



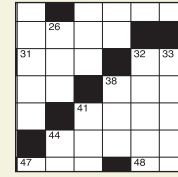
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Neighbors walk to benefit Juvenile Arthritis Association

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Eight-year-old Faith Hunt planned and hosted a benefit walk for the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation on July 28. Her family was “thoroughly impressed” that Faith surpassed her \$1,500 fundraising goal by raising \$1,540.



End of the walk ... hot and happy to be finished.

A year and a half ago, Faith developed spots on her body. Her mother, Mallori Hunt, thought they were flea bites, but after weeks of visiting different doctors — an allergist, a dermatologist and finally a pediatric rheumatologist — the diagnosis was a form of vasculitis called Henoch-Schönlein Purpura or HSP, which often includes arthritis. For many children, the vasculitis and the arthritis can go away over time, but for Faith, the arthritis has remained.

“One day she will be jumping, playing, climbing ... And then the next day she can’t do any of those things because of the joint pain,” Mallori Hunt said.

Mallori Hunt also said that there are treatments such as medications and steroids, but they contain potential serious side effects so Faith isn’t taking them.

Juvenile Arthritis Association cont. on pg. 17

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

By Shelley Howard
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Friday, Aug. 10, traffic once again came to a standstill throughout the county as students and teachers returned to the classroom to kick off the 2018 – 2019 school year. Familiar faces helped ease the transition back for some students, but there were also plenty of new faces among the old as the county continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state and nation.



Traffic was out in full force for the first day of school in St. Johns County on Aug. 10.



Ashlyn, Eden and Madison ready for junior and senior year at Creekside High School.

The crunch for space was alleviated somewhat with the opening of two new campuses in the northern part of the county, which will begin a phase in from K – sixth grade on into seventh and eighth over the next two years. Palm Valley Academy will service the Nocatee area and Freedom Crossing Academy will provide much needed relief in the Aberdeen area.

Freedom Crossing Academy assistant principal, Melissa Lime, was quick to acknowledge just how necessary additional schools have become, pointing out that it’s just not possible to only expand walls, auditorium stages, gymnasiums and hallways to make everyone fit without having to at some point create more physical space. The numbers confirm that as opening day found the new school with just more than 1,000 students. Some of these families came from Cunningham

Creek Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary and a few other nearby schools, but some have newly moved into the county from other districts within Florida and across the country.



Myla Thomas recently moved from Texas and is anxious to start her first year at Hickory Creek Elementary. She is excited although her mom acknowledges some parent anxiety in light of a last minute phone call the night before indicating a last minute teacher change.

it may take several weeks to level out classrooms. He complimented Principal Kirstie Gabaldon for her excellent budgeting and planning in handling their opening day enrollment of 1322 students, which is down approximately 100 students from last year, partially attributed to the opening of Freedom Crossing Academy.



First day of school at the newly opened Freedom Crossing Academy.

The expert preparation of of the school district and staff over the summer months ensured that classroom space and teachers were ready for as smooth a transition as possible. Switzerland Point Middle School Assistant Principal Earl Brown acknowledged that families coming from northern states and families still moving around the county into new housing communities will continue to register, so



Freedom Crossing Academy Assistant Principal Melissa Lime steps onto the bus to greet arriving students and welcome them to their new school.

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SEPTEMBER

Special Section

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Pages
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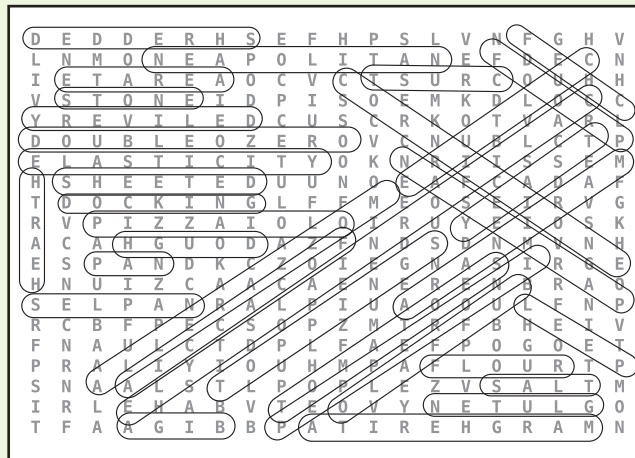
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answers to puzzles on page 24



Answers to Puzzles



Answers: A. computer B. digital C. memory D. cloud



Sept

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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around town

save the date!

October 6 - Pink Ribbon Symposium

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park
www.pinkribbonsymposium.org

October 6 - 7 - Festa Italiana

11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Italian American Club, 2838 Westberry Road
www.iacofjacksonville.com

October 20 - 20th annual Pink Ribbon Golf Tournament hosted by Cimarrone Ladies Golf Association to benefit Baptist Health Foundation

8 a.m. shotgun start
Registration, hole sponsorship or donations: www.clga.info

November 11 - Annual Dinner for the Birds to benefit HAWKE

6 p.m.
Raintree Restaurant, 102 San Marco Ave. St. Augustine
Buy tickets at www.hawkewildlife.org

September 1

Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
Doors open 6:45 p.m./Games start 7:15 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to community; (904) 742-8777

September 4

World Golf Village Toastmasters
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

September 6

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

Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Westminster Woods, 25 State Road 13
lancedmalcolm@gmail.com

September 7

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

September 8

St. Johns Chapter 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 writerrod@comcast.net

Friends of the Library Book Sale

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

September 9

Second Sunday at Stetson's folk music
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Beluthahatchee Park, 1523 State Road 13
www.stetsonkennedy.com/second-sundays.html

September 10

Northwest United for Progress Club meeting featuring Democratic candidates Ges Selmont and Jaime Perkins
Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.
2777 Race Track Road
nwsjcp@gmail.com

American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver

9:30 a.m.
Village Inn Restaurant, US Highway 1 N, St. Augustine.
RSVP: (505) 980-7865 or <https://staugustine-fl.aauw.net/>

Current Events Discussion Group

10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
adsilby@yahoo.com

September 11

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club luncheon featuring K9s for Warriors
11 a.m.
St. Johns Golf and Country Club
RSVP by Sept. 4, bartramnc@gmail.com

September 12

LEGO Club for Kids
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

September 13

Garden Club of Switzerland
10 a.m.

Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
All welcome; RSVP at www.switzerlandgc.org

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

September 15

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

Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting featuring Michael Ray King

10 a.m.
Main Branch Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com

September 17

All Star Quilt Guild

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

September 18

St. Johns Federated Republican Women

6:30 p.m.
Davidson Realty, World Golf Village
sjfedrepublicanwomen@gmail.com

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

Happy Hookers crochet group

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

St. Johns CARES meeting

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

September 20

Adult Coloring Club

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

September 21

First Coast Newcomers Club board games and lunch

1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Coffee Cafe, St. Augustine
Limited to 10; RSVP (904) 829-0643

September 27

United Way of St. Johns County Campaign Celebration and ribbon cutting

117 Bridge St., St. Augustine
www.unitedway-sjc.org

September 28

Helping Hands of St. Johns County

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

Food Truck Friday "Street Party"

5:30 - 8 p.m.
Market Street, Palencia
To host a tent, Erin.Gunia@hines.com



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take 5

Search for owls at Alpine Groves Park

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation will host an Owl Prowl at Alpine Groves Park, 2060 State Road 13 in Switzerland, on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Attendees will join County Naturalist AyoLane Halusky to explore the park at sunset in search of resident owls. He will also answer questions and share stories about nighttime forest activities during this free program. Call (904) 209-0348 or email ahalusky@sjcfl.us for more information.

INK! announces barbecue fundraiser

INK!'s (Investing in Kids) world famous Boot Scootin' BBQ, a western-themed fundraiser, will be held on Sept. 29, from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club. The event, presented by Carlisle Interconnect Technologies, will benefit St Johns County Public School students and teachers. Attendees will enjoy barbeque from local master pitmasters, saddle up for interactive games and a chance to win prizes while listening to local bands. Early Bird tickets are available for \$45 each until Sept. 10; tickets purchased after that are \$75 and available via www.ink-stjohns.org. Contact Davey Hartzel at (904) 293-9595 or david.hartzel@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.

Newcomers to meet; begin new season

Newcomers of North St. Johns will host its September luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 18, beginning at 11 a.m. at Serenata Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. The program will have a '50s theme with a surprise special guest to start off the 2018 – 2019 season. The total cost for the luncheon is \$30 for members and \$32 for guests and all reservations must be received by Sept. 10. Entrée choices are pan seared Mediterranean grouper with oven roasted polenta and wilted spinach coulis, or chicken piccata served with basil pesto potato purée and Provençal ratatouille. Lunch includes side salads, bread, coffee, tea and Key Lime Pie for dessert; a cash bar will be available. Newcomers of North St. Johns offers a wide variety of activities including wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips, and cultural events and is open to all St. Johns County residents. Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net for luncheon registration or club membership information.

Registration opens for Field of Dreams

Registration for the 2019 season of Field of Dreams will open Saturday, Sept. 1. The Field of Dreams Baseball League is a non-profit organization that

gives children with special needs (intellectual or physical disabilities) the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league, to wear a uniform, to have their names announced; and to participate in the National Anthem before each game. Games throughout the eight-week season are played on Saturdays at Aberdeen Park in St. Johns County. Visit www.fodbbaseball.com to register children aged five – 19 (if still in school).



Photo by MetroCreative

Crafty Women to meet at library

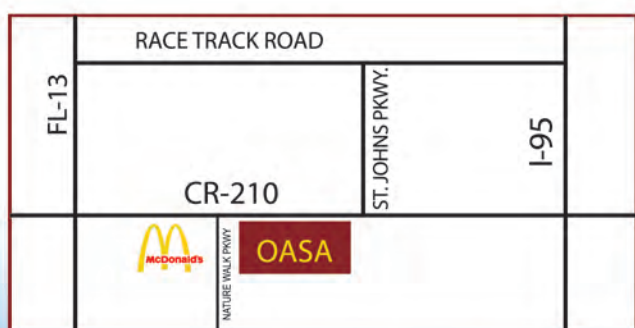
The Crafty Women will make a mosaic mason jar candle holder on Friday, Sept. 28 from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. Space is limited. Participants must be older than 18 years old and have a valid St. Johns County Public Library card. A \$5 donation to the Friends of the Library is requested

to offset cost of supplies. Registration is required and begins Sept. 7; call (904) 827-6960 or visit the Reference Desk at the library.

