



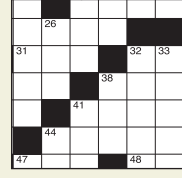
NEW contest
page 28
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 6
Inquiring Minds want to know!



page 21
Get to Know... Kim Hetrick



page 28
Puzzles

Purple for November — Pancreas Cancer Awareness month

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Judi Zitiello would like to turn everything purple for Pancreas Cancer Awareness in November, like everything is pink for Breast Cancer Awareness in October. Pancreas cancer is currently the third leading cause of cancer-related death — largely because there is no early detec-



Photos courtesy Geek Chic Photography
Judi Zitiello with grandchildren Jude Garrity and Olive Zitiello

tion method — and is expected to become the second in the next few years.

Zitiello's interest in pancreas cancer is personal; she was first diagnosed in 2014, when she was busy as a board member of the JT Townsend Foundation, named after the well-known Episcopal High School football athlete who suffered a spinal injury and paralysis and then dedicated his life to helping the disabled receive assistance and adaptive equipment in the Jacksonville area. Sadly, Townsend passed away in 2013, leaving Zitiello and others to keep the foundation going.

When Zitiello was diagnosed with cancer just 10 months later, she resigned

Pancreas Cancer cont. on pg. 27

High school bands enjoy friendly rivalry

By Heidi Brososky-Weaver
mail@floridanewslines.com

Each year, while the Bartram Trail High School Bears and Creekside Knights fight it out on the football field, the bands battle it out in the stands and during the halftime show, adding an air of excitement to the highly-anticipated game.

Although the schools are long-standing football foes, the rivalry between the two superior-rated bands takes on a different tune.



Band members march into the stadium with eighth graders.

“We have a friendly rivalry with Bartram. They inspire us to work harder,” said Cecilia Fowler, a Creekside clarinetist.

Bartram trombone player Colin Jeffers agreed.

“There is a feeling of mutual respect and admiration that resonates throughout the marching bands,” he said. “Whatever you do, you are always applauded because they understand the hours of effort and sweat you put into it.”

The friendship between the two directors, Jason Duckett from “The Spirit of Bartram” and Rick Fowler from “The Power of Creekside,” goes back more than 14 years. Before directing the inaugural band at Creekside, Fowler worked at Bartram with Duckett for four years, and the two still collaborate often.

“Rick comes out routinely to help with jazz band, and I’ll help with concert band,” Duckett said. “We’re on the phone a lot bouncing off ideas and giving feedback.”

In addition to supporting each other, both directors work closely with their feeder schools, building bands that are strong in talent from the bottom up. This includes hosting events such as jazz concerts and Eighth Grade Night at football games to generate excitement and create a sense of family.

“We are blessed with solid feeder programs and are in an area where parent support is huge,” said Duckett, whose eighth graders mainly come from Switzerland Point Middle and Liberty Pines



Photos courtesy Heidi Brososky-Weaver
The bands marching on the field for the National Anthem.

Academy.

“We try to make a point of going to see our feeder programs a few times each year during the school day,” said Fowler, who receives students primarily from Fruit Cove Middle and Patriot Oaks Academy.

During the most recent Eighth Grade Night at the



Photo courtesy Paul Bryce
The National Anthem was performed by both the Spirit of Bartram and Power of Creekside Bands, along with visiting eighth graders.

Creekside vs. Bartram game, Fruit Cove's band director, Don Isabelle, watched with pride as more than 500 band members played the National Anthem while the color guard stood at attention.

“A lot of these were my babies. It's great to be a part of this,” said Isabelle.

Fowler agreed: “Performing the National Anthem is one of my favorite traditions. The importance of this event says something special about our programs.”



Band directors Jason Duckett of Bartram Trail and Rick Fowler of Creekside.

Creekside senior Trey Rogers grew up in the band program and recalls his own Eighth Grade Night.

“It allows students to see what it's like going into the stands to play and move,” Rogers said. “It gives them an idea if they want to commit to band or not.”

He mentored a fellow alto saxophone player, Kenny King from Fruit Cove, who wore a “Future Power of Creekside” band shirt.

“I can't wait to play in the band next year,” King said.

Many of the middle schoolers described the event as “fun” and “exciting.” However, one student insisted it was “hot and sweaty.” Upon hearing this, a uniform-clad percussionist laughed and said, “You're in a t-shirt. Try wearing four layers of clothes.”

After the game, the Creekside band gathered for a meeting with Fowler and assistant director Jackson Gilchrist. The band had been at school for 16 hours, showing up at 6:30 a.m. to play spur-of-the-moment for a local TV station's Game of the Week segment.


“I know it's been a long day, but congratulations on representing our school well throughout the day and evening,” Fowler complimented his crew. “I greatly appreciate you.”

This sense of appreciation is at the heart of all the bands — appreciation for the strong parental support, band booster programs, student leaders, hard-working musicians, and the opportunity to perform ... heat, sweat, and all.

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Table of Contents

- 4 Around Town
- 5 Take 5
- 6 Inquiring Minds
- 7 Letter to the Editor
- 9 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 18 Briefs
- 19 Guide to Constitutional Amendments
- 29 Community Marketplace
- 31 Fishing
- 32 Gardening
- 33 Faith-Worship-Praise
- 34 Travel

MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the skate park at Veterans Park on Veterans Parkway. Our winner was Robin Chambers. Congratulations!

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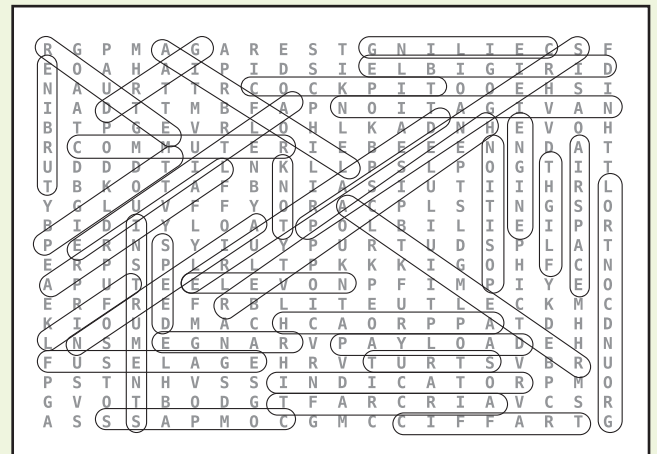
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answers to puzzles on page 28



Answers: A. plane B. takeoff C. landing D. flight

Answers to Puzzles

Nov

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!

Nov. 17 - Feb. 3, 2019 - St. Augustine Nights of Lights
www.visitstaugustine.com

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 - 42nd annual Art and Antiques Show "A Place in the Sun"
Hosted by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital
Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center
www.artandantiquesshow.com

Dec. 1 - Julington Creek Holiday Light Parade
7 p.m.
Julington Creek Bridge area

Nov. 1
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

Nov. 2
Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting
7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)
St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
www.rotarystjohns.org

Nov. 3
Cascades eighth annual Art and Crafts Holiday Show
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cascades at World Golf Village Amenity Center, 400 N. Legacy Trail
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 the community; (904) 742-8777

Nov. 5
Current Events Discussion Group
10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
adsilby@yahoo.com

Nov. 6
Election Day

Nov. 8
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
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

Nov. 9
Palencia Fall Festival
9 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Palencia Swim & Fitness Building
To host a tent, Erin.Gunia@hines.com
Helping Hands of St. Johns County
10 a.m.
Faith Community Church, 3450 County Rd. 210W
jacqphil@aol.com

Nov. 10
Friends of the Library Book Sale
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960
St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
www.dosafll.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrod@comcast.net

Nov. 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

Nov. 13
Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), Jacksonville Chapter
11 a.m.
Blue Fish restaurant
(904) 333-5222
Tellabration, a worldwide storytelling event hosted by Tale Tellers of St. Augustine
7:30 p.m.
Limelight Theatre
General admission \$15; (904) 540-0402

Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue
11 a.m.
Guy Harvey Resort, St. Augustine Beach
RSVP by Nov. 1; sjaird@comcast.net
Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club luncheon St. Augustine Garden Club
11 a.m.
St. Johns Golf and Country Club
RSVP by Nov. 6, bartramtc@gmail.com

Nov. 14
Dementia Support for Caregivers
3:30 p.m.
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

Nov. 15
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326
Adult Coloring Club
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

Nov. 17
Read to Rover (beginning readers practice reading to therapy dogs)
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960
Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevilles
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month
10th Annual Super Scenic 72-Mile Garage Sale
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
10 community stops between Ponte Vedra Beach and Flagler Beach
Scenic@aol.com
Inaugural St. Augustine Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Suicide Prevention
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Pedro Menendez High School outdoor track

www.afsp.org/staugustine
Annual St. Johns CARES Food Drive
www.stjohnscares.org
Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting featuring Michael W. Gordon
10 a.m.
Main Branch Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com

Nov. 19
First Coast Newcomers Club trivia evening/dinner
6 p.m. dinner / 7 p.m. trivia
Call (904) 829-0643 for name of St. Augustine Beach restaurant and to be added to attendee list
All Star Quilt Guild
9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

Nov. 20
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
St. Johns CARES meeting
7 p.m.
Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org
Happy Hookers crochet group
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960
World Golf Village Toastmasters
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Rd. 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

Nov. 27
First Coast Card Club - adult card players
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
(904) 829-0643

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take 5

Support veterans at backpack stuffing event

On Saturday, Nov. 3 at Veterans Park from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Florida Elite Soccer Academy is partnering with We Got Soccer and Provisional Ministries to stuff 1,000 backpacks with supplies and letters for homeless veterans in the Greater Jacksonville area. There will be a large tent set up for families or individuals to come by and volunteer some time filling the backpacks and writing letters of thanks to the veterans.

Art and Craft Holiday Show scheduled

Cascades at World Golf Village is hosting its eighth annual Art and Craft Holiday Show on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Cascades Amenities Center, 400 N. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine. The show will feature new artists as well as many past favorites and a huge variety of items including pottery, woodblock prints, note cards, canvas art, quilted handbags, jewelry, wood art, ceramics, shell art, doll clothes, hand painted scarves, and more. All are created by local artists. In many cases this will be the only venue offering these items. Door prizes and cookies will be provided. This is an indoor event and will take place rain or shine.

Support INK! by riding the trolley

Ready to see beautiful St. Augustine during the annual Nights of Lights and support St. Johns County public schools? From Nov. 18 – Jan. 31, Old Town Trolley Tours will donate \$1 for every online ticket purchased back to INK! (Investing in Kids). You can also purchase your fast track pass and spend less time in line. Visit www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/nights-of-lights and enter the coupon code INKSJC1. Investing in Kids (INK!) provides innovative programs and classroom resources to promote the academic success of St. Johns County public school students.

World's largest tiny house festival returning to St. Johns County

The third annual Florida Tiny House Music Festival will be held Nov. 16 – 18 at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds in Elkton. Tiny houses, vintage campers, tear drops, school bus conversions, gypsy wagons, yurts, and other styles of tiny structures will be available to view and tour. Returning will be tiny house celebrities, national and world recognized leaders from the tiny house community, a free Friday night concert and fire performers, speakers & presentations, free Students Session on Friday from 9 a.m.

– 12 p.m. a Free for Everyone Session on Friday from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., multiple bands and day-time entertainment on Saturday and Sunday. This is the 10th tiny house event organized by United Tiny House Association, which has funded the building of tiny houses for families in need from the proceeds of its for-charity Tiny House Festivals, endowed the annual Tiny House Scholarship Fund, and has been a source of fund raising for over 60 nonprofits and charitable organizations. Visit www.unitedtinyhouse.com for more information.



Photo by MetroCreative

Arts in the Park coming to Alpine Groves

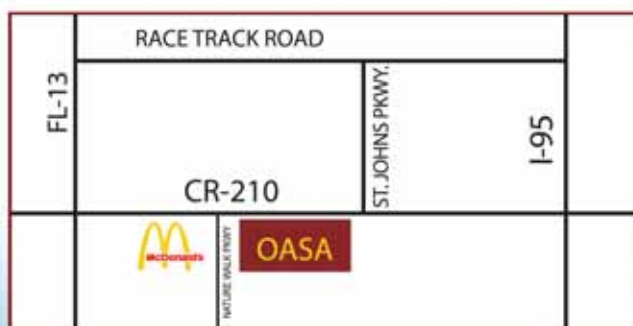
The first ever Arts in the Park will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Alpine Groves Park. The Friends of Alpine Park invite you to come and see the fantastic items made by local artists and crafters. Spend the

afternoon shopping under the majestic trees in the park. Plan to stay for awhile; bring your chair to sit and listen to free live local music. Snacks will be available, and proceeds from this event will help sponsor the restoration of the historic Bennett Farmhouse on site. Come out and support a worthy local cause and help the Friends restore history.

