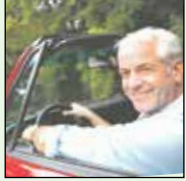


Southside NewsLine

APRIL 2018 Volume 6 Issue 2

A Florida NewsLine Publication



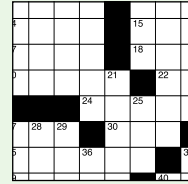
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Young artists create winning mural for Atlantic Coast High School

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com



Photos courtesy Kelly Delaney

Atlantic Coast High School art students worked on the Wyland Challenge.

Art students at Atlantic Coast High School recently placed first in the high school division of the Wyland Challenge. The prize awarded Atlantic Coast High School \$1000 for art supplies. The win wasn't the first success story for Atlantic Coast; they have participated for the Wyland mural challenge for the past five years. Four years ago, their mural placed third nationally. The same mural was later entered into Adventure Landing's mural contest where it won the top prize.

"I am very proud of these students for creating such beautiful murals for everyone to enjoy. We currently have five murals hanging on campus," said Atlantic Coast High School art teacher Kelly Delaney.

About 20 students worked on the Wyland Challenge winning mural,

Young artists cont. on pg. 7

A visit to 9A Baymeadows Regional Park

By Elaine Omann
mail@floridanewslines.com

If legislation introduced by District 11 Council Member Danny Becton is passed, 9A Baymeadows Regional Park will get a new name: Fort Family Regional Park at Baymeadows. Upon the bill's passage, the city and Perimeter Realty, a subsidiary of Fort Family Investments, will enter into an agreement where the company agrees to pay \$100,000 to the city annually for 10 years, for enhancements and improvements to the park. This money is not intended for routine maintenance.

Finding the park requires winding through the neighborhood between the Baymeadows and Gateway exits on the east side of Interstate 295. There are no visible direction signs until one comes to the entrance.

Upon entering the park there are many options for park use, including a soccer field, courts, covered picnic areas, trails, and a lake with a paved trail that follows the edge. At this time the water lilies are ready to bloom in the picturesque lake.

Recently, new tennis courts and pickleball courts have opened. These courts are attracting people from even outside the Southside neighborhood. The courts, which can be reserved at the desk, include a viewing stand and close proximity to the restrooms, vending machines, and parking.

Pickleball is drawing people from all over the city. The sport is increasing in popularity, and at this time, more than one thousand Jacksonville residents have joined in the sport and are members of the USA Pickleball Association. Those play-

ing at the first permanent courts built would like to see additional courts added to meet the demand.

Across the road from the courts a lake is visible and it follows the edge of the park to the open area where covered



Photos courtesy Elaine Omann

New pickleball courts have opened.

picnic areas are located. Three young men who were fishing claim there are large-mouth bass in the fresh water. They had found the information and location of the park on a fishing

The open fields are marked for soccer and other types of games that can be played by local teams and neighbors. When not in use for team sports, residents can be seen playing and running with their dogs. People are respectful of this park and regular visitors say it is safe, clean, and friendly for park users.

In the back area where there are swings and equipment for children, a one-year-old was celebrating his birthday with family and friends. Grandma, who lives out of state and found the park online, selected the park because of the variety of activities available.



Technician teams enjoying a game of hoops and an evening with food after work at the picnic area.

website (<http://fishingjacksonville.net/jacksonville-fishing-spots/9a-baymeadows-regional-park>) which also states that bream are found in the water and that it is a good place to bring children to fish.

The picnic area is large and open. Two technician teams from the Northside of the city had parked their vans and were enjoying a game of hoops and an evening with food after work. This park is large and has facilities that can accommodate a large group.



A one-year-old was celebrating his birthday with family and friends near the playground.

Visit www.dannybecton.org/parks for updated information on the legislation to change the name of the park and the resultant additional annual funding.

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take 5

School hosts internet safety seminar

Twin Lakes Academy Elementary will host an Internet Safety Seminar on Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m. at the school. The Internet has drastically changed the way that children interact with the world. They have access to in-depth knowledge, tools to express their creativity, and people from all over the world. Yet the Internet also offers new risks including cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate material and online predators. The seminar will focus on how parents can assist their child while they are on the Internet and will be in conjunction with the school's monthly School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting. The seminar will be facilitated by JSO Officer Karen Dukes, who will provide participants with basic tips which they can employ no matter how their children use the Internet. All parents and community members are invited to attend; child care will be provided.

Hike For Hope to prevent suicide

On April 14, 2018 volunteers will be to hiking at the University of North Florida's Nature Trails in the first Hike for Hope being hosted by the North Florida Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The three mile hike will begin at UNF at 9

a.m. and the route will go throughout the nature trails. This fundraising hike supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education, advocacy, and research programs, and the organization's bold goal to reduce the annual rate of suicide 20 percent by 2025. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, yet suicide is preventable. Visit www.afsp.org/jaxhike for more information and to register.

