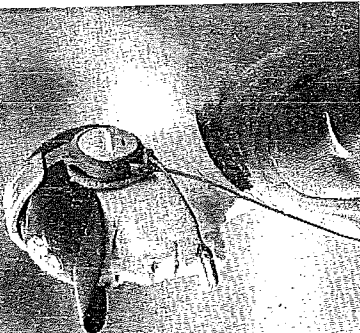


LOOKING FOR OFFENSE

No help on way for Gus Bradley and struggling Jags **Sports, C-1**



TORTURE REPORT HAS WORLD ON EDGE

U.S. Embassies preparing for security threats **Story, A-6**



STILL GOING STRONG IN A DESOTO

Life, D-1

NO HESMAN INVITE FOR WINSTON

C-1

Colleges' activity fees take a big toll

Sports departments at most schools count on them to survive financially

By **Kyle Hightower**
Associated Press

ORLANDO | Cindy Flores doesn't go to many football or basketball games at the University of Central Florida, but she and her 60,000 or so classmates each fork over hundreds of dollars while working on their degrees to help fund the teams.

The 21-year-old also doesn't know much about where that \$171 a semester goes — a response not uncommon among students. In all, those student fees add up to more than \$10 million a semester at the nation's second-largest university.

"I would want to know what they do with that money," Flores said of the fees.

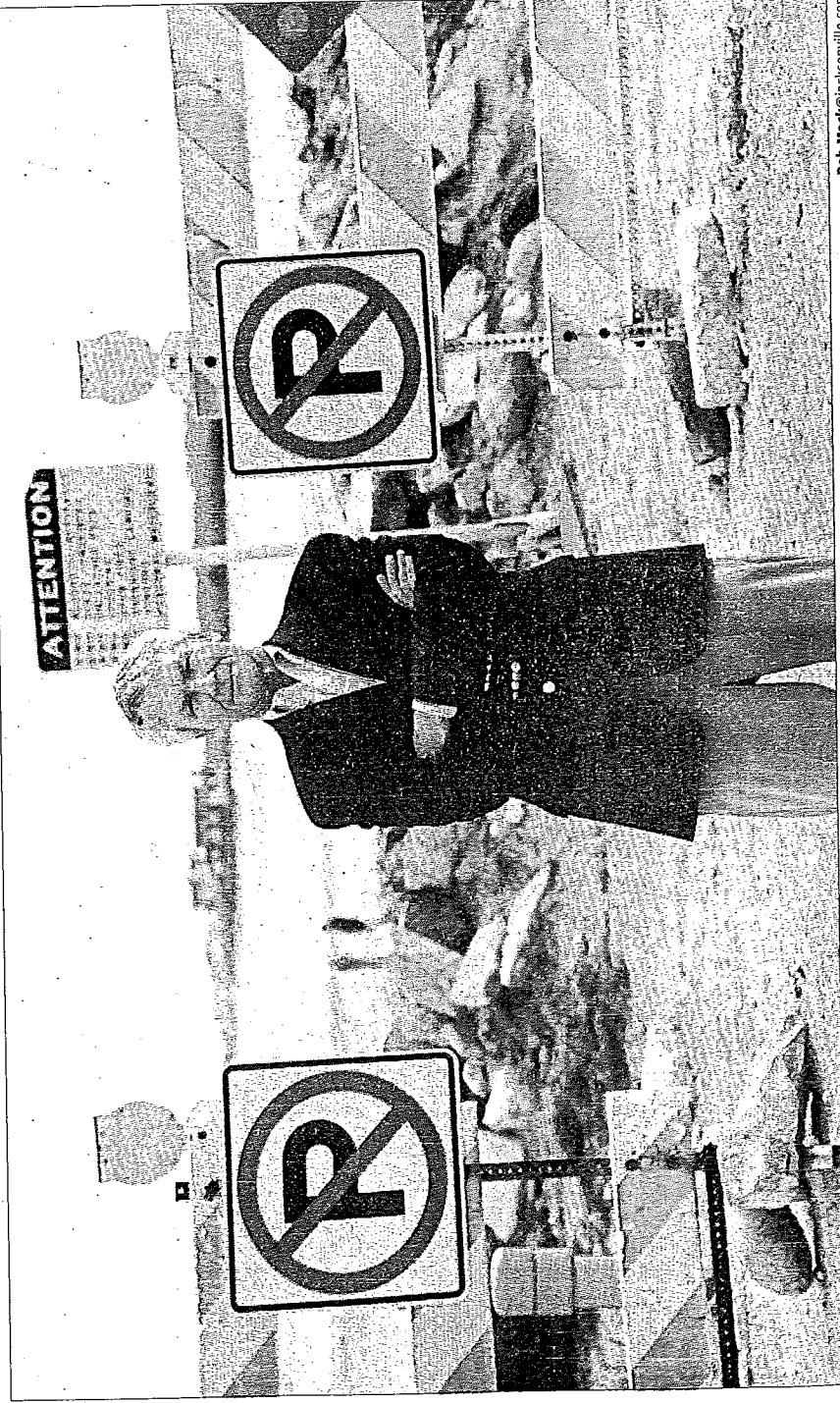
A records analysis by The Associated Press shows UCF and seven other public universities in Florida with NCAA-sanctioned teams get between 36 percent and 75 percent of their athletic funding from student athletic fees, which are among the highest in the nation.

