

DON'T MISS IT!
Ad deadline July 9th
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St. Johns County School Directory



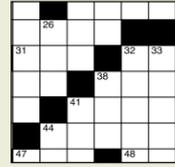
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Inquiring Minds want to know!



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Get to Know... Jim Snellen



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Puzzles

Fourth annual Pet Supply Drive held this month

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

It's summer ... so that means it's time for the fourth annual Florida NewsLine Pet Supply Drive, which will run until July 17. Once again this year, all items collected will be donated



Photo courtesy Martie Thompson
All ages can donate supplies for pets in need during Florida NewsLine's annual Pet Supply Drive, now through July 17.

to First Coast No More Homeless Pets for its Pet Food Bank, which is staffed completely by volunteers and operates out of the First Coast No More Homeless Pets Cassat Hospital.

Many local businesses in the St. Johns, Ponte Vedra, Nocatee and Mandarin areas have generously agreed to be collection sites for the Pet Supply Drive. Be sure to see the ad detailing the locations in this issue. There is sure to be a location

Pet Supply Drive cont. on pg. 19

The Giving Closet Project repurposes unclaimed lost and found items

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

Student homelessness has doubled in the past 10 years and former teacher Jennifer Smith is helping many students feel more loved and comfortable in the classroom.

A major problem reported by Northeast Florida schools is a dysfunctional or forgotten lost and found system to serve its students. Personal belongings are lost daily and the majority of schools do not have the capacity to face the growing piles of clothing and supplies. Smith felt that these lost items could be utilized to meet the needs of students living in situational poverty. The Giving Closet Project was developed out of the desire to help schools revitalize their lost and found areas into successful donation centers for students in need throughout the community.

"I came up with the idea of laundering the lost and found clothes and then putting them neatly on hangers on a rack, so disadvantaged kids could select clothes for themselves," Smith said.

As a teacher for 15 years, Smith saw first-hand the negative effect situational poverty can have on a child's success in school. Budget cuts and lack of resources — food, school supplies, hygiene products or clothing — have a detrimental impact on not only a student's academic suc-

cess, but also their social, emotional and behavioral growth at schools all across the area. The Giving Closet Project was born in April 2016 and is now a thriving success for children in the community.

Many schools in Duval and St. Johns County have requested The Giving Closet be available at their school, but focus is currently on the two schools already open

along with gaining additional support. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary in Jacksonville and The Webster School in St. Augustine are schools that offer a lo-

cation for children to gather items they need. Lost and found items are picked up from many schools in the area to service these two locations.

"We feel really great about what we are doing and we are filling orders for thousands of students now," Smith said. "During the next school year, we really want to spread more awareness in St. Johns County."

An effort is being made to form a business model and develop as much awareness as possible. Events such as One Spark in Jacksonville have helped open doors and bring in new help and sponsors.

"I can't thank our sponsors like the Junior Service League and the Community First Cares Foundation enough. We have a great board and great support so far, but to make the biggest impact, we need more help. We need more volunteers and space for storage and washing machines," Smith said.

With an ever growing amount of inventory and children who need help, volunteers are critical and sponsors are vital to the success in reaching and helping as many children as possible.

Visit www.givingclosetproject.org for more information and to learn how you can help.



Photos courtesy Jennifer Smith
Jennifer Smith with the board she created for One Spark.



At The Webster School, lost and found items are first laundered and then put on hangers on a rack.



The Giving Closet Project at The Webster School.

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- ◆ 100 SR 13, Suite A, Saint Johns
- ◆ 1495 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park
- ◆ 200 Southpark Blvd., Ste. 207, St. Augustine
- ◆ 520 A1A North, Ste. 203, Ponte Vedra Beach

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2. Sores or wounds on the toes, feet or legs that heal slowly or not at all
3. A pale or bluish color to the skin
4. A lower temperature in one leg compared to the other
5. Poor toenail growth and decreased hair growth on the legs

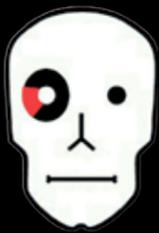
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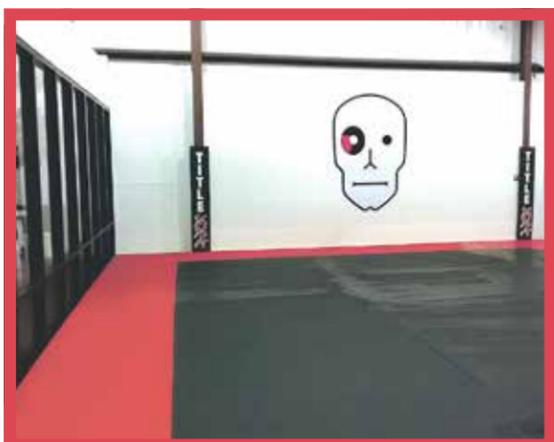
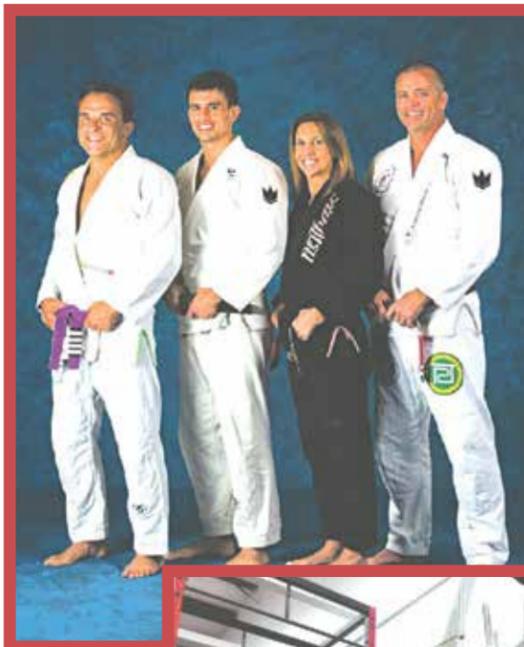
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Meet Sally!

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Meet Ryan!

Ryan is a two-year-old male cat who was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Ryan's adoption is sponsored by the Friends of the Pet Center.

Come visit us today at the Pet Center!
 130 N. Stratton Rd.
 St. Augustine, FL 32095 - (904) 209-6190

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Pet Food & Supply Drive

Drop off NOW!

NO MORE HOMELESS PETS!

See pg. 16 for drop off locations & details!

MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was of Picolata Crossing Elementary School. Our winner was Laurie Misch.

Don't Miss it! IT'S COMING!

Ask about advertising in our 2018-19

St. Johns County School Directory

Your ad seen by 50,000+ potential customers!

Ad deadline July 9th

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FLORIDA NewsLine

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answers to puzzles on page 24

B	A	T	A		A	R	E		E	M	F					
C	L	E	G	G		S	E	N		M	A	I	A			
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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. travel B. plane C. ticket D. leisure

Answers to puzzles on page 24

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

around town

World Golf Village: Tuesday, July 3.

Fireworks over the lake in the heart of World Golf Village begin at 9:15 p.m. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. www.worldgolfimax.com

Fireworks over the Matanzas: Wednesday, July 4.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Fireworks over the bayfront between the Castillo de San Marcos and the Bridge of Lions begin at 9:30 p.m. www.visitstaugustine.com

American Pride 4th of July: Wednesday, July 4.

Festivities begin at Moosehaven at 5 p.m. Fireworks over the St. Johns River begin at 9:20 p.m. www.moosehaven.org

Downtown Jacksonville: Wednesday, July 4.

Fireworks over the downtown riverfront will begin at 9:45 p.m. www.jaxhappenings.com

Jacksonville Beach: Wednesday, July 4.

Fireworks from the Jacksonville Beach Pier begin at 9 p.m. www.jacksonvillebeach.org



July 2

Praying the Patriotic Rosary

7 p.m.
San Juan del Rio Catholic Church, 1718 State Road 13 N
All are welcome to join in prayers for our country

July 5

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
pa@mysafeboating.com

July 5

Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Westminster Woods, 25 State Road
lancedmalcolm@gmail.com

July 6

Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting

7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)
St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
www.rotarystjohns.org

July 10 - Aug. 14

Free Quit Smoking Now Class

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

July 10

Friends of the Library meeting

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
New members welcome; (904) 827-6960

July 12

Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St Augustine
www.stjohnsaudubon.com

July 12

Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

July 14

Friends of the Library Book Sale

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

July 14

Teen Craft Hour: Peppermint bath salts

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
RSVP: (904) 827-6960

July 14

St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
www.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrrod@comcast.net

July 16

Summer Movie for Kids: "Leap!"

3 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

July 16

All Star Quilt Guild

9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

July 17

St. Johns Federated Republican Women meeting

Forum featuring candidates for County Commissioner and School Board
6:30 p.m. social/7 p.m. forum
100 E. Town Place, World Golf Village
sjfdrepublicanwomen@gmail.com

July 17

North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, 25 State Road 13
Register at www.sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681

July 17

St. Johns CARES meeting

7 p.m.
Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org

July 17

World Golf Village Toastmasters

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

July 17

Happy Hookers crochet group

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

July 18

LEGO Club for Kids

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

July 19

Adult Coloring Club

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

July 20

First Coast Newcomers Club board games and lunch

1 p.m.
Coffee Cafe, St. Augustine
Limited to 10; RSVP (904) 829-0643

July 21

Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month (904) 827-6960

July 27

Helping Hands of St. Johns County

10 a.m.
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
jacqphil@aol.com

July 30

Primary Election Voter Registration or Party Change deadline for voters

www.sjcvotes.us

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take 5

Vilano boat ramp undergoes improvement

Parking at the Vilano boat ramp will be intermittently impacted through August due to projects that will construct a marine rescue docking facility and repair two floating docks damaged in Hurricane Irma. While a portion of the parking lot will be utilized as a staging area, a majority of the parking will remain open to public use. The boat ramp will also remain open and accessible to the public throughout the project. Boaters and visitors are encouraged to exercise caution while utilizing the facility during this time. Visit www.sjcl.us for periodic updates and call (904) 209-0382 or email tmeyer@sjcl.us for additional information.

