Hands on Jacksonville and United Way of Northeast Florida came together Saturday to do community service in honor of Martin Luther King Day of Service. One project was the Live the DREAM Global Peace Tiles project in which children, teenagers and adults created tiles, most with themes of peace and hope, that will become part of a wall at the North Point Town Center, where the event was staged. Luke Jean (from left), Lauren Brasch, and Lynnette Guiles, all from Teach For America, work on their tiles, and Yekema Davis, from King Solomon United Baptist Church, finishes hers.

King's message lives on

Hundreds honor MLK's memory by participating in Day of Service

by David Baxem

Middle-school student Daniyah Moore glued messages of peace on a brightly decorated square-shaped piece of wood.

Around her, other people did the same on more squares of wood. Later, their art would be assembled into a giant mosaic—"peace tiles"—trumpeting the message of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I want people to read it and actually do what they're reading—nonviolence," Moore said. "You can talk and all that, but actions speak louder than words."

As Moore worked on her piece, hundreds of volunteers fanned out across Jacksonville, taking part in the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service.

They replanted a "community peace garden" that was originally planted in 2013 at Andrew Robinson Elementary School.

Finished tiles that have been covered with shells were placed on a table to dry.

RealSense Prosperity Campaign volunteers went door-to-door in Springfield, Northwest Jacksonville and East Jacksonville neighborhoods. They handed out information about free tax preparation services.

Hands on Jacksonville and the United Way of Northeast Florida organized the event. Operation New Hope also was involved with neighborhood cleanup efforts.

"Dr. King exemplified what it meant to lead a life of compassion and service," said City Councilman Johnny Gaffney, who participated in a rally that kicked off the service projects. "You are following his example by giving your time to improve our community."

Jacksonville resident Sharon Valentine said she worried that with the passage of time, King's message has lost its ability to move younger people.

"I think it has diminished because every generation is different, and there's not as much compassion now," she said.

She brought her 10-year-old son to the tile-painting session, hosted by the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development District at its building along Moncrief Road. She said she hopes her son will absorb the ideals behind King's life and they will stick with him as he grows up.

"We have to keep the peace," she said.

PEACE continues on B-3

St. Athanasius' panes remind us of the pains

BRUNSWICK, Ga. / Johnnie Mae Chappell was on a dark Jacksonville street March 23, 1964, looking for the wallet she had lost between her house and the store. She and her husband had 10 children, so its loss was enough to get her out at 7:30 as race riots raged elsewhere in town.

Four men were looking for an African-American "to get," saw her beside the road with two friends. A man in the back seat pointed a gun at her and — he said — it went off accidentally. She died that night in a Jacksonville hospital. That's how her name came to be one of 41 on a stained glass window in St. Athanasius Episcopal Church in Brunswick.

Her name is with those of Emmett Till, Lt. Col. Le- moed Penn, the Rev. Bruce Hunter, Martin Luther King Jr. and other "martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement."

The window depicts Jesus hanging on the cross and a black man and white man separated by strands of barbed wire on their knees praying. The barbed wire is a symbol of a lot of other painful things, among them nightsticks, the flashing teeth of police dogs, firehoses, segregated schools, whites-only water fountains, the base of the Birmingham jail and an explosion in a church.

The Rev. Robert H. Wright and his wife, Maude, who were members, donated the window, and it was dedicated in November 2001. Wright was an Episcopal priest who worked in civil rights in West Georgia. As most white preachers in the South made plans to keep blacks out of their pews, Wright and other Episco- palian priests worked to get them seats at lunch counters, at the front of buses and in public schools.

Before 2001, the church had just three stained glass windows over the entrance doors. Inspired by the Wrights' gift, all its windows are stained glass now, and newly installed Senior Warden Charlene Parker sat highlighted Thursday in their royal blue light.

When she was a child, Parker's family attended Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. She came to St. Athanasius in 1984 as the organist.

"When I was a little girl ... I came to a funeral here, and I heard the organ. It was so pretty to me," she said.

At segregated Risley High School, her history
First Coast Happenings

Compiled by Cindy Hallford, The Times-Union

SUNDAY
Florida Gun Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, 14 Granada St., $15, admission, $3, trade show. Contact 904-508-2100 or gsufl.org.

Beer: "The 60’s Musical," 1 p.m., Players by the Sea in Atlantic Beach, $24, 1031 30th St., 904-397-3937. Matinee: $20, 7:30 p.m., 904-397-3937.

Front Porch Chats, 2-9 p.m., Museum of Man in Historical Society, 1064 Montery Road, Festival of the Arts, free to members, $5 to the public. Bar with an interactive history discussion. Topics include: "How people coped in the 1940s," "What is the biggest change in our lives since the telephonization and electricity?" "The Politics of West England and its people and the United States during the Civil War." Program continues Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6 and March 6. For more information, visit mozarts.org or call 904-395-8888.


"Discover First Florida" Adventure Program, presented by the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration, 7 p.m., Bogert Center Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. Features "Let Florida fiction define the face of Florida," "The power of words: 6 projects that celebrate the face of Florida," Free, 904-825-2000. One-hour program followed by a Q&A session.

River Patrol Meeting, 6 p.m., River Patrol Clubhouse, 1101 River Drive, St. Johns River. Contact 904-396-7200.

Townie Tuesday at the Cafe, 5-7 p.m., Tuesday's. The Summer Conference Series continues. The Cafe, 207 20th St. S., 904-397-3937.


TUESDAY
Tuesday Nights at The Cafe, 5-7 p.m., Tuesday's, The Summer Conference Series continues. The Cafe, 207 20th St. S., 904-397-3937.


WEDNESDAY
"Let Florida fiction define the face of Florida," "The power of words: 6 projects that celebrate the face of Florida," Free, 904-825-2000. One-hour program followed by a Q&A session.

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Caroline Best, who is in her 63rd year of working for the Fernandina Beach City Commission, is the focus of a restaurant review in this week's issue of The News-Press. She has been credited with improving the city's economy and infrastructure. Photo by Nick Woikowski.