Newcomers club seeks members

Women in the Greater Jacksonville area who have moved to the area, are long time residents, have had a lifestyle change, want to make new friends, or want to participate in a wide variety of fun activities are invited to check out the Southside Newcomers Club. This social club's groups and activities include book clubs, Canasta, Bunco, Mexican Train, beading, movies, day trips, luncheons, dining out, Bridge, Tech Tips, Mah Jongg, and more. Coffee or breakfast is held at Mimi's Cafe in St. Johns Town Center on the first Monday of every month to learn more about Southside Newcomers Club and monthly luncheons are held at various country clubs with different programs each month. Contact snmember-ship84@gmail.com for more information.

Smart Driver course offered on Southside

AARP will hold its Smart Driver course for drivers 50 and older from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10 and Wednesday, April 11 at Memorial Hospital, 3625 University Blvd. S. You must attend both days to qualify for auto insurance discount.

Bring your driver's license and AARP membership card (if applicable) and arrive 15 minutes early on the first day to register. To enroll, call (904) 702-6001.



Photo by MetroCreative

River City Women to install new officers

The River City Women's Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for lunch, camaraderie and a fundraising program for charity at the Ramada Inn located at 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin. Social time begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a business meeting at 11 a.m. and then luncheon and program. The group will meet Wednesday,

April 18 for installation of new officers, announcement of new committee chairs, and distribution of checks to the selected charities. Guests are welcome and luncheon reservations are required; call Florence at (904) 262-8719.

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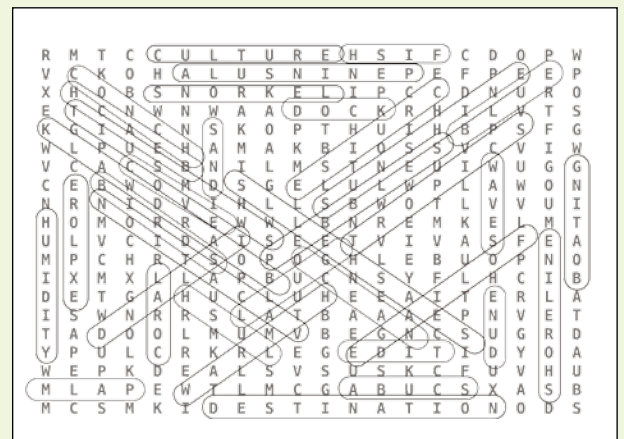
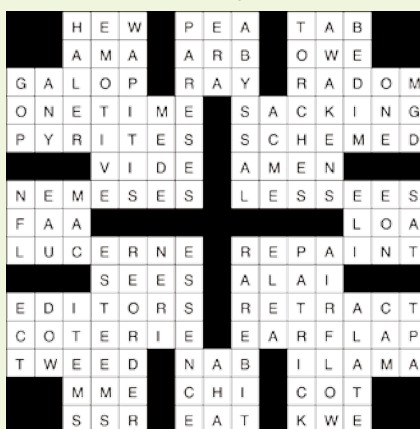
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answers to puzzles on page 10



Answers to our Puzzles

Apr.

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

around town

save the date!

May 8 - 13 THE PLAYERS Championship TPC Sawgrass
www.theplayers.com

May 12 HAWKE's Dine on the Wild Side
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
St. Augustine Alligator Farm
Tickets available April 15; www.hawkewildlife.org

May 12 Waves of Gray - 5K Brain Cancer Awareness Walk
8 a.m.
https://nbtsevents.braintumor.org/event/2018-waves-of-gray-5k/e146712

May 24 - 27 Jacksonville Jazz Festival
http://jacksonvillejazzfest.com

April 2
Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
10 a.m.
Mimi's Cafe in St Johns Town Center
phorn94479@aol.com

April 3
Honeybee Quilt Guild
6:30 p.m.
Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 11844 Mandarin Road
www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

April 5
National Stuttering Association meeting
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, Room D, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
https://sites.google.com/site/jacksonvillensa/ or (904) 247-6892

April 6
Deerwood Rotary Club meeting
7:30 a.m. (Repeating event on Fridays)
Deerwood Country Club 10239 Golf Club Drive
Deerwoodrotary.org

April 7
Florida Sisters in Crime writers/readers group
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, Room B, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
https://floridasistersincrime.wordpress.com/
UNF women's tennis vs. Kennesaw State
12 p.m.
UNF Tennis Complex

April 9
South Council of Jax Chamber luncheon
11:30 a.m. networking/12 p.m lunch and program
DeerCreek Country Club, 7816 McLaurin Road N.
www.southcouncil.org
Sierra Club meeting
6:30 p.m. social/7 p.m. meeting
Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd. W.
www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida

April 11
Medtronic Leaders Toastmasters Club
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Nelson Auditorium, 6621 Charing St., 32216
cgsm13@yahoo.com
Southside Business Men's Club weekly lunch meeting
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
San Jose Country Club
Registration required; www.southsidebusinessmensclub.com

April 12
American Legion Post 372 general assembly
6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

April 14
Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting
7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Baha'i Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road
www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)

April 16
All Star Quilt Guild
9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstartquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