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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.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@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.

Here are answers to questions we received this month:

Q: Do you know anything about a movie theater that is supposed to be built in Durbin Park?

A: According to its press release on Oct. 15, 2018, Cinemark Holdings plans to build a 12-screen theatre at The Pavilion at Durbin Park, scheduled to open fall of 2019.

All 12 auditoriums at the Cinemark Durbin Park theatre will boast advanced technology and customer-preferred amenities including: Cinemark XD auditorium, the number one, private label Premium Large Format in the world; Cinemark's Luxury Loungers, electric-powered, plush, oversize recliners with footrests and cup holders; reserved seating with convenient online and kiosk ticketing; wall-to-wall screens and enhanced sound systems; and 4K digital projection powered by Barco projectors with RealD 3D capability.

"Cinemark is proud to bring the ultimate moviegoing experience to The Pavilion at Durbin Park," said Mark Zoradi, Cinemark CEO. "Our brand new theatre is sure to be a popular entertainment destination within this new lifestyle center, providing an unparalleled experience for the St. Johns County community."

"We are pleased to welcome Cinemark to The Pavilion at Durbin Park," said Frank Gatlin III, CEO and president of Gatlin Development. "Joining Walmart, Home Depot, Burlington and Petco, the theatre will anchor our family entertainment wing, which will have a collection of sit-down restaurants in a beautifully landscaped environment."

Cinemark is a leading domestic and international motion picture exhibitor, operating 539 theatres with 5,998 screens in 41 U.S. states, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and 12 other Latin American countries as of June 30, 2018. Visit investors.cinemark.com for more information.

Q: What is happening with the rezoning across from Trout Creek?

A: We reached out to Michael Roberson, Assistant Director for St. Johns County Growth Management who is also the planner for the Trout Creek Planned Unit Development (PUD) application. He said:

"This application is to rezone 8.85 acres of land from the Open Rural zoning district to a PUD and was submitted to the county in July 2018. The project is located on the southwest quadrant of the State Road 13N and Trout Creek intersection adjacent to the bridge. The property is undeveloped and has direct access to Trout Creek.

"The proposal includes the allowance of a maximum of 32,000 square feet of non-residential development which is limited in intensity to uses under the Neighborhood Business and Commercial and Office and Professional Use categories. The specific proposal includes three buildings: two retail (one 6,120 sq. ft. and one 13,200 sq. ft.) and one restaurant 13,200 sq. ft. in size.

"A community meeting was held on Sept. 19, 2018 at the Trout Creek Community Center. Eight residents attended and had no concerns with the project and expressed excitement about the project. The site is bordered by wetlands to the west and south, Trout Creek to the east and State Road 13N to the north. Other than the area across State Road 13N, it is unlikely any development will occur adjacent to the project.

"The project is nearly through staff review and has been scheduled for the public hearings with the PZA (Nov. 15, 2018) and Board of County Commissioners (Jan. 15, 2019). Hearing dates sometimes change so it's important for those interested to follow the Board of County Commissioners and PZA agendas available from the county's webpage."



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

Q: Can you tell us about the five, 10 and 20 year plans for the St. Johns County School District?

A: We did recently pass these plans. The school board has to review and vote on them every year with the opportunity to revise them. Our five year plan will include a new high school, a new K-8, a new middle school, expansion of Creekside High School, and expansions of Liberty Pines Academy and South Woods Elementary. The 10 and 20 year plans are basically projections, like how many students we expect to have and how many more schools we will eventually need to accommodate them.

Q: How will the schools named in the five year plan be paid for?

A: In a couple of different ways. The three new schools as well as the expansion of Creekside will be funded by school district funds. The expansions of Liberty Pines Academy and South Woods Elementary will be paid for with sales tax money.

Q: Do you know where the new schools will be built?

A: We do not at this time. We have sites available and have to decide which ones to purchase.

Q: How exactly does the school district get the land to build new schools?

A: Some sites we purchase outright, like we did with Creekside High School and Liberty Pines Academy. Some we get by developers, who must, by law, mitigate the new students their neighborhoods

will produce. In these cases, the value of the school site is credited back to the impact fees they would owe the school district, so they pay less in impact fees.

Q: Do you have a school safety update?

A: The sheriff has hired 16 new officers and is training them. Sixteen officers will come on board as our school security officers in January 2019. We will retain the U.S. Security officers due to our contract through the rest of the school year. We may move some officers around and there will probably be multiple officers on some campuses. We hope to have at least one SJSO officer per campus by next school year, depending on the sheriff's ability to hire.

Q: Do you have any other District 1 updates?

A: We will hold the groundbreaking ceremony for Mill Creek Academy on Nov. 7. This is the expansion of Mill Creek Elementary that will convert it to a K-8 school. There was enough room this year to expand the school to the K-6 as planned, but to add seventh grade next year, the expansion will be needed. We have done building on campus when school is in session. The construction zone is fenced off and kept well separate from the students. Also, all workers are background checked.

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.

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

Q: Last month you told us about the county sending its legislative priorities to the state. Do you have any updates on that process?

A: We sent to the state, as all local governments do, our highest priority items. We will now monitor the agenda items for the legislative session.

But as with every hurricane, legislative priorities change and it will be no different with Hurricane Michael. We send our thoughts and prayers to our neighbors in the panhandle who have been so affected.

Q: Did St. Johns County send any resources to help out?

A: Yes. The sheriff's office sent several staff members who are extensively trained for disaster recovery efforts to the panhandle. They are a self-contained unit and provide their own shelter and food as well as equipment to assist with disaster recovery. They will probably be out there for several weeks. I believe the Emergency Management Department sent personnel as well, to share what they have learned from our recent experience. I also know of several church groups who have sent trained people as well as supplies, similar to groups that came to St. Johns County to assist us when we needed it. It's our turn now to give back.

Q: What is the latest on the Walmart opening at Durbin Park?

A: The actual date hasn't been revealed (as of this interview, Oct. 15) but it should be very soon. I have heard from many people genuinely looking forward to have the convenience of shopping closer to home.

Q: What is happening with the Race Track Road construction in that area?

A: The construction of the roadway of Race Track Road is still ongoing. It is the backbone between Bartram Park-

way headed north and Peyton Parkway headed south. This is a challenging piece of roadway, about one-quarter mile long, because of the S-curve and the slope of the road over the wetland. It's being widened from two lanes to four lanes (not including turn lanes) and it's my hope that it will be open prior to the holiday rush. It will certainly be after the Walmart opens. As part of our legislative priorities, the Race Track Road overpass over Interstate 95 is a Florida Department of Transportation project and will hopefully be done in conjunction with widening Interstate 95 in that area.

Q: Do you have any more information on the proposed new fire station on Veterans Parkway near Race Track Road?

A: We hope to have renderings and more information during the first quarter of 2019.

Q: Are there any other Northwest updates?

A: Coming up in the next two Board of County Commissioners meetings, we continue to work on how to pay for all the things people want. We try to get the community to be collaborative in funding priorities. The pace of growth is still on everyone's minds. We try to hear all the pros and cons to decide the best outcome for the majority of people.

One thing on the horizon is the new south extension of St. Johns Parkway. This will be funded by the Silverleaf developers and will run parallel to Interstate 95. I'm not sure yet of the timetable of when that will come on-line. Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween.

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

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

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the letters to the editor on page 11 of the October issue of The CreekLine, there is information regarding political candidates and the signs they place along the roadways. I do not know the county regulations regarding the signs, but perhaps they would include or amend to allow the following.

I lived in Hawaii for a few years and there they did not allow the signs — but they allowed candidates to buy and distribute yellow trash bags with the candidate's name, political party and the office they were pursuing. Their supporters would take the bags and walk the roadways collecting trash. They would place filled bags on the

shoulder of the road so the candidate's name and information could be read by passing motorists. The day after the election the bags were picked up by the trash collectors and some state and/or county trucks and taken to the city incinerator to be destroyed.

This is a win-win program, as the candidate gets his/her information out to the public and we get some roadways cleaned of trash and the signs they now place are not necessary. I was impressed and frequently voted for these individuals as they demonstrated they were concerned about the appearance of the area.

Terry Schoenekase

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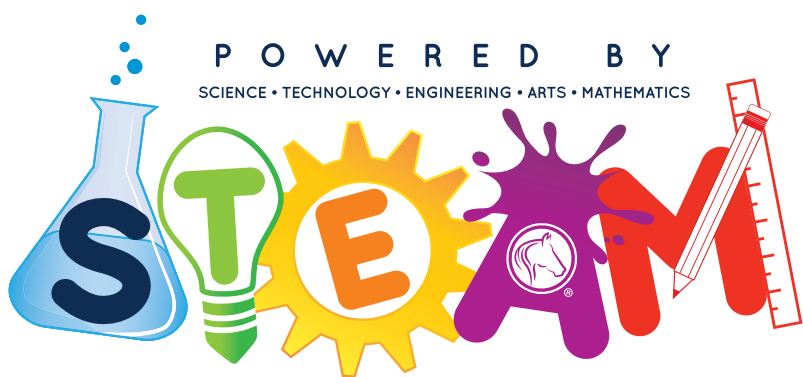
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with St. Johns County Property Appraiser
Eddie Creamer

Q: Can you give us an update on the tax roll?

A: The tax roll has been certified and sent to the Florida Department of Revenue and the St. Johns County taxing authority.

Q: What happens next?

A: Beginning in the last week of October, property owners will be receiving their tax bills. If the bill is paid in November, there is a 4 percent discount applied; if paid in December, the discount is 3 percent; if paid in January, the discount is 2 percent; and if paid in February, the discount is 1 percent. There is no discount for paying in March and the bill is due March 31, 2019. All tax bills are past due on April 1, 2019.

Q: Can you shed some light on the proposed Constitutional Amendment 1, which will appear on ballots on Nov. 6?

A: This amendment directly affects ad valorem taxation in our state by proposing an additional homestead exemption of \$25,000. There is a calculator available on our website, www.sjcpa.us, where property owners can estimate the impact, if any, on their taxable value. There is also a detailed explanation of how the proposal will work and who

will be affected. We encourage voters to become the most informed that they can and our office is happy to provide unbiased information.

Q: What about Constitutional Amendment 2, which places limitations on property tax assessments?

A: Currently, there is a 10 percent cap on assessment increases on non-homesteaded properties. If this amendment doesn't pass, then the 10 percent cap would be repealed. It is important to note that this applies only to non-homestead properties and is retroactive, meaning that if it doesn't pass, it applies back to when the amendment was first passed; if these property values went up, it would result in a larger tax bill for 2019. The effect in our county is primarily on commercial properties, but it also applies to second homes.

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.

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government
(www.sjcfl.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, bcc2jsmith@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

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U.S. Congress District 4:
Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501

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The right tool for the job

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

I give a popular presentation about a 1942 submarine attack off Jacksonville Beach in 1942. At 9:30 p.m. local time on a Friday night, a German U-Boat, the U-123 under the command of Rheinhard Hardegen sank an oil tanker, the SS Gulfamerica, three to four miles off the coast while hundreds, if not thousands, watched in horror from the beach. The presentation has been remarkably successful. I will present it for the 100th time on Veteran's Day at the Castillo de San Marcos, this Nov. 11.

Two nights before the attack off Jax Beach, Hardegen and the U-123 were involved in another horrific attack off of Brunswick, Ga. In the course of 51 minutes, the German submarine sank two oil tankers, the SS Oklahoma and the SS Baton Rouge. The tankers were headed North when attacked. Both vessels went to the bottom, both were re-floated and repaired, and both would be sunk again later by different German submarines.

The night of the double sinking, a member of the Carnegie clan dropped a wrench from his private plane onto the lawn of the St. Simons harbormaster, Olaf Olsen. Around the wrench was a note. The note alerted Olsen, nicknamed Oley, that men, survivors of the sinking, were in danger of dying at sea. Oley was familiar with the yachts berthed there under his care. Oley knew he had to do something. Brave Americans were in danger. Time was of the essence.

Oley looked down the line of yachts and decided, "I am going to take that one!" The boat his finger pointed to was a 42 ft. Fairform Flyer built in Jacksonville by the Huckins Yacht Company. She was fast, and she was sea-worthy.

The yacht Olsen took out that night was owned by Coca-Cola heir, Charles Howard Candler. He took a doctor with him. Huckins boats were fast. The patented Quadraconic hull design was used on all PT boats during World War II. Huckins, in the spirit of patriotism, leased the technology to the Navy for the sum of one dollar. That night, Olaf "Oley" Olsen rescued 42 panicked survivors from the ocean. Most of those men would go back to sea.

