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News

Treasure hunter shares tips of the trade with students

By RACHEL KATZ, DAILY SUN

THE VILLAGES — Want to find gold coins, jewelry and pirate treasure? Open a book.

"All treasure hunting starts in the library and ends in the library," Scott Mitchen said.

Mitchen, a professional treasure hunter and author who lives in Wisconsin, visited The Villages Charter Middle School on Thursday afternoon to talk to sixth-grade students about treasure and the importance of reading.

Mitchen wanted to search for pirate ships from the time he was a child.

"I dreamt of being a treasure hunter when I was a kid," he said. "I found a buffalo nickel in my grandfather's yard when I was 10, and that was it."

Years later, in 1990, Mitchen fulfilled his dreams when he discovered the 17th-century pirate ship, "La Trompeuse," but he insisted the find would not have been possible without a library.

Books led him to maps, cities and landmarks to find buried remains of ships.

In fact, Mitchen said, if he had begun reading sooner, his bounty would have been even greater.

"If I would have known it at your age, I would have found 100 pirate ships, but I only found two," he told the students.

Mitchen's experiences inspired him to write a children's book, "Will of the Pirates," which focuses on historical facts from Mitchen's diving experiences.

Along with his artifacts, Mitchen hopes the book will encourage children to read.

"It gets their attention when you put a sword in their hand or a dagger in their hand. ... It's history come alive," he said.

Mitchen's presentation inspired student Mack Batterbee, who hoped to make some waves of his own.

"I think it would be fun to go out there and dive, and find new things and make history," he said.

Student Alexis Moffett also enjoyed Mitchen's presentation because she, too, likes to find things from the past, she said.

During Mitchen's presentation, Moffett said, she learned interesting facts about pirates.

"I thought they were supposed to be mean and, apparently, they stole from people," she said, smiling.

Above all, Mitchen hoped he could help the pupils learn to enjoy reading.

"Books are the real

Recreation News

Activities Schedules

Current Weather



Market Quote

Symbol Lookup

Nasdaq NYSE S&P 500



Nasdaq	1546.84
▼ -49.86	(-3.12%)
NYSE	5559.04
▼ -156.75	(-2.74%)
S&P 500	891.70
▼ -19.59	(-2.15%)
AMEX	1325.29
▼ -42.33	(-3.10%)
RUS 2K	467.03
▼ -24.20	(-4.93%)
Crude Oil	57.20
▼ -1.04	(-1.79%)
30YR Yield	4.22
▲ +0.06	(+1.44%)

Quotes delayed at least 20 mins.

Market Summary

Market Movers

My Watchlist

treasure and get you all your dreams," he said.

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