Summer movie announced for kids at Bartram Trail Branch Library

The Bartram Trail Branch Library will show the movie, "Leap!" (2017, rated PG) in its Summer Movies for Kids series on Monday, July 16 beginning at 3 p.m. The movie is about an orphan girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina and flees her rural Brittany for Paris, where she passes for someone else and accedes to the position of pupil at the Grand Opera house. Kids are welcome to bring in favorite pillows, blankets, quilts, and beach towels to get comfy on

the floor; covered drinks and their own favorite foods are also welcome. Light snacks will be provided thanks to the Friends of the Library.

Crafters needed

The Mandarin United Methodist Women's 29th annual Fall Craft Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018 at the church, located at 11270 San Jose Blvd. More than 100 crafters typically participate; interested crafters should contact Darlene at dhc1015@bellsouth.net for additional information.

Helping Hands to meet on July 27

School supplies will be collected at the July 27 monthly meeting of Helping Hands of St. Johns County. The group will meet from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Faith Community Church, 3450 CR 210 W. Helping Hands of St. Johns County is a volunteer organization started in 2006 that meets the last Friday of each month. There are no dues, officers or stress. Members come when they can and do what they can with what is donated. Helping Hands is fortunate to have many community partners and could not exist without their help through donations of goods and services. Email jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

Jacksonville Area Afternoon Golf Tour accepting new members

The Jacksonville Area Afternoon Golf Tour is seeking local amateur golfers who would like to play one to two days per week (weekdays and weekends) around

1 p.m. at the following courses: Amelia River Golf Club, Bent Creek Golf Club, Blue Sky Golf Club, Cimarrone Golf Club, Eagle Harbor Golf Club, Eagle Landing Golf Club, Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Jurlington Creek Golf Club, King & Bear at WGV, Magnolia Point Golf Club, North Hampton Golf Club, Royal St. Augustine, Saint Augustine Shores, St. Johns Golf & Country Club, Saint Johns Golf Club, Slammer & Squire at WGV, South Hampton Golf Club,



Photo by MetroCreative

and Windsor Parke Golf Club. The tour goes on continuously and year-round, so golfers can join for free anytime. No handicap is necessary and all skill levels are welcome. Play as little or as much as you want; you pay only when you play. Email JaxGolfTour@gmail.com for more information.

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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in NW St. Johns County or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewslines.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

While we will do our best to answer all the questions we receive, we may not be able to answer all questions received each month. Also, due to publication scheduling, the time it takes to research answers may vary.

Here are answers to questions we received this month:

Q: Do you know any update on the Project Family indoor sports facility that is supposed to be built on Race Track Road near the new Durbin Park development?

A: We reached out to Della Wolfe, director of marketing for this project, which is set to include two indoor turf fields suitable for football, lacrosse and soccer as well as another field for baseball and softball.

Wolfe told us that they have been diligently working with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a site plan that will have the least amount of impact on the wetlands located on the property and that as soon as this is resolved, they will be moving forward with the project.

Wolfe also said, "In the meantime, we have opened a 75,000 sq. ft. sports facility off Baymeadows Road that currently houses 12 volleyball courts (home to JJVA), one basketball court and indoor turf and batting cages. This smaller version of the new project ignites much excitement about moving forward with Project Family in St. Johns County."

According to Suzanne Konchan, AICP, Growth Management Director for St. Johns County, Project Family received its concurrency approval by St. Johns County last October.



with St. Johns County Commissioner Jimmy Johns, (District 1)

Q: What is the latest news from the County Commission?

A: Right now, it is raining requests for money — everything from beach renourishment to the School Board to people requesting their drainage issues be fixed. We are in budget season and our Office of Management and Budget is saying we should not spend all of our cash reserves. For instance, we have only received one-third of the reimbursement amount we expect to receive from FEMA from the hurricanes. This reimbursement process is working, but it is working slowly ... so we have a cash flow issue. So we are looking at the budget for next year and asking, where is the money going to come from?

Q: What do you consider to be a big budget challenge?

A: One challenge is we have a lot of deferred maintenance, such as for roads and storm drainage. People are legitimately concerned about these items, but there is no easy fix. With drainage, for example, there are more than 30 issues that have been problems for years. These will take months if not years to find improvements and some will never really have a solution, since the issues are the result of topography, for example. One thing we have done with new roadways associated with new development construction is to reduce the percentage of homes needed to be built and put in a time limit — so that roads will be built sooner rather than later in the development timeline.

Q: Today is June 18, the day before the County Commission meeting at which commissioners will consider the request of the St. Johns County School Board to bear some of the expense of complying with the school safety act. Can you give us some insights on your thoughts on this as of today?

A: At the joint meeting we had with

the School Board earlier this month, we heard from the sheriff that he cannot hire enough officers in time to comply with the law. Additionally, we have heard that there is a significant difference of opinion between the school board and the state as to whether there is sufficient funding. I felt we needed a clear understanding as to what direction we are running before we run. I think the issue is a complex mental health issue and not a gun issue, as some of the schools that were targeted had armed officers on site. Unfortunately, people who are intent on harming other people will do so. We need to address this problem where it initiates; how do we stop the violence?

Q: But the school board is required by law to have an armed officer at each school by the beginning of next school year.

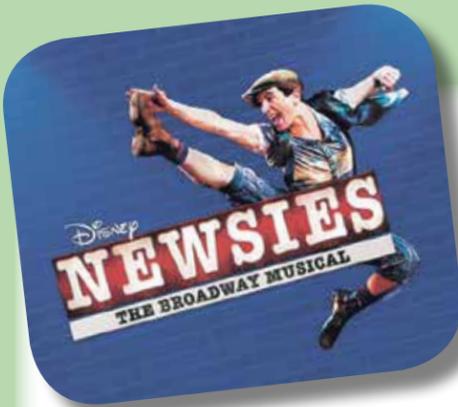
A: As far as what the financial responsibility of the County Commission is, I would say that we have a limited amount of money to spend. If we have \$1 million that we can share with the school board, why are we not spending it on the deferred maintenance or drainage issues as I mentioned earlier? It's not a matter of not wanting to partner with the school board. Let me be clear that I am not putting a dollar value on lives. But I believe we are limited by human and financial resources and the county commission has to try to meet all of our community's needs. This is why it is so important for us to hear from the citizens. What is important to you for us to spend money on and how should we get the money to pay for it?

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?

A: Readers can email me at bcc1johns@sjcf.us or call me at (904) 615-7437.

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with Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board Member, District 1

Q: Can you give us an update as of today (June 15) about what the St. Johns County School District is doing to comply with the school safety act?

A: We just had a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners where we presented our plan and asked for their help. Currently we have 15 Youth Resource Officers that the school district and the sheriff's office jointly pay for. This leaves us a gap of 28 officers in order to have one on each school campus.

Q: What is the plan that you presented?

A: We asked the Board of County Commissioners to provide funds for the capital outlay (cars, guns) for these 28 officers and we offered to pay all of the salaries. They would be St. Johns County Sheriff's Office employees and the sheriff offered to provide training. These officers would work for the school district for 180 days plus summer school each year and then for SJSO for the remainder. The Board of County Commissioners has a meeting on June 19 at which they will vote on this proposal. I am hopeful that it will pass.

Q: Would all these officers be hired by the beginning of the school year as required by the law?

A: No. So, as a stopgap measure, the school board has authorized the superintendent to negotiate a contract with a security company to provide armed guards in the interim, possibly up to a year. There are security companies with guards who are specially trained to work on school campuses and these are the companies we will be negotiating with.

We are taking great care to ensure that the guards we hire will be best suited to protect our children.

Q: What would you say to parents who might be nervous about having armed guards who are not sheriff's deputies on campuses?

A: We are required by law to have an armed guard or officer on every campus beginning the first day of school. The law also requires the guards to have specific training and psychological screenings and these are the types of guards we would hire. This is the closest thing to a deputy we will be able to have in this interim period. I'm well pleased that we have a plan to get one guard on each campus for safety of our students.

Q: What do you know so far about this year's standardized test results?

A: I'm very pleased. We have preliminary numbers and St. Johns County is first in the state in all measures of reading and most measures of math. We are also No. 1 in EOC (End of Course) exams. The hard work of our students and teachers has yielded great results.

Q: Any other updates?

A: The new schools are very close to completion. All of our principals are working on hiring additional staff as the school district continues to grow. We had 5 percent growth last year and we anticipate about the same this year — about 1,000 more students.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call me at (904) 547-7510.

Your Vote Counts

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Elections ahead

Candidate qualifying ended June 22 at noon and the races for the upcoming Aug. 28 Primary Election are set. Visit votesjc.com for a complete listing of the candidates. The candidate list will include all federal, state and local races that will appear on the ballot.

As a reminder, Florida is a closed Primary State. This means that only voters who are registered members of a political party which has candidates on the primary ballot may vote for that party's candidates in a primary election. Voters with no party affiliation (NPA) are not eligible to vote for party candidates in a primary election; however, all qualified voters regardless of party affiliation or no party affiliation can vote on Nonpartisan judicial and school board offices. Know your party affiliation. It affects the ballot you receive in the Primary and the races in which you are eligible to vote.

July 30 is the last day to register to vote or make party changes for the Primary

Election. It's now easier than ever to register to vote or update your registration. Online voter registration is now available on our website. You can also verify your voter registration, make changes to your party affiliation, check and update your address, request a vote by mail ballot, locate your polling place, and view your sample ballot by selecting "My Voter Status."

You can also register to vote or submit voter registration applications in person at any public library or the Tax Collector's Office located at the annexes. Address changes can be made any time. Simply call the office at (904) 823-2238 to update your address or use the online form on our website.

It is very important to keep your information updated with the Elections Office in order to receive your sample ballots. They will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to the election to every registered voter, and are also

Your Vote Counts cont. on pg. 15

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Ms. Fifer resides in Saint Johns County with her husband and two children. Outside of work she enjoys exercising, exploring local beaches, reading, and being with friends and family.