In all endeavors, it is important to use the right tool. Oley Olsen selected the right tool that night! He was a professional. He knew what he was doing. For many of us, retirement is a scary proposition. Maybe not as scary as being sunk by a Nazi submarine, but scary enough. We are all living longer. The number of Americans over the age of 100 has increased 50 percent since the year 2000. Living longer means we will all need to save more money. Depending on your age, you may need millions of dollars just to maintain your standard of living.

If that number sounds daunting, it should. To save enough, you will need help. You will need to earn a higher rate of return on your retirement savings. The right tool for the job is the stock market. It is the only vehicle that will get you where you need to go. Retiring comfortably in America requires that you compound over time at a high rate of return. If you do not know what that means, ask someone. Call me if you like.

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

Talk to your spouse about your retirement vision

By Chance Owen
mail@floridanewslines.com

If you're single, your retirement goals are your own — you don't really have to consult with anybody, and you can change your plans whenever you like; however, if you're married, you and your spouse should develop a joint "vision" encompassing all the key areas of your retirement lifestyle. These are a few questions you may want to address first:

- Where should we live? Once you retire, you may need to consider two key aspects of your living situation: the size and location of your home. Regarding size, you may look around one day and realize you have more living space than you actually need. This is especially true, of course, if you have children who have set out on their own. So, if you have a large single-family house, you may want to consider whether you should move into a condominium or even an apartment, either of which might be more cost-effective for you.

As for location, you may decide that retirement is the perfect time to move, either to seek a more favorable climate or to be near grown children and grandchildren. In any case, moving to a different area is a major financial decision, so you and your spouse will certainly want to discuss all the aspects of relocation.

- Will either of us work? Retirement no longer means the cessation of all work. You and/or your spouse may want to use your skills and experience to do some consulting or even open your own business. Adding a source of earned income will almost certainly help your financial picture during retirement, but if either you or your spouse is planning to do

some work, you will want to be sure this activity doesn't disrupt other plans that may be important to you, such as traveling. Also, any source of earned income during your retirement years may well affect important financial decisions, such as when to take Social Security and how much to withdraw each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). Again, it's essential that you and your spouse be on the same page about any type of employment during retirement.

- How will we spend our time? Aside from possibly doing some type of work during your retirement years, how else might you spend your time? Would you like to travel extensively? Or would you rather stick close to home and pursue your hobbies or volunteer? These don't have to be either-or decisions — hopefully, you'll be able to explore many pursuits during your retirement. Keep in mind, though, that there will be different costs for these various activities, so you and your spouse may need to prioritize your choices to ensure they fit in to your overall financial strategies.

As you can see, you and your spouse will have some key decisions about the financial aspects of your retirement; however, with some careful planning, you can make the moves that can help you work toward your common retirement vision.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Chance Owen. Email Chance.Owen@edwardjones.com for more information.

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ElderSource looking for volunteers from St. Johns and Duval counties

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

ElderSource, a nonprofit organization that works to empower elders and their caregivers age with dignity and independence, is currently recruiting volunteers in Duval and St. Johns counties to help people understand their Medicare benefits. Volunteers are a vital part of ElderSource's SHINE Program (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders), which helps elders make informed decisions about their Medicare health benefits and other health insurance issues.

Harry Drake, a St. Johns County resident, has been a SHINE volunteer for more than two years and touts how this program is not only important to seniors, but a fulfilling volunteer opportunity.

"Generally, when people turn 65 and become eligible for their Medicare benefits, they are unsure on how to sign up; they are confused and simply do not understand the process and the benefits they are entitled to," he said. "I am a very busy volunteer and it is really satisfying when I can help someone save quite a bit of money."

Drake recalled how he guided a woman toward selecting a Medicare Part D

Prescription Plan, saving her more than \$1,000 a year.

"Her doctor recommended that she begin taking this new medication, but it was not covered on her current formulary. After some research, I was able to give her a recommendation on a Part D plan that would cover it," he said.

SHINE is the only program of its kind that offers free and unbiased counseling on Medicare and health insurance issues. Volunteers receive basic training on Medicare, Medicare Part D (prescription drug program), Medicare Supplement Insurance and Medicare Advantage, Medic-

aid, and in turn, serve as counselors to their peers on how to understand and capitalize on these insurance benefits. Computer experience is helpful, but not necessary, to be a volunteer.



Photo courtesy ElderSource
St. Johns County resident and SHINE volunteer, Harry Drake.

Upon completion of the training, volunteers can be certified to give presentations in their communities and provide much-needed counseling with seniors to secure these complicated Medicare health insurance benefits. Volunteers, supported by SHINE staff, will connect with elders at

various locations in the community, including but not limited to health fairs, senior events and other community outreach events.

While SHINE volunteers are very busy during Open Enrollment (the period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 when Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their plans), they counsel people year-round. Thousands of people turn 65 every day, making SHINE volunteers an invaluable resource to the community.

To become a SHINE Volunteer or to receive more information call ElderSource at (904) 391-6644.

ElderSource is a nonprofit organization that provides information and resources to seniors, adults with disabilities and their caregivers so they can live well and independently. ElderSource, funded by the Department of Elder Affairs through state and federal grants, impacts the lives of more than 12,000 seniors living in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, and Volusia counties. SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and is funded through a grant from the Administration of Community Living and operated in partnership with the state's 11 Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

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Learn about the causes of adult hearing loss

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Hearing loss is quite common and can impact people's lives in profound ways. Although there are some treatments that can improve one's ability to hear and communicate, many people are interested in learning about the ways they may be able to prevent hearing loss in the first place.

Medical experts from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association advise that hearing loss can be caused by different factors. Learning about these causes can help individuals make smart decisions at a young age to prevent future hearing loss when possible. In certain circumstances, hearing loss may be unavoidable. In such instances, audiologists, or doctors specializing in hearing, can help.

Conductive hearing loss refers to problems with the ear canal, eardrum or middle ear and its bones, states the Hearing Loss Association of America. Some of the causes of conductive hearing loss include:

- Otitis media is an infection of the middle ear in which fluid accumulation can interfere with the movement of the eardrum and ossicles.

- Impacted earwax also can cause hearing problems.

- Fluid in the middle ear may obstruct hearing.

- Otitosclerosis, which is a middle ear disease, can make it difficult for the tiny bones in the middle ear to move. Surgery can correct the problem.

- Malformation of the outer ear, ear canal or middle ear structure can impact hearing as well.

Sensorineural hearing loss, or SNHL, occurs due to problems of the inner ear. It is often referred to as nerve-related hearing loss.

- Aging is a common cause of hearing loss that may not be reversible. Age-related hearing loss is called presbycusis



Photo courtesy ElderSource
By learning about what impacts hearing loss, people can make changes to prevent damage.

- Damage to the inner ear can result from prolonged exposure to loud noises, states the Mayo Clinic. These noises cause wear and tear on the hairs or nerve cells in the cochlea that send sound signals to the brain. When these hairs or nerve cells are damaged or missing, electrical signals aren't transmitted as efficiently, and hearing loss occurs. Using hearing protection and turning down the volume can help.

- Ménière's disease is an inner ear problem of unknown origins. It usually starts in people between the ages of 30 and 50. Dizziness and ringing of the ear are common, and hearing loss comes and goes. Some loss can become permanent.

- Viruses and diseases as well as family history also may play a role in SNHL.

In some instances, hearing loss may be the result of a combination of factors. Anyone finding their hearing has become less acute should visit with an audiologist.

and is marked by muffled or unclear speech. Treatment with assistive hearing devices can help improve hearing.

- Trauma to the ear or head may impact hearing. Wearing protective gear during sports or other activities can protect against neurological damage that may cause hearing loss.



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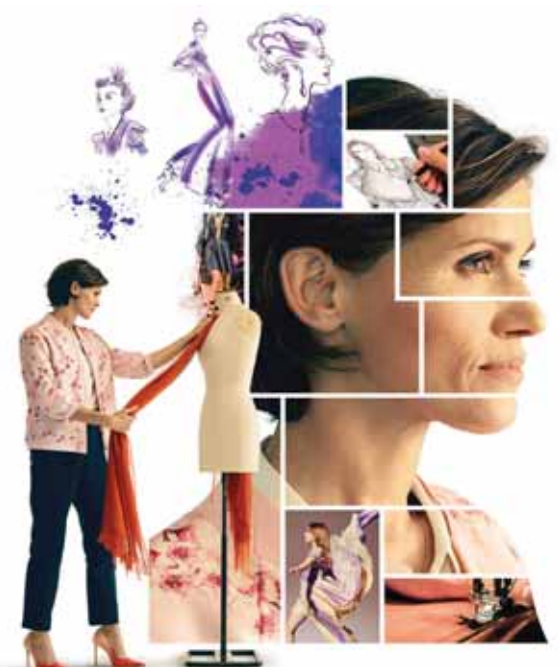
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Volunteers needed for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, celebrating its 50th year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those aged 50 and older. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting those who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned.

Since its inception, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has served more than 68 million taxpayers. The program is seeking volunteer tax preparers, client facilitators, those who can provide technical and management assistance and interpreters. Every level of experience is welcomed. Volunteer tax preparers complete tax preparation training and IRS certification.

Last year, 251 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 16,000 people file their federal and state tax returns. The program is offered

at 27 sites in Duval, Clay, Bradford, Putman and St. Johns counties, including senior centers, libraries and other convenient locations.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968. The program now involves 35,000 volunteers and serves more than 2.5 million taxpayers annually at nearly 5,000 sites nationwide. In 2018 taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received \$1.3 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$213 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). Taxpayers do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use Tax-Aide.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.



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Live comfortably on less

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Many people look toward retirement with mixed feelings. There is the anticipation and excitement of no longer having to stick to a set schedule; however, there may be some trepidation about living without a steady income.

Bloomberg financial experts found the number of Americans aged 65 and older without a disability that weren't in the labor force rose to 800,000 in the fourth quarter of 2016. This has become a long-standing trend of Baby Boomers leaving the workforce and entering retirement. Yet, a Statistics Canada study of people between the ages 60 and 64 who had left long-term employment found 43 percent of them were working again, most within a year of leaving their job. Although boredom may have compelled many of those people to reenter the workforce, some may have started working again to make ends meet. Researchers found the higher the earnings in one's late 40s, the more likely a retiree is to go back to work.

While retirees may need to alter their spending habits, it is possible to live happily on less. Here are some ways to do just that.

- Accurately assess home expenses. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling says the cost of home-related expenses accounts for roughly 45 percent of spending for retirees. Individuals can add up exactly how much their homes are costing them and then decide if downsizing is a practical solution.

Downsizing has a host of benefits, not the least of which is reducing housing-related expenses.

- Invest in health care. Unexpected health care costs can quickly deplete individuals' finances. That's why it is essential to have a solid insurance plan in place. Health care planning also may include thinking ahead to long-term care, such as assisted living and nursing homes. One may have to make concessions elsewhere, but investing in health care can assuage concerns men and women might have about the cost of living in their golden years.
- Use alternative transportation. Cars can be expensive. A budget-friendly alternative to driving is to use public transportation or transportation services provided to seniors free or for nominal fees.
- Take advantage of senior discounts. Many restaurants, stores and service centers offer discounts to seniors. The starting age for discounts may vary from store to store, so always ask before cashing out.
- Shop for food differently. Bulk buys may have been appropriate when there were kids running around, but empty-nesters can cut back on food expenses. Shopping sales and making more meals at home can help seniors save money.

Learn to downsize before a move

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Aging men and women often take inventory of their lives in an effort to focus on activities or lifestyle changes that can ensure happy retirements. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows there are some 76 million baby boomers — those people born between 1946 to 1964 — across the country. With the youngest of the boomers in their mid-50s and the majority having already reached retirement age, many boomers are trying to decide if it's time to move out of their family homes and into smaller, more manageable abodes.

Many older adults find they do not need the same amount of space as they did when they had children living at home. Retirees and those on the cusp of retirement may find that downsizing is a smart financial move that frees up more time for recreation.

However, it can be challenging to cut down on living space and then deal with figuring out how to make furniture, belongings and stored items fit in more condensed areas. Moving can be stressful even without having to cut down on prized items. Taking an inventory of belongings can help the process go smoothly.

Before moving, go room by room, making piles of items that will be kept, donated, sold, or discarded. This can be a tedious task, but it is necessary to avoid clutter in a new home.

People downsizing can attempt to sell items they do not need via newspaper classified sections or online classified sites. Appliances and furniture in excellent shape may fetch good prices. Any extra cash can be put toward buying new items that are size-appropriate for the smaller home.

Another way to clear out clutter is to sort duplicates from the stock of items.



Photo courtesy ElderSource

A person may no longer need multiple sets of dishes or silverware. If the move involves switching

from a king-sized to a queen-sized bed, donate or trash bed linens that will no longer fit. Pay close attention to kitchen and bathroom items, which tend to accumulate over time but might not be discarded when clearing a home of clutter.