April 18
River City Women's Club luncheon featuring installation of new officers
10:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road
RSVP to Florence, (904) 262-8719

April 19
Laughs for Charity presented by Rotary Club of Mandarin
6 p.m. cocktails and hors d'oeuvres / 7:30 p.m. show
The Comedy Zone inside Ramada Inn Mandarin
(904) 268-5522 or jim@jimregister.com to register
Southside Writers group
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, Room E, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
(904) 996-0325

April 20
Deerwood Toastmasters Club
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, Room B, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
Deerwoodtm.toastmastersclubs.org

April 21
Italian Language and Culture meetup group
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Southeast Regional Library, Room B, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
(904) 996-0325
Duck Race - Making a Splash for Autism
9:30 a.m. gate opens/race at 10:30 a.m.
Adventure Landing, 1944 Beach Blvd.
https://jaxduckrace.org

April 24
How to STARTUP Your Own Business sponsored by Small Business Development Center
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Adam W. Herbert University Center, Bldg. 43 at UNF
\$40; ali.stephens@unf.edu or (904) 620-2476

April 26
Knitting Chicas
1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, Room F, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
(904) 996-0325

April 28
Introduction to Coding class
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Southeast Regional Library, E-Classroom, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
nbeardsley@coj.net

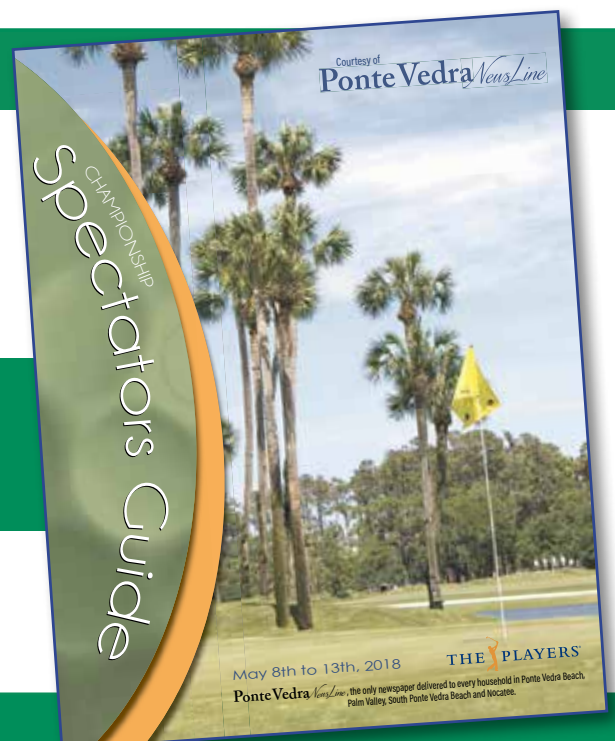
April 29
UNF baseball vs. Stetson
1:05 p.m.
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with Duval School Board Member,
District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: What is the latest information on the superintendent search?

A: We have finished with all 10 of the community meeting that were held to help develop the ideal candidate profile. The search firm will be advertising for the position and we will have a superintendent in place by July.

Q: Did you learn anything interesting during these community meetings?

A: We met with a large variety of community groups and the same values came up every time. Trustworthiness was at the top of everyone's list. Additionally, the ability to build relationships, the ability to bring the community together and being student centered were mentioned by all groups, as well as an emphasis on the importance of experience.

Q: Will there be any other opportunity for the public to be involved in the search?

A: When we have narrowed the search to the top three or four candidates, there will be an opportunity for the public to observe the interview process. Additionally, a focus group has been formed that consists of three members from each district for a total of 21 members. One member from each district must be a Duval County Public Schools employee. This group will get to interview the top three for four candidates and give a recommendation to the school board.

Q: Do you have any thoughts on the recently passed state budget as it relates to education?

A: The governor has 15 days to sign the budget and as of today (March 15) we are in the middle of this period. If the bill becomes law, 47 cents per student is the amount increase for Duval County, which equates to about \$60,000 total. We do not feel this is sufficient.

Q: What insight can you give on the school safety bill as it pertains to Duval County?

A: There are some concerning things about HB 7026. Some parts of the bill are only funded for one year, so sustainability will be difficult. Also, regarding the funding to harden our schools, the approximately \$196 million is a one-time funding that is set up as a grant — and all 67 counties in the state will have to apply for it. There is recurring funding for school resource officers, but it's not as great of an amount as that set aside to arm teachers. If a school district decides to arm district employees (including teachers), they will be trained by the Sheriff's Office — but in the event of an incident, the school is liable, not the Sheriff's Office. And the individual gets a one-time stipend of \$500 for participating. At our March meeting, the school board passed a resolution 6 – 1 that we would secure our schools with school resource officers rather than district employees.

Q: What can you share as to the safety precautions already in place in Duval County Public Schools?