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Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150
Property Appraiser: (904) 827-5500
Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@sjcpa.us
Supervisor of Elections: (904) 823-2238
Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com
Tax Collector: (904) 209-2250
Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us
Clerk of Court: (904) 819-3600
Hunter S. Conrad

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
District 1: (904) 209-0301
Jimmy Johns, bccljohns@sjcfl.us
District 2: (904) 209-0302
Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us
District 3: (904) 209-0303
Paul Waldron, bccd3pwaldron@sjcfl.us

District 4: (904) 209-0304
Jay Morris, bccd4@sjcfl.us
District 5: (904) 209-0305
Henry Dean, bccd5hdean@sjcfl.us

St. Johns County School Board
(www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)
District 1: (904) 547-7510
Beverly Slough, beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us
District 2: (904) 547-7510
Tommy Allen, tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us

State of Florida Elected Officials
State House District 17: (904) 823-2300
Representative Cyndi Stevenson,
Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov,
State Senate District 7: (386) 446-7610
Senator Travis Hutson

Federal Elected Officials
U.S. Congress District 4:
Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501
U.S. Senate:
Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041

The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

Hurricane awareness

Hurricane season began at the beginning of last month and lasts until the end of November — and meteorologists are calling for a near or above normal amount of storms this year. They predict a total of 10 to 16 named tropical storms, of which five to nine will be hurricanes with winds greater than 74 mph, and one to four major hurricanes with winds greater than 115 mph.

You should be familiar with the terms Hurricane Watch and Hurricane Warning. A Watch is issued when conditions are favorable that a hurricane could strike in 36 hours. A Warning is issued when hurricane force winds are expected to strike in 24 hours.

By this time you should already have an emergency plan for yourself and family

and begin implementation of that plan. Some things to consider in your preliminary plans are:

- Take photos of your property from all angles; it may not look the same once the storm passes.
- Plan for elderly/handicapped/invalid care at a shelter or at home.
- Learn which routes will be safe during a storm.
- Learn where official shelters are located.
- Trim any dead wood from trees prior to the storm.
- Check for, fix or take note of loose items on your structures (shutters, screens, eaves, gutters, antennas, satellites).
- Plan what you and your family will do if you have to evacuate.

- Get necessary supplies and secure them in safe area.
- Plan for pet care.
- Review your insurance coverage and protect important documents.
- Show others in the family how to turn off/on gas, electricity, and water.
- Make outside repairs.

When a Hurricane Watch for your area is issued you should do the following:

- Listen to official bulletins on radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio, and internet for updates.
- Check all supplies you already have to see if they are in satisfactory condition, including batteries.
- Fill gas tank of vehicles, check oil and tire pressure.
- Inspect mobile home tie-downs.
- Board, tape, and cover windows and doors or skylights.
- Secure boat.
- Secure any objects and furniture that are outside.
- Check on all medical supplies, special needs for elderly, handicapped, etc.
- Plan to evacuate if necessary.

When a Hurricane Warning is issued here are some suggestions:

- Stay tuned to TV, radio, internet or NOAA Weather Radio.
 - Move valuables to higher location
 - Move furniture away from windows and cover.
 - Fill containers (bathtub, plastic jugs) with drinking water.
 - Use phones only in an emergency.
- Bring in/secure pets (food & water).
- Shut off water and electricity at main breaker switch.

- Leave mobile homes.
- Leave low areas. If evacuating, leave early.

Sometimes a hurricane path may not be predictable and evacuation orders could come at any time. If you are asked to evacuate, please do so early and know the route you will be taking. Remember there will be many folks taking the same route from a very large area so be sure to give yourself plenty of time to leave safely.

Finally, if you refuse to leave following an evacuation order, here are some safety tips for riding out the storm:

- Turn the refrigerator to maximum cold.
- Freeze water in plastic containers; if the electricity goes off you can use the ice to keep food cold in the refrigerator.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by the authorities.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and containers with water.
- Stay indoors in a small interior room, hallway, or closet.
- Prepare for storm surge and possible flooding.
- Plan what to do if the winds become too strong.
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if covered.
- Close all inside doors, brace exterior doors.
- If you have a two-story house, stay on the first floor.
- Lie on the floor or under a table or other sturdy object.

Now is the time to go over your hurricane preparedness. If you have not made any emergency plans, you should do them

The Sheriff Reports cont. on pg. 14



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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



A "peculiar" theory

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

In 1854, a cholera epidemic threatened the residents of the west-end London suburb of Soho. Soho was not the swanky shopping and dining district it is today. It was a slum. Hundreds would die of the disease. Medical experts believed that the disease was transmitted by "miasma," or bad air. Public health officials urged the public to avoid sleeping in cold air, to be temperate in eating and drinking, to avoid raw vegetables and fruit, and the consumption of cold water when overheated. None of these things cause the transmittal of cholera.

One man set out to find the real cause of the dreaded disease. His name was John Snow and he was the son of a common laborer. At an early age, Snow had demonstrated an aptitude for mathematics. As a result, he found himself apprenticed to a doctor at the age of 14. Eleven years later he became a surgeon. Snow rejected the common belief that diseases such as cholera were transmitted by pollution or diseased air. He believed the disease was transmitted by water tainted by sewage.

Snow began to laboriously map every cholera death in London that year, all 616 of them. Snow's hand drawn map demonstrated that all the deaths had occurred within a short distance of a single well, the Broad Street well in Soho. Snow theorized, correctly, that it was water from the well that was causing the epidemic. The chief physician for the city of London called the

new theory "peculiar." Nonetheless, the Broad Street well was closed, and the cholera outbreak ended. Later it was shown that sewage was leaking into the well.

In one long summer of research, Snow had discovered the cause of cholera, saved hundreds of innocent lives, and invented the science of epidemiology. Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of disease. Snow's methodology is still used by organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization to this day. The medical community was reluctant to accept Snow's findings. He would be vindicated, but only in death.

Human beings are often resistant to change. Innovators are often stonewalled by the establishment. People laughed at the light bulb, the airplane, and the personal computer. The British Parliament declared of Edison's light bulb that it might be "good enough for our Transatlantic friends... but unworthy of the attention of practical or scientific men." As investors, we need to embrace change in order to profit from changes in the way we live. Change is going to happen whether we like it or not. So, stay open to innovative ideas, even the peculiar ones.

Scott A. Grant is President of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfastic.com.

Hurricane preparedness tips

By Marge Cirillo
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Florida Small Business Development Council (FSBDC) exists to provide assistance with marketing and business plans for small businesses. Here are some hurricane preparedness tips for businesses:

Develop a Comprehensive Plan. An effective hurricane survival plan should be written down and reviewed annually. This plan should address policies and procedures for employee safety regarding hurricanes, business continuity and contingency plans in the face of damage to the business's facilities and policies for dealing with employees, customers and vendors.

Some of the key elements of an effective plan are:

- Conditions that will activate the plan
- Chain of command
- Emergency functions and who will perform them
- Specific evacuation procedures, including routes and exits
- Procedures for accounting for personnel, customers and visitors
- Equipment for personnel

Determine procedures and individual crisis management responsibilities. Identify

which personnel are required to be on-site in the days surrounding a hurricane, as well as who is essential to business function, whether required on-site or not. Be sure to communicate areas of accountability and responsibility for key personnel and how to perform their emergency-response duties effectively.

Coordinate with others. Understand the hurricane response plans of other businesses in your area as well as police, fire department, hospitals, and utility companies. It is also helpful to communicate with suppliers, shippers, and others with whom you regularly do business.

Prepare employees. Communicate your hurricane plan with all your staff; obtain all emergency contact numbers for employees and ensure understanding of roles, responsibilities and expectations for every employee.

Review emergency plans annually. Assess changes in your business or to the community that may affect your hurricane response plan and make the necessary changes each year.

Marge Cirillo is the Florida Small Business Development Council consultant for St. Johns County. She can be reached at m.cirillo@unf.edu or (904) 209-1295.

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Briefs

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation announces Master Plan update meetings

St. Johns County is hosting Parks and Recreation Master Plan update community meetings from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17 at the Players Community Center, 175 Landrum Lane, and from 6 p.m. — 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18 at the City of St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A Beach Blvd.

The meetings are a component of a multi-phase Parks and Recreation Master Plan update process that will create a more dynamic and diverse parks and recreation system to generate numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits. Residents are invited to the meetings and offer feedback regarding St. Johns County Parks and Recreation facilities and services. For more information, call (904) 209-0344.

4-H Youth Development Program seeks volunteers

The St. Johns County 4-H Youth Development Program is seeking caring adult volunteers to work with 4-H youth aged five – 18 in St. Johns County.

As a 4-H club or project leader, 4-H volunteers have an opportunity to share their interests with youth. The 4-H project areas include animal and plant science, healthy living, citizenship, environmental education, technology, food preparation, photography and more. The reward of sharing your interest with a young person is priceless. Through a

“learn by doing” experience, 4-H volunteers help youth learn leadership, communication, citizenship and a variety of life skills that enable them to become capable and caring citizens.

4-H Volunteers have the flexibility to determine the amount of time, location and subject area they prefer. Volunteers receive full assistance of the 4-H Office, including training, office support, and a variety of resource materials and project curriculum. An orientation for new Club and Project Volunteers will take place on Thursday, July 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the St. Johns County Extension Office located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092. Call the 4-H Office at (904) 209-0430 by July 23 if you would like to attend the 4-H volunteer orientation on Thursday, July 26.

United Way of St. Johns County announces Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program funds

United Way of St. Johns County is pleased to announce that \$18,640.00 in federal funds has been awarded to St. Johns County through the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

A local board made up of county, city, and human services agencies along with United Way of St. Johns County will determine how funds are to be distributed among emergency food and shelter programs in the local service area. The

board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive funds in this cycle and, as well as, funds awarded in future cycles.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations, whether nonprofit or governmental, may apply. To receive funds, the organization must conduct an annual audit, practice non-discrimination, and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and shelter programs. Examples of how program funds can be used include the following: food (served meals or groceries), lodging in a mass shelter or hotel, one month’s rent or mortgage payment, one month’s utility bill and/or equipment necessary to feed or shelter people.