People moving from a detached home to a condominium or a townhouse may learn that homeowners association fees cover everything from snow removal to lawn maintenance to pool upkeep. If so, it's unnecessary to bring lawn and garden supplies.

Homeowners are advised to look at the floor plan of their new dwellings and pay attention to storage space. This can make it easier to plan ahead for what may fit, what will need to be purchased new and which storage solutions may be needed. Having a plan in place can make unpacking and settling in go smoothly.

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Cochlear implant a life changer for St. Augustine resident

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

St. Augustine resident Harry Zemon experienced severe hearing loss from two major factors in his life. First, he was in the meat business, which meant dealing with high intensity noises coming from band saws, patty makers and grinders. Pair that with a genetic defect and hearing loss for him at age 70 turned into severe hearing loss — and hearing aids were no longer helpful.

Zemon's first venture into seeking information on hearing correction was in 1986. Since he was in the military, he found it was covered completely by insurance if surgery took place in Tampa, which meant he would have a six-hour round trip every week for the first three to four weeks post-surgery. The VA provided many evaluations on his status of hearing and bone loss — but he just could not deal with the trips to Tampa. So, he waited.

When Zemon was able to obtain Medicare and the supplements, he inquired again. One day he was in the grocery store and a fellow in front of him was an older gentleman with a bright white cochlear processor firmly on his head.

He approached the gentleman, a local attorney, to talk about this particular implant, and they talked nearly 25 minutes. Zemon found out about an informative seminar in Jacksonville about cochlear implants, and he decided to go.

"I was sold," said Zemon. "I knew this was what I had to have."

In March 2018, Zemon underwent successful cochlear implant surgery by J. Douglas Green Jr., MD, in Jacksonville. The surgery resulted in Zemon being able to now hear his three grandchildren — he calls them the chatterboxes. He can hear and understand them, whereas before his daughter had to translate.

"It is a joy, a pleasure to hear them and the outside world again," said Zemon.

If he sees a person who is having a hard time to hearing, he strikes up a conversation sometimes. He chats about having a cochlear implant and how it's made a huge difference in his life.

Zemon also uses a caption phone with a screen to further discern words. It's like

Cochlear implant cont. on pg. 21

Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 – December 7



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How to stay flexible as you age

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Men and women may begin to feel less flexible as they get older. According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, that loss of flexibility is because muscles lose both strength and elasticity as the body ages.

A lack of flexibility can make men and women more vulnerable to certain types of injuries, including muscle strains and tears. While people might not be able to maintain the flexibility they enjoyed in their twenties, there are ways for them to combat age-related loss of flexibility.

- Stretch frequently. Stretching is a great way to combat age-related loss of flexibility. Stretch major muscle groups, such as hamstrings and shoulder muscles, several times per week. When practicing static stretching, the goal is to gradually elongate the muscle being stretched before holding the elongated position, and ultimately allowing the muscle to return to resting position. As flexibility improves, elongated stretches can be held for 30 seconds. Avoid stretching muscles that are sore or injured, and discontinue a stretch if you feel pain or discomfort.
- Include yoga in your exercise regimen. Practitioners of yoga typically

love how this unique discipline that exercises the body while relaxing the mind improves their flexibility. Many yoga poses are designed to improve the strength and flexibility of muscles, and some physicians may even recommend yoga to aging patients. Yoga DVDs or streaming sessions can be great, but beginners may want to visit yoga studios



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Swimming can help aging men and women improve their flexibility.

or sign up for classes at their gyms so instructors can personally ensure they are doing each pose correctly. As their flexibility improves, men and women can try more difficult poses and classes if they so desire.

- Get in the pool. Swimming is another activity that can help aging men and women improve their flexibility. Strength-training exercises are an important component of a well-balanced exercise regimen, but such workouts tend to focus on one or two muscle groups at a time. That means other muscle groups may be inactive and tighten up as a result. Swimming works the entire body, which helps all muscle groups stay loose and flexible. One or two swimming sessions per week can contribute to great gains in overall flexibility, especially for men and women who remember to stretch when they get out of the pool.

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Sleep loss can affect memory in seniors

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Poor sleep can leave people feeling groggy, disoriented, depressed, and not up for facing the day. And now there's new evidence that insomnia can contribute to memory loss and forgetfulness among the elderly.

A study — the first of its kind — unveiled a new link between lack of sleep and memory loss. Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley found that during sleep, important

brain waves are produced that play key roles in storing memories. These waves transfer the memories from the hippocampus to the prefrontal cortex, a portion of the brain where long-term information is stored. Sleep loss can cause the memories to remain in the hippocampus and not reach the long-term storage area, found researchers. This can contribute to forgetfulness and difficulty remembering simple details, such as names.

Seniors are frequently plagued with deteriorated sleeping patterns that lead to shallow sleep and more awakenings, says those at the University of California. This can contribute to the prevention of memories being saved by the brain each evening.

This is not the first time sleep and brain

health have been measured. A 2008 University of California, Los Angeles study discovered that people with sleep apnea showed tissue loss in brain regions that help store memories.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Getting deep sleep is important to combat memory loss.

WebMD says imaging and behavioral studies show the role sleep plays in learning and memory and that lack of sleep can impair a person's ability to focus and learn efficiently.

Combine this with the necessity of sleep to make those brain wave connections for memories to be stored, and the importance of deep sleep is apparent.

Another study, published in the journal Brain, conducted by doctors at Washington University in St. Louis, linked poor sleep with early onset of dementia, especially Alzheimer's disease. Although poor sleep does not cause Alzheimer's, it may increase brain amyloid proteins believed to be intrinsic to the disease. When slow-wave deep sleep is disrupted, levels of amyloid can grow and clog the brain. This is corroborated by data published in the journal Neurology. Getting deep sleep is important for reducing these proteins. The quality of deep sleep among older adults is often 75 percent lower than it is in younger people.

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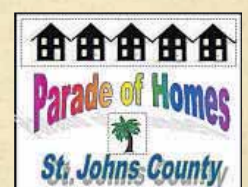
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Briefs

St. Johns CARES announces Food Drive and Giving Tree

Local charitable organization St. Johns CARES announces its 11th annual Food Drive and 12th Giving Tree Initiative to benefit those in need in St. Johns County. More than \$80,000 of community giving will be generated with just these two projects — and leaders of the organization say help is needed. Volunteers are the backbone of St. Johns CARES.

With the help of St. Johns Rotary Club, Food Drive donation bags will be distributed to numerous neighborhoods in NW St. Johns County the week of Nov. 12 and pick-up and distribution will occur on Nov. 17. Beneficiaries this year will be Christ's Cupboard, St. Francis House, Shepherd's Haven (Hastings) and S.E.A. Community (Armstrong). Sponsors Publix Supermarket, The UPS Store at Julington Plaza, Julington Creek Golf Club, Body Control Gym, VyStar Credit Union and Pinch-A-Penny are invaluable in this effort.

Giving Tree wish tags will be distributed throughout St. Johns County to more than 50 businesses, libraries and community groups hosting the project. More than 40 nonprofit organizations in St. Johns County serving St. Johns CARES action areas seniors and veterans; homeless and abused; children and education; and animals and environment have requested these wishes. Donations will be collected from the donor sites on Dec. 5 and then be distributed to the nonprofit organizations the same week.

Any business, group or individuals that would like to contribute, volunteer time or learn more about St. Johns CARES' other volunteer opportunities should visit www.stjohnscares.org.

Birding seminar offered

Plants for Birds, a free seminar, will be held Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. and hosted by Wild Birds Unlimited, 450 State Road 13 N. Gary Whiting, Wild Birds Unlimited staff member, wildlife photographer and certified UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist will provide a stunning look at dozens of North Florida's most common (and uncommon) birds through the eyes of a photographer and naturalist, and provide insights on the native plants that provide habitat and a food source.

Whiting will address the many advantages of using native plants to attract more birds to home landscapes. Topics covered will include how to select the trees, shrubs, and grasses that are indigenous to this area as well as their ideal placement to provide shelter and food for visiting wildlife. He will also share practical tips on bird identification and demonstrate actual examples from his own yard to help attendees regardless of skill level.

Diversity of habitat brings diversity in birds. Including native primary (edible) and secondary (insect larval host) plants in your garden will result in more birds and more enjoyment.

Space is limited; call (904) 230-3242 or visit the nature shop to register.

Primitive camping opportunities on St. Johns River Water Management District properties

Group camping reservations on St. Johns River Water Management District land just got easier. The district is now using Sunrise Reservations to ensure faster turn-around times for group camping reservations and vehicular access to designated properties. The new system also reduces staff time to process requests, thereby saving taxpayers money.

Only primitive tent camping is allowed on district lands and only at designated locations. No travel trailers, campers or RVs are allowed. All district lands are wilderness areas and as such, most properties offer no amenities such as rentals, restrooms, potable water or shelters. There are also many first come, first serve campsites that do not require a permit. These are "hike in" only as they are in remote areas of the properties and can be reached only by hiking, bicycling, boating or horseback riding in.

Go to www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/camping to learn more about camping on district lands or to make a camping reservation.

Daughters of the American Revolution sponsors American history essay contest

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) essay contest was established to encourage young people to think creatively about our nation's great history and learn about history in a new light. Each academic year, a unique essay topic is chosen and guidelines are made available. The contest is open to all students in fifth through eighth grade. Winners advance to State, then Divisional then National level and all contestants receive a certificate of participation.

The title/topic for 2018 – 2019 is "The Women's Suffrage Campaign," addressing the time of the 19th Amendment and the women gaining the right to vote. Complete contest instructions and guidelines are available by contacting darjxbettyreed@att.net. Educators, parents and students are encouraged to contact their local DAR chapters for programs and more detailed information about the contest. The Jacksonville Chapter offers a monetary award of \$100 to the first place winner; \$50 to the second place winner and \$25 to the third place winner on the local level, plus an awards ceremony and winner certificate. Email darjxbettyreed@att.net or call (904) 333-5222 with any questions. The contest deadline is Dec. 1, 2018.

Newcomers of North St. Johns schedule November luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns (NNSJ) invites any resident of the St. Johns County area to its November luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 13, beginning at 11 a.m. at Guy Harvey Resort, 860 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m.

Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue will entertain. Travel with Prince Pele and his Polynesian Revue on a musical journey through the South Pacific Islands. Hang loose and relax as they perform songs and dances in a fun-filled "luau" atmosphere.

The total cost for the November luncheon is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. All reservations must be received by Nov. 1. Garden salad with homemade honey citrus and ranch dressings will be followed by sauteed chicken breast with cremini mushrooms in classic marsala sauce paired with Mayport shrimp in caramelized garlic cream sauce with sun-dried tomatoes and fresh spinach. This plated duet will be accompanied by Tuscan Orzo with tomato, squash, peppers, onion, fresh basil and extra virgin olive oil, and fresh baked rolls and butter. Dessert will be white chocolate mousse with fresh berries. coffee and tea is included; cash bar is available.

Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net for a registration form for this luncheon, NNSJ membership information, or information about other upcoming activities. Newcomers of North St. Johns offers a wide variety of activities including smaller lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips, and cultural events.

Round Up to raise support for equine-assisted therapeutic riding programs

Horse Sense & Sensitivity is hosting its annual Round Up event to raise awareness and support for its equine-assisted therapeutic riding programs serving children and adults with special needs. It is a day dedicated to helping defy disabilities, replacing them with smiles filled with joy and excitement for thousands in the community.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Bailey's Farm, 2202 Bishop Estates Road in St. Johns.

Horse Sense & Sensitivity has provided equine-assisted therapeutic riding programs serving children and adults with special needs for 10 years in North Florida. Visit www.horsesensejax.org for more information or to make a donation.

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club members learn to use fresh flowers in holiday arrangements

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club welcomes a floral designer from the St. Augustine Garden Club to demonstrate how fresh flowers can add a real flair to the holiday table on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive.

Luncheon choices are bacon-wrapped chicken caprese paired with sweet mashed potatoes and natural chicken sauce or Greek salad with grilled chicken, Greek dressing or balsamic vinaigrette dressing. Appetizers, rolls, chef's choice of dessert

Briefs cont. on pg. 27

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page 20.**

Guide to Florida's proposed Constitutional Amendments

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

On Nov. 6, in addition to state and local races, Floridians will be asked to vote on a total of 12 amendments to the state's constitution. Constitutional amendments can reach the ballot in different ways; this year, three were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature, two by citizen petition initiative (includes Financial Impact Statement); and seven by the Constitutional Revision Commission. (Originally the Constitutional Revision Commission proposed eight amendments, but one was struck down by the Florida Supreme Court and will not appear on the ballot.)