A: We have a safety plan in place and we do regular Code Red drills at all of our schools. Recently, our school board chair and Superintendent Willis met with Sheriff Williams to review our plans and he said they were good plans. We have school resource officers in each middle and high school and mental health counselors in all middle schools. We are also evaluating all schools in the district for safety and some schools will receive additional fencing and security cameras where warranted. We take the security of our students and every threat we learn of very seriously.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.



with Jacksonville City Council Member
Tommy Hazouri (At Large District 3)

Q: The potential sale of JEA is still a big topic of conversation. Do you have any updates?

A: I think this question to sell has created angst among employees and citizens. The City Council has the final authority on whether JEA is sold and so far we haven't really been told anything outside of the original JEA presentation. We have a select committee that is under the auspices of the council president that is looking at whether to sell or not to sell. This committee will be in existence until June 30. So we have a short window to study this. Council members can ask questions, but we don't have the expertise to make a decision at this point.

Q: How do you expect to get more information?

A: There are so many issues to look at, including the valuation of the properties, the water and sewer component, the fact the Clay and St. Johns counties have the right of first refusal for portions of JEA in the event of a sale. We need to study all these items and despite \$100,000 that will come from the DuPont Foundation for this purpose, I think it will cost in excess of \$1 million to thoroughly study. We don't have this money.

Q: So what do you think are the next steps?

A: This is a topic of conversation that is not going away, but I don't think any decision will be made anytime soon. This is probably the biggest decision to be made by the City Council in many years. JEA could probably be sold for a premium in today's market, but is there a deal out there that we can't refuse?

One that would be in the best interests of the citizens of Jacksonville and the taxpayers? We want to protect our employees, our income (\$116 million in lieu of taxes that we currently receive from JEA) and most importantly the service we receive from JEA.

Q: Do you have any Southside updates?

A: On the recreation side, we are excited that there is a new tennis facility opened at 9A Regional Park. This facility includes both clay and pickleball courts and we hope that community members will enjoy using them.

Q: Are there any statistics coming in on the effectiveness of the six-month pilot opioid program that the city is participating in?

A: We have had tremendous response to this program. Overdoses and deaths from overdoses are trending downward and we are moving away from residential treatment to outpatient and peer specialties. As of March 15, the program was expanded to the Southside location of St. Vincents, in addition to the Riverside location. At the end of May, the pilot program will conclude, but we intend for it to continue with existing funding. Soon, new funding sources, both public and private, will be needed.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 630-1396.

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 Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief J.G. Short, (904) 828-5463
 Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011
 Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414
 Tax Collector: Michael Corrigan, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916
 Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

Jacksonville City Council

District 11: Danny Becton, dbecton@coj.net, (904) 630-1383
 At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 630-1396

Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)

District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

State of Florida Elected Officials

State House District 12: Representative Clay Yarborough, (904) 723-5300
 State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016
 State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 346-5039

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





Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

We are starting a new feature in Southside NewsLine. If you are puzzled about something going on in Southside or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue, email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.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.

So, let us hear from you. What questions would you like answered to satisfy your curiosity?

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com

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Briefs

Hospital to add more patient rooms

Memorial Hospital is growing and will soon be able to accommodate more patients. In April, the hospital will begin a \$13 million expansion project of new patient rooms on the fifth floor of its West Tower.

The 27,688 square foot unit will house 36 additional patient beds for medical/surgical patients, bringing Memorial Hospital's total number of licensed beds to 454. The five floor-West Tower was built in 2009. Since then, the hospital has utilized four of the five floors for patients. The fifth floor was built as shell space, designed and designated for future expansion.

In addition to the expansion, new jobs will be created to care for the additional number of patients.

Construction will begin in April with the new rooms scheduled to open by the end of the year. This project coincides with the hospital's current emergency room expansion project.

Visit <http://memorialhospitaljax.com>/construction for more information.

Rotary's Laughs for Charity to benefit Mandarin Museum

The Rotary Club of Mandarin will host its annual fundraiser, Laughs for Charity, on April 19 at the Comedy Zone, 3130 Hartley Road. This year's event will benefit Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Funds from this year's event will be used by the society for future expansion, which will include housing artifacts recently recovered from the Civil War Union transport ship Maple Leaf that was sunk by Confederate forces in the St. Johns River near Mandarin.

The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a reception and silent auction. The comedy show will begin at 7:30 p.m. featuring headliner Frank Del Pizzo. Tickets are \$65 each and corporate sponsorships are available. Contact Jim Register at (904) 268-5522 or jim@jimregister.com for tickets and more information.

UNF ranked a 2018 Top, Most Affordable Military-Friendly Online College

The University of North Florida has been named a 2018 Top and Most Affordable Military-Friendly Online College by SR Education Group, a leading education research publisher.

SR Education Group evaluated more than 500 accredited colleges across the country offering online degrees using factors important to military students, with only 60 colleges making the 2018 Top Military-Friendly Online Colleges list. UNF was also highlighted as a Top 25 military-friendly college committed to affordability, ranking No. 6 in the country on the 2018 Most Affordable Military-Friendly Online College list.

