

Young Scholar's Institute gets Xtreme

BY **LACY GARRISON**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The Young Scholar's Institute program kicked off last week with a variety of activities for students over summer vacation. YSI has been enriching the lives of children through its many avenues of education for 34 years. Each summer, the two-week program is open to students in grades 1-8 with good grades and exceptional behavior. Students participate in activities around the county and Midstate. This year's theme is YSI Xtreme with students donning lime green shirts with a giant X filled with words like "sports" "music" and "math" and offering students the opportunity to kayak, visit Isha, swim at Gilley Pool, attend Bridgestone Learning Center and Jump Street, just to name a few.

On Tuesday, for an extreme music performer, the students visited Dottie West's grave and placed a wreath with a big yellow ribbon saying "Congratulations Dottie from YSI" in recognition of her recent induction into the Hall of Fame. The students also went to Warren



These girls piled into this 1951 Pontiac Indian, which was displayed at Bridgestone during YSI on Tuesday. The students compared an electric car versus gas-powered cars along with the past versus the future. Pictured in the front seat, from left, are Isabella Garcia, Sloan Youngblood and Maelee Turner. Back seat, Maddison Ramsey, Lily Smith and Caroline Boyd.

Lacy Garrison photo

Arts to learn about theater and participate in creative activities before heading over to Bridgestone Learning Center. YSI coordinator Carol Neal explained the learning activities taking place at Bridgestone, which were separated into teams. "Diane Parton, Bridgestone BEECH Lab

coordinator, is focusing on extreme animals," said Neal. "Jamie is doing extreme science, which is more like physics and I'm teaching about wax to prepare them for Madame Tussauds, which is a wax museum in Nashville. We're taking them next week." During Parton's pro-

gram, many students enjoyed competing in the Amazing Race as they "traveled" to different continents to learn about their team's animal and its location. "Today I learned about the blind dart frog," said Hickory Creek student Valeria Aguilar. "Then we had to put marshmallows

in our mouth and try to say chubby bunny seven times, which was really funny." Additionally, the students were able to explore multiple vehicles to compare the electric car versus the gas-powered cars along with the past versus the future. "If I had my driver's license, I'd drive this car to

school," said Maddison Ramsey while sitting inside the 1951 Pontiac Indian. "It's so cool because it is a pinkish red and I like the dice dangling from the mirror." With another week of learning in store, this program has close to 600 students excited to experience new things.



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BEST WISHES

Southern Standard readers are invited to extend happy birthday and anniversary best wishes to friends and loved ones through this weekly column. Please submit your messages by our noon deadline each Thursday. No more than three wishes to any individual, please.

June 10 – Birthday wishes to Mia Hobbs. Love, your family and friends.
June 11 – Patricia Wright. Happy birthday, mom! Love, Seth and Ashley.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES
June 11 – Happy anniversary wishes to Richard and Kaye.

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