SIDELINED WITH AN INJURY?

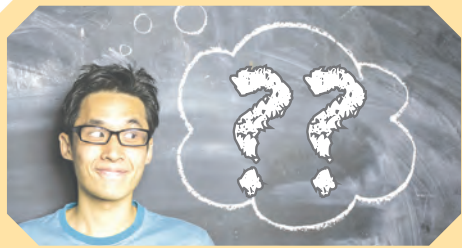
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Inquiring Minds want to know!

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: Are there any updates about tenants at the shopping center that's being built by Sleiman Brothers at the corner of County Road 2209 (St. Johns Parkway) and County Road 210W, across from Publix shopping center?

A: According to Katie Boyles with Axia Public Relations, which represents the developer, "Sleiman Enterprises is bringing Earth Fare to Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway at the NW Corner County Road 210 and St. Johns Parkway. We're not sure of Earth Fare's anticipated opening date yet. Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway will be a 172,000-sq-ft commercial retail center on 38 acres. Earth Fare will fill 24,000. The undetermined anchor tenant will fill 55,000."

Q: What is being built behind the PDQ restaurant off State Road 13 in St. Johns?

A: We reached out to Casey Keough, a planner with the St. Johns County Growth Management Planning and Zoning division, who said, "The records I found indicate that the property shown in the image below was approved under COMM 2017-96 for the construction of a 5,400 square foot medical office building with associated parking, access and improvements on March 20, 2018. The project name on file is 'Dr. Osborn Medical Office Building'."

According to Christine Reid, who works for Dr. Osborn, The Center for Health and Sports Medicine office building will include primary care sports medicine, physical therapy, concussion testing, both body testing and sports performance testing as well as preventative medicine. Dr. Osborn will also have a state of the art Wellness Facility with an open gym membership available to the public as well as exercise classes, and athletic development programs for younger athletes. The anticipated opening is January 2019.

Q: Is it possible that an indoor racquetball court could be included in the Project Family sports facility?

A: We reached out to Della Wolfe, director of marketing for Project Family. She responded, "Right now, we do not have racquetball courts in the plans."

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

Q: Do you have any development updates for the Northwest?

A: Well, as of Aug. 9, the new 9B is open. I'm glad to have an alternative to County Road 210 and I-95. As for Durbin Park, WalMart is supposed to be the first to open in the next couple of months. I toured the facility a few weeks ago and it is beautiful. They are focusing on customer service — like the call ahead and pick up feature — with the layout. It is very efficient. The multi-family housing and eagerly anticipated Bass Pro Shops will follow in the next phase. I am interested to see how traffic in the area goes. We were specific with our traffic requirements when the County Commission approved this development. We want traffic to be much more free-flowing than it is at the St. Johns Town Center.

Q: Can you give us an overview of the bed tax that we are hearing so much about as a potential funding source for so many different projects?

A: Similar to zoning, which allows only certain types of buildings to be constructed depending on the zoning requirements, so too is the bed tax regulated. Each penny of the bed tax has a specific group of allowable uses, to include tourist development categories such as marketing, advertising, maintenance, cultural events, and police and first responders to support these events. The state of Florida must approve increases in the bed tax as well as proposed uses for the increase. For example, the fourth cent of the bed tax, which we currently collect, may now be used for beach renourishment, while a fifth cent, should we decide to collect it, can only be used for specific purposes.

Q: Will the County Commission be approving a fifth cent?

A: There have been conversations about increasing the bed tax to five cents and allocating uses for the increase, but there has been no agenda item at a County Commission meeting yet to actually do so. Specific groups have appeared before the County Commissioners with agenda items and formal presentations to advocate for the fifth cent and the use of it. I don't know if the chair of the County Commission will be adding this to our agenda, but at this point I have no plans to request that an additional cent of bed tax become an agenda item. I want to see all the pieces of the puzzle before deciding what is best to do.

Q: Do you have an update on potential usage fees for boat ramps?

A: Well, I do have something to share along those lines. The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), of which I am a board member, just reviewed a pilot program for integrated pay for parking service, which they will be starting in St. Augustine. This system could also be used for fees for boat ramps, beach access or any county-managed services. It is more technologically advanced, user friendly and less expensive to operate and maintain than the current system, since it would be a single integrated system. Something like this, if results of the pilot program are successful, could be repeated throughout our area and the state.

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

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

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

Q: How did the first day of school go on Friday, Aug. 10?

A: Our first day went very well, except for some small, to-be-expected transportation glitches. I visited nine of the schools in my district on the first day, and found students to be engaged and learning.

Q: Were you able to visit the new school in your district, Freedom Crossing Academy?

A: Yes, it is beautiful and all finished except for a few punch list-type items. We expected it to open with approximately 875 students and it already has 1,050 students.

Q: Was this amount of growth expected?

A: We knew we would have more students this year of course, but we had many late registrations in all of our schools, which resulted in difficulty having enough teachers. Due to the time it takes to identify, interview and hire teachers, we are starting several classes with well known and experienced substitute teachers in the interim. For instance, there were 50 students registered in two days during the same week school started at Fruit Cove Middle School.

Q: Can you give us an update on the addition of the armed security guards

at each school in keeping with the new state law?

A: I made a point of meeting the guards at each school I visited. I am well pleased and found them all to be friendly and relating with the kids. One of the armed guards is a 24-year veteran of the New York Police Department and one is an Iraqi war veteran, so they are well qualified. They will patrol the entire campus throughout the day and provide an extra pair of eyes. I believe this interim "fix" will be just great until we can hire sheriff's deputies.

Q: Do you have any other updates pertaining to improvements to school safety?

A: The staff has done a great job over the summer to protect our kids. I viewed the hardening of the campuses and the single entryways and was well pleased. One of our Youth Resource Officers developed a training video for staff as well as four different age appropriate videos to be shown to students that cover school safety. Additionally, active shooter drills conducted by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Officer will be held once per semester at each of our schools.

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

Elections ahead

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

The Aug. 28 Primary Election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County. Early voting ends Saturday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m., so your next opportunity to vote is Tuesday, Aug. 28. On Election Day, polls will be open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Unsure of where to vote or who will be on your ballot? Visit www.votesjc.com and use the My Voter Status to check your voter record. Once you put in your information and bring up your record, you will be able to locate your assigned polling place. You can also view and print your sample ballot.

On Election Day, the law requires voters to vote in the precinct based on their residence address. If you have moved, just give us a call. We can take your address change by phone, update your record and route you to the correct polling place. This can be a real time saver! Arrive at your correct polling place the first time. Be sure to bring photo and signature ID with you when you vote.

Vote by mail ballots MUST be returned to the Elections Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. It is too late now to mail your ballot and have it reach us in time, so here are your options: Use one of our convenient red drop boxes. They are at all public libraries and the Tax Collector's Offices in Ponte Vedra and Julington Creek. They will be picked up on Election Day at 5 p.m. You can also take your ballot to the Elections Office and use the 24-hour drop box in front of the office, or simply vote in person at your precinct on Election Day.

I would like to encourage every St. Johns County voter not to forget one of the most important rights we celebrate as Americans: the right to vote.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call (904) 823-2238 or visit www.votesjc.com and let us know how we can assist you.

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FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government
(www.sjcfll.us)
Sheriff's Office: (904) 824-8304
Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org
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, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us
District 2: (904) 209-0302
Jeb Smith, bcc2smith@sjcfl.us
District 3: (904) 209-0303
Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@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

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with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: What can you tell us about TRIM notices?

A: TRIM (Truth in Millage Notice) is the most important document a property owner will get in St. Johns County. They were mailed by our office on Aug. 17 and are also available online (www.sjcpa.us).

Q: What if people would like more information about the individual taxing authorities?

A: The TRIM notice also contains the date and time of the budget hearing for each of the taxing authorities, so property owners can attend to learn more.

PROPERTY APPRAISER VALUE INFORMATION						
	Last Year (2017)			This Year (2018)		
	Market Value	Assessed Value	Taxable Value	Market Value	Assessed Value	Taxable Value
County	448,712	448,321	398,321	467,446	461,515	411,515
Schools	448,712	448,321	423,321	467,446	461,515	436,515
Other	448,712	448,321	398,321	467,446	461,515	411,515

TAXING AUTHORITY INFORMATION						
TAXING AUTHORITY	COLUMN 1 LAST YEAR'S PROPERTY TAXES		COLUMN 2 YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR IF NO BUDGET CHANGE IS MADE		A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAXES AND BUDGET WILL BE HELD:	
	Millage Rate	Taxes	Millage Rate	Taxes		
County: General Fund	5.1000	2,031.44	4.8456	1,994.04	5.1000 2,098.73 9/04/18 5:01 PM 500 San Sebastian Vw, St Aug, FL	
County: Road	0.7500	298.74	0.7117	292.88	0.7500 306.64	
County: Health Unit	0.0171	6.81	0.0162	6.67	0.0171 7.04	
County: Fire District	1.4700	585.53	1.3974	575.05	1.4700 604.93	
Public Schools: Local	2.2480	851.63	2.1366	932.66	2.2480 981.29 9/18/18 5:30 PM 40 Orange St, St Aug, FL	
Public Schools: State	4.2950	1,818.16	4.0821	1,781.90	4.0300 1,759.16	
Airport Authority	0.0000	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000 0.00 9/10/18 5:01 PM 4730 Casa Cola Way, St Aug, FL	
FIND	0.0320	12.75	0.0302	12.43	0.0320 13.17 9/06/18 5:30 PM 190 E 13th St, Riviera Beh, FL	
Mosquito	0.2150	85.64	0.2041	83.99	0.2200 90.53 9/13/18 5:30 PM 120 EOC Dr, St Aug, FL	
SJRWMD	0.2724	108.50	0.2562	105.43	0.2562 105.43 9/11/18 5:05 PM 4049 Reid St, Palatka, FL	
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	14.3995	5,899.20	13.6801	5,785.05	14.1233	5,968.92

ASSESSMENT REDUCTIONS		
Reductions to Market Value	Applies to	Value
Save Our Homes	All Taxes	5,931

EXEMPTIONS		
Exemptions	Applies to	Value
Homestead	All Taxes	25,000
Homestead Band	Non-School Taxes	25,000

as of that date. Within the mailing, property owners will receive a copy of the State of Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and a list of exemptions in addition to the TRIM notice.