Colleges were required to offer at least 10 fully online degrees to be considered for the Military-Friendly Online College rankings. All accredited schools that met this requirement were evaluated based on four key factors for military support in online education: military culture, online support, financial aid and flexibility. SR Education Group used government data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs GI Bill Comparison Tool to evaluate schools in these four categories and manually researched annual tuition rates of online programs offered by all schools on the military-friendly list.

This latest recognition comes on the heels of UNF receiving several other national designations, including U.S. News & World Report's 2018 "Best Online" Bachelor's Program, Kiplinger's Personal Finance's "Best College Value of 2018," 2018 "Best in the Southeast" by Princeton Review, 2018 "Best Regional" University by U.S. News & World Report, 2018 "Best Colleges" by College Factual and the 2017 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from Insight into Diversity magazine, to name a few.



Photo courtesy Pat Kodatt

Southside Newcomers celebrate spring

Southside Newcomers Club members were treated to the creative skills of guest Sharon Sharp who instructed them in construction of a spring wreath. Pictured with their creations are Sharon Sharp, Paula Horning, Margo Parker, and Bette Ward.

Life

travel · pantry raiders · gardening
fishing · entertainment · puzzles

Get to Know . . .

By Elaine Omann
mail@floridanewline.com

Russell Sweet



Photo courtesy Elaine Omann
Russell Sweet

Russell Sweet is currently a hairdresser at a cool salon called Foiled Rotten, located in the Baymeadows Shopping Center on the same side as Publix. He is self-employed, rents his chair from the owner, and sets his hours based on his customers and followings. Sweet is married with a daughter and grandchildre grandchildren. He and his family live on the Southside and have been part of the community for a long time.

1. What brought you into the business as a hairdresser?

I began my career as a hairdresser by default. I had been working for years in manual labor types of jobs, working in the heat, the cold, and doing the heavy lifting. At one point I had enough of this work and wanted to be a barber. About this time a scholarship became available for training as a hairdresser and I accepted it and became board and state certified. Thinking over my choices and successes, I see the creative-thinking part of me, my fine motor skills, and the problem-solving decisions integrated into my work and my hobbies or interests influenced me. Working in skilled labor and a self-taught kind of guy, I carry that practice into today in everything I do.

2. What other experience do you have that is unique?

There was a time when I was also a lead guitar player for a major rock

and roll band. I played in upscale venues. I still play the guitar but not as much and not in venues. Music and the experiences in the rock genre shows up in some of my images and designs.

3. What are your other hobbies and interests?

I spend much of my time between two different types of hobbies or crafts: I work in leather and wood. I am self-taught and have learned everything from YouTube videos and experimentation. It takes a lot of studying and then you just need to do it and see what happens. I design, create products, and make my own tools. My products are unique and one of a kind in design, color, and materials. For example, much of the wood I have found in my yard or the parking areas, fallen limbs and trees from storms, and exchanging with friends and neighbors. The leather products I develop include the tools I used in making items and I create what I need specifically for my use. The stains, the polish, and many of the materials are one of a kind that I make rather than purchase.

4. Do you sell your work and how do you market? What would you like to do with your craftwork?

Most of my product I show to people in the shop or friends and family, which results in sales. The idea of mass producing is not something I want to do. I pay attention to detail in my work and I will take time to explain to people



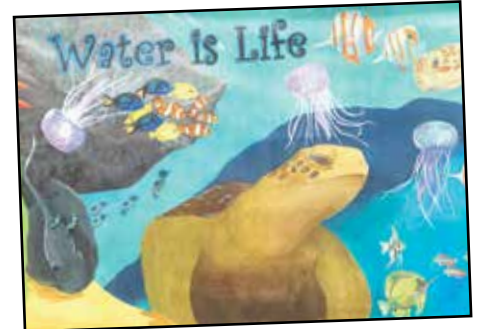
Wood found in the area is used to make unique pieces.

who are interested how I create pieces. If they like pieces and want to buy them, I can make these more personal to their specifications. I would like to jury into shows where quality work and craftsmanship are required to be accepted. At some point I will accomplish this goal, but it takes making sufficient product, building a set up for booths and displays, as well as high entry fees, promotional pieces, and time. I have a few venues in mind that I would like to consider.

5. Many changes have occurred in the hairdressing business. What have you noticed the most?

There are more options and loyalty does not dictate where people go to receive services. I like to build my customer

Young artists cont. from pg. 1



Close up of the Atlantic Coast High School mural.

but there were five main artists who put in more time to make certain the mural was perfect. The Wyland Challenge theme is conservation and environment, so typically each mural is inspired by water.

“When designing our mural, we try to incorporate the things that are in our own area in and around Jacksonville,” Delaney said.

The Atlantic Coast art students are now anticipating the 2018 Vans Challenge. The winner of this challenge will bring \$75,000 back for their school.

base and schedule time when they are available and I can meet their time. Color has become a key design and permanents seem to have gone away, with more people wanting an easy care hairdo. Laws and practices now allow for more transitions with clients, which makes it possible to define a business by setting hours, developing followings, or advancing in particular areas of the field.