It is important to note that the Constitution Revision Commission, which convenes every 20 years, is allowed to bundle or "logroll" more than one issue into each proposed amendment. Amendments placed on the ballot by citizen initiative or the Florida Legislature are prohibited from doing this and must propose amendments that contain just one distinct issue.

Following is a general guide to the amendments, provided by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections:

1. Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

2. Limitations On Property Tax Assessments: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified non-homestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

3. Voter Control of Gambling in Florida: This amendment proposes that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict

with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts. The amendment's impact on state and local government revenues and costs, if any, cannot be determined at this time because of its unknown effect on gambling operations that have not been approved by voters through a constitutional amendment proposed by a citizens' initiative petition process.

4. Voting Restoration Amendment: This amendment proposes to restore the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis. The precise effect of this amendment on state and local government costs cannot be determined, but the operation of current voter registration laws, combined with an increased number of felons registering to vote, will produce higher overall costs relative to the processes in place today. The impact, if any, on state and local government revenues cannot be determined. The fiscal impact of any future legislation that implements a different process cannot be reasonably determined.

5. Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees: This amendment proposes to prohibit the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

6. Rights of Crime Victims; Judges: Proposes to create constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims' rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state judges from 70 to 75 years; deletes authorization for judges to complete term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

7. First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities: Proposes to create mandatory payment of education and compensation benefits to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

8. Removed from ballot.

9. Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces: Proposes to prohibit drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state's outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor-generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local ordinances.

10. State and Local Government Structure and Operation: Propose to require legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

11. Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes: Proposes to remove discriminatory language related to real property rights. Proposes to remove obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision

that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

12. Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers: Proposes to expand current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; create restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers; provide exceptions; prohibit certain abuses of public office for personal benefit.

13. Dog Racing: Proposes to prohibit gaming or pari-mutuel entities from racing dogs in connection with wagering; eligibility of such entities to conduct other authorized pari-mutuel and gaming activities is not affected; prohibits wagering on outcome of in-state live dog races.

Voters will have a choice to make for each of these amendments. All amendments require a 60 percent public vote for passage.

There are several different guides to Constitutional Amendments available online. Visit www.floridaleagueofcities.com for a guide produced by the Florida League of Cities, which provides arguments for and against each proposed amendment. The League of Women Voters' guide may be found at www.lwvfl.org/amendments/ and www.jamesmadison.org contains a guide produced by the James Madison Institute. Visit www.votesjc.com for more information, including the official ballot text supplied by the Florida Division of Elections.

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RED BOXES

Vote-by-Mail drop boxes are available through November 6th at 5 P.M. Locations include all St. Johns Public Libraries and the Tax Offices in Julington Creek and Ponte Vedra.

RED BOXES



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★ **DATES & TIMES~October 24th – November 3rd**
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Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	Julington Creek Annex 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	W.E. Harris Community Center 400 E. Harris St. Hastings, FL 32145	NEW LOCATIONS

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Get to Know . . .

Kim Hetrick

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Kim Hetrick
Kim Hetrick with son Jake.

Kim Hetrick spent her childhood both in West Virginia and Washington state. She later moved to Ohio for college where she majored in education. Hetrick and her husband of 25 years, Ron, moved to Julington Creek in 2004. They have three children, aged 22, 19 and 15. As a parent of a special needs child, Hetrick has devoted herself to countless efforts in supporting special needs children and adults. She is currently leading the Jacksonville chapter of Ainsley's Angels, a national nonprofit that aims to build awareness about the special needs community through inclusion in all aspects of life. Hetrick has found her passion in encouraging Jacksonville families to run races with their special needs family members.

1. What do you enjoy most about living in St. Johns?

I enjoy the small town feel, even though it's grown so much since we moved here. It's a great place to raise kids. The schools and family environment are great. I never have to wear a coat, so I love that.

2. How did you become involved with Ainsley's Angels?

My son, Jake, was pushed in a charity run back in 2013. When I

saw him crossing the finish line, it was a powerful moment for me. He loved participating. My husband and I decided to purchase Jake a specialized running chair and we trained with the Couch to 5K app, so that we could run races with him ourselves. Ainsley's Angels has an active chapter in Tampa, but Jacksonville didn't have one at the time, so I was asked if I wanted become an ambassador. We do fundraisers and, along with corporate donations, we've raised money for 10 running chairs to be available for families that would like to participate in a race. Seeing relationships forming and watching families be joyful and excited to participate in a sporting event is the greatest feeling.

3. What do you enjoy most about the ability to have your son with you while you run these races?

It gets us out of the house and it's so nice to have a sport that we can participate in together as a family. It's so nice to be included in races around Jacksonville and to celebrate when we cross the finish line.

4. What do you enjoy doing outside of your volunteer work?

I became a runner through Ainsley's Angels, so I enjoy that. I love the beach, the arts and hanging out with friends.

5. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment thus far?

With all we've been through, our life didn't really go as we thought it would. Finding so much joy in Plan B and thriving as a family — I'm proud of that.

Cochlear implant cont. from pg. 15

closed-caption on television. Presently, he's working on a new therapy program using his cell phone to further increase sound understanding even more clearly.

Today the external cochlear processor comes in different colors and shades. Zemon opted for the darker one, so it's barely noticeable. Today's products can hardly be seen under the hair.

Zemon firmly believes that if people are still leery about what cochlear implants and severe hearing correction are all about, they should seek out the experts.

"Information is key, and what I knew initially barely scratched the surface," he said. "A long time ago the surgery cost so much that it seemed as much as heart surgery — it's come a long way today and is perfected.

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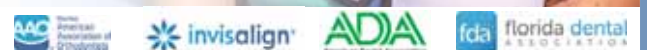


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Nease NJROTC scores three-peat

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Nease NJROTC competed in the 2018 Middleburg HS NJROTC Pentathlon Championships held on Sept. 22 at Middleburg High School — and for the third consecutive year, returned home to Ponte Vedra as champions in the 12-team competition.

The Pentathlon is a grueling five-event competition that tests the physical fitness strength and endurance, academic knowledge, seamanship, and marksmanship of the five-cadet teams comprised of four males and one female. The events included a 35-yard tire flip, speed knot-tying, brain brawl puzzle, air rifle live fire, and 40 yard Humvee push — while running one-quarter to one-half mile between events with a 20-pound rucksack.

Brandon Mum, who captained the winning team, said “We loaded our A team with the best JROTC athletes, and believed we were as well prepared as possible for the competition.”

Nease’s championship team was led by seniors Mum and Ben Stevens, and included sophomores Caleb Millican, Forest Vosberg and freshman Harley Shuster.



Photo courtesy Scott LaRoche/Naval Science Instructor Duane Hanson, John Lemos, Troy Barber, Chris Oliver, Brandon Mum, Ben Stevens, Harley Shuster, Peyton Gustafson, Caleb Millican and Forest Vosberg.

Nease’s B team finished third overall, and was led by seniors Troy Barber, Peyton Gustafson and Chris Oliver, and juniors John Lemos and Teagen Pettit.

“This competition is all about teamwork,” said Stevens. “The heat and humidity was intense, but focused on the things we could control and did them to the best of our collective ability.”

Nease A finished the course in 16 minutes and 51 seconds. Clay High School came in second at 17:20 and Nease B was third at 17:25.

Nease finished the 2017–18 year as the fifth ranked program in the nation.

BTHS Happenings

Bartram Trail Beta Club keeps Mickler’s clean

By Delaney Cantress
mail@floridanewslines.com

For the second year in a row, Bartram Trail Beta Club members have spent a Saturday in October cleaning up Mickler’s Beach. While the main objective of this service project was to keep the beaches of St. Johns County clean, members found that they had a lot of fun in the process. The members found a major improvement in the cleanliness of the beach from the prior year. Last year, a total of 20 large garbage bags of trash and debris were collected post-Hurricane Irma; this year participants said there was a lot less trash on the beach and fewer bags were filled.

past two years as students strive to give back to the community.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, a former Beta Club member himself, once stated, “A man is more than the sum of all the things he can do.” That statement encompasses the values of Beta Club. Members find that through their collective efforts, their volunteerism can make a difference in St. Johns County.

The club focuses on achievement, character, leadership, and service. High academic achievement is required for club membership. Character is built through preparing young people for life and empowering them to be successful. The club works to develop the leaders of tomorrow. The service focus of the club is evident through the many community volunteer opportunities.

Beta Club has many events planned for the remaining school year. The officers have worked hard the past few months to provide members with many opportunities in which to serve the community. Beta Club challenges members to not just engage in activities out of necessity for service hours, but to create a sense of service within themselves.



Photos courtesy Delaney Cantrell
Members of Bartram Trail’s Beta Club spent a Saturday picking up trash at Mickler’s Beach.



Last year’s Beta Club members also spent a Saturday at Mickler’s Beach.

Bartram Trail’s Beta Club is a community service oriented club that focuses on volunteering as a group, rather than finding volunteer opportunities at the student’s own will. Its purpose is “to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students.”

Beta Club has hosts a wide variety of service projects, including food drives, a winter clothing drive, and a Leukemia/Lymphoma Awareness fundraiser. Membership in the club has grown over the

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Bartram Trail cross country boys run to championships

By Shelley Howard
mail@floridanewline.com

As the high school cross country season enters the championship season, one local school promises to lead the pack in the point standings. The Bartram Trail boys started the season strong, taking second place for both JV and varsity at the Palm Coast Spikes 'n Spurs opener. To back up their performance at the the Bob Hans Invitational in Orange Park, both varsity and JV teams swept first place with a perfect score, requiring the top five finishers of the race to be on the same team.

Bartram's JV boys repeated a perfect score when they hosted the annual Bale-N-Trail Cross Country Original with close to 30 schools in attendance and continued on to finish just two points shy of a three-peat at the Bronco Classic/SJRC Championship in Middleburg before taking a week off to prepare for the JV Championships at the end of the month.

Not to be outdone by the "Baby Bears," Bartram's varsity boys took their season to the next level flying to Rochester, N.Y. to compete nationally. While there, the team took in some scenic practice runs, visited Niagara Falls, and were treated to a tour of the Buffalo Bills stadium by former Bartram Trail quarterback, Nathan Peterman.

On race day, it was all business, despite the team's top runner, Ryan Musil, being on injured reserve. The team placed 17th out of 211 varsity teams across the country.



Holding first place trophy at Bob Hans Invitational are JV runners Amin Abduljabar, Justin Presley, Branden McDonald, Curren Brown, Garrett Kauzlarich, four of whom are freshmen.



JV team celebrates a perfect score hosting the annual Bale-N-Trail.



Photos by Shelley Howard
JV heads into Championship holding strong with another first place trophy.



Jahari White placed sixth overall with a time of 16:45 in the Bronco Classic varsity meet.



JV freshman Garrett Kauzlarich took first place at the Bronco Classic, just one of several top five finishes in his first season.



Varsity: Ryan Musil, Jacob Kauzlarich, Jahari White, Sam Rautenstrauch, Evan Ritter, Tommy Adzema, Quenton Frank, Brennan Popik, Jay Alligood.

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Relay for Life: How You Can Help

By Atharva Palande
mail@floridanewline.com

Relay for Life maintains a bright outlook for the month of November. Up to this point, more than \$10,000 has been raised. November is known for Pancreatic Awareness Month and as with October and breast cancer, money goes towards the prevention and cure of all forms of this terrible disease.

On Oct. 10, Prohibition Kitchen, a local brewery in St. Augustine, helped create a successful night — \$3000 was raised (not included in the \$10,000 count). More importantly, it helped raise awareness for the cause.

Following its Oct. 11 meeting, Relay for Life leadership shifted its focus to gaining sponsors for the event. Already, Northrop Grumman is spearheading the event and is currently the chief sponsor, planning on bringing in half of the current total goal of \$120,000.

Sponsorship levels ranging from Track Marker Sponsor at \$150 to Presenting Sponsor at \$10,000 are offered. Each

tier has rewards and perks. The beginning starts with a track marker with brand recognition as it compounds bit by bit through the various tiers to the top level having the organization being promoted in every single manner possible with rights to use the American Cancer Society logo in any way.

Individuals, too, can receive perks from American Cancer Society swag such as hoodies and coolers for the different

amounts raised. As usual, schools are going to be a big part of the Relay season this year; with more schools, the Relay is sure to make more money than ever before.

Therefore, we need the help of everyone in the community to make this the grand slam success the event is. You can register online at RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl as well as create a team, join a team, or make a donation.

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County will be held at Allen D. Nease High School on April 27. Email rfl.northstjohnscounty@gmail.com with any questions.



Photo courtesy Atharva Palande
The committee behind the successful speakeasy at Prohibition Kitchen.