In 2009, Florida schools col-

FEES continues on A-7

Florida Times Union December 9, 2011

SEA-LEVEL ISSUES SURGE



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Patrick Hamilton was part of a three-year study of sea-level impacts on the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Reserve.

Rising waters raising questions for First Coast's future

By **Steve Patterson**

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About 75 square miles of Northeast Florida real estate could be inundated by rising seas within 25 years. Or not.

Water to cover that ground might not arrive for another 50 years, maybe longer.

But almost certainly, it will get here.

That realization is prompting a corps of First Coast residents — some in local governments, some activists or policy nerds — to chart steps communities can take now to avoid being caught unprepared when the tide rises.

Their answers have run a gamut from lobbying for coastal property-insurance reforms to moving Green Cove Springs' police station to higher ground and learning steps to help Fernandina Beach's historic properties manage flooding, a situation that a prominent science group says could happen dozens of times a year within 30 years in that town — and even more in Jacksonville.

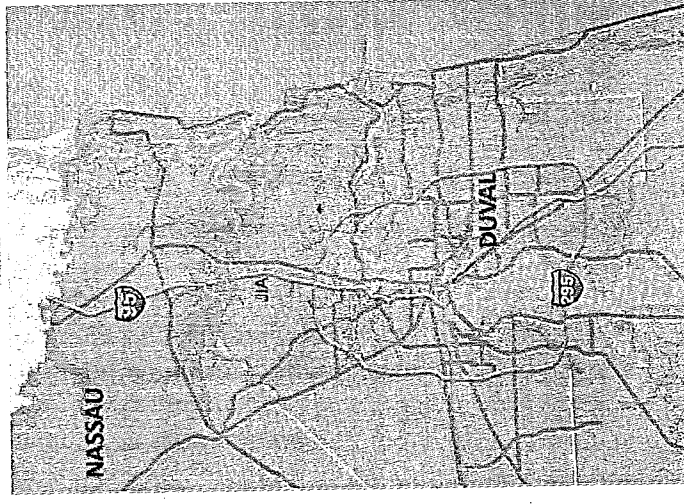
Those backing such projects don't know how much water to expect. But they're trying to get ready just the same.

"It's kind of like insurance. If you do this stuff, you're insuring against it," said David

How much water, how fast?

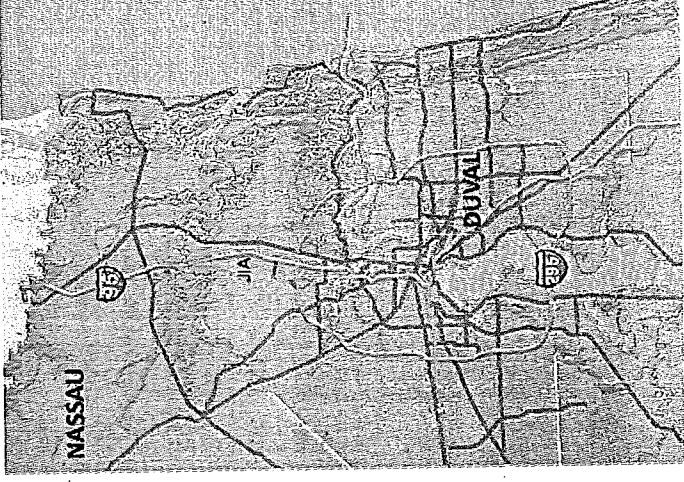
The Northeast Florida Regional Council mapped areas that would be inundated by sea-level increases ranging from one foot to six feet. A committee reporting to the council said communities should plan for a one-foot to three-foot increase by 2060, and as much as six feet by 2100. Forecasts for sea-level change vary widely.