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

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Spotlighting Poetry: Poet Talk and Spoken Word Club

By Kaylee Burke
mail@floridanewsline.com

Since its creation in April 1996, National Poetry Month has become the No. 1 literary celebration in the world. It's a great time to focus on the important role poetry plays in our society and to exercise the poetry muscle you might not even know you have.

Southeast Regional Library is a wonderful resource for exploring poetry in many ways. Check out the library's vast collection of poetry books or take part in a related program such as a Poetry Talk with Nathan B. Brooken on April 19 from

7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Brooken will discuss his writing process and his collection of poems titled "For My Beautiful Black Sister," which was inspired and written in honor of his mother and the other women who guided him through childhood.

Teens are welcome to take part in Southeast's Spoken Word Club, where they can collaborate, write, share, speak and listen to poetry. This unique club opportunity, held on April 10 from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., provides passionate teens a platform to practice and present their original written and spoken poetry.

Spring has sprung, and that means warmer weather and the sounds of birds chirping. School age children are invited to Maker Monday on April 16 at 7 p.m. to create a welcoming bird feeder for the feathery friends in their yard. Maker Monday is a program that encourages kids to explore the world around them through experimentation and creative, hands-on activities.

The Great Decisions series continues this month on April 12 and 26 from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. On April 12 Gordon Adams will lead a discussion on U.S. Global Engagement and the Military, focusing on the rapidly evolving global



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library

JPL Library Associate Kim Smith with Keller Williams real estate consultant Wendy Hughes at January's How-to Tuesdays "How to Buy a Home." How-to Tuesdays features short presentations on various topics from library staff or members of our community.

power balance and the role and level of engagement the United States has on its military. Join Sean Jacobs on April 26 for an exploration of South Africa's democracy.

How-to Tuesdays, held on the third Tuesday of each month, give adults a chance to learn a new skill or discover an unfamiliar resource. April's How-to Tuesday is happening on April 17 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. and will focus on creating with 3D pens. There will also be guided demonstrations on how to use the library's downloadable resources.

Pro Bono Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Three Rivers Legal Services, and the Jacksonville Public Library have partnered together to proudly bring Lawyers in Libraries to the community. These workshops feature local attorneys who can provide guidance on a variety of topics. On April 23 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., learn about living and final wills, medical directives, and powers of attorney so you can make informed decisions for you and your family.

Find information about additional upcoming events for Southeast Branch Library at jaxpubliclibrary.org/events or call (904) 996-0325.

Gardening

Spring greening

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

There has been much discussion — both here and worldwide — about the effects of neonicotinoid chemicals (neonics) on bees and their colonies, and now more studies have shown that these effects are wide-ranging and very damaging. According to the European Food Safety Authority (<https://tinyurl.com/yao3ynk6>), not only are honey bees being harmed, but native bees are suffering too, which is problematic as they also play an important role in crop production. (There have been proposals in Europe for a total field ban of the three most damaging neonics: clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam, which are already subject to restrictions.) Because they are persistent in soil for some years, neonics can be taken up by other plants well after the initially treated crop was harvested, and their effects on bees is therefore not limited to a one-time application.

Homeowners have a perfect role here, and that would be to avoid using pesticides that contain neonics. Reading the label is of paramount importance with any chemical, and you will find that many of the products available for home use do indeed include neonics. The Xerces Society has a useful table of the chemical names of neonics, and some of the products that contain them: <https://tinyurl.com/y87c38sl>. Apart from bees, any pollinator species that works the pollen or nectar of flowers is potentially at risk, and unfortunately that includes our beloved butterflies (<https://tinyurl.com/ybvzjgow>).

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping program advocates the use of Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, when dealing with pests. With spring moving on apace and our landscapes coming to life, it's well worth looking again at the nine principles governing the program: Right Plant, Right Place; Water Efficiently; Fertilize Appropriately; Mulch; Attract Wildlife; Manage Yard Pests Responsibly; Recycle Yard Waste; Reduce Stormwater Run-off; and Protect the Waterfront: <https://>

tinyurl.com/ksuclf. Each heading in the article is a link to more detailed information on how to achieve a Florida-Friendly yard and an explanation of why it's important to do so.

By early to mid-April lawns will have started to green up and at this stage it's time to fertilize. The Florida-Friendly website has detailed information about the types of fertilizer and recommended application rates for specific grasses, and is well worth reading before going to the store. Slow release fertilizers are the way to go; they contain some nitrogen that will be available immediately and the remainder is released gradually, allowing your grass to make the best use of the entire product. Without that slow release component, most of the nitrogen would be released during the first big rain, and be lost in run-off, to the detriment of our waterways and your pocketbook. For more detailed advice, check out <https://tinyurl.com/ycjarjhf>.

If you have weed problems avoid "weed and feed" products as the best application times for herbicides and fertilizers don't usually coincide (<https://tinyurl.com/y8adxd92>). Although weed and feed products are covered here <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>, it is simpler to apply the fertilizer and herbicide separately to be sure that your application rates are correct for each. And if the weed problem is not across the whole lawn, then a combined product is even less economical.

