



# The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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**W**elcome to the September 2022 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC wrote about a topic of their choosing. This allowed members to share their personal insights, experiences and memories. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

## Current Members:

*John Baldino*

*Shevie Barnes*

*Derek Carraway*

*Alexander Gonzalez*

*Leah Gorman*

*Morgan Griffin*

*JJ Humphrey*

*Michelle Sandiford*

*Josh Tapia*

*Lilibeth Vega*

*Christina Waldron*

*Serena Wetmore*





## Best Summer Vacation

The best summer vacation is going to Hawaii! It has got to be the best vacation ever over all!

Of the ones I have had right here in U.S. you may be asking what made Hawaii the best summer vacation ever? For me, and to answer your question, it has to be going to an island and getting to learn about the special history of the island. I also enjoy getting to spend time at their gorgeous beaches!

There is more than just their gorgeous beaches to enjoy. There is a special event called a Hawaii Luau. This is a festivity that is also part of the history of Hawaii. Not only is it part of the history, it is a part of the culture of Hawaii. There is one that is hosted at the hotel I stayed at and another one that you have to drive or ride the bus to.

One of the most interesting parts is going to Hilo Hattie, known as the store of Hawaii, it also tells the story of aloha. Aloha is an interesting word that means both hello and goodbye in Hawaii. That is what my best summer vacation is, I hope you will get the chance to have a summer vacation just as great some day!

By Morgan Griffin





## Football is Back!!!



I'm going to take this month's free-write opportunity to talk about something I'm looking forward to: Football being back! And to be more specific though, college football!!! I love watching it and following it, especially when it comes to my beloved Noles!

I know we've had a couple of down years but I have a good feeling this year will be different and I can't wait to see how it unfolds. Our QB returns and I think he's going to show even more improvement than he showed last year. Though we lost a couple key players from last year, our coaches tapped the transfer portal pretty good and I think we'll be alright. I'm even more excited because I get to see my Noles in action a week before everyone else plays because our first game is in what's become known as "Week 0" which means we have our first game a week before most other teams have their first game.

Our longtime radio announcer for the games also recently retired so I'm interested to see how the new guy does calling the games. He's going to have a lot to live up to. These are a few reasons I'm looking forward to football being back!

By Derek Carraway





## An Amazing Auntie



I'm going to take this opportunity to tell you all about being an amazing auntie! My nieces and nephews enjoy spending time with me and likewise I love spending time with all 10 of them!

I absolutely love this picture of me and my nephew! I was just recently in Texas to meet one of my new nephews and I had the privilege of taking care of him. His name is Alexander but we call him Alex for short. He is so smart and adorable and he is a sweet and awesome nephew! One thing I really enjoyed was playing with him and his toys; he didn't enjoy it so much until the next day; but once he warmed up we had a blast playing together! He is 3 months old, and he can already say momma! I was teaching him to say daddy too, we don't want him feeling left out!



I dearly love all my nieces and nephews and I give them all the attention I possibly can! I just love spending time with them any chance I get!

By Leah Gorman



# The 501st Legion

Hello everyone!! This time the topic is free write, so I get to write whatever I want, and I chose writing about the 501st Legion. Perhaps you know it is a Star Wars thing. The 501st Legion, also called Vader's Fist is a costuming group in the real world. You can see them at comic cons, conventions, hospital visits and even some of our own events like the Annual Family Café and the Annual Youth Summit.



I'm happy to say that I am a member of the 501st Legion. Getting a costume approved is a big deal. There are certain qualifications and requirements to make the costumes Lucas Film accurate. The costumes must be approved by the 501st. I have 3 approved costumes myself, Imperial Gunner, Navy Crew and Bridge Crew.

The 501st volunteers their time at many events and places around the world. The Florida Garrison is a very big one and divided into squads. And they often times volunteer at Give Kids the World, hospitals, Camp Boggy Creek, and many walks. They also volunteer for

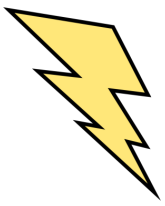
parades, comic cons, conventions, birthday parties and many other events.

The 501st members enjoy helping people and making them happy. It's great to be a part of someone's Make A Wish or similar event.

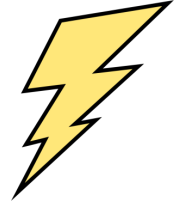
Next year, they will return to the 25th Annual Family Café! I look forward to this and hope I get a chance to troop in one of my costumes! Hope to see you there!