Q: What will the TRIM notice contain?

A: The TRIM notice shows the market value, the assessed value and the taxable value of your property for 2017 and proposed for 2018. It will also show any exemptions for the property. The taxes are listed by taxable authority and will show what the taxes would be if the county made no changes to the budget. This is called the "rollback rate," essentially what your taxes would be this year to allow the county to collect the same amount of money as last year. TRIM will also show the proposed taxes if the proposed budget is passed; this is what would be on the tax bill.

Q: What should property owners do if they disagree with the value assessed by your office?

A: When the TRIM notice is mailed, a 25-day clock starts. If the taxpayer has any discrepancy with the Property Appraiser's Office, they should contact us to discuss. If we can't come to agreement, the taxpayer can file an appeal with the Value Adjustment Board. It is very important to do this within the 25-day window, because if not, a taxpayer will lose his or her right to appeal.

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

A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Speedway Ste. 203, (904) 827-5500. It is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Also, readers can email me at Eddie@sjcpa.us or call me at (904) 827-5500.



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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Acres of Diamonds

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Sometimes, we find inspiration in the place we least expect. This is a story that my father used to tell and which I will now share with you. It is a story about two men, Russell Conwell and Johnny Ring. Russell Conwell did not believe in God. He was proud of his lack of faith. In 1862, before he could graduate from Yale, he enlisted in the Union Army. The townsfolk from his little town in Massachusetts sent him off to fight with a beautiful ceremonial sword. Captain Conwell was even prouder of that sword than he was of his atheism.

In camp, Conwell was assigned an orderly named John Quincey Ring. Ring would stay with Conwell for most of the war. One of his jobs was to care for the captain's prized sword. Ring would polish and oil it and keep it safe. Some say that Ring was a Quaker. He was almost certainly an early conscientious objector. He refused to fight. Every night, Johnny Ring read his Bible and he prayed. He prayed for his country, his family, his comrades, and his commander. This behavior irritated Conwell and he expressly forbade Ring's prayers. At one point, it is said that Conwell even took the young man's Bible away! But, Johnny Ring answered to a higher authority and he prayed continuously for his commander's redemption.

One day, the Confederates overran the Union camp. Conwell and his men fled across a bridge which they set aflame. Ring, remembering the sword, ran back into enemy fire to retrieve the precious symbol of his captain's honor. He returned to Conwell clutching the sword in his hands. His body was badly burned, and he collapsed exhaling his final breath as he laid the sword at Conwell's feet.

Shortly thereafter, Conwell was badly injured near Atlanta. He spent months in a military hospital recovering. It was during his recuperation that Conwell found God. Remembering Ring's sacrifice, he prayed daily, promising that if he recovered he would accomplish the work of two men: Johnny Ring and himself. After the war, he became a Baptist minister. He moved to Philadelphia, where he started a school he called the Temple. That school became Temple University. The school of theology at Temple was named the Conwell School of Theology. In fact, we have one here in Jacksonville: The Gordon-Conwell School of Theology.

Russell Conwell was one of this nation's first motivational speakers. His most famous work was a speech called "Acres of Diamonds." The essence of that speech is that you can travel the world looking for fame, fortune, or purpose only to find what you are looking for in your own backyard. Conwell would give the speech 6,152 times before his death in 1925.

Investments often work like this as well. Over and over, I see investors looking for the next great idea like it was some sort of pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The reality is that most of the really good investments you will make in your lifetime are right there in front of you, in your own backyard. Great American companies that we all know and love. Look for great companies at a reasonable price. As Warren Buffet says, "It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price."

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

Get organized and improve workplace productivity

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Organization can help professionals keep track of their work assignments and stay on schedule. Staying organized does not come naturally to everyone, and those finding it difficult to juggle various assignments at once can try the following strategies to stay organized and increase their productivity.

- Stop multitasking. While it can seem counterintuitive for people with a lot on their plates to stop multitasking, researchers at the University of Utah found that performance suffers when people try to do more than one thing at a time. While researchers discovered that a small percentage of people they dubbed "supertaskers" were capable of multitasking without adversely affecting their performance, the vast majority of people should avoid trying to tackle more than one task at a time. Professionals can work on different projects throughout the day, but allot time for each project rather than trying to work on several at once.
- Schedule each day. Establishing a schedule and making it as accessible as possible is another way to stay organized and increase productivity. Professionals can make use of scheduling apps on their tablets or smartphones, even setting alerts so they do not forget about projects or meetings. Routinely

check the schedule throughout the day, marking off tasks as they're completed.

- Cut back on time spent in meetings. A 2014 survey from AtTask conducted by Harris Poll reported that American workers at companies with 1,000 employees or more spend just 45 percent of their workdays tending to their primary job duties. Survey participants reported spending 40 percent of their time in meetings, tending to administrative tasks and dealing with interruptions. In lieu of in-person meetings, professionals can discuss projects via mass emails, which can be a much more efficient means to organizing and discussing a project than sitting in a room several times per week.
- Take breaks throughout the workday. Busy professionals may feel as though they don't have time for breaks during a typical workday. But such breaks can benefit workers in ways they might be unaware. For example, the Association for Psychological Science notes that research has shown that building breaks into a workday helps professionals stay sharp and productive. And when workers take their breaks matters, too. Researchers at Baylor University discovered that mid-morning breaks were more beneficial than late afternoon breaks.

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Briefs

United Way of St. Johns County's annual meeting provides updates

United Way of St. Johns County held its 2018 annual meeting, The Business of Living United, on Thursday, July 26 at the Casa Monica Resort. Nearly 150 people were in attendance to hear the updates, including an amendment to the bylaws allowing the organization to exist in perpetuity, a change from the original charter of 99 years.



Photo courtesy United Way St. Johns County
Attendees at the 2018 United Way St. Johns County annual meeting.

Last year, the organization documented \$1.4 million in giving to the community. Organization CEO/President Melissa Nelson addressed the indispensable work of United Way in the community.

“Our goal is to create a greater understanding of the business of Living United and how this translates to a bottom-line benefit in St. Johns County,” she said.

Program highlights include the \$621,000 granted to 26 partners for 36 ongoing programs during the traditional spring community impact process. Additional funding, grants and sponsorships

totaled nearly \$78,000, and \$323,000 designated for specific organizations, programs or needs, in the community. For Hurricane relief, \$146,000 was allocated and United Way-SJC advocated for funds with Florida's First Coast Fund. United Way-SJC continues to act as the fiscal agent for the Long-Term Recovery Organization for both Hurricane Matthew and Irma, which has spent nearly \$100,000 to repair homes.

“I have a strong belief and passion that every child in this community deserves a first-rate opportunity to learn. It doesn't stop there, I am not only passionate about education, but even more, for the children of this community, our children,” said Beverly Slough, 2018-2019 campaign chair and member of the St. Johns County School Board.

Newcomers welcome K9s for Warriors

The September luncheon of the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. The luncheon will feature K9s for Warriors, the nation's largest provider of service dogs for Warriors suffering from PTSD and other trauma as a result of military service after 9/11. Geoff Nadler, a K9 for Warriors Ambassador, will be speaking as well as Diane Short, a puppy raiser. She'll be bringing Radar, her puppy in training.

The cost is \$20 and includes a plated luncheon with a choice of stuffed salmon served with saffron orzo topped with a basil cream sauce or triple berry spinach salad with drizzled green goddess dressing, the chef's choice of appetizer, rolls



Photo courtesy Laurie Hernandez
The 2018-2019 Board of Directors: Beth Rosado (First Vice President), Julie Hynes (Co-second Vice President), Maureen Baiocco (Second Vice President), Kathi Reyes (Secretary), Hilda Gilpin (Treasurer), and Mary Ann Kriniske (President).

and dessert. Water, iced tea and coffee service are also included and a cash bar is available. Reservations and payment are required prior to Sept. 4; make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Hilda Gilpin, 621 Pineland Lane, Saint Johns, FL 32259 and indicate your choice of entrée.

The Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at a local restaurant for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups including Bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg, golf, recipe exchange, monthly special events, book clubs, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and community projects. For club information, Contact first vice president, Beth Rosado, at bartramtn@gmail.com for club information or visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 to download a membership form.

Grow your world with a garden club

The Garden Club of Switzerland, which enjoys membership in the National Gar-

den Clubs (the largest volunteer garden club in the world), starts its program year on Sept. 13, the second Thursday of the month, at 10 a.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. The kickoff meeting will give members and guests a chance to socialize and plan for the year's upcoming projects. The club will feature an exciting lineup of programs this year, including presentations on horticulture and pollinators by Master Gardeners, and field trips to local points of interest, including garden nurseries and the county park system's best-kept secret: Beluthahatchee Park in Fruit Cove.



Photo courtesy Dianne Battle

As an affiliate of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Switzerland Garden Club members enjoy opportunities to participate in regional events like GardenFest in October and semi-annual district meetings. This year, for the second year in a row, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is hosting its annual conference in St. Augustine, featuring a statewide flower show, social activities, awards recognizing exceptional club members and projects, and renowned speakers present

Briefs cont. on pg. 22

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The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

Best practices if you are stopped by a sheriff's deputy

Every day many citizens come in contact with deputy sheriffs for a variety of reasons, from a routine traffic stop to an active investigation. Our deputies and other law enforcement officers are trained to do so safely, efficiently as well as effectively; however, problems could occur when citizens are not sure how to react and respond when approached by an officer. This lack of knowledge could result in fear, nervousness, anger, or even aggressive behavior on the part of the citizen, as well as the officer. It is my hope that the information gained here will assist you when dealing with any law enforcement officer.

Let's begin by asking the question why would an officer want to stop and speak with me? The officer or deputy could be checking out a complaint that was phoned in by another citizen. There could be a report of some criminal activity which occurred in the area or you may have witnessed something that could provide valuable information in an investigation. Perhaps your actions could cause the deputy to think you are having trouble and need assistance. The best way to clarify the situation is to ask questions. Remember that some of their conversations are not necessarily investigative, but a potential conflict could be alleviated by your cooperative dialogue.