Hope Floats takes big strides towards “finishing” breast cancer

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Local breast cancer prevention fundraising group Hope Floats held its second annual Block Party for Breast Cancer at Taps Bar & Grill on Saturday, Sept. 29. Thanks to the overwhelming support of the community, Hope Floats raised more than \$55,000 in services for men, women and families affected by breast cancer (yes, men get breast cancer, too.)

These services are provided via the DONNA Careline Program (www.thedonnafoundation.org/programs).

Hope Floats and The Donna Foundation would like to acknowledge everyone involved in making this event possible: personal “chefs” Glenn Trcalek and Rich Frangello who kept the crowd fed for more than six hours; local students who volunteered their time to entertain kids through face-painting, creating balloon animals and inflatable sports center; generous sponsors; and the musicians who kept everyone moving all day long.

“We would also like to thank Taps for hosting the event, and last but not least, we thank former Hope Floats board member and friend, LaQuita Barnhart, whose legacy inspires us to face adversity with hope, faith and grace,” said Hope Floats board member Jody Palmer.

Hope Floats’ next two events are:

The Many Faces of Breast Cancer (Exhibit and

Cocktail Party) on Jan. 26, 2019 at 2689 Rosselle Street in Jacksonville

The second annual Shop The Closets Event (gently-used women’s clothing sale) on March 31, 2019 (location TBD.)

Check the “Hope Floats to benefit the Donna Foundation (Events, Races, etc)” Facebook page regularly to see updates on activities.



Photo courtesy Hope Floats
Christina Burget, Donna Deegan, Meghan Banach, Chris Hobson, Kerri Henderson, Patty Frangello, Jody Palmer, Cathy Trcalek, Cristi Wagner, Tania Wood, Barney Barnhart, and Cathy Murphy at the Block Party.

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United Way of St. Johns County celebrates office space renovation

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

More than 200 people crowded into the offices of United Way of St. Johns County, as the organization and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed all members of the community — government officials, business owners, volunteers, partner nonprofits and local residents — to the Renovation Celebration on Sept. 27.

“At United Way-SJC our work is focused outside our walls, as it should be,” said Bobby Crum, chairman of the board. “It was apparent that it was time to invest in our infrastructure if we were to increase our impact. A combination of multiple years of delayed repairs, hurricane damage from Irma, staff growth and basic office needs made renovation inevitable. With the support of our community and partners, we were able to take this important step.”

Outside repairs addressed exterior leaks, gutters and roof issues. The building, located on Bridge Street in St. Augustine, was sealed and professionally painted. Landscaping was donated, new signs were hung and a new door welcomes those entering from the parking area. Inside, removing walls allowed for natural light to enter the building and space for collaborative work. Worn flooring was removed and walls were repaired and painted. The new ADA-compliant restroom was installed and a fresh coat of white paint created the illusion that the ceilings were raised.



Photo courtesy United Way of St. Johns County
United Way of St. Johns County celebrated its newly completed renovation on Sept. 27.

Contributions from many partners ranged from the donation of temporary office space during construction by Flagler College to grants from Rotary Club of St. Augustine. Just more than 80 percent of the funds have been raised for this project; the balance, up to \$20,000, is matched by the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. Those wishing to make a contribution to this capital campaign can text RENO to 40403 or visit unitedway-sjc.org/donate.

“Each day that I have entered the office since we started this process, my heart has lifted. Each member of our staff is overjoyed that we now have an efficient, safe, and yes, attractive work space,” said Melissa Nelson, president and CEO. “At United Way, our work is rewarding, but it is also sometimes emotionally challenging. Our renovated space inspires us to continue our fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. We can’t thank the community enough for being part of this effort.”

Helping Hands update

By Jackie Valyou
mail@floridanewsline.com

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. at Faith Community Church, 3450 County Road 210W. This is a change in the regular meeting day. The group will finish stuffing stockings for military members in Iraq and Afghanistan. Helping Hands is partnering with Our Lady Of Good Counsel Church in this effort. If you are interested in bringing items for either snack or health and beauty aids stockings, email jacqphil@aol.com for the list. Several area Girl Scout troops, homeschoolers and the community have already filled more than 200 stockings.

Helping Hands has had a busy few weeks and delivered hurricane comfort kits to firemen to bring to the Carolinas for disaster relief. They also participated and raised money for The Donna Foundation / Hope Floats for breast cancer awareness month. The group also continues to support the mission of the Homeless Coalition and St. Francis House.

In October, over 50 small Christmas trees were decorated for Community Peds Hospice families. The group is now in its 9th year of this project.

The Fallen Heroes Military Tribute will take place on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at 3 p.m. at Faith Community Church. More than 350 crosses will be placed to honor soldiers from Florida who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all others who sacrificed their lives for this country. The

program will feature musical tributes, speakers, naming the soldiers and honoring them with a solemn bell rung for them. There is no charge or expected donation. This tribute began in 2015 and the memorial walk has been at seven different locations since then. Seating is available and refreshments will be served afterwards in the church hall. In the event of rain, the service will be held inside. RSVP to liah623@aol.com.

Contact jacqphil@aol.com for more information on Helping Hands.



Photo courtesy Jackie Valyou
Firemen at Station 5, St. Augustine accepting hurricane comfort kits for those affected in the Carolinas.

Giving thanks.

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Library staff member wins regional library award for cursive classes

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

When St. Johns County Public Library staff member Gwen Floyd learned that many children needed help learning and practicing cursive handwriting, she knew she had to step up. After teaching for many years in her community neighborhood, for teachers and at her church, she knew that she could use her past teaching experience to create an entertaining and educational curriculum to help students master this essential life skill at the library.

Last month, Floyd was recognized regionally for her hard work by winning the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) "Library Innovation Award." This award recognizes an innovative program or service that has demonstrated impact on the community a NEFLIN library serves.

Over the course of the last year and half, Floyd used her original curriculum to teach free handwriting and cursive

classes at the Southeast Branch Library. Welcoming students of various ages, from kindergarteners to teenagers, her unique handwriting and cursive course continues to receive rave reviews from students and parents.

Floyd said, "A special thanks to the parents that suggested this class, to the hundreds of students that attended, and to NEFLIN for this recognition."

For more information about free handwriting and cursive classes at the Southeast Branch library, visit any SJCPLS branch or bookmobile in person or online at www.sjcpls.org. Visit www.neflin.org to learn more about the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN).

Local walk for suicide prevention and awareness scheduled

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Florida's suicide rate is higher than the national average, and St. Johns County's suicide rate exceeds the Florida average. The numbers have been rising for the last 10 years. It's a subject that affects too many people, and is too-little discussed. The danger lies in that silence.

Now is the time to break that silence. On Saturday, Nov. 17, the inaugural St. Augustine Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Suicide Prevention will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Pedro Menendez High School outdoor track. The Out of the Darkness Community Walk is a day of coming together, education, prevention, and hope.

Registration for the walk is free for participants, and you don't have to be from St. Augustine to join in.

Suicide affects people from all walks of life and in all age groups, but young people have been hardest hit by what has become a suicide epidemic. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 10 – 24, and the second leading cause of death among young adults aged 25 – 34. Even suicide among adults aged 35 – 54 is on the rise. (Source: afsp.org/StateFacts).

Military and law enforcement personnel are also among those most affected. As the statistics rise, many people are starting to wonder who is protecting those who are protecting us. How, we ask, can we help our loved ones who are in crisis? Fortunately, there are some answers.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) was started in 1987 by a small group of families — each of whom had lost someone to suicide — who were alarmed by the startling rise in suicide over the previous four decades. Concerned for the future of their communities, they pooled resources to fund suicide prevention research and education.

The AFSP now has local chapters in all 50 states. Its core strategies include research, education, advocacy, and direct services to communities nationwide. With its mission to "Save Lives, and Bring Hope to Those Affected by Suicide," the AFSP helps both those in crisis and suicide survivors. With its Out of the Darkness community walks, the AFSP reaches out to communities, erases the stigma of suicidality and mental health struggles, and raises funds for its ongoing programs and resources.

Easy online registration for the Community Walk is available at www.afsp.org/StAugustine. On-site registration is available on event day from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Donations and sponsorships support the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Email walkagainstsuiticide.sta@gmail.com with questions concerning event participation, donations, or sponsorship.

If you are in crisis, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1 (800) 273-8255 (TALK), or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741.

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Pancreas Cancer cont. from pg. 1

from the board and concentrated on her own health. She underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation and said it was about two years before she felt like herself



Dr. Mike Freidl, Leon Fowler, Fred Funk, Dr. Chris Swanson, Chris Luzar and Matt Garrity at the Champions for Hope Celebrity Golf Classic.

again. She felt strongly that she wanted to fundraise for the JT Townsend Foundation again and with her new dedication to pancreas cancer awareness, she and her husband Tom teamed up with long time neighbor and golf professional Fred Funk to start the Champions for Hope Celebrity Golf Classic.

“We knew we had to fight to find an early detection method for pancreas cancer,” Zitiello said. “And since the Zitiello, Funk and Townsend families were very close, it made sense to support both causes.”

After a year of incorporating and plan-

ning, the first Champions for Hope Celebrity Golf Classic was held in June 2017 and was able to donate \$550,000 to Mayo Clinic for pancreas cancer research and \$200,000 to the JT Townsend Foundation. The second event in 2018 resulted in donations to Mayo in the amount of \$350,000 along with \$150,000 for the JT Townsend Foundation.



Blake Zitiello, Judi Zitiello and Lisa Fallon on the balcony at TPC Sawgrass.

The Champions for Hope Celebrity Golf Classic is the sole fundraising event of the Funk-Zitiello Foundation and they do it up right. The Friday night before the Saturday golf tournament is Gala Night at the TPC Clubhouse. Zitiello said approximately 260 people attend the gala, which features a live and silent auction, a VIP reception, dinner, and this past year, dancing to the Chris Thompson Band,

which donates their time. As many items as possible are donated so that the maximum amount possible can be donated to the causes.

On Saturday morning, the main event is held at the TPC Stadium Course. Each foursome is paired up with a local celebrity, such as a PGA TOUR or Champions Tour player, a Jacksonville Jaguars player, an NFL alumnus or other local celebrity. Zitiello said the highlight is what happens on the practice range before the 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

“The JT Townsend Memorial Gospel Choir, directed by Vickie Ferrie, performs. It is so moving to hear the inspiring music



Fred Funk, Len Mattiace and Judi Zitiello.

in such a beautiful setting,” Zitiello said.

The tournament features donated food or beverage or a golf challenge on each of the

18 holes to ensure that a good time is had by all. Last year, 18 foursomes played in the tournament.

Today, Zitiello acts as the managing director of the Funk-Zitiello Foundation in addition to counseling friends of friends who have been diagnosed with pancreas cancer. She chronicles her journey in a blog, www.zjudes.com, hoping that someone will find a little hope and encouragement. She has what she calls a “special connection” with grandson Jude, who was named after her and was born one week after her first diagnosis; Zitiello found that her cancer had returned this summer. She considers herself a miracle, as only 9 percent of those diagnosed with pancreas cancer live five years. She plans to make it past that anniversary in April of 2019.

“I truly believe that God has given me this extra time, and I had better do something good with it,” Zitiello said.

Visit www.championsforhopegolf.com for more information about the Funk-Zitiello Foundation's Champions for Hope Celebrity Golf Classic. Their text to pledge number is (904) 530-2331. Visit www.jttownsend-foundation.org for more information about the JT Townsend Foundation and visit www.pancan.org for more information about pancreas cancer.

Briefs cont. from pg. 18

and nonalcoholic beverages will also be served. A cash bar is available. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. Make your check payable to BTNC and mail to Mary Ann Kriniske at 156 Worthington Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259 no later than Nov. 6. Include your entree choice in the memo line.

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club also has a number of upcoming special events:

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 12 p.m. – Dinner and the play “Elf” at Alhambra Dinner Theatre. “Elf” is the story of Buddy, a young orphan who sneaks into Santa's present bag and ends up at the North Pole. Buddy is unaware that he is a human and embarks on a journey to New York to find his real father.

Friday, Nov. 30 at 10:30 a.m. – A docent-led tour of the Stetson Mansion Holiday Tour in DeLand. Besides the beautiful holiday decorations which change every year, visitors can enjoy the craftsmanship of the mansion and learn the history of the inhabitants and their special guests.

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's

Club meets the second Tuesday of each month from September to May at local restaurants 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 Beth Rosado, at bartramtnc@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1.

Local author to speak at AAUW November meeting

Local author Laura Lee Smith will be the guest speaker at the Nov. 8 meeting of the St. Augustine branch of the American Association of University Women. The program, open to the public, will take place at the Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. Smith will discuss her latest book, “The Ice House,” published in 2017, a novel that follows the intertwining paths of an ice-house owner in Jacksonville and his estranged son, who is a single father living in Scotland.