As we move into spring, remember that it's usually one of the drier times of year. Vegetable crops need enough irrigation to keep producing well, and newly installed landscape plants can't be ignored if they are to become well established. Trees in particular, if they were planted in recent months, will still need supplemental watering: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep113>.

For those timely tips, the current issue of A New Leaf is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y9yfxd89>. Happy spring.



Photo courtesy Antonio S. Colon

Douglas Anderson student spotlight: Ana Shaw

Ana Shaw, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and part of the creative writing program, has a promising future ahead considering her achievements throughout her four years of high school. Whether it be through her roles as editor-in-chief of Elan (an international student literary magazine), through her spoken word performances in shows such as Coffee House, her activism for animal rights, or through her countless hours of out of school math tutoring, she embodies the caliber of excellence that Douglas Anderson fosters. In this community of young adults, the demands of intensive academic undertakings, although great, only prove to sharpen the artistic pursuits of its students. Similarly, the school's focus on the arts intensifies the academic endeavors of its students and conditions them with unique mindsets and problem-solving tools. Shaw will attend the University of Florida beginning this summer as a member of the Honors Program.

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Nutrition Check:
Working with your child, not against

By Kristen Hicks-Roof, Ph.D., RDN, LDN and Paige Chaffin
mail@floridanewsline.com

The prevalence of childhood obesity impacts 12.7 million youth, which has remained stable at approximately 17 percent of all children and adolescents aged two – 19. (Centers for Disease Control, 2017) Not only are nutrition and lifestyle factors important for overall health, but they are crucial during this period of growth and development. Although the occasional fast or frozen food can be ideal for a busy schedule, there are several ways to get your children to eat more nutritious foods throughout the week. Even better, there are ways to make them feel like it is their choice.

The first step is getting your children involved. One simple approach is to allow them to pick out a produce item at the grocery store and help with preparation. This tactic may result in your child more likely to eat the food since they were involved in the process.

Secondly, work on having the healthy options be easily accessible. Putting fresh, rinsed and cut produce on an easily accessible shelf in the fridge or trail mix, popcorn and granola bars on the kitchen counter may be selected if they are in plain sight. Try to limit purchasing nutrient poor snacks such as candy, chips and cookies.

Lastly, let your child choose toppings

for their entree. For example, if you are having taco night, allow your child to dress up the food how they prefer with lettuce, tomatoes or whatever vegetables you see fit. Encourage your children to put at least two different toppings, and at least one should be a vegetable. This will help them feel that it is their choice and not just yours.

You can also try spicing the food differently, using a different cooking method, or even cutting the food into fun shapes. One strategy is to include some easily blended vegetables (shredded carrot/squash/zucchini, onion, mushroom, spinach) to the dish as a simple way to sneak in added nutrients without most children tasting it.

Lastly, do not give up! Studies have shown children need to be exposed to a food between six and 15 times before intake increases and preferences are seen. (De Cosmi et al., 2017) So, if your child spits out that first bite of broccoli, try it at a later time.

There are many different ways to get your child to consume more nutritious options, you just have to find what works best for you and your child.

Reference: De Cosmi V, Scaglioni S, Agostoni C. Early Taste Experiences and Later Food Choices. *Nutrients*. 2017;9(2):107. doi:10.3390/nu9020107.

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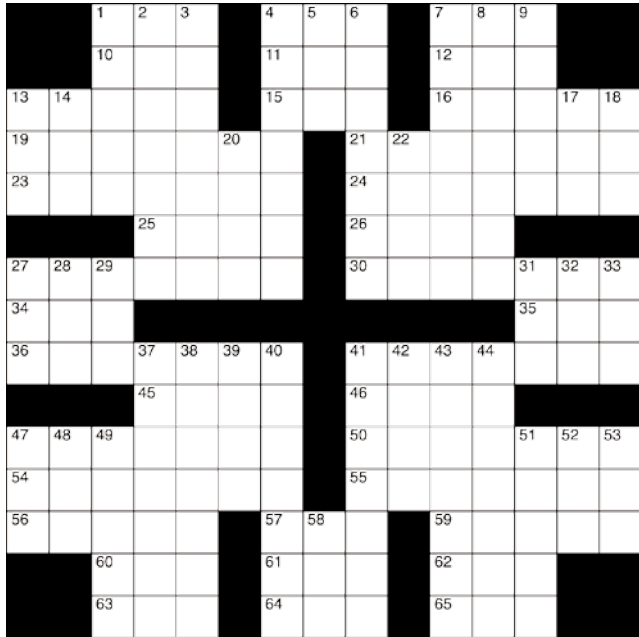
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Puzzles

Answers on page 2

Puzzles courtesy MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop or cut
- 4. Green veggie
- 7. Bar bill
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)
- 12. Be in debt
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Singer Charles
- 16. Polish city
- 19. Former
- 21. Dismissing from employment
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Plotted
- 25. Consult
- 26. After a prayer
- 27. Agents of one's downfall
- 30. Leaseholders
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Voodoo god
- 36. Alfalfa

- 41. Apply another coat to
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Jai __, sport
- 47. Ones who proof
- 50. Recant
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Part of warming headgear
- 56. Woolen cloth
- 57. Snag
- 59. Central American fruit tree
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 62. Type of bed
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Consume
- 65. Japanese freight company (abbr.)