If a deputy does stop and ask questions, your honest responses will usually resolve the situation quickly. If the officer hasn't told you why you have been stopped, you have every right to inquire. If despite these considerations, you feel that you do not want to respond, the deputy must respect your right not to answer. Remember though, your cooperation could be most helpful in aiding in a criminal investigation.

Another common occurrence is the traffic stop, which could be for an infraction, for a safety violation, or the vehicle or driver matches a description of a suspect of a recent crime. Here are some suggestions that could alleviate some concerns of an officer at a traffic stop:

When signaled by a deputy, slow down and safely pull over to a place out of the traffic flow. Sit calmly, with your hands visible on the steering wheel. If you have any passengers, ask them

to sit quietly with their hands visible. Avoid sudden movements or ducking in the seat; these actions could unnecessarily alarm the officer. If the stop is at night, turn on your inside light after pulling over and roll down any tinted windows. For safety reasons, the officer would want to see inside and ensure no threats are present. Do not get out of your car unless the officer or deputy asks that you step out. If you are asked to do so, comply in a calm manner. A sure way to put a deputy at ease is to communicate your actions in advance by telling him or her what you will be doing before you move. If requested, you must give the deputy your driver's license and vehicle registration. Be sure to tell the officer where it is before reaching for it, especially if you have it tucked away in a glove box.

Finally, if you are issued a citation, you will be asked to sign it. Remember, signing the citation is not an admission of guilt, but an acknowledgement that you have received the citation. While you may wish to contest the ticket, keep in mind that your guilt or innocence can only be determined in court. Protests about the situation cannot be resolved in the street.

There is much more information available from our website at www.sjsso.org and on our Facebook page. Please feel free to contact me anytime at dshoar@sjsso.org if you have any questions.



Photo courtesy Priscilla Cobbs

Newcomers of North St. Johns announces officers

Newcomers of North St. Johns has announced its officers for 2018 – 2019: Pat Lett, co-vice president; June Butler, co-treasurer; Laretta Corsair, co-vice president; Barbara Capuano, parliamentarian; Linda Price, secretary; Mary Ellen Fleming, co-president; Judy Belluso, co-treasurer; and Nancy Smith, co-president.



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A letter appeared in "The CreekLine" of August 2018 from Perry Waag advocating for two petitions to put law changes on the ballot. "The first petition is for a top two open primary 'like other states have.'" ... "The second petition would not allow taxpayer funds or public facilities to be used for primaries if all taxpayers are not allowed to vote in the primaries."

His argument regarding "other states" brings to mind California. What the democrats have done to my beloved California (I lived there for my first 57 years) is beyond disgraceful! The state is bankrupt. San Francisco has become one big public toilet with no flush. Los Angeles is not far behind. They spend the majority of state funds on criminal aliens (free food, free education, free healthcare, etc. etc.) and that's not all.

One way they stay in power is with the open primary. If they can get enough people (citizen or not) to the primary polls, which always have a light turnout, then they can have a general election

with only one party represented for a partisan office. All legislative and executive offices are partisan. Nominees come from the parties, any party. The top two open primary is a way to circumvent the process for the benefit of one party.

The second proposition is completely insane. I put it in quotes to be sure I had it right. Primaries do cost money. According to this proposition, if one person did not register to vote there could be no primary election, because that person would not be allowed to vote. If what was really meant was that one was not allowed to vote because one refused to register as a member of a party, that is the consequence of not fully taking part in the electoral process.

Our current system does have some flaws, but a top two open primary is not the answer. I would encourage anyone who is offered this petition to refuse it. If it should get on the ballot, make sure it is defeated.

Wayne Curtis

Beachwalk's centerpiece Crystal Lagoons® amenity completed

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Beachwalk celebrated a major milestone in July when developer John Kinsey emptied the last gallon of water into the new community's 14-acre crystal-clear lagoon. The lagoon, a Crystal Lagoons® amenity, contains 37 million gallons of water and serves as the anchor for Beachwalk, bringing a little bit of the Caribbean to Northeast Florida.



Photo courtesy James Brown, Jr.
Beachwalk developer John Kinsey adds final gallon to Beachwalk lagoon.

"Some said it wouldn't happen," said Kinsey of the largest man-made lagoon in the country. "I think today, with the filling of the lagoon, we have silenced the doubters. There's nothing else like it in Northeast Florida."

Set against a white lining, the lagoon has taken on the natural turquoise hue that will deepen to a "Caribbean" blue. The sparkling waters are surrounded by a 100-foot white-sand beach with wavy palms and winding footpaths.

Beachwalk is part of the New Twin Creeks Planned Unit Development, a designated 3,000-acre Development of Regional Impact on both sides of County Road 210 across U.S. 1 from the western border of Nocatee. Kinsey's group has owned the site for 13 years.

The community features a Caribbean, Key West and West Indies style — metal-roof homes, Bermuda grass, and every type of palm tree that will grow well in North Florida. In addition to the lagoon, Beachwalk will feature water slides, a miniature golf course and a

2,500 square-foot splash park for dogs. A planned clubhouse has been styled after one seen at a multi-billion-dollar Caribbean beach and golf resort. Residents will be able to swim, paddle kayaks, or stroll along a boardwalk.

"The whole community really is walkable," Kinsey said. "You really can walk to the beach."

Beachwalk will have nearly 800 homes at build-out. Construction at Beachwalk includes single-family homes and twin villas on the lagoon by homebuilders Americrest Luxury Homes, Lennar and Vintage Estate Homes.

The developer is investing \$35 million to widen County Road 210 from two to six lanes and provided two school sites to the St. Johns County School District. Of Beachwalk's 1,200 acres, 500 are set aside for preserve.

Visit www.mybeachwalkhome.com for more information.

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School Briefs

County schools open with increased enrollment

The student count for the St. Johns County School District on day two, August 13, was 38,995, an increase of 1,656 students or 4.43 percent over last year's second day number of 37,339. St. Johns County continues to be one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.

The high school student count was 12,102 with 2,616 students at Bartram Trail High School; 2,255 at Creekside High School; 1,252 at Pedro Menendez High School; 2,521 at Allen D. Nease High School; 1,767 at Ponte Vedra High School and 1,691 at St. Augustine High School. There were also 275 students in attendance at St. Johns Technical High School.

Middle school attendance totaled 7,468, with student headcounts ranging from 690 at Sebastian Middle School to 1,431 at Pacetti Bay Middle School. The other second day figures were Alice B. Landrum Middle School with 1,214; Fruit Cove Middle School with 1,234; R. J. Murray Middle School with 710; Gamble Rogers Middle School with 887 and Switzerland Point Middle School with 1,302.

The district's K-8 schools totaled 7,282. Liberty Pines Academy had a second day headcount of 1,514; Patriot Oaks Academy with 1,370 and Valley Ridge Academy with 1,343. Two new K-8 schools also opened this year; Freedom Crossing Academy with 949 and Palm

Valley Academy with 1,188. Mill Creek Elementary transitioned to Mill Creek Academy over the summer and had a headcount of 918; these three schools all opened this school year as K-6 schools with plans to add seventh and eighth grades in subsequent years.

The elementary school population totaled 11,449. This count only includes approximately 50 percent of all kindergarten students since schools stagger the kindergarten start date over a four-day period.

"The hard work and dedication from administration, teachers and support staff to make opening day and the days that follow the very best resulted in happy students eager to learn and greeting their friends," said Superintendent Tim Forson. "I am so proud of our students and staff and it is wonderful to be out in the schools to share in welcoming our students this year."

St. Johns County School District staff will continue to monitor attendance numbers, balance classrooms and refine bus routes throughout the coming weeks.

Wards Creek teacher honored

Lissa O'Rourke, an ESE Pre-K/VPK teacher at Wards Creek Elementary School is one of 46 public school educators who will receive the prestigious California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala next February in Washington, D.C.



Photo courtesy Lissa O'Rourke
Lissa O'Rourke

The California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence awardees are nominated by their peers for their dedication to the profession, community engagement, professional development, attention to diversity, and advocacy for fellow educators.

"I was nominated for the award by Michelle Dillon, the St. Johns Education Association president. We put together a packet that included endorsement letters from her, my principal, assistant principal, and a parent; along with an essay that I wrote," said O'Rourke. "The packet was sent to the state chapter of the union, the Florida Education Association. After reviewing packets from around the state, I was chosen for this incredible honor."

Of the 46 state awardees who were nominated by their National Education Association state affiliate, five finalists will be announced at the beginning of the school year and receive \$10,000 at the gala. The nation's top educator will be revealed at the gala on February 8, 2019 and receive an additional \$25,000. The gala will be livestreamed at nea-foundation.org.

Palencia announces annual fundraiser golf tournament

Palencia Elementary School's sixth annual golf tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 8. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at the Palencia Club. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to come together for a fun day on the course to raise funds that will have great impact for the students.

Like previous years there will be a chance to win a car from title sponsor Honda of the Avenues. The awards dinner will take place on the upstairs lawn of the Palencia Club and will feature music, prizes, raffle, silent auction and dinner provided by Harry's Seafood. Everyone should plan on coming early to participate in pre-tournament putting contest for a chance to win tickets to the 2019 Masters Tournament. There will be complimentary food and beverages on the course as well as proximity prizes like sports tickets. Lunch will be provided by Salt Life.

This year's event will be raising funds to help keep Palencia Elementary a digital 1:1 school, or one device for each student. Having a 1:1 device environment allows students to confidently and safely learn to navigate the digital world, guided by educational professionals. Increase to the student population and the aging devices that the school currently owns makes raising funds to be able to purchase new iPads vital to the continuation of this program.

Visit www.Palenciaforethekids.com for more information and to register.



Leg pain? 5 symptoms you shouldn't ignore

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Brush up your Shakespeare at Alhambra's "Kiss Me Kate"

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

"Kiss Me Kate" is basically Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," adapted for the stage

by Jeremy Sams and featuring music and lyrics by Cole Porter ... and audiences at Alhambra Theatre and Dining are in for a double treat with this rol-

licking battle of the sexes. The music and lyrics are integrated into the script (Porter's response to Rodgers & Hammerstein's shows) and the play became Porter's biggest hit with more than 1,000 performances on Broadway. It won the first-ever Tony Award presented for Best Musical in 1949.