Qualifying programs are urged to apply or gather additional information by contacting United Way of St. Johns County, jenny.harvey@unitedway-sjc.org or 904-829-9721. To learn more about United Way of St. Johns County, visit www.unitedway-sjc.org.

Orthodontist’s office welcomes new doctor

Dr. Jimmy Glenos and the team at Smiles by Glenos are proud to announce the addition of a second Board Certified orthodontist, Dr. Craig Hadgis. Dr. Hadgis and his wife, Anne, have recently moved back to the north Florida area, where Dr. Hadgis earned his orthodontic specialty certification at the School of Orthodontics at Jacksonville University.

Prior to specializing in the field of orthodontics and then going on to become Board Certified by the American Board of Orthodontics, Dr. Hadgis received a master’s degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Michigan and his DDS degree as well as a degree in Advanced Education in General Dentistry from the University of Detroit Mercy. He has eight years of experience practicing the latest techniques in providing customized, digitally planned orthodontic services and is experienced in the Damon and Insignia

appliance systems.

The Hadgis family has enjoyed a long-standing connection to St. Augustine area. Dr. Hadgis’ great uncle was the first physician to practice in nearby Bunnell. This area has been the family’s “go to” vacation destination since Dr. Hadgis was a child growing up in Grosse Pointe, Mich. As the son of a family dentist, it is not surprising that Dr. Hadgis ended up favoring a career of creating beautiful smiles.

Dr. Glenos and Dr. Hadgis became very well acquainted over the past several years through their attendance at the Florida Association of Orthodontists annual meetings. After much discussion regarding various orthodontic treatment philosophies, dental and facial growth and development, treatment timing, personal values and professional ethics, it became obvious that combining their skill sets could only prove beneficial towards achieving their mutually shared



Photo courtesy Smiles by Glenos
Doctors Glenos and Hadgis at the desk.

goal: to provide the highest possible level of gentle, efficient and personalized orthodontic care to St. Augustine, St. Johns and the surrounding areas for many years to come.

Visit smilesbyglenos.com for more information.

Statewide soaking brings double the rain during May

May’s wet weather pushed rainfall totals across the St. Johns River Water Management District to double the average. For the month of May, the district-wide

Briefs cont. on pg. 11

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Briefs. cont. from pg. 10

rainfall total was 8.8 inches, compared to the average of 3.5 inches. This is a departure from last year's data when rainfall was trending significantly below average.

While May's rainfall has been reported as record setting, it wasn't record setting in all areas of the district, with weather stations in Jacksonville, Orlando, Daytona Beach and Vero Beach having recorded more rain in prior years.

Indian River County had the highest monthly rainfall, with 11.6 inches, followed by Seminole and Volusia, with just over 10 inches. Twelve-month rainfall totals are above average, with a zone of unusually high rainfall running through northern Alachua, Putnam, southwest St. Johns and northwest Flagler counties.

Districtwide, the annual total is 16.5 inches above average.

Northeast Florida's May real estate report — The market is hot

Northeast Florida's 2,748 home sales in May were a 6.1 percent drop from last May, yet the largest number of sales for any month since August 2017. Pending sales — those on which a contract has been written but have not yet closed — hit 2,996, for a 10.8 percent increase over a year ago.

Sales are occurring quickly, with 60 days being the average number of days on market until sale. A year ago, the average was 73 days.

A median sales price of \$225,000 was a 5.8 percent year-over-year increase. The average sales price was significantly higher, coming in at \$273,448 for an 8.1 percent increase since a year ago.

Despite 3,797 new listings hitting the market in May, months' supply of homes for sale is at 3.4, well below the five- to six-months considered a market that is balanced between buyers and sellers. Final home inventory for May was 8,398; down 9.1 percent from 9,239 homes for sale in May 2017.

Increasing prices are especially affecting availability of homes in the lower price ranges. Here's the breakdown of May's homes for sale by price range: 1,324 are listed for \$149,999 or less; 795 are in the \$150,000 to \$199,999 range; 2,114 fall in the \$200,000 to \$299,999 category; 2,452 are within the \$300,000 to \$499,999 slot; 1,259 are listed for \$500,000 to \$999,999, and 454 homes are on the market for a million dollars or more.

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Helping Hands group assembles Splash Pacs for children in need



Photo courtesy Mary Safin

At the May 25 monthly meeting of Helping Hands of St. Johns County, volunteers put together Splash Pacs for children at the Homeless Coalition. Community members donated bathing suits, beach towels, flip flops, and visors, while community partner Publix on CR 210W donated sunscreen and bags. Pictured are volunteers Sheilah and Sally filling the bags, which were given to the children at a cookout hosted by Helping Hands of St. Johns County on June 2. Helping Hands of Saint Johns County is a volunteer organization that meets from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the last Friday of each month at Faith Community Church, 3450 CR 210W. Email jacqphil@aol.com for more information.

Gymnast surpasses personal goal at Nationals

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Local gymnast Emerson Hurst has had a big year — she graduated from St. Johns Virtual School and she attended the U.S. Olympic National Championships in Cincinnati for the second year in a row. Her goal this year was to medal in at least one event and she said she is pleased that she achieved that. Hurst earned silver on the balance beam as well as bronze on the floor exercise; she finished in the top 10 on vault, but some shoulder issues that necessitated a lower degree of difficulty in her bar routine kept her from a high finish on that apparatus.



Photos courtesy Istvan Pono, EBS Productions.

the highest level in the Junior Olympic Program.

Hurst said that the balance beam is her favorite apparatus.

“I feel comfortable on the beam, which seems odd since it is only four inches wide,” Hurst said. “I can walk better on the beam than on the floor!”

On competition day at nationals, she said her favorite part was sticking the landing on her vault.

“I knew that I had done my best on floor and beam and so it was exciting for me to stick my vault landing also. It was the cherry on top,” Hurst said. “Since it was my last national championship, I really wanted to leave everything out there, and I did.”



Hurst was adopted as an infant from Russia by her mother, Diane Hurst, and lives with her mother and grandparents, Gerry and Rosalie Hurst, in St. Johns. She credits her grandparents for helping to pitch in with rides to the many practices she put in at the gym — up to six or seven hours per day, most days of the week. She said she is a typical teenage girl who enjoys crafting, shopping, playing with her dogs and hanging out with her friends in her spare time.

Hurst said she began gymnastics at age four, in a manner familiar to most gymnasts: her mother, Diane Hurst, noticed that she was extremely active.

“Since I was climbing on couches, my mom said if I was going to do that, I needed to do it correctly,” Emerson Hurst said.

She started taking recreational classes at Starlight Gymnastics and the coaches there saw something special in her as well. They encouraged her to continue with the more competitive levels and by the age of nine, Hurst had advanced through levels 2 – 5 to the optional levels beginning at level 6. This year at nationals she competed as a level 10,

Hurst trains at Starlight Gymnastics in Mandarin and is coached by Cheri Gilikin and Vessy Ivanov.

In the fall, Hurst will attend Towson (Md.) University on a full athletic scholarship as a member of the school’s Division 1 gymnastics team. She said it “all came down to the coaches” when she decided to become a Towson Tiger. Additionally, she felt really comfortable there and liked the campus. She intends to major in sports management. She said she will continue working out here at Starlight through the summer before joining her new team in August.

“I’m excited to get up there and help the team out,” she said.

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Family Fun Fest benefits Alpha-Omega Miracle Home

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The third annual Family Fun Fest was held on April 28 at Francis Field. Approximately 4000 people attended the all-day festival, which raised more than \$27,000 to benefit Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, a faith-based non-profit 501(c)(3) offering a supportive housing program to single mothers, their children, and senior women. The Alpha-Omega Miracle Home also broadly serves St. Johns County through various outreach initiatives.

The family-friendly event was hosted by Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine with Dr. James Grimes serving as the emcee for the Team Obstacle Course Challenge. A team competition was chosen as the signature event, as it relates to life and the mission of Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, where young women and their babies are partnered with senior women to create a nurturing team. Additional activities included face painting, crafts, bounce houses, live entertainment, food and vendors. The US Marines won the team competition with a time of 10:02.

Grimes, a founding partner of Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine, said, "My wife and I have visited Alpha-Omega Miracle Home and the work being done is nothing short of outstanding. Lisa and her team are truly making a difference in our community."

Lisa Franklin, founder and executive director of Alpha-Omega Miracle Home,



Photo courtesy Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine
Team Anastasia Stay Fit at the final obstacle, the warped wall, with emcee James Grimes, MD (right).

expressed her gratitude for Grace Grimes, event director, "It has been remarkable to see how Grace has turned a small event into an annual Family Fun Fest that benefits St. Augustine families as it builds finances each year for Alpha-Omega."

Top sponsors included The Original Granite Bracket, Jumperama, Flagler Hospital, Jack Wilson Chevrolet, Burkhardt Sales and Service, Alexander Law Firm, The Bailey Group, WW Gay Mechanical Contractor, Dr. DePasqual, Lowes, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Land Title, Shugart Fence, Benjamin Moore, and TBL Construction. The Team Obstacle Course Challenge was built by local companies who donated both time and materials.



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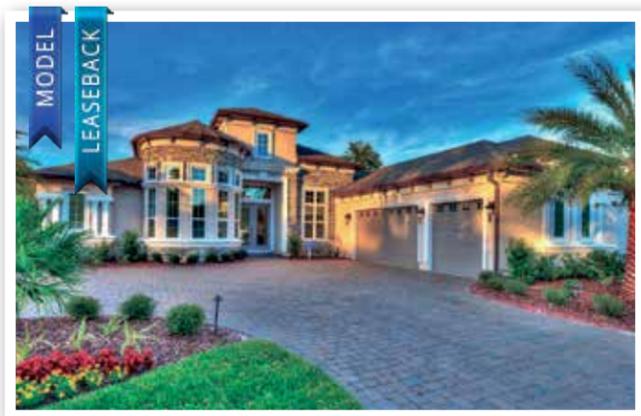
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Relay for Life of North St. Johns County surpasses goal

By Atharva Palande
mail@floridanewline.com

Consider the sum of \$92,000 as the goal for the 2018 rendition of Relay for Life of North St. Johns County — and one can be astounded by the fact that it was surpassed. But passing it by a significant amount came as a pleasant surprise to everyone in the circles of the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County, held on April 14, actually raised a bit more than 16 percent above its goal — a little over \$107,000. The event's mission statement comes together in the amount of money raised with the concept of hope, as most of this money goes towards finding a cure for cancer.