A native of Red Bank, N.J., Smith grew up in Lake Worth and has also lived

in Gainesville and Atlantic Beach. She earned bachelor and master's degrees from the University of North Florida and now resides in St. Augustine with her husband and children.

Prior to the program, there will be a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at a cost of \$35, which includes an entrée, salad, bread, tea or coffee, dessert, tip and tax. En-

trée choices are chicken piccata, grilled Atlantic salmon and Mediterranean pasta. The reservation deadline for the luncheon is Wednesday, Oct. 31. For reservations, contact Peggy Kinchen at (505) 980-7865 or pkinchen02@gmail.com. Information about the organization is available at staugustine-fl.aauw.net.

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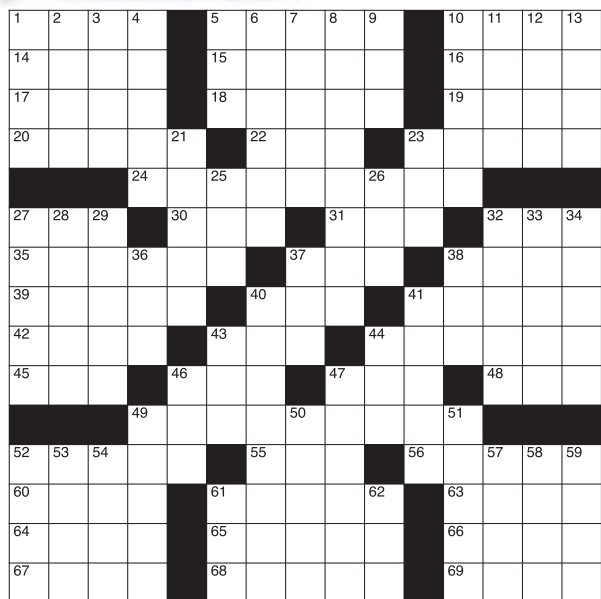
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Boat structure
5. Affirmatives
10. From end to end
14. Ancient Syrian city
15. Plant parts
16. Anatomical feature of worms
17. Invests in little enterprises
18. Cuts the skin off
19. Noted child psychiatrist
20. Satisfies
22. Take by sips
23. Matched
24. It changed the world
27. U.S. Founding Father Adams
30. Father
31. Swiss river
32. They hold music
35. Spoke
37. Used to write
38. Cold wind
39. More competent
40. Test for high schoolers
41. Mild analgesic
42. Indian industrial city
43. Fellas
44. Short-tailed martens
45. No seats available
46. Golf score
47. A way to sink
48. Type of investment account
49. Songs
52. Type of sword
55. ___ King Cole, musician
56. Type of vaccine
60. Site of the Taj Mahal
61. Languished
63. Ethnic group in South China
64. Prevent from seeing
65. Word of farewell
66. Charity given to the poor
67. Chops
68. Swiss capital
69. One point east of southeast

1. Type of hall
2. Swedish rock group
3. Long, narrow cut
4. Indicating silence
5. Talk at length
6. Wiped away
7. Sweet substance (alt. sp.)
8. Babar is one
9. Soviet Socialist Republic
10. French avant-garde composer
11. Commoner
12. Swiss river
13. A single-minded expert
21. Passover feast and ceremony
23. Indie record label (abbr.)
25. Fellow
26. Strong tree
27. Drenches
28. Spindle
29. North Dravidian language
32. Lounges about
33. Preamble
34. Essential for nachos

36. Afternoon beverage
37. 007's creator
38. Founder of Babism
40. Music played in open air
41. Profoundly wise men
43. Disfigure
44. Unhappy
46. Prefix denoting "in a"
47. Cotton fabric; satiny finish
49. Closes tightly
50. The lowest point
51. Semitic sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. Phil ___, former CIA
54. Fermented rather than distilled
57. Aids digestion
58. Unstressed-stressed
59. Body part
61. Wonderful
62. Expected at a certain time

CLUES DOWN

AVIATION WORD SEARCH

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

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- AIRSPACE
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- ARRIVAL
- CEILING
- COCKPIT
- COMPASS
- COMPASS
- DEPARTURE
- DIRIGIBLE
- DRAG
- ELEVON
- ENGINE
- FLIGHT
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- GROUND CONTROL
- HELICOPTER
- INDICATOR
- INSTRUMENTS
- KNOT
- LIFT
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- PASSENGERS
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- POSITION
- RANGE
- ROUTE
- SPEED
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- TRAFFIC
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A. 2 14 12 9 22

Clue: Flying device

B. 23 12 18 22 11 4 4

Clue: Get off ground

C. 14 12 9 1 26 9 8

Clue: Return to runway

D. 4 14 26 8 16 23

Clue: Air trip

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FAVORITE TREAT:
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FAVORITE FRIEND:
Sarge, his family's cat.

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Google! The family ran through hundreds of names before settling on Baxter.

The Creek Line

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate! Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest? Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

Editorial

Troop 280 offers a lifetime of skill

By Kenny King, Jr.
mail@floridanewsline.com

People not involved in scouting often ask why should I be a scout, or what does it have for me? I welcome this question as it gives me an opportunity to talk about what the Boy Scouts of America can offer every participant. During my six years of scouting, I have learned countless skills that I will use the rest of my life from basic skills like knot tying, camping, and fire safety, to more advanced skills such as cooking, first aid, and wilderness survival.

Scouting also teaches you about setting goals and achievement. There are seven ranks in Boy Scouts from the Scout rank to Eagle. Each has specific requirements that must be learned and demonstrated prior to earning the rank advancement. Some of the ranks require certain merit badges to be earned as well. There are more than 135 Merit Badges currently offered by the BSA. A scout chooses a subject that interest them, and works with a counselor to complete the badge. Subjects range from swimming, archery, and shooting, to geocaching, rock climbing, and Indian lore.

Learning to lead is the cornerstone of scouting. Troop 280 is committed to the "Scout Led" philosophy. The scoutmasters assist as needed, but the scouts teach skills, conduct meetings, work with other scouts on advancement, and make most decisions on troop activities and

destinations. There are many opportunities for leadership within a troop with a Senior Patrol Leader and four Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders working with the others.

The ultimate achievement is the rank of Eagle Scout. This is the culmination of years of rank advancement, Merit Badges, community service, and leadership. The scout completes a project that benefits the community that includes planning, presenting, fundraising, group leadership, and execution. The Eagle rank will benefit you throughout your life as it is listed on college applications, job applications, and may receive advanced enlisted rank in the US military. Interestingly, famous Eagle Scouts include President Gerald Ford, astronaut Neil Armstrong, and filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

Most of all, scouting is fun! If camping, shooting, climbing, and a week in the mountains every summer sound interesting to you, I invite you visit us to learn more about how scouting will impact your life. Troop 280 meets on Monday nights at River of Life United Methodist Church on Race Track Road from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Kenny King, Jr. is the scribe for Troop 280. Visit www.julingtoncreekscouts.com for more information.

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# St. Johns County Audubon presents monthly education programs

By Mary Conte  
mail@floridanewsline.com

St. Johns County Audubon holds the vision that, “St. Johns County, Florida, will be a nationally-recognized sanctuary for migratory and native birds with bird-friendly neighborhoods, pristine waters, and beaches that support a robust wildlife population.”

To help its members and the public stay informed about critical issues that impact that vision, St. Johns County Audubon holds monthly meetings that include a presentation by experts about topics that greatly impact the environment. In learning the facts, attendees can make informed decisions about behaviors that impact local water, beaches and neighborhoods in a positive way. The October program was held at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR), where Todd Osborne, Ph.D., assistant professor of Coastal Biogeochemistry at The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, and Dr. Nikki Dix, Ph.D, research director of the GTMNERR spoke about the

status of the Summer Haven River and its restoration.

St. Johns County Audubon’s regular educational programs are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the St. Johns River State College, 2990 College Drive in St. Augustine in room C-116. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Future programs will explore topics such as “The North Florida Land Trust: Saving Habitat for Wildlife” with Emily Dunn; “Birding 101” with Brett Moyer; “Photographing Birds Ethically” with Gary Whiting; and “The Shorebird Stewarding Program” with Jean Rolke.

Visit [www.stjohnsaudubon.com](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com) for more information about monthly programs and many other events for the 2018 – 2019 season.

# Golf tips from T Shot Ranch Doing the Math

By Janie C. Farina  
mail@floridanewsline.com

*“Fanaticism consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim.”*

~ George Santayana, philosopher and essayist

Is your golf game giving a return on your investment for the time and money you are putting into your practice/playing sessions? Or are you becoming a fanatic who has forgotten his aim by doing the same things that keep your game in “golf bankruptcy?” So many golfers are penny wise and pound foolish when it comes to equipment, instruction, and a proper practice plan for a better golf payoff.

If I had a nickel for each person who tells me:

“I purchased an inexpensive “starter set” to see if I like the game” or “My dad let me borrow these clubs so I’m using these until I get better” or “I’ve gotten a beginner a set of clubs for a gift.”

(A gift of golf clubs, without being fitted, is like using a debit card without knowing what the balance in your checking account is — the chances of getting balanced in the golf swing is a high risk proposition).

Bottom line, using a club too short or too long resembles someone bobbing for apples, making it difficult to get a proper sweep from all his “working capital.”

Players hitting balls on the range without proper aim or a set up that encourages balance in the swing is like watching an addict dumping coins in a slot machine with no return.

With this rationale added up in nickels I should be rich by now...

Typical novice “Golf Investment Portfolio” for one month:

\$250: Starter set at various discount sporting goods stores

\$175: Range ball bucket at \$7 to practice with 25 times

\$10: Golf glove (to cover the blisters on left hand from inexpensive grips) that is too big, and causes more blisters because it creases.

After one month, by the time the player hits golf recession that turns into golf depression, it’s time to “sell out” or “reinvest.”

Sample “Proposed Plan Portfolio” for month number two:

\$ 60: Lesson evaluation (can be credited towards a lesson package)

\$ 850 Fitted equipment (five clubs with soft grips that need no glove) + bag and a five-lesson package

\$ 125 for 25 medium range buckets (one time per week), \$50 savings.

Month #1 = \$435 with no golf reward return on investment

Month #2 = \$975 with serious golf reward return on investment that includes getting rid of cheap starter set that doesn’t fit, undo all the bad habits hitting balls for a month with mis-fitted equipment (which takes up the first two lessons of the lesson package), and throwing away one useless golf glove.

So when we do the math for people interested in learning how to play golf, or experiencing a golf “recession,” it’s important to get proper guidance to discourage frivolous golf spending and put their money down on smart golf stock options.

There’s prosperity for those golf addicts out there that stop gambling and start securing their golf future by doing the math:

Get a plan + Get fitted + Take lessons = Save Time and Money

Keep the Flow and Let it Go!

Janie C. Farina is a 26-year LPGA teaching and club professional in St. Johns County. Email her at [hitthedirt2@gmail.com](mailto:hitthedirt2@gmail.com) with comments or questions for future articles.



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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewsline.com

As the days get shorter and temperatures begin to decline, the annual southward migration of baitfish goes into full swing. One of the many varieties of fish taking part in this migration is mullet. Both fingerlings and adult mullet will congregate along the Atlantic coastline, forming schools that can seemingly last for miles, steadily pushing south till their winter destination is reached. Timing for this bait run can never be certain as weather can often speed up or slow down this event. Frequent checking at the beach this time of year should eventually reveal schooling mullet in the surf, and when the run is actually taking place.

Prime times to encounter mullet closest to the shore is usually early in the morning, or very early evening just before dark. Being right up on the beach makes them easier targets for cast netting. On a good outing, reaching the state limit of 50 mullet can be an easy

task. Unlike river mullet, ocean mullet are a much more desirable table fare. They are especially good for frying and have a very light flavorful meat.

With the fall mullet run comes another little bonus. That bonus happens to be all the larger fish looking to make meals of the schooling mullet. One species of fish we can surely expect to be in the surf at this time is the bluefish.

When blues are running in the surf, fishing for them can be a nonstop blast. With their colossal appetites, you might be lucky if your bait ever reaches the

bottom before hooking up. Losing hooks repeatedly is common, as their razor sharp teeth can easily bite through your leader.

When hooked, blues like to run, sometimes jump, and often fool you into thinking you have hooked something much bigger than what you actually have. Any cut bait on a heavy mono leader (or even wire) will be all you need to ensure some classic battles when they are biting. One trick to cleaning bluefish is after removing the skin, cut a V in the darker lateral line and lift it from the remaining file. By doing so you will have removed the

strong fishy taste most people don't care for. Soak the filet in buttermilk, dredge in your favorite batter mix, and deep fry. Should be pretty tasty.