By JJ Humphrey



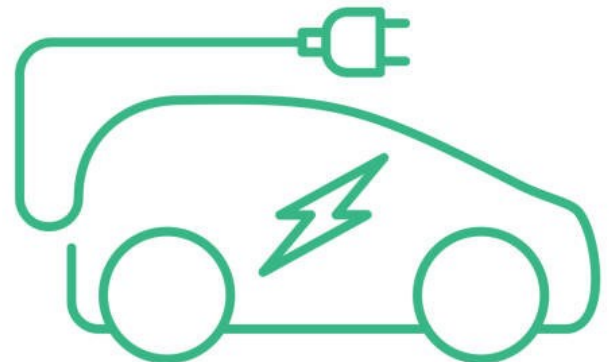


## EVs



I want to discuss electric vehicles or EVs. I have kept myself up to date with news about the upcoming EVs for quite a while now. When it comes to EVs, the first company or cars you might think will be made by Tesla. And, for the most part, you will be correct. But now, the market is heading up. Major corporations such as Ford, GM, and Toyota, just to name a few, are gearing up production on electric vehicles. Although Tesla was not the first electric vehicle to be made, the first electric vehicle dates back as early as the 1800s. Still, the company pioneered many new approaches to tackle the current ecosystem. For lack of a better term, I'm a sucker for further technological advancements, but how will these advances help people with disabilities?

According to an article written by Christopher Reardon from The Verge (2021), "when cars were first introduced to the public at the beginning of the 20th century, disabled people were in no way a part of public life, when they were actively excluded from it. The main difference with this chapter on automotive innovation is that it's coming 30 years after the passage of the ADA." A survey that was conducted only included 2,200 people, and 176 considered themselves disabled, "but that might have something to do with EV ownership among the disabled being so low due to income and access." (Reardon, 2021). Many EVs and current gas-produced vehicles aren't built for disabled people. According to the article, a survey response from Mobility in the UK, one reason for inaccessibility at charging stations is the heavy weight of charging cables. "Like cellphone and laptop batteries, high-power charging generates a lot of heat in the cable, which is why they are typically insulated and liquid-cooled. This makes them heavier and harder to maneuver." (Reardon, 2021). Everyone must have accessibility/accommodations, but with the current issue, it will be a challenging future with more transportation advancements.



By Alex Gonzalez





## Traveling the Country

This summer I went on a trip through the middle of the country to go see my boyfriend and a little bit of the United States that I've not seen before. We headed north from Florida and drove up through Georgia. I happen to know a fair amount about Georgia since we've driven through it several times in my life, visiting relatives, so I guess I've been there some. I didn't realize how big Georgia is heading up toward Tennessee and Kentucky. It was also interesting to see how the terrain changed as we went up into Kentucky. There were more trees and hills and not so much flat.

We drove through a corner of Indiana, and then went into Missouri and my mom was excited to see the Gateway Arch in St Louis, which she kept telling me about repeatedly. Unfortunately, we didn't get to go up close, but I must admit it was breathtaking. From there we headed south toward where my boyfriend lives and were driving through the Ozark Mountains. They aren't as big as the mountains in West Virginia, but still lots of ups and downs and curves which were a little scary because there weren't always railings on the sides. The scenery however was very beautiful.

On the way home, we drove through more scary mountain curves going through Arkansas, then took a detour down to New Orleans (down on the Bayou!) and visited the city. Being me, we visited a haunted museum, ate lunch at the Vampire Café, and took an evening tour that talked about the history of New Orleans, along with stories of ghosts, vampires, and voodoo. We also walked through the French Quarter and people threw Mardi Gras beads at us.

I think it is nice sometimes to get away from home and explore what this big country has to offer. Florida is great but it's nice to see other places and there were so many places we might have explored if only we would have had time.

By Serena Wetmore

## Starting back to work



The first week of working at school we met in the church, I got introduced by my mom along with the k3 teacher, k4 teachers, and k5 teacher. Then we all walked over to the kindergarten to meet the parents of children that I will be teaching. The next day was very easy because all I had to do was help my mom teach the children how things are run in the classroom. Like there is no talking while the teacher is talking or how to line up.

Before I started back to school this August, I had to help setup the classroom. I had to move my mom's classroom stuff into our classroom. I moved a table with my mom's help, then I helped move games into her classroom. There were posters with pictures, small puzzles in a round box, mats, and pillows. I had to go through some training classes before we could start work.



Now we are going into our second week of school and I am making sure that they listen and follow instructions. We allow the children to talk quietly to their friends in front of them or beside them when doing a table activity. We have a morning meeting and I make sure everyone is paying attention. I help the children put their hand over their heart for pledges. Then we have phonics and I turn out the lights so the children can see the screen on the board.

We then transition into snack time this is another time the children may talk with an inside voice. After snack time we take the children out to the playground and let them run, they all love to slide!

By Chelle Sandiford





## How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at [www.floridayouthcouncil.com](http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com). The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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