The story is actually a play-within-a-play about actors touring with the stage version of "The Taming of the Shrew." The characters switch back and forth between their names and their Shakespearean counterparts. The lead roles are portrayed impressively by Christopher Sanders and Traci Bair, as divorced couple Fred Graham and Lilli Vanessi who star as "Petruccio" and "Katharine." Despite their failed personal relationship, they find themselves drawn to each other. Add in Fred's dalliance with ingenue Lois Lane/"Bianca," portrayed by Lauren Robinson, and her gambler boyfriend, Bill Calhoun/"Lucentio," played by Matthew Alexander, as well as two mafia hit men who come to collect Bill's gambling debt from an unsuspecting Fred (Bill signed Fred's name on an IOU) and what ensues is a comedic case of misunderstandings. Backstage antics of the cast spill over into the on-stage performance of "The Taming of the Shrew," with hilarious asides by the actors during their ad libbing.

Porter's music provides a showcase for powerhouse vocals by Sanders, Bair

and Robinson. Probably one of the most well known numbers, "Wunderbar," is beautifully performed by Sanders and Bair as their Fred and Lilli personas. Bair as Lilli shows her vocal range and comedic delivery with "I Hate Men" and Sanders as

Petruccio brings the house down with "Where is the Life that Late I Led?" Robinson as Bianca leads a suggestive rendition of "Tom, Dick or Harry" with suitors Gremio, Hortensio and Lucentio that will have adult audience members chuckling.

The clever lyrics in "Brush Up Your Shakespeare," performed by the two gangsters (Joshua McKinney and Joey Swift) are sure to bring laughs and finally a sigh of disappointment when the two are finally, literally, dragged off the stage.

The ensemble numbers are also highlights. "Another Op'nin, Another Show" at the start of the first act and "Too Darn Hot" at the beginning of the second act allow the company to strut their stuff to James Kinney's pulsating choreography.

Executive Chef DeJuan Roy has imagined another themed menu to accompany this show. Diners have their choice of chilled cucumber bisque or Caprese salad to start, followed by entree choices of southern style pepper steak, BBQ chicken, scallops carbonara or vegetable kabob with tofu. Save room for refreshing raspberry sorbet with a Meyer lemon cookie or Key Lime pie for dessert.

"Kiss Me Kate" will be on stage at Alhambra Theatre and Dining through Sept. 9. Visit www.alhambrajax.com to buy tickets.



Photo courtesy Alhambra Theatre and Dining
The cast of "Kiss Me Kate."

Jazz music featured at monthly jams



Photo courtesy Jamie Lee

St. Augustine Jazz Society hosts a monthly Jazz Jam at Royal St. Augustine Golf Club, 301 Royal St. Augustine Pkwy., off State Road 16 on the last Sunday of each month except December from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. These jams are open to the public; admission is \$7 for non-members. The jams feature music from local and famous musicians and vocalists, dancing and drinks for purchase. St. Augustine Jazz Society is a non-profit organization and funds received go towards scholarships to St. Johns County jazz band members in middle school, high school, and college. Visit www.staugjazzsociety.org for more information on scholarships and jazz jams or contact Jamie Lee, vice president, at (904) 237-9268. Pictured are this year's scholarship winners, Rhys Bennett, sax; Sylvia Van Boskirk, sax; and Henry Van Boskirk.



Photo courtesy Captain Scott LaRochelle, USCG (ret)

Nease cadets present the colors

Nease NJROTC's Color Guard presented the colors before the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game versus the Montgomery Biscuits on July 24 at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville. Presenting the colors are Cadets Peyton Gustafson, Troy Barber, Heather Jett and Erin Sass. Nease was recently recognized the #5 ranked NJROTC program in the nation.

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Get to Know . . .

Doug Nunnery

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com



Photo courtesy Doug Nunnery
Doug and Ashlen Nunnery

Doug Nunnery's Gator roots run deep — not only did he earn his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Florida, but he grew up in Gainesville. His father was a professor and his mother worked in the athletic department. After graduation, he took a job in Jacksonville with Prudential in its IT department. He ultimately earned his MBA at the University of North Florida while still working full time at Prudential.

He and his wife Ashlen wed on his birthday in 1986. They have two sons, Joel, a project manager for a commercial contractor who just relocated back to North Florida after several years in South Florida, and Alex, who works at Publix.

Up until very recently, Nunnery owned The UPS Store at State Road 13 and Race Track Road.

"I'm very appreciative of the community who supported our business for 18 years and I hope they continue to support the new owners of this location," he said.

1. How did you and your wife meet?

We actually met in a laundromat. I was folding clothes — athletic socks, actually! — and she came in with a friend. We had seen each other there before but never spoken. So after I left, she asked the manager of

the laundromat for my name and then I guess she looked me up because she called me. I knew immediately who it was when she called. She invited me to a dinner she was cooking for her roommate and we started dating and now here we are!

2. How did you come to own The UPS Store?

It was in mid-1990s and I was working at IBM. We decided to start a business and Ashlen actually opened our first location of Mailboxes, Etc. on Blanding Boulevard. Then we added the Fleming Island location, which Ashlen still manages. By 2000, the growth in Fruit Cove was such that we decided to open that location. For awhile we also owned the Mandarin location. Today, we still have the Fleming Island location, but I won't be working there full time.

3. What was your favorite part of owning The UPS Store in Fruit Cove?

I liked the aspect of serving and helping customers and our employees. Whenever I personally had the opportunity to exceed someone's expectations ... that the most gratifying thing for me.

4. So, what's next for you now that you have sold the store?

I found that I've actually been busier than ever the past two months, handling things I had put off and needed to get done. I'm actually seeking God's

plan for what I am to do next. I have a sense that I want to help people, but I still do need to earn a paycheck, so it will be in the business area. I'm pursuing three things: marketing work for the Fleming Island location part time; I just finished a self study for business consulting as I'd like to work with prospective small business owners; and possibly I will build a real estate practice. I find that I get a kick out of helping people in transition.

5. If you could only eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

There's probably one or two of my wife's special Armenian dishes that I would choose. But I sure do love those fried seafood platters at the fish camp!

Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured?
Email Martie Thompson at
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Juvenile Arthritis Association cont. from pg. 1



Faith with her family before the walk.

She stressed that Faith has a mild form of juvenile arthritis, but it is still painful enough that Faith was inspired to raise money for the Juvenile Arthritis Association to help find a cure and help other children.

"I wanted to do the walk because some kids are really struggling," Faith said.

Faith first decided to raise awareness of juvenile arthritis by posting a "Fun Fact" about the disease every day in July on her Instagram account.

"There's really nothing 'fun' about juvenile arthritis, but for these kids, it's their life," Mallori Hunt said.

Next she set up a Go Fund Me page linked to her Instagram.

Faith also designed the pink tee shirt worn by walkers, featuring the words the pediatric rheumatologist bent down to tell her when she received her diagnosis: "Do everything and be tough."

The Hunts invited friends and family to join them on the walk from their home to the Julington Creek Plantation pool on that hot day in late July.

"When we were done, we jumped right in the pool," Faith said.

Faith plans to continue to raise awareness of juvenile arthritis and funds to support the cause throughout the year.

Visit Faith on Instagram, @faithkhunt or if you'd like to donate: www.gofundme.com/support-juvenile-arthritis.

Visit arthritis.org or www.kidsgetarthritis.org for more information about juvenile arthritis.

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Strategies parents can use to motivate students

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Students may need some time to adjust at the beginning of a new school year. Summer vacations typically lack the structure of the school year, and it might be unfair to expect kids to seamlessly slip back into their more regimented lives as students.

While some early school year sluggishness might be normal, that should wear off pretty quickly. If not, and students appear to be struggling to get motivated for their schoolwork, parents can try various strategies that should help reignite youngsters' passions for learning.

- Make your home more school-friendly. Summer is a relaxing time of year when parents have a tendency to relax rules around the house. But come the school year, parents must make sure their homes are as conducive to studying as possible. Resist the urge to turn the television on each night so students are not distracted from their studies. Keep the home quiet so students are motivated to focus on their studies.

- Encourage participation in extracurricular activities. Various studies have examined the relationship between extracurricular activities and academic



Photo courtesy Metro Creative

performance. A 2002 study published in the journal *Sociology of Education* found that participation in extracurricular activities is associated with improved grade point average, increased college attendance and reduced absenteeism. The link between participation in extracurricular activities and

improved academic performance is still in need of study, but such participation may help children acclimate to the structure of the school year more quickly than they might if they do not participate in such activities.

- Encourage curious youngsters. Kids are curious, and fostering that curiosity can be a great way for parents to get their kids excited about learning. Whether it's during the school year and part of their curriculum or on summer break, encourage kids to engage in subjects that interest them. As kids learn more about the topics and subjects that interest them, they may develop a passion for learning that they can then take with them to the classroom.

- Express an interest in the subjects children are studying. Another way to motivate students at the dawn of a new school year is to express an interest in the subjects they're studying. Ask questions about their studies and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. Engaging students about the

subjects they're studying can motivate them to explore those subjects more deeply than they otherwise might.

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FLORIDA BALLET - Classes for age 3-12 will begin on August 18th FEES - Please call 904-353-7518 or email info@floridaballet.org for further information.

NFC SINGERS - Each Year will include 3-4 Performances and opportunities for community outreach performances i.e. fraternal organizations, retirement homes, hospitals, etc.

NFC Singers is an intermediate/advanced singing ensemble open to students from 5th grade to 12th grade. Rehearsal times: Thursday - 4:30pm - 6pm.

On September 13th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm we will have an Orientation Meeting with an outline of dates for our season including expectations for participants, requirements, rehearsal/performance dates etc.

Additionally, we will hold vocal assessments for each student. September 20th will be our first meeting as singers to meet and do light singing. October 11th will be the official start to the choir season.

