



MARCH 20, 2024

> DSPMS Heroes celebrated

QUICK RESPONSE HELPS SAVE STUDENT'S LIFE

A special recognition was held to honor the quick action taken during a life-threatening situation at D.S. Parrott Middle School in February. For their extraordinary courage in responding to a student who had collapsed after suffering from a cardiac event, School Guardian Brent Coleman, SRO Christopher Downey and staff members Dena Frye, Lindsay Weaver and Assistant Principal Ryan Wilson were recognized at the March 12th board meeting. Present for the recognition were HCSO representatives including Sheriff Neinhuis, HCSO Safe Schools staff, the student and his family. "In a moment of crisis, you displayed exceptional bravery and quick thinking, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the well-being of others," said Director of Safe Schools Brandon DeRespiris. The lifesaving efforts included CPR and multiple resuscitations using an AED by Coleman and Downey. Parrott staff were the first to respond to the student, clearing the area and calming distressed students who witnessed the event. The student was taken to the hospital via helicopter, where he spent several weeks recovering. "This group of school staff demonstrated heroism in the saving of a life of a student," said Director of Safe Schools Brandon DeRespiris. The student's mother also shared her gratitude at the recognition, "It was a couple of long weeks in the hospital. I admire about how strong he was about the situation, given his age," she said. "I just want to say thank you to everyone who rescued him...it was a life-changing experience."



> Half-cent sales tax update

CLARIFICATION PRESENTED ON UPCOMING BALLOT

The Half-Cent Sales Tax Accountability Committee presented their quarterly report to the Hernando School Board, as well as clarification on questions on the current half-cent sales tax that expires at the end of the year. Committee member Lori Sowers noted that on the November renewal, "There IS an allocation to build new schools that will be on the ballot." In the current half-cent sales tax measure, passed in 2015, HCSO cannot use those funds to build new schools - a handicap the district hopes will be remedied by the renewal that voters will act on in November. Committee member Gregg Laskowski addressed questions on the legitimacy of the tax, and presented the comprehensive list of capital projects. Some projects include: roof replacement at Nature Coast Technical High School (\$2.4 million), HVAC replacement at Springstead High (\$10 million), and HVAC at Brooksville Elementary (\$2.4 million), just to name a few. The Half-Cent Sales tax Advisory Committee meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. April 23. New members are welcome! To join the Half-Cent Citizens Advisory Committee or to see the list of capital projects and photos, visit the [website here](#).

> HHS girls wrestling sweep states

CONGRATULATIONS, LEOPARDS!

Hernando High's girls wrestling won BIG earlier this month at the FHSAA Florida Wrestling State Championship held in Kissimmee - nabbing both an individual and the team championship! The team not only won - they took the title by a landslide! [Read more about it here!](#)



> Springstead student has research published

PROJECT FEATURED IN SCIENCE JOURNAL



Congratulations to Springstead senior Harsh Mehta, whose manuscript was recently published by the American Astronomical Society! Harsh, who is part of the rigorous IB program at SHS, has been working on a research project for two years at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, under Dr. Mark Swain. To read the article, visit the [website here](#).

The National Honor Society at NCT is hosting a 5K Color Run to benefit the American Cancer Society on April 27. Click the photo or scan the QR code for information and to register!

Registration starts at 8:00am
The run starts at 9:00am
Registration Fee: \$30.00

WE WISH ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF A FANTASTIC
SPRING BREAK
SCHOOLS AND OFFICES ARE CLOSED MARCH 22-29