

FHP teaches bus safety



PHOTOS COURTESY FHP
The Florida Highway Patrol is focusing on school bus safety during "back to school" week. Tracy Hisler-Pace, public information officer with Lake City-based Troop B, visited Melrose Park Elementary School Wednesday with Corporal K.M. Boatright, Jr. As they boarded the school busses to go home, Corporal Boatright spoke to the kids about how to be safe in and around school buses throughout the year. He welcomed them back to school with a big smile, FHP stickers and potential lifesaving information.

PEDRO

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pictures. He said he would draw on the walls from his home to the walls of public buildings — the sky was the limit.

When Perry first went to college, he said he was accepted as a microbiology major and was quick to realize it was not what he wanted to continue in. He said after his second year of college he switched to become a fine arts major and graduated from the University of Florida with his Bachelor of Art in Visual Art Studies in 2002.

As a commission-based artist, he began selling his art in 1998. He said he tries to produce 35 paintings a year, which can take anywhere from 8 to 200 hours to complete and can range from \$1,500 to \$10,000 a piece.

While creating his works of art, Perry said it could take up to four months to research news and information before he begins to paint. "When I go to paint my paintings, I try to dig within myself to find these pieces," Perry said. "I used to look at my reflection in the mirror when I was younger and tell myself that I was going to make a difference in people's lives."

Some of Perry's finest works of art were put in a show at Studio@620 in St. Petersburg, where 20 of his oil paintings were displayed. He said he completed the paintings within nine months and named it



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Local artist Pedro Jermaine Perry, known artistically as Pedro Jermaine, is seen in his home as he talks about what motivates him to give back to the community.



'Third Dimension,' a 30x40 oil/graphite on canvas from Mammography Art Initiative.

"The Evolution of Pedro Jermaine."

Perry said his showcase reflected on his childhood, which at times was dark.

He said he was bullied as a young child, and he said, "I wanted to teach other people not to sweep their emotions under the rug."

Perry said he was approached by Sherry DuPree, director at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization - Transatlantic Slave Trade, about possibly designing the next global postage stamp in 2016.

"I always tell people to follow your passion because in the end, no one else can hurt what you're really passionate about, and artists will be the first ones to criticize their own work. But my motto is to

have passion for artistic excellence," Perry said. "In the end, I will create a name for myself."

Perry said he is recognized by his artistic name Pedro Jermaine.

CCSO swears in 4 members



COURTESY PHOTOS

Brett Sullivan was sworn in Wednesday as a Deputy Sheriff with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Sullivan is pictured with Sheriff Mark Hunter.



Keith Thomas was sworn in Wednesday as a Detention Deputy with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Thomas is pictured with Sheriff Mark Hunter.



Martha Escobar was sworn in Wednesday as a School Crossing Guard with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Escobar is pictured with Sheriff Mark Hunter.



Mary Luke was sworn in Wednesday as a LPN with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Luke is pictured with Sheriff Mark Hunter.

Volunteer at Shands

The Auxiliary at Shands Lake Shore Hospital is looking for volunteers of all shapes and sizes. With its new regime, the Auxiliary is able to offer a variety of opportunities for volunteers willing to donate just four hours of their time each week. Of course, you may volunteer as many hours as you'd like. If you are 18 or older and would like a volunteer opportunity, stop by the gift shop to pick up an application or call 386-292-8000 x 21216 to receive an application by mail. Gift shop hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday stays open until 8 p.m.

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