One foot sea level rise



Source: Northeast Florida Regional Council

Six foot sea level rise



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Reed, a JEA employee who chaired a committee of volunteers that researched lessons about sea levels for the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, a nonprofit

started by a regional planning council. Their findings were adopted almost verbatim last year by the Northeast Florida Regional Council, a seven-

county panel of elected officials who agree they should prepare for seas rising somewhere between six inches and

CLIMATE continues on A-7

Board backs plan to boost middle school achievement

Superintendent said changes will ensure parents will have more choices for students

By **Denise Smith Amos**
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Duval's School Board Monday night unanimously approved a plan to reform the district's middle schools to boost academic achievement and shore up enrollment at neighborhood middle schools.

Duval's middle schools have had many challenges in recent years.

In addition to losing about a quarter of incoming sixth-graders to charter, private or magnet schools, Duval's neighborhood middle schools historically score below state averages and some schools in Florida's biggest school districts.

Among the new reform strategies, the district is exploring different grade configurations for middle schools, including two elementary schools that this year will keep sixth-grade

BOARD continues on A-7

Protesters slow Monday rush-hour traffic in Jacksonville

about an hour the Sheriffs

CLIMATE

Continued from A-1

six feet.

When Hurricane Sandy slammed into New York City in 2012, flooding submerged and caused an estimated \$19 billion in losses, the impact from a 14-foot storm surge was magnified by high tides and a 20-inch increase in seas since the late 18th century, scientists concluded last year. University of Florida geologists said this month that sea-level rise was helping erode dunes that protect two launch pads at Kennedy Space Center, although NASA has built replacement dunes.

An extra foot of sea level in Northeast Florida would cover about 75 square miles of private property as well as inundate a lot of park land, starting with chunks of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. A six-foot rise would cover 123,000 acres of privately owned land — 192 square miles — worth \$6.4 billion, according to estimates the Regional Council delivered to a follow-up committee of business people and government types with the name P2R2 (Public/Private Regional Resiliency).

The committee, which meets again Friday, was asked to think about steps to “incentivize population and private development to locate outside of vulnerable areas.”

Talks like that often deliberately sidestep volatile questions about how much man-made pollution is driving climate changes.

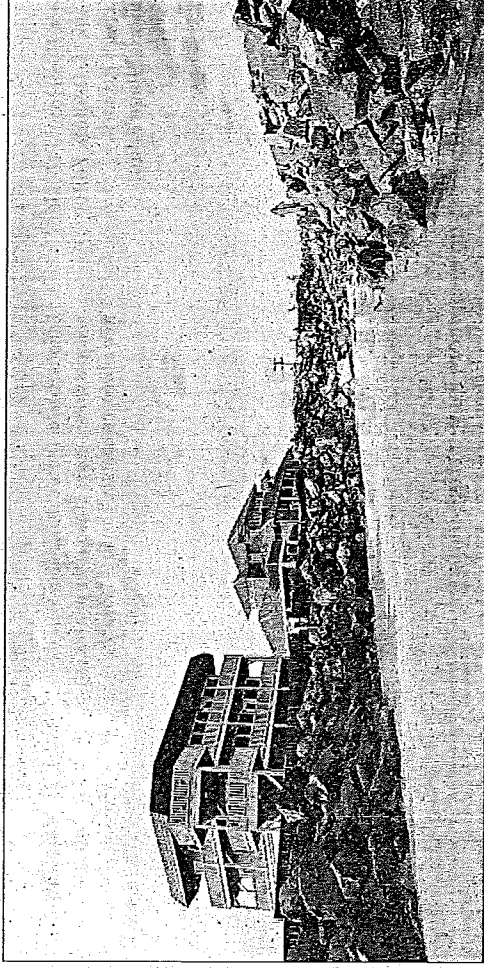
Ocean levels are changing, say backers of planning efforts like the Regional Council’s, and how to handle the rising seas is problem enough for today.

“We are experiencing sea-level rise today, and we have been,” said Sarah Owen Gledhill, a St. Augustine-based planning advocate for the Florida Wildlife Federation. “We’re not debating whether sea-level rise was caused by human action or not, but we know it is happening and the scientists say it will get worse.”