BALLROOM DANCE - We are launching BALL ROOM DANCE! The North Florida Dance Association instructors will be partners with the Conservatory this year! Come join the class or classes and become your secret dream of being FRED ASTAIRE or GINGER ROGERS!

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Back to school success with top resources from your library

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Be sure to use your library's research and learning tools for your best school year yet — head to the library, or visit the library's website, for quality research sources, age-appropriate books and eBooks, and homework help that can't be found anywhere else.

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Photo courtesy Metro Creative

“Even if your busy school schedule makes it challenging to visit the library, our reference databases and virtual

services are always available when you need them,” said Library System Virtual Services Librarian Lisa Calvert.

In addition to Brainfuse tutoring and Ask A Librarian reference, the library offers eBooks, research databases for elementary, middle and high schoolers, and on-line language-learning through Pronunciator. Students can also borrow materials from other academic and public libraries through

the Interlibrary Loan service. Visit www.sjcpls.org to learn more about the library's research and learning tools. For additional help with the library's resources, speak with the Youth Services Librarian at your closest branch library or bookmobile.

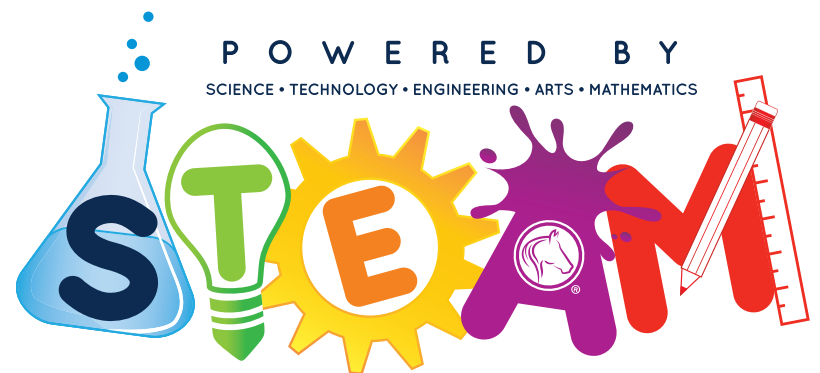
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Visit www.sjcpls.org to learn more about the library's research and learning tools. For additional help with the library's resources, speak with the Youth Services Librarian at your closest branch library or bookmobile.

2018 - 2019 St. Johns County School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

- 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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New beginnings for Relay for Life

By Atharva Palande
mail@floridanewline.com

As the Relay For Life 2019 season starts to get back into gear, the leadership in charge works its way to get a grasp of the logistics. Last year, the Relay For Life of North St. Johns County exceeded its goals, giving cause for great celebration.

As this year progressed, a need for reorganization existed, leading to the creation of a bigger Relay For Life than this area has seen. For the upcoming season, a gigantic Relay For Life of North St. Johns County will combine the previous Bartram Trail, Ponte Vedra and World Golf Village Relays and will add South Mandarin and St. Augustine.

The goal for the upcoming year is to raise \$125,000 and the race is already underway. There are many opportunities to register early and start fundraising as a team; go to www.RelayForLife.org/nstj to do so.

This year's biggest corporate sponsor is Northrop Grumman, which has agreed to bring their St. Augustine team and has already donated a generous sum of \$10,000. New programs and tier systems will be instilled into the program as well to promote competition, since teams will

undeniably make up a huge portion of the money raised throughout the event.

This year's Relay theme is: "A Hope is a HOPE no matter how small," in the vernacular of Dr. Seuss. And that could not be any truer, because the past successes and all the future successes have hinged on the fact that someone hopes for a future without cancer.

The first meeting will be held on Sept. 13 at Allen D. Nease High School for event leadership members, but it is open to anyone. If you want to come and help by joining the committee, or you want help signing up your team, or you already have money raised to turn in, feel free to come over.

The first official kickoff for all teams will take place on Oct. 11.

Remember to save the date for Relay For Life of North St Johns County at Allen D. Nease High School on the 27th of April. If there are any questions or comments, please contact us at rfl.northstjohnscounty@gmail.com

Here's to celebrating more birthday!

Briefs cont. from pg. 10

ing on gardening, the environment, and floral arrangement. Members of the Garden Club of Switzerland are entitled to enjoy these events.

Visit www.switzerlandgc.org to see this year's program schedule and email switzerlandgc@gmail.com to RSVP for a meeting or outing.

St. Johns County residents may enjoy free or discounted admission during Easy Season

The month of September is a relatively slow time of year for tourism in the St. Augustine area, but the so called "Easy Season" has attractions, museums and tours offering free or discounted admission to St. Johns County residents.

Additionally, the Sing Out Loud Music Festival returns for four weekends this September (Sept. 1 – 23). Hundreds of performances will take place at in the greater St. Augustine area and Ponte Vedra Beach in an epic celebration of local, regional and national singers, songwriters and musicians.

Among the deals for St. Johns County residents with proper identification in September are:

- Free admission on Old Town Trolley Tours
- Free admission St. Augustine History Museum
- Free admission Authentic Old Jail
- Free admission Potter's Wax Museum
- Free admission Oldest Store Museum Experience
- 50% off admission at Bayfront Mini Golf, Ripley's Red Train Tours, Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum, and the Ghost Train Adventure
- Free admission to Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse
- Free admission to the TPC Clubhouse Tour
- Free admission to the Flagler College Legacy Tour
- Free admission to the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum

- Free admission to the Oldest House Museum
- Free Tours of the San Sebastian Winery and St. Augustine Distillery
- Free admission at Fort Matanzas including the ferry ride
- Free admission to the Pena Peck House

Visit www.FloridasEasySeason.com for more information.

St. Johns County Audubon Society announces new program

St. Johns County Audubon Society's new season has begun with a new board of directors and a full schedule of activities, including a new program funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society to teach about and encourage water conservation.

The newly elected board includes Amy Koch (president), Mary Conte (vice president), Patricia Gill (treasurer), Debbie Cusick (secretary) as well as Marcy Brenner and Jean Rolke (past president).

St. Johns County Audubon Society will introduce Birding 101 walks this year that will be led by an experienced birder. With this offering, the society hopes to share opportunities to see birds with young people and families who are new to birding.

Monthly member meetings are held at the St. Johns River State College campus in St. Augustine on the third Tuesday of each month and will include important topics such as the Status of The Summer Haven River, Climate-wise Gardening, Saving Habitats for Wildlife and Ethical Bird Photography. In addition to the society's many scheduled bird walks, attendees are invited to explore birds, wildlife and conservation on field trips to places like Sweetwater Wetlands Preserve in Gainesville, Williams Wetland Preserve in Palatka and the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, a facility in Maitland where Audubon Florida's iconic "EagleWatch" program is headquartered.

Visit www.stjohnsaudubon.com to view the online calendar of events and learn more about the Water Advocated project.

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Golf tips from T Shot Ranch Is golf a contact sport?

By Janie C. Farina
mail@floridanewsline.com

"My swing is so bad, I look like a caveman killing his lunch." — Tommy Armour

Do you "look like a caveman killing his lunch" when playing golf?

Are you "killing the ball" when you play, or is your golf game killing you?

Grip, trap, hit, penalty, stroke, hazard, out of bounds, unplayable lie, interference, hook, slice, push, pull, block, bogey, divot, bunker, smother, block, fat, thin, top, torque, smash... It's no wonder, with golf lingo the



Photo by Metro Creative

way it is, seeing students ball hit for the first time resembles a mugging instead of a swinging.

So, how do we deliver that sweet smack that sends the ball sailing down the fairway while we get to a balanced finish position that you could frame in a picture?

So many golfers, instead, look like they are doing the "Mashed Potato" before the ball screeches dead right/left while the onlookers run for cover. To illustrate this point, at work we have a golf ball peppered steel pillar three feet to the right of the hitting area that resembles the dimples on a golf ball from top to bottom.

"Golf combat" can be destructive to our bodies, our equipment, and to our self-esteem on the golf course/driving range.

Here is some necessary ammunition to incorporate into your golf arsenal that will soften the blow of bad ball contact:

1. Having a proper hold on the club minimizes golf ball shrapnel and insures that the clubface is contacting the ball in the correct fashion.

2. An athletic posture/stance will facilitate balance, rhythm, and a correct swing plane through the ball to keep it on path. Muhammad Ali danced around his opponents, but knocked them flat with a well-timed blow.

3. Slashing at the ball may feel powerful, but tempo and rhythm deliver a better smash.

4. Aim like a target shooter — allow for eye dominance, and set up looking with both eyes focused on the target while

placing your feet. Trust what looks right from behind the ball, and not believing the deceptive picture your side view delivers to your brain.

5. Salute with the club to the target at the finish of your swing; a well balanced finish with face, chest, and tummy is critical to getting your target mission accomplished, vs. dangling the club, spinning and falling away after the swing like a right hook has plowed you over.

Golf doesn't have to feel like a contact sport with the aid of a good instructor, proper equipment, and a peaceful mindset that will facilitate killing the ball, not your golf swing!

Keep the flow and let it go!

Janie C. Farina is an LPGA teaching professional of 27 years and can be reached at hitthedirt2@gmail.com for questions, comments, and to arrange instruction locally.