To generate this amount of money, Relay for Life of North St. Johns had many hardworking members behind it. As always, there was the dedicated leadership team, working diligently to make sure the right touches were made and that the event would be a complete success from the minute details to the biggest tasks.

Corporate sponsors were a prominent reason that the fundraising goal was surpassed. Ranging from large companies like CITI Bank and Tata Consultancy Services, to local companies such as All-state (John Crowell), Pilot, The UPS store (State Road 13), Medcruiters, Weaver & Stratton, Village Key & Alarm, Legacy Trust, State Farm, Bonnie Marshal, and Tim's Floor Covering, all contributions were appreciated.

This year, the top team was the River of Life UMC, which raised more than

\$12,000. On this team was also the top contributor and one of the team leads, Becky Kimball — who raised more than \$6,000 on her own.

For all of their hard work, the following recognitions were awarded: Rookie Team of the Year was Nease High School Panthers and Rookie of the Year was Anne Cullum. On the day of the event, Best Themed Campsite was Team Supreme; Most Spirited Team was Gen Z & Tatas Consultancy Services; and Best Spirit Stick was Mustangs Making a Difference. The consensus was that all teams deserved recognition; yet these particular teams and individuals stood out for what they did to make Relay for Life successful.

Relay for Life of North St. Johns will return in 2019. To become a part of this event, email the committee at rfl.north-saintjohnscounty@gmail.com.

The Sheriff Reports cont. from pg. 8

now. Here are a couple of links you might be interested in: the National Hurricane Center at <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> and the St. Johns County Office of Emergency Management at <http://www.sjcemergencymanagement.org/>.

Feel free to drop me a line at dshoar@sjsjso.org. It is our hope at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office that you have a safe and happy summer.



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Addressing our drug issues head on

By Lynnette Horwath
mail@floridanewline.com

Following a well-attended Town Hall Meeting on April 11 on the Opioid Crisis here in St. Johns County, citizens are ready to take action locally. Our first official meeting of a newly formed Anti-Drug Task Force was held on May 16 with almost 30 people in attendance. This included professionals who work in related fields of interest as well as a number of concerned community residents. The focus for the task force for the foreseeable future will be the Opioid Crisis and planning local strategies and interventions.

Many pressing perspectives were raised at the first meeting. One mother shared the heartache of having lost her son to an opioid overdose. Other parents expressed their growing concerns on safeguarding their middle school and high school students who might access pills from peers. Medical and treatment challenges were raised with not enough resources to meet current needs. Law enforcement stated that while they do their part through arrests of drug dealers and users, this does not get at the root of the problems. What is clear is that local citizens are concerned enough that we collectively have made a commitment to strategize from a multidisciplinary perspective on how to address the current crisis.

The Task Force is in the process of forming working groups and would welcome more participation from the community. Work groups will focus on the following issues: law enforcement,

treatment, medical concerns, prevention, analytics and legal issues. Task Force meetings are being held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Health and Human Services Building, Kingfisher Room.

Contact Bridget Heenan, executive director of PACT Prevention Coalition at BridgetPACT@yahoo.com for more information or to express an interest in getting involved. Everyone's input is welcomed to help turn the tide of this significant crisis that directly or indirectly affects all of us in St. Johns County.

Lynnette Horwath is Program Coordinator for PACT Prevention Coalition.

Your Vote Counts cont. from pg. 7

available online. Many important races will appear on the ballot in the Primary this year: US Senate, Congress, Governor and Cabinet members plus local races for County Commissioner and School Board Members.

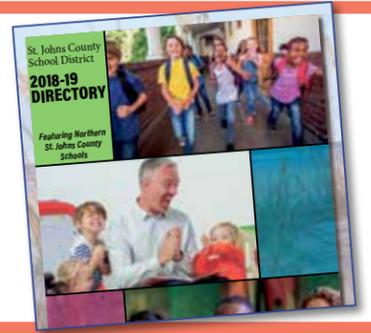
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Great reasons to adopt your next pet

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

There is no end to the companionship, love and joy a pet can bring to one's life. That is perhaps one reason why the number of pets surrendered to shelters each year so greatly upsets animal lovers. But the same places that house animals that were lost or abandoned can be the very locations where families find new pets to love.



Photos courtesy MetroCreative
Consider adopting a pet from a shelter.

The ASPCA estimates that 6.5 million companion animals enter animal shelters in the United States each year.

Animal shelters, rescue groups, pounds, and humane societies are great places to begin searching for new companion animals. The organization DoSomething.org states that, each year, approximately 2.7 million dogs and cats are euthanized because shelters are too full and there aren't enough adoptive homes. Homeless animals outnumber homeless people five to one.

While private breeders and reputable pet stores may have purebred animals that make great pets, to relieve the problems of relinquished or homeless pets residing in crowded shelters, prospective pet parents are urged to first consider adopting shelter pets. The following are reasons why adopting shelter dogs or cats is such a great idea.

• **Well-behaved animals:** The Humane Society of America says most shelter pets end up in facilities not because of behavioral issues or something they did wrong, but due to circumstances affecting their owners, such as moving or divorce. That means there are thousands of house-broken, behavior-trained pets just waiting for a new family.

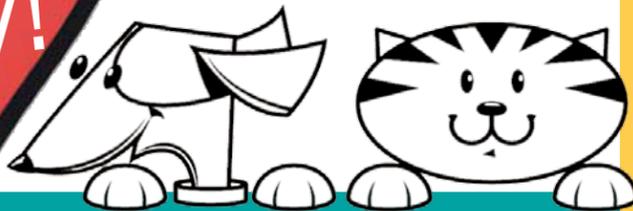
• **Lower costs:** When a person adopts a pet, microchipping, first immunization costs, neutering/spaying, and some vet costs may be covered by the adoption fee. Plus, that adoption fee can be hundreds of dollars less than purchasing a pet from elsewhere.

• **Longer life expectancy:** The Canine Journal says "mutts," or animals whose genetic makeup are a combination of at least two breeds, tend to have fewer health problems and live longer than their purebred counterparts. But shelters also house many purebreds for those who prefer to go that route.

• **Room for others:** For every adopted cat or dog, room is freed up to take in more pets that need assistance.

• **Hurt puppy mills:** Puppy mills produce pets in factory-style facilities that seldom take the welfare of animals into consideration. Adoption hurts puppy mills' bottom lines and helps fight against their inhumane breeding techniques.


Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet
See pg. 3



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Titans win invitational tournament



Photo courtesy Bob Mitchell

The Julington Creek Titans won the JCB Invitational baseball tournament on June 4, beating the Normandy Bandits team 9 – 4 to take the crown. The Titans won five games over the course of the week, capping off the week by crushing the Villages Bombers, 9 – 0 in the semi-final game before beating Normandy for the championship. The Titans were led by masterful pitching performances by Dylan McLeod, Bryce Boccio, Ronan McDonald and Matthew Mitchell as well as the team playing error free baseball over the five game span.

The Titans has been selected to attend the Cooperstown Hall of Fame tournament in Cooperstown, NY and will be traveling there July 27 – Aug. 3. Teams from across the United States travel to Cooperstown for this prestigious tournament.

The Titans are coached by Brandon Bascelli, David Vaughn, Ryan McDonald, Rick Kane and Bob Mitchell and the team consists of Richie Berrios, Ben Studer, Dawson Vaughn, Ronan McDonald, Jackson Kane, Brady Patterson, Tommy Jordan, Dylan McLeod, Bryce Boccio, Adam Harvey and Matthew Mitchell.



Photo courtesy Carol Higley

Another Eagle joins the nest

After eight years dedicated to scouting, more than 50 merit badges and a culminating community service project benefiting St. Augustine Youth Services Boys Home (SAYS), Joey Higley, 13, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement and rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Higley's Outdoor Game Center "Boys Being Boys" consists of chess, checkers, cornhole, Jenga, Yahtzee and tic-tac-toe. His vision was to provide the boys with a place to make new friends, experience joy and bond through fun and competitive games. SAYS shapes the future of Florida's at risk youth through coaching, counseling and care. Their residential group homes provide therapeutic and pre-independent living programs for youth ages 6-17 who have suffered trauma due to abuse and/or neglect. Builders First Source, Lowe's, Ace, Sherwin Williams, Crown Trophy, Troops 225 and 180, and family and friends were instrumental in the success of the project.