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

Fishing Report : A minor late shrimp run has occurred. Not enough shrimp for shrimping, but enough to bring on a decent fall bite for drum, sheepshead, reds, and an occasional flounder off the end of docks and pilings. Best bites have been south of Buckman all the way to Green Cove.

*Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemothpictures@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.*



Photo courtesy Bill Braman  
Bear Braman, with a Redfish caught off a live croaker south of the Shands Bridge in mid-September. The fish "put up one heck of a fight" according to Bear's dad, Bill Braman.

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|               |    |    | 1  | 2  |
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| 12            | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19            | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
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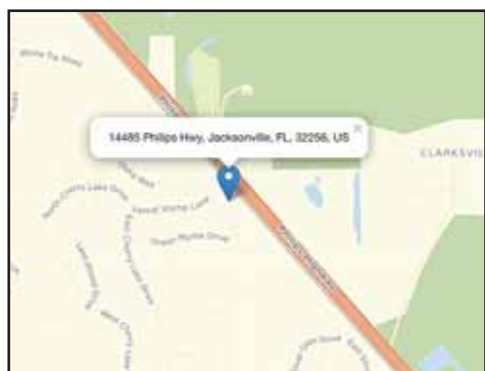
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# Gardening

**The Cool Season — In so many ways**

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Jacksonville has been lucky — so far. As of early October, the people of the Carolinas are struggling to recover from continuing flooding after Hurricane Florence; our thoughts go out to them. But Florida now has its own storm, Michael, which will hit the Gulf Coast as a strong category 4 hurricane. We hope for the best under dreadful circumstances.

On a more positive note, hailing from another clime, albeit more than 30 years ago, I really love the onset of cooler weather. (And even “cold” weather, in this climate zone.) So much so, that autumn is my time for walks on the beach and generally enjoying getting out and about, after the blistering summer heat has moderated. I think many people would agree that it’s more appealing weather for gardening too, and there are plenty of tasks to tackle.

One such project may be planting a new bed in good time to allow the plants to settle in before the colder months of January and February. There are plenty of resources to turn to for ideas, and perhaps the most useful one is the Florida-Friendly Landscaping (R) program. There are nine principles governing the program, with “Right Plant, Right Place” being the first and probably the most important; it covers all the information needed for success. For an overview and links to detailed guidance on design and plant choice, begin here <https://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/>. This video from the Polk County Extension office is a good introduction to the program and not overly specific to their county: <https://tinyurl.com/yczc5ycv>.

To keep your cool season vegetable production well organized, decide what you can reasonably eat (unless you like to share your bounty or are adept at home canning and freezing), and plant small quantities of your favorites at intervals. Some of the brassicas and mustards are large plants and you may only need a few

to satisfy your needs. Broccoli produces small tender side shoots resembling the large main head after it has been harvested, and can be treated as a “cut and come again” vegetable. Carrots are slow growing, but a short row sown every week or two through the season may suffice. These are tactics from which we all would benefit. I’ve certainly been too gung-ho in the past, and my family has made it clear that some vegetables can quickly lose their appeal if they appear too often on the menu. Refer to the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide for what to plant, and when: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. This is a comprehensive guide that is well worth consulting regularly.

Certain culinary herbs that struggle in Florida’s summer will be coming into their own. For an illustrated guide to herbs and how to grow them, check out this PowerPoint presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/yd3fdtku>.

Autumn-blooming wildflowers along our roadsides have been delightful. The tall billowy yellow flowers are goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.) which make a spectacular display when massed. However, not all species are suitable for a modest sized garden, as some can spread aggressively. Check out this article about Chapman’s goldenrod (*S. odora*), one of the more restrained species: <https://tinyurl.com/y74s8fbz>. And there are cultivars available in the nursery trade which have been bred for desirable characteristics.

My beautyberry bushes (*Callicarpa americana*) are putting on their fall display of luscious magenta berries — a real treat for mockingbirds, who find them irresistible. It reminds me that I share “my” space with other creatures, seen and unseen, and prompts me to try to tread lightly and considerately in my dealings with others — of all descriptions.

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# Faith-Worship-Praise Section

## Faith News

**Nov. 6:** 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 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Fruit Cove Baptist Church, 501 State Road 13. Contact Barbara Campbell at [barbara.inhisimage@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.inhisimage@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

**Nov. 14:** St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will host Spirit Day at Moon Dog Pie House, 115 Bartram Oaks Walk #105, from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Mention the St. Patrick's Well Project and Moon Dog will pass on some proceeds of both dine in and take out orders. St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 1221 State Road 13, has been raising money to buy a well in an underdeveloped village through Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org).) So far, \$3,500 of the needed \$5,000 has been raised.

Have a church event coming up?  
Email us at [editor@floridanewslines.com](mailto:editor@floridanewslines.com)



Photos courtesy Max Willerer

### Blessing of the Animals held at local church

On Sunday, Sept. 30, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church offered the annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who reminds us to care for all of God's creation. Pictured is one of the precious animals in attendance, Buster, the well loved dog of Blake Beauchamp and his mother, Becky, who received a prayer from The Reverend Rhonda Willerer, Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.



Tessa, faithful dog of Hugh and Linda McClelland, patiently waits for a blessing and a treat.

## The Positive Potty Project: Girl Scouts give an inspiring bathroom makeover

By Emma Revels  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

Four local middle school girls decided they wanted to make a difference in their middle school bathroom facilities in hopes that it might help fellow teenagers know that they are truly loved. Addy and Emma Revels, along with Girl Scout friends Rebecca Tattersall and Miranda Shalters, all parishioners of San Juan del Rio Catholic Church, met over the spring and summer to strategize how to best help their community combat the dangers of teenage depression. Today, one in four teenage girls are susceptible to depression. The girls dedicated their Silver Project work to creating a safe and inspiring space for both the girls and boys of San Juan del Rio Church and school.

The Positive Potty project took more than 50 hours of planning and execution as the girls decided to paint both of the bathrooms as well as to add decorative items to the doors and walls. They were thrilled to partner with Lowe's Home Improvement, which graciously donated two gallons of paint to the project. Hand painted murals, using the school's key words for success, as well as Bible quotes



Photos courtesy Judy Revels

were used to decorate the bathrooms. Before leaving the bathroom, the message, "You Are LOVED" is the last thing seen before exiting.

"We wanted everyone who entered our bathrooms to know that they are important, they are unique and they are truly loved," said Addy Revels.

The girls will now apply for their silver



project final paperwork and hope to receive their award through Gateway Council of Girl Scouts in the spring.

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# Travel

## A Visit to the Wild Turkey Museum

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Turkeys dominate holiday images, advertisements and dinner tables in November. We tend to forget that this symbol of Americana has an elusive cousin — the Wild Turkey. Ben Franklin preferred the turkey as the nation's symbol over the eagle, considering the latter "of bad moral character." He considered the turkey "a much more respectable bird" and an American original.

Today, the noble bird still has a promoter — the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and its museum. You'll find this place in Edgefield, S.C. Sniffing out the Winchester Museum brings you to one of the South's hidden gems: a small interactive museum with world-class exhibits. After a museum tour, filling as a Thanksgiving feast, you can head over to the Palmetto Center, on NWTF property, with two sporting clay courses, five trap and skeet overlays, and a 3D archery range.

The Winchester is the world's only museum dedicated to wild turkey restoration, management and hunting. It tells the wild turkey's amazing comeback story. An important source of food for the pioneers and the expanding country, their population by the 1930s had dwindled to about 200,000. Work to restore them began with the capture and relocate method. By 1973 the

population of the native North American birds rose to nearly a million. Since then, it has grown to near full capacity around 6.5 to 7 million — still a tiny fraction of the country's consumption of its cousins on a single Thanksgiving Day. Wildlife management remains key to maintaining a thriving population.

A tour of the museum begins with 3D dioramas of the five wild turkey subspecies.

Despite Looney Tunes portrayals, the male struts with more glamor and colorful feathers than the dressed-down female.

Children are especially attracted to an exhibition featuring a Disney-quality animated Cherokee Indian who shares legends about wild turkeys. The mesmerizing movement of his hands is eerily real. Around the corner, another lifelike character sits in a rocking chair, telling stories about the history of

turkey hunting, conservation and the NWTF. The aura of the place pays due homage to the turkey's role in American history and culture.

Entering the virtual reality theater

transports you deep into a forest at the break of dawn. As light begins to appear, the sounds of nature mixing with early morning calls of wild turkeys emerge. Hear wings flap as they fly from their roosts.



Photo courtesy Debi Lander  
Wild Turkey hunters statue at the Winchester Museum.

Those who have had the delight of seeing wild turkeys probably recall them strutting on the ground, but they sleep in trees.

If the call of the wild moves you, take up a laser-like gun to bag a wild turkey on video. Newbie hunters find this interactive opportunity a terrific introduction and simulation of the sport. Meander over to the call center to learn how to make the sounds that hunters

use to call turkeys, enticing them in a vulnerable direction. Use your phone's video camera to capture the hilarious cacophony!

One of the museum's most treasured collections features historic turkey calls donated by master makers Neil Cost and M.L. Lynch. These Smithsonian quality art pieces showcase the exquisite work of extraordinary craftsmen. The display cases provide compelling visual explanations of the evolution of turkey calls, spanning more than one hundred years.

Visitors may also climb into a retired USDA Forest Service helicopter to watch a movie, much like an IMAX film. The film makes guests feel like they're in flight. Participants look down on rangers igniting and tracking a prescribed forest burn.

National Wild Turkey Federation Museum: [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)

Visit [www.bylandersea.com](http://www.bylandersea.com) to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.

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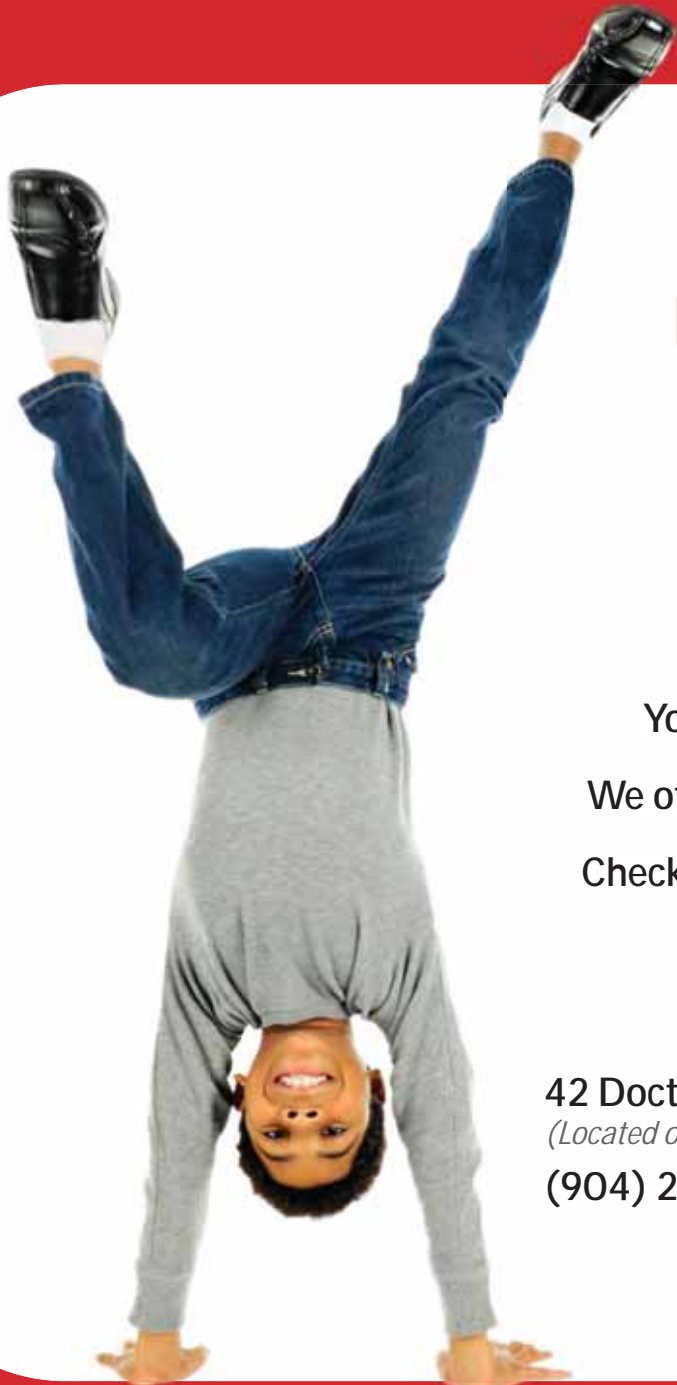
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