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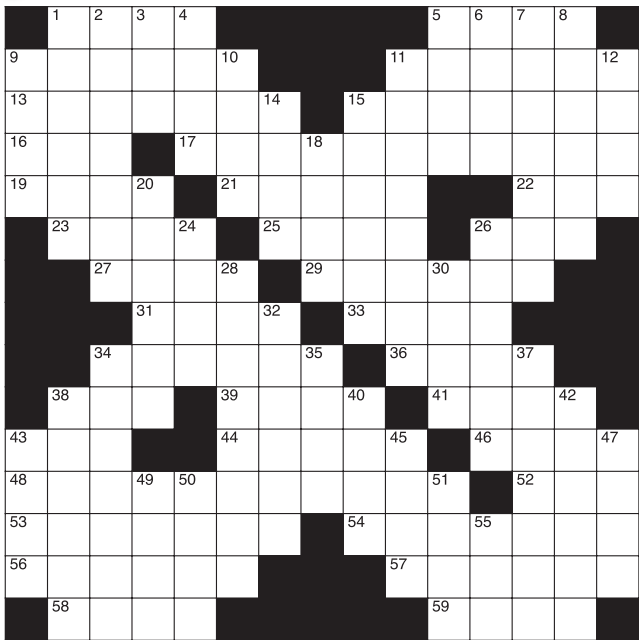
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A greeting
- 5. A type of hall
- 9. Planes need one
- 11. Wealth
- 13. The act of exciting
- 15. A movement downward
- 16. Type of storage
- 17. A funny and sad play
- 19. After cinco
- 21. Dry white Italian wine
- 22. Where golfers begin
- 23. Witnesses
- 25. Relaxing places
- 26. Of she
- 27. Discontinued compact car
- 29. Resulted
- 31. Large Irish castle

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
- 2. Deliberately contrary events
- 3. Unit of mass
- 4. Kiln
- 5. Soybean paste
- 6. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 7. Made the bed
- 8. One who mails
- 9. Bar bills
- 10. Automotive vehicles
- 11. Breaks
- 12. Swelling of the eyelid
- 14. Asian country
- 15. Couches
- 18. Stare with mouth wide open
- 20. Member of U.S. Navy
- 24. A sulk

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- 15. Couches
- 18. Stare with mouth wide open
- 20. Member of U.S. Navy
- 24. A sulk

- 26. Greetings
- 28. Craftsmen
- 30. Mongolian city __ Bator
- 32. Did again
- 34. Sunrooms
- 35. Start over
- 37. Georgians love them
- 38. Women
- 40. "Snake Tales" cartoonist
- 42. Pariahs
- 43. Caps
- 45. Gradually become less solid
- 47. Goats
- 49. French city Le __
- 50. Exhale
- 51. Homes have at least one
- 55. Type of power cable



Solve the code to discover words related to computing.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 2 = m)

A. 7 9 2 18 8 4 22 16

Clue: Electronic device

B. 12 21 25 21 4 13 17

Clue: Opposite of analog

C. 2 22 2 9 16 24

Clue: Storage

D. 7 17 9 8 12

Clue: External server

PIZZA MAKER WORD SEARCH

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

- AERATE
- BIGA
- BUFFALO
- CALIFORNIA STYLE
- CHEF
- CORNICIONE
- CRUST
- CULTURE
- DEEP DISH
- DELIVERY
- DOCKING
- DOUBLE-ZERO
- DOUGH
- ELASTICITY
- FLOUR
- FOCACCIA
- GLUTEN
- HEARTH
- MARGHERITA
- MARINARA
- MOZZARELLA
- NAPLES
- NEAPOLITAN
- PAN
- PARMESAN
- PEEL
- PEPPERONI
- PIZZAIOLO
- PROOF
- SALT
- SHEETED
- SHREDDED
- STONE
- TOMATOES
- TOPPINGS
- YEAST

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Gatherings of family and friends are better with food, and few foods are more universally beloved than salsa. Whether they're hosting a gathering for the big game or a celebration of Hispanic culture and cuisine, hosts who want to go the extra mile can forgo store-bought salsa for the following homemade recipe for "Warm Black Bean Salsa" courtesy of Judith Finlayson's "The Health Slow Cooker: 135 Gluten-Free Recipes for Health and Wellness" (Robert Rose).

Warm Black Bean Salsa

(Makes about 3 cups)

- 14- to 19-ounce can of no-salt-added black beans, drained
- 1 cup drained no-salt-added diced canned tomatoes
- 4 green onions, finely chopped
- 2 roasted peppers (poblano or sweet), peeled and diced
- 1 roasted jalapeño, seeded and diced, or 1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce
- 1 tsp. puréed garlic
- 1 tsp. finely grated lime zest
- 2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice
- 2 cups shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped cilantro leaves
- Finely chopped green onions

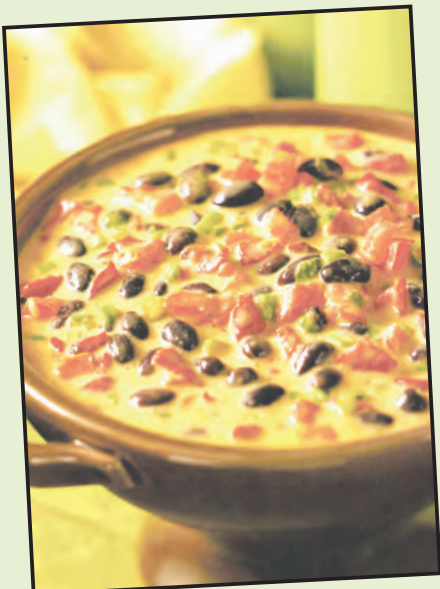


Photo courtesy Metro Creative
Warm Black Bean Salsa

In slow cooker stoneware, combine beans, tomatoes, green onions, poblano, jalapeño peppers, garlic, lime zest and juice, and cheese. Stir well. Cover and cook on high for 1 ½ hours, until mixture is hot and bubbly. Stir in cilantro, sprinkle with green onions, if using, and serve.

Gardening

What is soil?

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo by Metro Creative

This seems like a simple question, but it's an important one, because soil — rather than "dirt" — can be considered the basis of all life. Whether it is the sands of the sea shore and deserts, or the thick alluvial muds of grand rivers like the Mississippi, soils harbor and support millions of tiny organisms or microbes — animal, vegetable, and fungal. They form a community of creatures that we are oblivious to, but which are vital to soil fertility and its ability to support the plant life on which we depend.

We have come a long way since the advent of industrial farming, but it's a relatively recent development. Once considered to be the scientific answer to feeding increasing numbers of people, which it certainly does, some growers are opting to use organic farming methods, aiming specifically at protecting and building up soil fertility without the use of synthetic fertilizers derived from petroleum: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AG/AG24600.pdf>. It is worth looking at our own practices to see if we can be kinder to our soil and nourish those unseen microbes.

As summer progresses, grass seems to grow ever quicker and taller, and needs mowing at least once a week. By cutting off no more than one-third of its height, we can leave the grass trimmings on the lawn and in the heat and rain they will quickly decompose, returning nitrogen and other elements to the soil. Leaves drop throughout the year, but not so much in summer and, with the exception of southern magnolia leaves, they can be shredded while mowing with no need for raking.

For flower beds and vegetable gardens, return as much weedy debris to the soil as is practical by tucking it under the mulch and it will compost in place. If you have a lot of yard trimmings, a well-constructed compost pile will rot down in summer in just a few months. Dispose of weed seeds and any weeds that will regrow from small pieces of stem or root, like dollar weed and Florida betony.

Practitioners of "no till" farming are well aware of the benefits of undis-

turbed soils: they leave crop roots and debris in place after harvest and use a modified planting system for subsequent crops (<https://tinyurl.com/ydfy3mlx>). The soil structure remains relatively intact and nutrients are recycled directly back into the field. In our gardens we can cut off and compost the top growth of annuals and leave the roots in the ground, adding mulch to keep beds tidy. With minimal soil disturbance the beneficial web of fungal mycelium — the underground part of fungi — is left undisturbed to continue doing its job, which includes processing nutrients and making them available to growing plants. Beans and other legumes are among the plants that have symbiotic relationships with particular species of mycelia, and adding a commercially available bean inoculant to the soil at planting time is an effective way to boost productivity.

In the home garden, another way to boost organic matter is to grow a cover crop, like clover or field peas, which is turned back into the soil when still immature before sowing the next food crop (<https://tinyurl.com/y8v73rxv>).

Ultimately our gardens will benefit if we take care of our soil. Incorporating organic matter will keep up fertility, encourage an airy soil structure that will absorb irrigation, slow the leaching of nutrients from sandy soils, and enable plant roots to grow wide and deep. In addition, minimize soil disturbance and the natural fungal processes and microbes at work in the soil will thrive and our gardens will benefit. Your fall garden could be spectacular!

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewsline.com

Every spring, summer, and fall, the majority of our area fishing depends greatly on the weather. Neighborhood lakes and ponds require a certain amount of rainfall to help maintain healthy water levels. Area creeks and tributaries also need a certain amount of yearly rainfall to help ward off saltwater intrusion that helps them remain as the freshwater fishery that they are. And then there is the St. Johns River. For us, it's our favorite area fishing grounds, but in reality, it serves as a 310-mile long drain for much of the central and upper eastern half of the state of Florida.



Photo courtesy Mark Miller

This month's Catch of the Month photo is of six year old Collins, who caught this shellcracker on a warm July afternoon in Julington Creek Plantation near the golf course.

fishing grounds. With the brackish lines being pushed back as far north as downtown Jacksonville, we have pretty much been left with a freshwater river for most of our area fishing.

In years past it is usually some sort of a tropical system that brings on a heavy flush of the river. It disrupts fishing for a while, but then conditions return to normal. This year, because of the continuous onslaught of above

normal rainfall, any type of recovery that we may have expected has been nonexistent. Of course this year is not over yet, as we easily have well into September for conditions to change and a turnaround to take place. Who knows? Maybe after all this rain we can still be in for a fabulous autumn of fishing. It would certainly be nice.

Fishing Report: Very good freshwater bream and catfish bite. Worms for the bream, try chicken livers for the cats. Sporadic shrimping. Yellowmouth trout closer to downtown and beyond.

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.

The 2,000 square mile St. Johns River Basin is similar to that of the Florida Everglades, being made up of low marshy wetlands that extend as far south as Indian River and Okeechobee counties. With an approximate drop in elevation of just 30 feet from its beginning to where it empties into the Atlantic at Mayport, the slow moving river drains at speeds of less than a half mile per hour. Any rainfall within miles of its banks or basin is all destined to flow through our area fishery on its way to the ocean. Unfortunately for us, this excessive flow of freshwater has a direct effect on the salinity of the river water, which usually provides us the brackish water needed.

This year's overabundance of above normal rainfall throughout much of the state has helped maintain a steady drain of freshwater into the river, pushing back our normally brackish water

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Blessing of backpacks

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

On hot Sunday afternoon in August, Pastor Jeff St. Clair of Longleaf Church led what he hopes will be the first of many annual Blessing of the Backpacks events.

“I’m so grateful for our incredible team,” he said. “The event was beautifully executed.”

This past April, members of Longleaf Church, a branch of Mandarin United Methodist Church, suggested that the church sponsor a backpack blessing. St. Clair said he contacted new Freedom Crossing Academy Principal Allen Anderson and pitched the idea.