2018 - 2019 St. Johns County School Calendar

JULY 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

- Teacher Optional Planning
- Teacher Planning (non-student day)
- Teacher Inservice (non-student day)
- Classes Resume
- Student/Teacher Holiday
- End of Quarter
- Underline = testing dates

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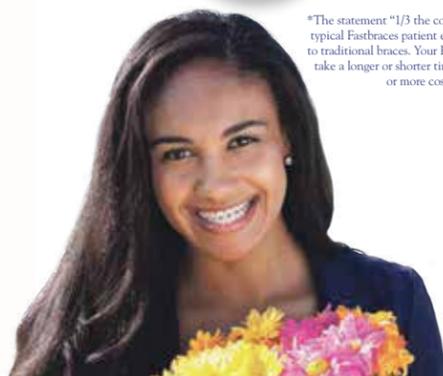


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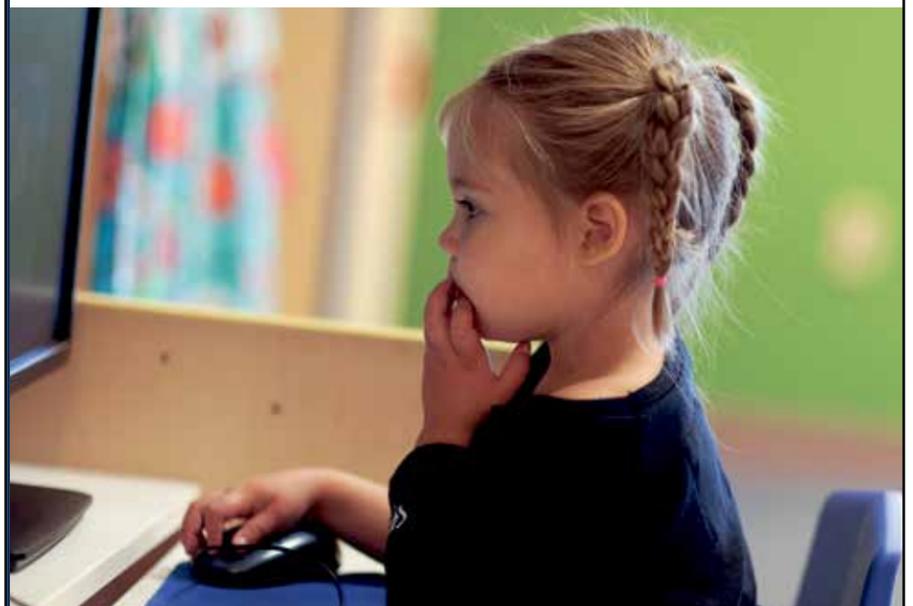
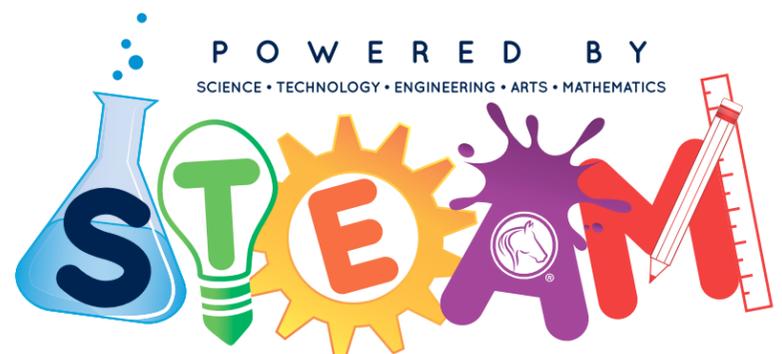


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Firehouse Subs® serves an ace with men's doubles tennis tournament for charity



Photo courtesy Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

Proceeds have been tallied from the Firehouse Subs Men's Double Tennis Tournament, held May 18 – 20 at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club, and despite inclement weather, more than \$134,000 was raised for the Foundation — a 3 percent jump from last year. Hosted by Firehouse Subs for the last 19 years, it continuously ranks as the largest local fundraiser for the brand's nonprofit, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Funds raised at the event over the years have helped award 216 grants valued at \$2,388,000 to Northeast Florida first responders. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, by Firehouse Subs founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the nonprofit organization has granted more than \$33 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$5.3 million in Florida, of which more than \$2.3 million has been awarded in northeast Florida.

Julington Creek native graduates from U.S. Naval Academy



Photo courtesy Legacy Studios

Amanda Keller of St. Johns successfully completed four years of challenging academic, physical and professional military training, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, Aug. 18, with a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology and a commission as a second lieutenant. Keller is a graduate of Creekside High School. At the academy, she was a member of the women's tennis team, including captain in her senior year. Keller ended her tennis career with the most wins in Navy history. Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy today is a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers in the naval service. More than 4,400 men and women representing every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries make up the student body, known as the Brigade of Midshipmen. Midshipmen learn from military and civilian instructors and participate in intercollegiate varsity sports and extracurricular activities. Upon graduation, midshipmen earn a Bachelor of Science degree in a choice of 25 different subject majors and go on to serve at least five years as commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps.

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*As measured and posted by the Florida Department of Education at <https://vpk.fldoe.org>

It's sea turtle nesting season

By NewsLine Staff
 mail@floridanewsline.com

The beaches of St. Johns County are home to several species of endangered or threatened sea turtles. Residents and visitors have a special opportunity and responsibility to protect these magnificent creatures and their vulnerable nesting sites as they return each season to nest along the beaches. Sea turtle nesting season began May 1, and St. Johns County officials are asking residents, visitors, and businesses to help protect natural habitat by observing all nesting season laws and regulations.

Between May 1 and October 31, vehicular traffic on the beach is allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. In addition, all beachfront properties are required to reduce their impact by eliminating interior and exterior lights which may disrupt nesting sea turtles. Volleyball court lights at St. Johns County Pier Park will turn on at sunset and turn off at 9 p.m. during this time.

Beach visitors can also have a positive impact on nesting sea turtles by taking the following actions while enjoying the beach:

- Refrain from using fireworks and open fires.
- Remove ruts and fill in holes left by

vehicles and sand castle building.

- Remove all chairs, umbrellas, or canopies from the beach before dark. These items are subject to removal by county staff.
- Avoid entering sand dunes and conservation zones (15 feet seaward of the dune line).
- Refrain from using balloons, as they can fall into the ocean and harm marine life.
- Never approach sea turtles emerging from or returning to the sea. Nesting sea turtles are vulnerable, timid, and can be easily frightened away.
- Never push an injured animal back into the ocean. If an injured, sick, or deceased sea turtle is encountered, call the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch line at (904) 824-8304.

Leave only your footprints, providing the turtles with a safe and clean habitat in which to nest and hatch.

For more information, visit www.sjcfh.us/hcp or contact St. Johns County Habitat Conservation and Beach Management at (904) 209-3740.

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Get to Know . . .

Jim Snellen

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Born in 1926 on Weaver's Run Creek in Bullitt County, Ky., Jim Snellen has and continues to live a beautiful life of bravery and love. Snellen grew up working on the family farm and enjoyed helping his family.

"Our major farm product was corn. Our farm produced some of the longest ears of corn of all the farms in that area," Snellen said.

At 17 years old, Snellen enlisted in the Navy in 1944 after convincing his parents to sign his papers. Snellen was anxious to see some action and be on his own. Enlisting in the middle of World War II, Snellen was stationed aboard the ship USS Cofer in the South Pacific and he served for 26 months.

On July 4, 1947, Snellen met Dorothy on a blind date. She was engaged to another sailor at the time, but eventually warmed to the charm of Snellen. Thinking he wasn't well suited for Dorothy and in an effort to get away, Snellen decided to quit his job in the hardware store and re-enlist in the United States Air Force. He requested foreign service duty and the Air Force immediately put him to work. The problem was that he was stationed in Fort Knox, Ky., which was actually closer to Dorothy than he was before in Louisville. Snellen made the decision to leave the Air Force and start a new life. He was granted a discharge and married Dorothy in 1949. The two have one daughter, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

After leaving the service, Snellen worked for a variety of manufacturing

companies, mostly in the heating and air conditioning field. Later, he moved into marketing for General Motors and American Standard. Snellen has worked in every state in the continental U. S. and Hawaii, except two.

In 1998, Snellen retired to Fruit Cove, within 15 miles of where his former ship, the USS Cofer, had been decommissioned.

"Every time I cross the bridge over the St. Johns River, I can picture myself being aboard the Cofer," Snellen said.

Snellen enjoys speaking with people around the community, including at several high schools in the area — and he hopes to continue sharing his thoughts and experiences with others.

1. Coming from Dallas, Tex., what did you like most about the Fruit Cove area that made you want to stay during your retirement?

When we moved here it was very laid back and a lot less busy than it is now. We have always enjoyed the area.

2. What activities do you enjoy doing to keep yourself active?

Well, up until about a year ago, I golfed. I enjoy doing yard work and other things around the house. For the past 16 years, I've worked part-time at Pinch A Penny. They tell me they want me to work until I'm 100. I get bored if I'm not doing something.

3. Tell me about your book and what it means to you to have it written out in that format?



Photo by Angela Higginbotham
Jim Snellen

My book is called "South Pacific at Seventeen." When I started the book I was about 80 years old and my family and friends never gave up on me. They pushed me to completion. I can't thank them all enough for believing that it could be done. It's a lot of information and photos from my time in the military and I was trying to remember events from so long ago. In order to tell what life was like before and during World War II, I found myself including many memories of my childhood in the book. It means a lot to me to have it and I even still get a small royalty check a few times a year from book sales.

4. What do you consider as your greatest accomplishment?

Being a husband and father. I have a special wife and a wonderful family. I convinced my wife to marry me on her 20th birthday and tried to convince her that I was the real gift.

5. You were awarded two bronze stars for your service. How does that make you feel?

I never considered myself a hero and I never will. The things I did were the same things being done by countless others.

Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured?
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editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Pet Supply Drive cont. from pg. 1

convenient for you! Or, readers may drop items off at the Florida NewsLine office, 12443 San Jose Blvd., Suite 403, anytime prior to July 17.

Items requested by First Coast No More Homeless Pets include dog and cat food, treats, cat litter, blankets, ziplock bags, towels, leashes and chew toys.

Florida NewsLine is pleased to sponsor this drive and partner once again with First Coast No More Homeless Pets. We hope you consider donating to help animals who cannot help themselves.

First Coast No More Homeless Pets' mission is to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters in northeast Florida, southeast Georgia and across the nation. They provide a multifaceted approach to pet overpopulation by combining free and low-cost spay/neuter, adoption initiatives and innovative pet retention services. They work with local animal welfare groups and the community to reach those who need help keeping and caring for their pet. Visit www.fcnmhp.org for more information.

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Talented teen releases first EP record

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Eternal Crown Photography.
Kay Gianna

Local teen Kay Gianna Putzke has been passionate about music since she began learning piano from her mother at the young age of five. The St. Augustine native was just 12 years old in 2014 when she performed at Nocatee's Roscolusa for the first time. Although nervous, it was in that moment that she knew she wanted to perform for the rest of her life.

Now, the 16-year-old is a rising junior at Christ's Church Academy and simply goes by "Kay Gianna" when performing. She and her parents, Brian and Karen, along with her brothers and sisters, live in World Golf Village. Gianna's first EP titled "Oxygen Thief" has approximately 40,000 views on YouTube, building momentum and excitement for the future of her music career. She composed the single alongside Nashville-based producer Patrick Davis, whose resume includes collaborative work with Darius Rucker.