Seas have risen about eight inches globally since 1880, and are expected to rise another one to four feet by 2100, the federal government’s National Climate Assessment reported this year. The fact that water expands when it gets warmer and the melting of polar ice as temperatures rise are commonly named as main reasons for rising seas. Tide gauge readings taken at Mayport between 1928 and 2006 rose some months and dropped others, but overall suggested changes of about nine and a half inches per century.

Ordinary people haven’t been expected to say much about plans yet, because they haven’t been told much.

“Public education has not really begun in Northeast Florida,” a report produced through Reed’s committee said last year. It described a sort of survey being taken then and said that “the committee consciously designed them for public officials. Planners, city engineers, public works staff and utility staff made up the bulk of participants at assessments.”



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Places like Summer Haven are in peril from changing ocean levels. This part of old A1A is an example, having been washed out years ago by erosion.

But talk about sea level is percolating into more corners of the First Coast, a shift that St. Johns County resident Patrick Hamilton noticed when a staffer from the Army Corps of Engineers office in Jacksonville came to his Rotary club to talk.

“He painted a stark picture,” said Hamilton, a Realtor from Crescent Beach, who said members had split reactions. “When we went outside, some of them said ‘dang,’ and some said ‘I don’t believe that.’”

Hamilton, a longtime environmental advocate, was already thinking about the subject. This year, he wrapped up a role in a three-year review of how higher seas will impact areas around the sprawling Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in St. Johns and Flagler counties. The answer, in a nutshell, was that water would build up in areas where a barrier stops its advance, then would eventually become high enough to get over that barrier and would start covering another area in a process called “terracing.” Drainage systems and sewer lines built below that terrace would back up and roadbeds would be undermined.

While there’s still time, Hamilton would like to see land preserved — there’s a proposal in the works now — so a Matanzas estuary that currently teems with fish can move inland through undeveloped areas as the ocean advances. To show how coastlines can change, he points to Summer Haven in southern St. Johns, where the road called Old A1A was washed out and closed decades ago, and more recent storms filled the Summer Haven River with enough sand that what’s left is barely a creek.

Others are focused on houses that a rising ocean would soak. Many are near the water already, and not building more in vulnerable areas would be a good step, said Gledhill.

Congress decades ago started blocking federally backed flood insurance for new homes in so-called “coastal high hazard” areas, but Gledhill said Florida continued to insure new construction in vulnerable areas. That changed in July because of passage of a law backed by a coalition of environmental groups, tax-watchers and business groups including the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Florida that barred state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp. from insuring houses in environmen-

tally sensitive coastal areas.

Backers say the change could keep investors from building oceanfront homes that can be washed away before mortgages are paid off.

“If you’re going to develop there, that’s fine. But do it on your own dime,” Gledhill said.

WORK ALREADY STARTED

St. Johns officials declared a local state of emergency Monday, saying in a release that “recent severe wind, lunar tides, and high waves have caused erosion that poses an immediate threat of substantial property damage to habitable structures.” The declaration triggers a state law letting the county issue temporary armoring permits for homes in imminent danger.

There’s a lot less sea level risk in Clay County, but the chance of flooding beside a rising St. Johns River still helped convince Green Cove Springs officials to put a new police station on Florida 16, well west of the old station beside the town’s Spring Park along the river.

The new station, which opened in April, also houses an emergency operations center, and getting that out of the town’s flood plain just made too much sense, said Green Cove Springs city manager Danielle Judd. Ferdinandina Beach has gone farther than most First Coast towns in thinking about sea-level rise, writing into its comprehensive plan for 2030 that it “recognizes sea-level rise as a potential coastal hazard, and shall work with Nassau County and state and regional entities ... to develop strategies for responding.”

Those steps could include analyzing sea-level effects on wetlands, estuaries and beaches; identifying areas put at risk by higher water; and evaluating effects on the water table, public water systems and sewer systems.

A Jacksonville planner tracks Regional Council action on sea-level policies, but the city hasn’t adjusted any of its own plans yet, said Kristen Sell, a city spokeswoman. The city is working with state emergency management offices to see whether sea-level rise should affect its emergency plans, she said.

JEA had scheduled a review this year of how sea-level rise will affect its water systems, but pushed that back to the utility’s 2015-16 budget year, said spokeswoman Gerri Boyce.

One group is forecasting a lot of work for agencies that deal with flooding in Jacksonville and Ferdinandina, saying both communi-

ties are likely to be affected by changes along the East Coast. The Union of Concerned Scientists said in October that instances of flooding could triple in 15 years at most of the 52 cities its researchers examined between Maine and the Gulf Coast.

