

**READING:***Continued from page A1***Youngsters rewarded for participating in program**

available to be read to, often because the dogs and their owners take a few months off, but this is the first year the program is continuing on into the summer. The children pick a book and sit in beanbags to read a story to the dogs.

Many libraries in Alachua County have similar programs, but Pat Bellis, a volunteer who works with the dogs, says the Alachua branch program is a little special. Children are rewarded for coming to read. Every time a child reads to a dog, he or she gets a stamp on a certificate. At six stamps, the child receives a pencil with paw prints on it. At 12 stamps, he or she receives a free book of her choosing. Bellis says this reward system incentivizes both parents and children to continue to come.

Bellis said that the idea of reading to dogs started

about ten years ago in Utah. A teacher there realized many of her students were shy when reading aloud in front of their classmates. The teacher then started to bring in her dog and let children read to it.

"Kids laugh at you if you don't read well," Bellis said. "Dogs are nonjudgmental, so they make a great audience."

This sparked a trend. Bellis said that people started to realize that dogs are great in classrooms and libraries. All of the dogs brought into the library are certified therapy dogs and are vetted personally by Bellis to make sure they would interact well with children.

Lynn Carden, a library assistant who works with Bellis says she's seen multiple cases where very shy children have become more comfortable and confident readers because

of the program. Jodi Yorg, grandmother of two of the readers at the past meeting, seems to agree.

"It gives them confidence," she said. "It's something different than sitting at home in front of the T.V., and everyone who works here is awesome." Yorg loves bringing her granddaughters to the library. She says with all the activities it offers her, and her granddaughters will spend hours there.

Eight-year-old Emalina Arias says she likes coming to Read with a Dog because, "I love to read, and I like to pet the dogs."

Bellis added that the program not only helps with the children's confidence levels, but also their reading comprehension skills.

"We are not teachers," Bellis said. She described her small team as enablers. The team aims to enable children with confidence

and reading skills that will help them throughout their education and for the rest of their lives.

Bellis also said she loves what this program does for dogs and their reputations. She said that many times children come to Read with a Dog with unfortunate stories about their own dogs having died very young or running away.

"Only bad stories of dogs ever make the paper," she said. Bellis said she is proud that this program allows children to see that dogs have a purpose and they are a part of a family.

Read with a Dog will continue to occur every Thursday in July. A full list of events and specific times can be found online at [aclib.us](http://aclib.us).

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**ACCIDENTS:***Continued from page A1***Vehicle vs. pedestrian in Hawthorne accident**

consequently overturned the truck on its left side causing building materials, which were being hauled by the truck, to block several lanes of traffic.

Following the crash, both the inside northbound and inside southbound lanes were blocked off to allow for road clean up.

Jones was taken to North Florida Regional hospital with minor injuries. FHP's report stated that alcohol was not a factor in this crash. The crash investigation is ongoing.

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Also at mile marker 399, later the same day, Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) Engine 21 self-reported to the scene of a fully-engulfed vehicle fire.

A 2008 four-door Nissan was located between the on and off ramp of I-75 in the median of the northbound side of I-75. According to ACFR records, the incident was reported at 2:50 p.m. and was extinguished by 3:30 p.m.

No information was available as to the cause of the fire

was traveling southbound on State Road 20 in the right lane. Pedestrian 51-year-old Thomas Rockwell Roman of Live Oak, Florida, was walking eastbound across the southbound lanes of SR 20. The front left end of the Town Car collided with Roman.

According to FHP, Roman was transported to UF Health Shands with life-threatening injuries.

The incident is still under investigation and charges are pending. Alcohol was not a factor in this incident according to FHP's report.

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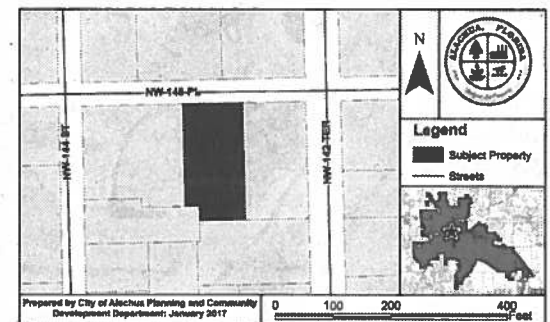
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# City of ALACHUA

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on July 11, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, to consider the following: a request by Allen and Rebecca Bates applicants and property owners, for the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a new single-family residence on a vacant parcel. The subject property is located at 14285 NW 148th Place; Tax Parcel Number 03640-000-000; FLUM: Medium Density Residential; Zoning: RSF-3 (Residential Single Family - 3).



At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

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## CITY OF HAWTHORNE, FLORIDA