"I just want to keep writing and getting more gigs. I write my own songs every day, so I really want to get that music out as soon as I can," Gianna said.

Gianna enjoys performing at events around the First Coast area. Her voice has recently taken her to Nashville, where she performed with the band Sixwire, known as the band of the hit television show "Nashville." Gianna has opportunities to open shows for many well known artists and hopes to continue reaching people

through her music. She has an impressive knowledge of musical instruments and has been acknowledged as an accomplished saxophone player. She is also in the worship band at Christ's Church.

Gianna's music teacher, Chrys Rowe, has been teaching the gifted musician music and voice for the past four years.

"I've taken her as my own daughter and enjoy being there with her and her family during her events. Kay Gianna is extremely talented. She has a gift for songwriting and a unique voice. Those are things you can't teach. She's a storyteller who is wise beyond her years," Rowe said.

Gianna has colleges such as Juilliard and Stetson on her radar but for now, she is focused on getting her music heard. She would like to continue working on her solo career and possibly further her education in music therapy after high school.

"My grandmother had Alzheimer's and I enjoy playing bingo and music at St. Augustine Landing. I like hanging out with older people and I think music therapy is very important," Gianna said.

Visit www.kaygiannamusic.com for more information.






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Alhambra's "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" sure to delight audiences of all ages

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" is a fantasmagorically fun family musical now being performed at Alhambra Theatre and Dining — and the star of the show is a car. Not an ordinary car, but a car that floats and flies and feeds the imagination of young siblings Jeremy and Jemima Potts, ably portrayed by child actors Trey Murphy and Tatum Matthews.



Photo courtesy Alhambra Theatre & Dining
The Potts family and Truly Scrumptious with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

For those familiar with the 1968 film by the same name, an understandable question would be, how does the Alhambra stage a play with a magical car? And the answer is, quite well. Design and construction of Chitty was the work of Ian Black and it must be seen to be believed.

Performers Shain Stroff, as single father Caractacus Potts, and Jennifer Medure, as Truly Scrumptious, provide the glue which holds the story together: the eccentric and loving three-person Potts family teams up with the beautiful daughter of candy maker Lord Scrumptious. Adventure follows when the Potts children become enamored of an old car that won multiple Gran Prix races in its heyday. They urge their father to buy the car for them, which he does by selling one of his many crazy inventions. They name the car "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" for the odd noises made by the engine and discover it can float like a boat and sprout wings to fly like a plane.

Trouble — and hilarity — ensues when the evil Baron Bomburst (amusingly portrayed by Kurt McCall) and Baroness Bomburst (uproariously portrayed by the extremely talented Lisa Valdini) desire the magic car for themselves. The second act of the play takes place in the Baron and Baroness' fictional kingdom of Vulgaria. The Potts family, along with nutty Grandpa Potts (Kenneth Uible) and Truly Scrumptious have to outwit the dastardly Baron and

Baroness and their evil henchman, the Child Catcher, creepily portrayed by Pierre Tannous. Stealing each scene in which he appeared, Tannous embodied his menacing role to the point of even sniffing for children to kidnap in the audience.

With a score by the Sherman Brothers that conjures summer fun and entertaining choreography by frequent Alhambra choreographer James Kinney, the show is enjoyable for the whole family. In particular, the number "Toot Sweets," when Caractacus Potts is trying to convince Lord Scrumptious to buy his musical candy, is a delightful candy confection come to life with pastel ladies' dresses and graceful, swirling dancing. The title song is an endearing and familiar earworm that audience members will be humming for days after the show.

Chef DeJuan has crafted a special menu for this family friendly show, to include starters of house salad or a smokehouse sausage with potato salad and entrees of trigger fish and chips, spaghetti and meatballs, roasted pork loin with baked mac and cheese or roasted summer vegetables with baked beans. Save room for a delightful berry trifle or strawberry rhubarb buttermilk pie for dessert.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" will be on stage at Alhambra Theatre and Dining through July 29. Visit www.alhambrajax.com to buy tickets.

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Marti has on several occasions accompanied me to hospitals (even to the delivery room where we closed with one lucky family gaining a new home and a new baby all in the same day), to assisted living facilities, to places of work. You name it, Marti is always prepared to accommodate, and always with a smile on her face.

If you are looking for a stress-free closing, I highly recommend Marti Kendall and her staff. This will be one of the best things you can do for your buyers, sellers and your business.

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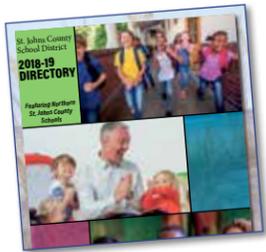
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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewsline.com

Usually the month of July is when shrimp will begin to show in the St. Johns, with their numbers and sizes growing as summer continues to advance. Weather, as always, will play a role that often determines the quality and length of our shrimping season. Too much rain is often the culprit that puts a premature slow down or end to the season.

As the shrimp make their way southward down the St. Johns River, fishing will steadily improve from good, to better, to great. With shrimp in the river

we can expect many species of saltwater fish to invade our area waters to feed on these tasty crustaceans. Reds, trout, flounder, croaker, weakfish and more should all be biting. Even late season tarpon will not be out of the question.

Every summer many folks from around the state look forward to a weekend or even a vacation to the Gulf Coast of Florida to take part in Bay Scallop season. This year's season opened for parts of Taylor County (Steinhatchee) and all of Dixie County (Horseshoe Beach) on June 16 and runs through Sept. 10. Other Gulf counties in the Big Bend area of the state will open later in July and August for their scallop season.

Snorkeling in waist deep water, to depths of no more than 10 feet, scallops can be found and gathered in seagrass beds. With a two gallon per person limit or 10-gallon limit per vessel, a fun day on the water can be continued with an evening of some pretty good dining. Other than the risk of a sunburn, scalloping makes for a wonderful outdoor activity that can be enjoyed by everyone in the family.

The traditional Florida Lobster two-day mini season will happen July 25 and 26, with an eight-month long regular season beginning Aug. 6. Lobstering requires greater swimming and snorkeling skills than scalloping, but is still a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the water



Photo courtesy Nicholas Carter
This month's Catch of the Month photo is of three-year-old Ezra Carter, who caught his first fish, a bream, at his neighborhood pond in Yulee. According to his father, Nicholas Carter, Ezra hooked and reeled in the fish, caught on Wonder bread, all by himself.

with family and friends, and may just happen to pay delicious dividends at the end of day. Florida lobsters can be caught most anywhere in the state's ocean waters, but usually the farther south you travel the easier they are to catch.

Fishing Report: Freshwater catfish should be easy to find at creek mouths. Croaker getting bigger and more plentiful.

Whether you catch one, some, or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.

We now include a Catch of the Month photo with Capt. David's Fishing Report each month. Please email a photo of yourself or your child with the fish caught to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.

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Gardening

Here we go again

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

Summer rains arrived early this year, in the form of Subtropical Storm Alberto. It is now officially the hurricane season, and as always, we need to be as prepared as possible, with supplies in hand and an evacuation plan in the event of a potential major impact.

Rain in general, both the lack of it and an overabundance, is at the forefront of many a gardener's mind. It governs how we deal with our gardens from day to day, and season to season. If we are in drought, drip irrigation can help save our plants and there's the added bonus that it can reduce water use, saving us from large water bills. If you can install a water barrel which fills from a drainpipe or receives runoff from a valley in the roof, the rain collected is ideal for ornamentals; however, shingle roofs can potentially pollute rainwater if new or very old, and perhaps should not be used on vegetables under those circumstances.

Low areas of the yard that regularly become saturated with rain can be planted with water-tolerant plants — a rain garden. Choose plants which can take dry periods as well as periods of inundation. This website will help guide your choices: <https://tinyurl.com/y7srcqxr>.

Master Gardeners have a variety of tasks we can take on, depending on our interests. But all of us, I think I can safely say, are basically fascinated with plants. So when a group of us recently took a trip to the Florida Panhandle to visit nurseries, research establishments, and the stunningly beautiful St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, a good time was guaranteed!

For me, one of the highlights was a visit to the nursery of The Monarch-Milkweed Initiative, based at the headquarters of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, established in 2014 after President Obama signed a Presidential memorandum "creating a federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators." The response by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was to ask refuges nationwide to

increase milkweed populations, conserve habitats, and inform the public about the importance of pollinators.

Through careful research and experimentation St. Marks' Ranger Scott Davis has established germination methods for the 21 milkweeds native to Florida. To obtain the often rare plants and seeds, he relies on help from volunteers and members of the public reporting on the whereabouts of populations of the plants, as well as undertaking his own reconnaissance (<https://tinyurl.com/yb4aq2bj>). By judiciously gathering plant material, the group propagates



thousands of milkweeds every year which are given to groups which establish them in natural areas, use them in the restoration of degraded

habitats, or plant them in both public and private gardens, all of which help to support the monarch butterflies and other pollinators which grace our state.

Sadly native milkweeds are still not widely available in local nurseries. Butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is the one most likely to be found, and will take full sun and sandy well drained soil. As with most plants, it needs careful watering until established, but should then be able to survive on rainfall alone. We learnt at the milkweed nursery that milkweeds don't usually set seed by themselves; two or more plants are needed for cross pollination. And if a productive butterfly garden is your ambition, plant a number of *A. tuberosa* to support feeding caterpillars: those monarch babies are voracious eaters!

If butterfly weed just can't be found, the internet is a good resource, but if you'd rather visit your local nursery you are more likely to find the Mexican milkweed (*A. curassavica*). Some caveats: *A. curassavica* can carry a disease which is harmful to monarch butterflies, and it should be cut down in November, both to reduce the impact of the disease and to mimic the native milkweeds dying back for the winter.

Enjoy our beautiful butterflies and have a safe summer.

The Pantry Raiders

Serve steak alongside a backyard barbecue staple

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

A night of al fresco dining next to a grill in the backyard can be a great way to spend an evening. Nearly any type of food can be grilled, and steaks tend to be especially good when cooked over an open flame. The following recipe for Grilled Rib-Eye Steaks with Mushroom-Shallot Butter from Laurie McNamara's "Simple Scratch" (Avery) is sure to please, especially when coupled with McNamara's recipe for Baked Beans, a must-have staple for any backyard barbecue.

