in the coming weeks. That way, Facebook doesn't have to default to "their" or the made-up word "themself," as it had been doing.

While not knowing someone's gender poses grammatical challenges in English, it has created even larger headaches as Facebook expands to other languages, where a gender-neutral option isn't available in plural form.

"People who haven't selected what sex they are frequently get defaulted to the wrong sex entirely," Naomi Gleit, a Facebook product manager, wrote Friday in a company blog.

Transgendered people and other users who find the male-female distinction too limiting will still have the option of removing gender entirely from their profiles.

This isn't the first time Facebook, one of the world's most popular social-networking sites with some 80 million users worldwide, has had to confront

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking Web site launched on Feb. 4, 2004. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook with \$50,000 while still a student at Harvard University. Membership was initially limited to Harvard students, but later expanded to include any university student, then high school students, and, finally, to anyone aged 13 and over.

grammar.

At first, members were restricted in what they could say in "status updates" for their friends, as in, "Nick is wasting time on Facebook." Each update had started with the member's name and "is," followed by a blank box.

Late last year, Facebook quietly dropped the "is," allowing users to supply their own verb and write updates such as "Nick just wasted time on Facebook."

DOWNLOAD THIS | CHRIS RENNAMAN

Separating the good from the bad on YouTube



Everyone with a video camera and a YouTube account has at one point tossed a home-made movie onto the Internet. While many of these are literally home movies (look, the family at Disney World!), some really try to put themselves out there and show the world their inner Judd Apatow or Martin Scorsese.

The degrees to which they succeed, as anyone who's ever spent time surfing YouTube knows all too well, are great.

So I got to thinking about the really good videos I've seen, and while some of them have entered into

the cultural lexicon (ala "I'm the Juggernaut...") others have just kind of hung there in limbo. Let's take a look at some:

Lemon Demon's Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny - An animated music video that puts into action one of the most basic questions people ask when bored: who would win in a fight between so-and-so and so-and-so? Watch as the likes of Indiana Jones, Batman, Optimus Prime, The Care Bears and about a hundred others face off in this battle royal. Plus, the song is catchy enough on its own that it actually makes a really good listen.

Hatt Baby - For me, this has always been the gold standard for the videos that leave you scratch-

ing your head. Entertained, but scratching your head. I don't really have the words to describe this crudely animated yet strangely addictive video. Find it yourself to see what I mean.

Will Ferrell on FunnyorDie.com - By now the "Pearl" videos are the stuff of legend, and with good reason. Watching Ferrell get taunted by a 3-year-old portraying both an unbending landlord and then a hardboiled cop is inspired.

Asian Backstreet Boys - This classic never gets old. Never. If you've seen it, and chances are you have, you're nodding your head right now in agreement. If you haven't seen it, I kind of have to ask what rock you've been living under. And finally...

People Hurting Themselves - Let's be honest, ever since America's Funniest Home Videos, we've all begun a love affair with watching strangers get hurt, and the Internet has been there for us. Whether it's a dude taking a snow shovel to the head or someone falling down an escalator in a wheel chair, deep down, we all like watching people that are not us get hurt.

So that about wraps it up for the week. I was tempted to roll out the ultimate oldy-but-goldy "All Your Base..." but I managed to resist the urge (though to me that still remains the ultimate viral video).

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