The forecast assumed the same sea-level increase for both cities — 4.7 inches by 2030 and 10.5 inches by 2045. That was based on projections about Ferdinandina by the website Climatecentral.org.

If that forecast is right, the Concerned Scientists researchers said instances of coastal flooding in Jacksonville could rise from an average of seven per year now to 25 in 2030, and 101 in 2045.

The forecast said Ferdinandina would move from two flooding days per year to eight by 2030 and 37 in 2045.

Ferdinandina’s community development director Adrienne Burke said she’d like to arrange for someone from the Concerned Scientists to visit and talk more about the research.

But before the report came out, she was already trying to research how rising tides can be managed in historic areas like Ferdinandina, where buildings’ foundations have been in place a century or more and can’t get out of the way now. She’s taking advice from places that are already feeling effects, like the 18th-century section of Alexandria, Va., where the Potomac River periodically washes into historic buildings.

The subject came up recently at a project to restore a brick train depot built on Centre Street in 1899. One member of the restoration team was interested in a way to make the building more flood-resistant, while another focused on preserving its original design. The best answer they could settle on was to leave the doors open during floods so the water would pass through, and leave, as fast as possible.

The Union of Concerned Scientists raised worries in the spring about the potential for sea-level damage in a range of historic areas, using St. Augustine’s Castillo de San Marcos as its poster child of threatened buildings.

Burke said there’s a lot still to work through about how residents should handle changing water levels, but it’s important to start the conversation.

“We already do see some flood events, and the community is aware of it,” Burke said. “We’re just beginning to talk about it.”

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FEES

Continued from A-1

lected more than \$76 million in athletic fee revenue; that increased to nearly \$100 million for the fiscal year that ended in June 2013.

The only outliers are the state’s marquee programs, the University of Florida, which gets only 2.2 percent of revenue from fees, and Florida State University, which gets 14.5 percent from fees. Both play in conferences with monster TV contracts for football and basketball and have large football stadiums that are usually packed.

“If you’re not driving at

BUDGET GLANCE

A look at the total athletic budget, per-credit student fee revenue, and its percentage of each school’s total revenue that was collected during the fiscal year that ended in 2013 for each of Florida’s 10 public universities that are NCAA-sanctioned sports:

School	Total Budget	Fee	Revenue
Florida	\$110,299,969	\$1.90	\$2,473,374
Florida State	\$54,055,655	\$7.90	\$7,859,734
South Florida	\$45,066,258	\$14.46	\$16,248,282
Florida A&M	\$12,509,716	\$13.97	\$4,918,746
Fla. Gulf Coast	\$12,118,558	\$17.54	\$5,471,290
Florida Atlantic	\$24,538,411	\$17.27	\$11,282,033
Central Florida	\$41,222,301	\$14.32	\$20,127,944
Fla. International	\$28,332,261	\$16.10	\$19,519,333
North Florida	\$9,541,774	\$18.83	\$6,630,978
West Florida	\$7,057,940	\$20.93	\$5,356,974

Sources: NCAA revenues and expenses reports; public records.

BOARD

Continued from A-1

ers. Most Duval middle schools currently serve sixth through eighth graders.

Every middle school also is adopting academic themes and accelerated courses to attract students and they are offering more foreign language classes, music, sports and mentors to attract students. This is the first year sixth-graders were allowed on school sports teams.

Under the plan, middle schools also will be adding “pre early college” programs, allowing for early high school credits and a Student Life Skills course for college credit for middle school students next year.

Superintendent Nikolai Vitti has said the changes will ensure middle school parents will have more choices for students, because students will be able to enroll in programs of their choice.

The proposal comes close but doesn’t guarantee full school choice for middle school students, something a Jacksonville Public Education Fund position paper recommended recently.

Middle schools also will use more blended learning, which combines online learning with teacher instruction. And Vitti has promised that middle schools will have high-speed wireless access and one-to-one laptops for students to use during the school day.

The plan also promises more collaboration, training and support for principals and teachers, and

more mental health support for students in certain social settings. Vitti has said it would reduce violations and serious code violations create attendance long term.

It is unclear whether the school grade improve, however, because the state is testing this scholastic program based on the college-and-career academic standards that are being phased in.

Vitti told the board that the tests are to result in lower grades for middle schools public schools outside of Florida.

No parents are against the middle school plan. Most of the parents of the board spoke to the board about the state’s growing state funds to help parents pay for education outside of the school system.

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PROTEST

Hours later more protesters came waving Dow

Hackney said t