Grilled Rib-Eye Steaks with Mushroom-Shallot Butter

Serves 4 to 6

8 tbsp. (1 stick) plus 3 tbsp. unsalted butter, at room temperature
½ cup sliced shallot
1 heaping cup sliced cremini mushrooms
2 large cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. coarsely chopped fresh thyme leaves
¼ tsp. kosher salt
¼ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
4 to 6 steaks (such as rib-eye, New York strip or porterhouse)



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Melt 1 tablespoon of the butter in a medium skillet over medium-low heat. Add the shallot and cook until golden and slightly crispy, 7 to 8 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the shallot to a clean plate. In the same skillet, melt 2 tablespoons of butter, then add the mushrooms, garlic, thyme, salt, and pepper. Stir and cook until the mushrooms are softened, about 5 minutes. Transfer to the plate with the shallot and let cool.

In a small bowl, use a rubber spatula to blend the remaining 8 tablespoons of butter with the cooled mushroom mixture until combined. Place the butter in the center of a piece of parchment paper. Bring the edges together and press with your fingers to form the butter into a log. Roll and twist the ends before popping the butter into the refrigerator for at least 20 to 30 minutes.

Set the steaks on the counter for 30 minutes to bring them up to room temperature. Meanwhile, preheat a grill or grill pan to medium-high or about 400 F. Season both sides of the steaks with two pinches of salt and a pinch of pepper. Grill each steak for 6 to 8 minutes per side, depending on the thickness and the desired doneness. Tent with aluminum foil and let rest for 5 minutes. Slice the mushroom butter into coins and top each of the steaks with two coins before serving.

Baked Beans

Serves 10

2 15-ounce cans navy beans, drained and rinsed
4 slices applewood or pecan wood-smoked bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup diced yellow onion
1 ½ cups ketchup
¼ cup plus 2 tbsp. unsulphured molasses
½ cup packed dark brown sugar
1 ¼ tsp. ground mustard
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine the bacon and onion in a medium Dutch oven. Slowly cook over medium heat until the onion is tender and the bacon is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together the ketchup, molasses, sugar, ground mustard, ground cloves, and 1 cup water to combine. Add the cooked beans and pour the mixture into the pot with the bacon and onion. Stir, cover and bake for 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Add the salt and stir. Uncover and let sit for 15 to 20 minutes before serving.

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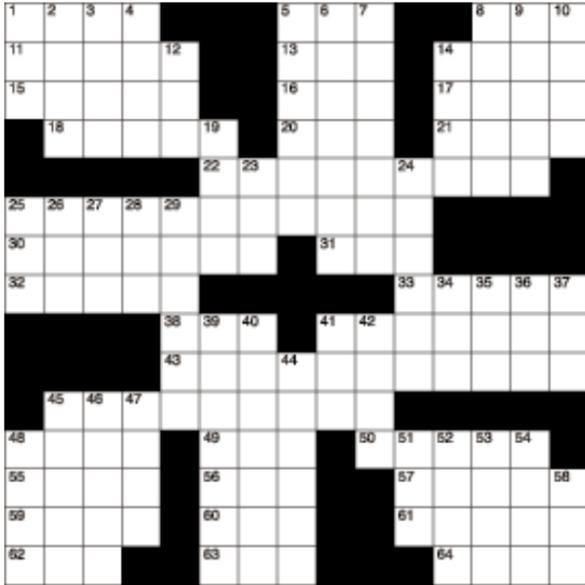


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Puzzles

Answers on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Guinean seaport
5. They ___
8. Electromotive force
11. "McVicar" director
13. Monetary unit
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Broadway actress Daisy
16. Tobacco mosaic virus
17. Expression of surprise
18. African financial intermediaries
20. Fully ripe egg
21. Soothes the skin
22. Editors write them
25. Nashville-based rockers
30. Surgical tube
31. Lasting records
32. Member of Ghanese tribe
33. Being in a vertical position
38. Spasmodic contraction
41. Cartilage disks
43. Domestic help

CLUES DOWN

1. Academic degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Romanian river
5. Stellar
6. A way to change
7. Surround completely
8. A Philly footballer
9. Dinosaur shuang_____aurus
10. Slowly disappear
12. Large antelope
14. Not nice
19. Piece of footwear
23. Newt
24. Seriously mentally ill
25. Kilogram force (abbr.)
26. Terrorist group
27. Negative
28. Time zone
29. A blacksmith's workshop
34. Baked dessert
35. A way to perceive uniquely
36. Breeze through
37. Dry white wine drink
39. Treated with iodine
40. Not thorough
41. Famous museum

42. Supplements with difficulty
44. Polynesian language
45. Bangladesh capital (var. sp.)
46. ___ and flowed
47. Excessively theatrical actors
48. Prejudice
51. Swiss river
52. Nonsense (slang)
53. "Luther" actor
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Pinch



Solve the code to discover words related to vacation.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = e)

A. 3 10 7 14 22 12
Clue: Going away from home

B. 11 12 7 1 22
Clue: Aircraft

C. 3 26 23 15 22 3
Clue: Gains entry

D. 12 22 26 13 6 10 22
Clue: For enjoyment

SUMMER FUN WORD SEARCH

B U C R A C E S T G N B B H B E K M M R
Z C B O D S Y P R W Y T R A P U I F Y V
I O I D T H E A R A C E T R A C K S E F
T N P K F T D A W F I M S S W E G U S E
Z I S A K E O F U D A I U E M B A R E Z
V T T C R V R N S F I I C A E R S F D P
L S N I R A I R C R B M C R S G A E I I I
A I E S S C D P I A E G I I D B C N R E
V R M U C S W E P S N L C D T N V G S S
I U E M T F D F R I H D K E H F A T W D
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O A S W N A C A W R D T A G L I O T K H
L O U S M V D A K A K N O S Y Y B N A A
F M G A M E S S R D L L R N O I T C U A
A B A L L O O N S T F K W O B K E U L K
A I B R E M M U S Y I W Z P C U E W N Z

WORDS

- AMUSEMENT
- ARCADE
- AUCTION
- BALLOONS
- BAND
- BARBECUE
- BAZAAR
- BOARDWALK
- CARNIVAL
- CIRCUS
- CORNDOG
- COTTON CANDY
- FAIR
- FERRIS WHEEL
- FESTIVAL
- FIREWORKS
- GAMES
- GO-CART
- MARINA
- MIDWAY
- MINI-GOLF
- MUSIC
- PARADE
- PARTY
- PIES
- RACES
- RACETRACK
- RIDES
- SALES
- SEASIDE
- SPARKLERS
- SUMMER
- SURFING
- SWIMMING
- TICKETS
- TOURIST

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Travel

The new U.S. Civil Rights Trail and Mississippi Museum

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

On July 4, Americans celebrate our country's independence. While the 13 colonies broke free in 1776, individual freedoms have come more slowly, with the struggle for Civil Rights continuing to this day.

To commemorate and explain the journey, the National Park Service and tourism officials have combined to create a U.S. Civil Rights Trail: a national listing of locations where important civil rights events took place. They chose only ones that offer visitors a stop well worth the time. The new Civil Rights Trail's collection of churches, courthouses, schools, museums and other landmarks let travelers see and learn about the activists and

the events that challenged segregation and changed the nation.

The presence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the most visible leader of the movement, emerges at locations in several states. His birthplace and gravesite sit just steps apart in downtown Atlanta. He led the successful bus boycott after the arrest of Rosa Parks from his first church, in Montgomery, Ala. The Memphis church where he gave his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech the night before his assassination at the Lorraine Motel is a popular destination. The motel, expanded into the National Civil Rights Museum, is the most visited restored civil rights

landmark in America. The museum highlights the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. King this year.

A stop in Greensboro, N.C. or Nashville, Tenn. reveals the F.W. Woolworth lunch counters where sit-ins by black college students in 1960 inspired a wave of similar nonviolent demonstrations.

The trail's stops include four major museums including the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. opened in 2016. Still drawing immense crowds, the museum's popularity requires reservations well in advance for its timed passes.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute,

now the centerpiece of a new national monument, faces the park where police fire hoses and dogs terrorized demonstrators in 1963

— across the street sits the 16th Street Baptist Church, site of the Sunday morning bombing that killed four young girls, injured many others, and brought national attention to the campaign for civil rights.

The Center for Civil and Human Rights is a major attraction in downtown Atlanta. The newest of the trail's museums, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, opened in Jackson on Dec. 9, 2017. I recently had the opportunity to tour the Jackson site, the only state-sponsored civil rights museum and one focusing on Mississippi events. Eight interactive galleries grip visitors with striking images and stories. Seven of the galleries encircle a central space, highlighted by a sculpture called "This Little Light of Mine." You move from the darkened galleries into the light as you work your way around the building. The sculpture



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
The Woolworth Counter in Nashville, Tenn.

becomes brightest when the music of the Movement swells, about every 15 minutes. I found myself pulled in by the clapping, swaying and singing of others who gathered in the space.

Warning: This is not a museum you can whisk through; there's no sugarcoating here. The brutal stories make this a poignant place. The Emmett Till case, for example, reveals the riveting tale of a 14-year old boy beaten, shot and then thrown in a river for whistling at a white woman shop owner.

A lynching tree inscribed with names bears witness to the 600 Mississippians hung in the state. The displays include Ku Klux Klan robes and the rifle that killed Medgar

Evans. The cutting-edge museum includes a number of informative videos set within small spaces — like the back of a police wagon or a jail cell. Sometimes

you have to wait your turn to get in, but do take the time.

Civil and human rights remain at the center of political and social discourse today. The trail and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum highlight stories that Americans can't and shouldn't forget. I highly recommend a visit and suggest you plan to spend a minimum of a half-day.

Visit www.bylandersea.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.



Displays within the Jackson, Mississippi Museum.



This Little Light of Mine, a light sculpture, glows and changes color.



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