- 3. Elk
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Geological time
- 6. Depths of the ocean
- 7. Burns to the ground
- 8. Becomes cognizant of
- 9. Cause to shade
- 13. US political party
- 14. Refers to some of a thing
- 17. Single
- 18. Type of beer
- 20. Ancient Iranian people
- 22. Grocery chain
- 27. Gridiron league
- 28. English river
- 29. __ and cheese
- 31. Peyton's younger brother
- 32. Long time
- 33. High schoolers' test
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew

- 39. Filippo __, Saint
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Cheese dish
- 42. Ancient Greek City
- 43. Patron saint of Ireland
- 44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. __ Jones
- 49. Things
- 51. Having wings
- 52. Panthers' QB Newton
- 53. Third-party access
- 58. Satisfaction

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Able to arouse intense feeling



Solve the code to discover words related to tropical destinations. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = a)

A. 17 1 24 9 21 5 4 16
Clue: Hot and humid

B. 21 25 16 4 11 7
Clue: Surrounded by water

C. 13 4 5 4 17 21 24 11
Clue: Getaway

D. 5 24 4 25 17 4 16
Clue: Near the beach

ISLAND VACATION WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

- BEACH
- BIRDS
- BLUE
- BOARDWALK
- BOATING
- CONCH
- CORAL
- COVE
- CRUISE
- CULTURE
- DESTINATION
- DOCK
- DUNE
- EXPLORE
- FISH
- FOLIAGE
- GULL
- HUMIDITY
- ISLAND
- LUSH
- OCEAN
- PALM
- PEBBLES
- PENINSULA
- SAND
- SCUBA
- SEASHELLS
- SHORELINE
- SNORKEL
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMSUIT
- TIDE
- TROPICS
- VACATION
- WARMTH
- WAVES

Travel

Butterfly Rainforest in Gainesville

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Recently, two of my grandchildren visited and we headed to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. The museum includes an awe-inspiring Butterfly Rainforest filled with numerous species of free-flying butterflies. A serpentine trail through the aviary passes cascading waterfalls and small bridges over pools with fish and turtles.

Enter the main lobby of the museum and the always popular, giant dinosaur skeleton pulls you in. On the left, the Discovery Zone offers fun, hands-on exhibits where kids and adults engage, unknowingly learning scientific principles. My grandsons loved the microscopes. They put their fingers under the scope and saw the magnification displayed on a TV screen. Nearby, many encased insects or objects were ready for further observation and manipulation. Younger children pretended to navigate a boat model and explore the Gulf of Mexico and its marine life. The curious opened the discovery drawers, while others attempted

to assemble archeological pieces like a 3-D puzzle, or looked into a terrarium and an aquarium.

The Natural History pathway weaves through a timeline of Florida's history, exploring the various habitats and creatures that thrive in the different ecosystems. We strolled through a full-scale mangrove forest and mud flat filled with plants, animals, light and sound. The boys ran ahead into the replica of a Florida cave holding (non-living) bats, fossils, minerals, stalactites and stalagmites. But soon, they found the darkened interior a bit creepy!

Before entering the Butterfly Rainforest, visitors pass several live video cam screens display-



ing thousands of monarch butterflies in Mexico. Then, guests approach a kaleidoscope of color that simply wows.

A massive glass wall showcases hundreds of spectacular butterfly specimens allowing close-up inspection of the colorful wing patterns and designs.

Finally, you walk through a series of doorways (to prevent butterfly escapes), and enter the magical world of the rainforest. Informative signage tells visitors about the habits and life cycle (metamorphosis) of butterflies and moths, known collectively as lepidopterans. Benches are interspersed along the trail so you can sit and leisurely observe. You'll notice that certain plants attract only specific species. The museum also places food around, such as ripe bananas, to entice the hungry creatures.

Careful scrutiny reveals tiny birds living near the base of plants and trees. I didn't see these little birds fly, but the airspace bursts with a bevy of butterflies. If you stand still and are lucky, one might land on your head or sleeve.

Daily, at 2 p.m. (more often on busy days) a research student releases newly hatched butterflies and answers ques-



Photos courtesy Debi Lander

At the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

tions. When you exit the aviary, you can pass by the lab and see others in various stages of development.

The museum is free except for the Butterfly Rainforest; its cost is \$11 for Florida residents or seniors, and \$6 for ages three – 17.

You can't miss the two gift shops; one filled with everything concerning butterflies, and the main gift shop offering science-oriented books, games, puzzles, and toys. There's a café across the way, and a covered patio with tables and chairs so you can bring your own food. This is a great activity for a rainy day.

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

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