

What infuriates her is that Wilson is a resident at the complex.

"This man has talked to me

An investigation continues on other area fires that occurred during that time frame, but detectives obtained enough evidence

"appeared to have issues with some other residents in the complex."

Residents are angered by the

"He don't understand the financial burden he put on and the emotional," said Avery.

# Teacher studies Turkey

KATHIE COLGROVE  
NCR Reporter

Rebecca Cofield's trip to Turkey yields life lessons that she can apply in the classroom.

The Hilliard Middle-Senior High School teacher traveled with 27 other national teachers as part of a Teacher Study Tours program sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Foundation in cooperation with the World Affairs Council of America.

The 14-day teaching tour June 27 to July 11 took the group to Istanbul, where they saw such landmarks as the Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and the Suleymaniye Mosque. Cofield also toured western Turkey, visiting Ephesus, Canakkale, Bursa, the Basilica of St. John, Kusadasi, Pamukkale and the site of ancient Troy and Gallipoli.

"It was a once in a lifetime trip," Cofield said. "It's one of those things that comes along that you never think would happen to you."

After attending a Spotlight on Turkey seminar in March, Cofield submitted an application and a lesson plan outlining how she would integrate Turkish culture into her human



geography class. At least 30 teachers attended the seminar as part of a joint effort by the Turkish Cultural Foundation and World Affairs Council of Jacksonville.

The council oversees Great Decisions, an educational program for ninth through 12th graders. Cofield leads the after-school program at HMSHS, Yulee High School and nine Duval County high schools also participate.

The program gives students

Hilliard Middle-Senior High School teacher Rebecca Cofield stands with Cappadocia in the background. Above, she joins Jacksonville teacher Denise Nicole Dean and Ponte Vedra teacher Alina Jinghua Mar in front of the Trojan Horse replica at Troy in Canakkale, Turkey.

Submitted

opportunities to consider "complex and critical issues, develop critical thinking, listening and decision-making skills," according to the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville's website.

Prior to her flight to Turkey, Cofield had only traveled outside the country on trips to Mexico and the Bahamas.

"We were all teachers," she said. "We were all there to learn. It was one of those things where we were all in amazement."

The historical sites pertaining to the Roman and Ottoman empires were breathtaking as Cofield marveled at the monuments and museums, representing at least 8,000 years of civilization.

"It's really humbling that our American history is still so young," she said.

Although family and friends expressed concerns about her travels to Turkey given the recent upheaval in the Middle East, the experience was positive, Cofield said.

"You can't always believe what you read," she added. "It's something you may need to go and witness yourself."

Cofield will share her learning experience with students in the coming months. She was accompanied by Denise Nicole Dean of Lakeshore Middle School in Jacksonville and Alina Jinghua Mar of Ponte Vedra High School. They will submit lesson plans and feedback to the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville during a showcase in October. The group will continue collaborating online throughout the school year, integrating information into student curriculum.

"I feel like that anytime you say 'I was there' and you have had a personal experience with a learning concept or a historical site, kids will be more engaged in the classroom," Cofield said.

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# NCSB \$150M

KATHIE COLGROVE  
NCR Reporter

The Nassau County Board unanimously approved tentative millage rate mills for 2013-14 – slightly higher than the 7.543 millage rate for the fiscal year prior.

The millage rate is re



Farmer

a hold approach district's budget.

The County District's proposed fund budget is more than \$89 million, higher than the

in 2012-13. Increased costs are contributing to

# Council honors t

KATHIE COLGROVE  
NCR Reporter

Three Callahan residents expressed interest in filling a council vacancy – but they couldn't decide who to nominate on Monday.

Mayor Shirley Graham, councilwoman Janet Shaw and councilman Marty Fontes are the nominees to fill a vacancy on the Aug. 1 departure of Tyndall.

Graham said all the nominees have a desire to serve the community. She nominated Kenneth Bass, her nominee on the town's Planning and Board and served on a committee.