“He was all for it,” St. Clair said.

Danielle Coker, a member of Longleaf Church’s KNOW Team, coordinated

the event. Since Freedom Crossing Academy is the zoned school for Aberdeen, St. Clair also contacted the community’s amenities director, Lauren Egleston, and presented the idea of a Blessing of the Backpacks/Prayer Walk. Egelston agreed to allow the event to take place outside the amenity center and offered to cover the cost of a sheriff’s deputy for the event.

“We were so pleased to have St. Johns County Sheriff’s Deputy Tommy Marbo assigned to us,” St. Clair said. “He is a chaplain with the SJSO and he opened the event with prayer.”

Tents with a craft station and Longleaf Church water bottles and pencils were set up in front of the Aberdeen Amenity Center and the Blessing of the Backpacks event began at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12 with music, prayer and worship, including a message by St. Clair about having courage and being strong through life. St. Clair said that approximately 75 people, includ-



Pastor Jeff St. Clair led a worship service at Aberdeen Amenity Center prior to blessing the backpacks.



Members of Longleaf Church at the Blessing of the Backpacks event. Photos courtesy Jeff St. Clair

ing 15 – 20 students, were in attendance. The students then brought their backpacks forward to be blessed.

“We are so grateful to have the opportunity to host this event,” St. Clair said. “We are seeing lives transformed by equipping the young. We feel it is important to let kids know they are being prayed for. I was especially impressed by Allen Anderson, who has such a vision for our community.”

Afterwards, attendees made their way to Freedom Crossing

Academy, either a 20-minute walk or short drive, to join up with the St. Johns County Pray for Our Schools event, which was taking place the same day. Principal Anderson hosted at his new school and even opened the hallways so attendees could lay hands and pray at individual classrooms. By 2:45 p.m. everyone piled into buses provided by Longleaf Church for the return trip to Aberdeen.



This backpack has been blessed.



Longleaf Church water bottles and pencils were given to attendees.

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In Memoriam - Our Coach, Mike Sinno

By the JCP Thunder Family

To tell you who Mike Sinno was is a hard task, because he is so much more than a coach, but he was our coach, so this is Mike Sinno through our eyes.

Mike was known amongst the coaches as “The Godfather” because, no matter the occasion, he would just sit in a chair and wait for you to come to him. There were many times, after a big win, there would be a line of parents and kids waiting to talk to Mike. He never got up, he never rushed the conversation, he would just give his time and then move onto the next. He had this aura about him that even the kids could see. We were always amazed at how we could get after the kids during practices and games and they would just ignore us. We chalked it up to them being eight years old; however, when Coach Mike spoke, the kids listened.

Mike was trusting. There wasn't a tournament we went to that Mike felt the need to lock his car. Not only would he leave his car unlocked, but he would often leave his tailgate up to his SUV with his wallet, cash, and keys laying in the center console.

Mike loved to play jokes on his fellow coaches. We went to Oviedo for a winter tournament and Mike convinced two of his coaches that it was mandatory for the coaches to wear baseball pants during the tournament. As Mike arrived, Shawn Durden and Brad Raulerson were there in the parking lot in full uniform. As they began yelling at him, Mike's response was, “I can't believe you actually wore pants!”

Mike was a confident coach. He firmly believed his team could win any game they played. There would be times we



Photo courtesy Adam Gaslin

JCP Coaches: back row left to right: Adam Gaslin, Mike Sinno, Adam Wyden, Shawn Durden; front row left to right: John Chew, Brad Raulerson, Shaughnessy Harms.

would watch older teams play and as they were turning double plays, Mike would say, “We could beat this team.” We would just look at him and think, yeah, sure Mike. The next week, guess who we were playing?

He was passionate about coaching “his” boys. To Mike, they were all his boys. Last month we were in Orlando playing in a Nations Tournament. The boys had played well, locking up the #2 seed; however, they weren't playing well in

the bracket play. Mike called a time out and ripped into the boys. He told them no one was just going to give them the championship — they would have to take it. After the game a massive rain storm came through, cancelling the rest of the tournament and since we were the most impressive team so far, they just gave us the championship. So, here comes Mike walking back to the parking lot with this massive trophy and he says, “Heck of a speech I gave earlier, but apparently they will just give you the championship.”

To Mike, baseball was always a game of “nexts.” He would tell the boys on to the next play, next at bat, next game. Well coach, it's your turn, onto your next adventure. There won't be a single play, single at bat, or a single game you aren't with us. We love you.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests all donations go to JCB in the name of Mike Sinno.

Faith News

Vibrant Life Church announces inaugural service

Vibrant Life Church strives to answer the question, “What does it mean to live a vibrant life?” Church members are a movement of people with like hearts who are passionate about helping others know God, find freedom, discover their purpose and make a difference in the world.

At Vibrant Life, kids are important. The heartbeat of the children's ministry is to provide a safe, clean, fun environment to help each child grow.

From parenting to marriage and even business endeavors, the church has a dedicated team to help yembersou achieve greater success in life.

“We think church should be exciting, fun and spiritually geared to build at any stage of life. It's true, when Jesus is the center of your life, vibrancy is the overflow,” said Pastor JC Del Valle.

Services begin Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at Creekside High School. The dress is casual and coffee is provided. Visit www.vibrantlife.church for more information.

St. Patrick's Episcopal announces new and special service times

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 1221 State Road 13, is adding another wor-

ship service. Beginning Sept. 16, Sunday services will be held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Christian Formation in between at 9:30 a.m.

A special Blessing of the Animals outdoor service will be held on Sept. 30 at 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. All animals must be on a leash or in appropriate containers. The community is welcome to attend all services. Visit www.stpatricksepiscopal.org for more information.

Pumpkins are coming to Julington Creek

River of Life United Methodist Church, 2600 Race Track Road, will host its annual Pumpkin Patch every day from Sept. 27 through Oct. 31, or until the pumpkins are all gone. Monday through Thursday hours are 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Saturday hours are 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and Sunday hours are 11 p.m. – 8 p.m. Volunteers who don't mind getting dirty are needed to help unload the pumpkin truck on Sept. 26, Oct. 10, and Oct. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Patch proceeds help to support the church as they serve in the community and a portion goes to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

The church's annual Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For more information

about this free event or the pumpkin patch, visit www.rolumc.com and look for the article in next month's issue of The Creekline.

Fruit Cove Baptist announces fall groups

Fruit Cove Baptist Church, 501 State Road 13, has announced three support groups open to the community. Planting Hope, presented by In His Image Ministry, is a faith-based support group for families with special needs children that meets the first Tuesday of each month, beginning Sept. 4 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Contact Barbara Campbell at barbara.inhisimage@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Secondly, Grief Share, designed to support those who have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Childcare is provided; call Cecille Hammond at (904) 859-6098 for more information or to register.

Finally, Prevail is a care and support group for single moms, who can participate in Bible study and enjoy fellowship with childcare provided. For more information or to register, contact Linda Warne or Gwen May at (904) 287-0996.

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Travel

Touring Louisiana plantations

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Before the Civil War, cotton was king and sugar reigned as “white gold.” The South’s economy depended on their production. Wealthy barons established large plantations where slaves worked the fields.

New Orleans became one of America’s wealthiest cities due to its strategic harbor. Today, many grand plantations still dot the Mississippi River Road. Exploring these historic sites provides a fascinating history lesson. Visitors no longer tour just the mansion house, they also see and hear about the outbuildings and slave quarters.

The following five plantations are within an easy drive from New Orleans,

but visiting more than two a day proves difficult.

Destrehan Plantation, initially built in 1787, began producing indigo, then switched to more profitable sugar. The owner, Jean Noel Destrehan, and his brother-in-law pioneered the granulation of sugar, making Destrehan one of the largest sugar-producing plantations. Jean Noel went on to become a driving force for Louisiana statehood. Today, costumed interpreters lead tours through the “Big House” and grounds. You’ll also find crafts and tradesmen demonstrating their skills.

Oak Alley is renowned for the 28 live oaks lining the quarter-mile entryway

to the Greek Revival mansion. The 300-year-old graceful trees, draped in Spanish moss, have become synonymous with the Old South. To walk under the dreamy



The famous Oak Alley



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Houmas House

canopy is to feel the presence of the past. In addition to touring the manor house, stop at the reconstructed slave dwellings and exhibits, and Sugarcane Theatre which shows a film about the crop’s economic importance. Overnight stays are available in newly built cottages.

Houmas House and Gardens in Darrow, a 38-acre estate, ranks as a must-see for gardeners. The stunning grounds include the Burnside Oak, Japanese gardens, bridges, fountains, pools and statuary — some of it whimsical. Even children like to explore these green acres. Though a bit pricey, an overnight stay in a cottage offers the sheer delight of evening strolls or early morning walks among the splendor. Guided tours of the manor house, once called the “Sugar Palace,” explain how it survived wars, floods, abandonment, and fortunately the ravages of time. Visitors find a variety of restaurants and the Louisiana River Road Interpretive Center now under construction, scheduled to open in fall 2019.

Whitney is the only plantation museum in the state with an exclusive focus on the lives of enslaved people. You first meet the Children of Whitney, a series of clay sculptures by artist Woodrow Nash. They represent former slaves as they were at the time of emancipation — children. Whitney presents stories told in their own words many years later. The statues grab at your heart; you won’t forget them.

My tour continued to the field of Angels, a memorial dedicated to 2,200 Louisiana slave children who died before their third birthday. A statue



Statues at Whitney Plantation

Laura Plantation presents a Creole style house in a riot of color. The guides do an exceptional job telling stories of the four generations of characters who lived and worked there. They don’t sugarcoat the complex relationships between owners, women, children, and slaves. The grounds include 12 buildings, among them the 1805 mansion, the 1840s slave cabins, and formal and kitchen gardens. You’ll leave with something to ponder.

of a black angel carrying a baby to Heaven highlights the touching location. Original frescoes remain inside the main house, and the last surviving true French Creole Barn lies close. Call ahead for reservations.

I missed five more estates in Plantation Country. I suggest a visit anytime except the sultry days of summer.

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

I left the most poignant for last: Whit-



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