

## Bobcat Briefs

### Orchestras Receive "Excellents"

Vanessa Kozey & Pam Hill

Bobcat Sentinel

"Excellent" scores were awarded to both NPHS advanced high school orchestra and seventh grade orchestra at the Florida Orchestra Association District 11 Music Performance Assessment Festival for "outstanding" performances at Bayshore High School on May 9.

In addition, the seventh grade orchestra received an excellent in the sight-reading course and the advanced orchestra received a superior.

Twelve other middle schools also participated in the festival.

### Juniors Receive Various Awards

Tom Elliott

Bobcat Sentinel

Juniors who excelled in sports and various clubs received recognition for awards given to them by outside school agencies on Wednesday, May 14, 2003. Lynn Halcomb, NPHS Counselor, presented the AIM award to Kelly Bartek and John Lees for being finalists in a Coast Guard week-long program. Bennett Gross, member of the National Holocaust Museum, gave the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award to Angelica Carr. Staff Sergeant Steve Conner handed out the National Scholar Athlete Award to Susan Colligan and Jeremy Summers. The Yale Book Award given to Kelly Bartek and was presented by Roy Wilcox. Then the Boy's State Award was presented to juniors Jonathan Vargas and John Lees by NJROTC Instructor Ron Barche. The last award presented was the HACER Scholarship that was given to Veronica Deza.

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## FCAT Creates Graduation Roadblock For Some

Aaron Burton

Bobcat Sentinel

Florida High School students may have to put their graduation plans on hold due to low FCAT scores and/or GPA's are below 2.0. The criteria for graduation has been enforced for years, and yet more and more students statewide have been unable to meet them.

According to the Department of Education, the FCAT failure rate for high school seniors is 10%; roughly 13,000 students statewide, and around 300 locally. Only 40% of those students wouldn't have graduated anyway, as they did not have the required credits or passing grades to do so, according to the state.

The main requirement that students cannot seem to meet is not GPA, but FCAT.

A few students that were interviewed thought the FCAT redundant, citing that it should not be one of the necessities for graduation.

According to one North Port High School student the FCAT testing is unnecessary to the graduation criteria.

"There are a lot of students who perform well in

their academic classes, but standardized testing just freaks them out. I don't think the FCAT should be the medium or method used in determining a student's academic level or graduation eligibility," said NPHS Junior Gabrielle Bryan.

However, other students had no problem with the test, but pointed out that the students weren't given enough time to prepare in-between subjects.

"It is too pressuring when you take a test on Math followed by reading an hour later, and then writing," said NPHS Junior Brian Fernandes.

Students were not the only ones who were less than satisfied with the FCAT, as staff members at North Port High School found similar problems, as well as new ones.

According to Diane Zweig, Career Advisor some students are better test-takers than others and in some ways the importance of the FCAT may not be stressed enough. She agrees that the FCAT should not be a factor in whether or not a student should be able to graduate.

## Students Face Summer Reading

Mathew Simmons

Bobcat sentinel

The 2003 Summer Reading List for North Port High School has been selected. Students should choose at least two books for their given grade level to read during the summer. English teachers will give students an assignment and or quiz on the books they have read during the first week of school.

For the ninth grade, reading level choices are: *The Red Pony*, *Circle of Children* and *the Martian Chronicles*. For the tenth grade, choices include: *Call of the Wild*, *the Story of my Life*, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. For eleventh graders, choices include: *Profiles in Courage*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, and *The Andromeda Strain*. For twelfth grade *Brave New World*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *a Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes* were listed. For the advanced eleventh grade reading level books include: *Invisible Man*, *Glass Menagerie*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. For Advanced Placement Grade 12 reading level books include: *Long Days Journey into Night*, *No Exit*, *To the Lighthouse*, *Poison Wood Bible*.

## Events Slated For 2003-04

Danielle Dimick

Bobcat Sentinel

Several important events have already been scheduled for the coming year at North Port High School. The second and third dates for Senior Yearbook Portraits will be July 30-31 and August 21-22 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost will increase as the dates go on starting at \$10 then rising to \$20.

School Photos for grades 9-11 are scheduled on August 27 from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Retakes for School Photos will be on Wednesday, October 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

FCAT Makeup Testing for 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be tentatively set in the month of October. FCAT Testing for other grades will be February 9-13 and March 1-12.

ACT testing will be September 27, October 25, December 13, February 7, April 3, and June 12.

SAT Testing is scheduled on October 11, November 1, December 6, January 24, March 27, May 1, and June 5. PSAT Testing is on October 18 and October 21.