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BFF Best Furry Friend



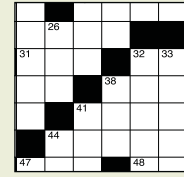
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Inquiring Minds want to know!



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Get to Know... Bob and Sarah Trunell



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Puzzles

Bartram Trail Branch Library closed for repairs

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

The Bartram Trail Branch Library, located at 60 Davis Pond Blvd., closed on Saturday, April 20 for repairs to the sprinkler system. The anticipated re-opening date is shortly after Labor Day in September, according to Judy Chandler, vice president of the Friends of the Bartram Trail Branch Library.



Photo courtesy Martie Thompson

The Bartram Trail Branch Library is presently closed for needed repairs.

The 14,980 square foot library, which opened in 1997, will undergo a project to replace all fire sprinkler pipes and fixtures throughout the building and library exterior. Because this project addresses the entire building's fire suppression system, the branch must remain closed to staff, volunteers, and patrons through its duration.

"We understand the disruption in local service this closure will cause," said Dan Markus, Bartram Trail Branch Manager. "We hope our patrons will take advantage of the great electronic collections we offer for borrowing and use the temporary location we have arranged to check out physical items."

Chandler said the librarians have

Library closed cont. on pg. 17

20th annual Riding into History motorcycle show is gearing up

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Once again, the Riding into History team is preparing for the annual motorcycle show at World Golf Village. The Grand Marshal Tour and Dinner will serve approximately 200 guests and will be held on May 10. The show will be on the following day, May 11, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Starting as a small show 20 years ago, the World Golf Village motorcycle event has grown into the largest vintage motorcycle show in America. Half a million dollars have been donated to locally based charities over the years and the event is showing no signs of slowing down. Approximately 300 – 350 antique and vintage motorcycles will be showcased around the lake at the World Golf Village and vendors will be on hand for food and drinks. A charity store will also be open for souvenirs and gifts.

Gloria Struck has been chosen as this year's Grand Marshal. Struck started



Approximately 300 – 350 antique and vintage motorcycles will be showcased around the lake at the World Golf Village.

riding at the age of 16. In 1946, at the age of 21, Struck became one of the early members of the Motor



Photos courtesy William Robinson

Riding into History has grown into the largest vintage motorcycle show in America.

Maids women's motorcycle club. She has ridden more than 650,000 miles across America and parts of Europe on 11 Harley Davidsons and three Indian Motorcycles. She is a frequent long distance rider to

ra-
lies for the Motor Maids Convention and the national Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Struck is also a member of the Sturgis Hall of Fame and the Motorcycle Hall of Fame. She will be available for auto-graphs at the show.

"This event grows every year. It takes a lot of planning and well over 100 volunteers

to make it all run smoothly, but it turns out to be a great family friendly couple of days for every-

one," said Advisory Board chairman, William Robinson.

Various classes of motorcycles will be judged and voted on by guests. Winners will receive trophies. Entering a motorcycle is free if it's accepted into the concours. This is a public family friendly event and entrance is \$15 at the door.

Visit ridingintohistory.org for more information on the event, registration or volunteering.

This is a public family friendly event and entrance is \$15 at the door.



Riding into History is a family friendly event.

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TheCreekLineCommunityNewspaperisafreemonthlypublicationdistributed via mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32259 and selected routes in 32092 and 32095. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2019.



BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Duke!



BREED:
Siamese

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Sleeping

FAVORITE TREAT:
Yes, I beg like a dog at dinner time.

FAVORITE FRIEND:
My mom's grandbaby, Saylor (age 22 months)

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
When I was brought home as a kitten, my original name was Simba. My family changed it to Duke after I smacked the family dog when she got over excited saying hello!

This month's sponsor:
Palencia Pet Clinic
159 Palencia Village Dr #101
www.palenciapetclinic.com

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!

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Win two free day passes to Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island (value \$65) by correctly guessing our Mystery Photo this month. We will hold a random drawing of all correct answers. Email your guess to mail@floridanewslines.com. Good luck!

Last month's Mystery Photo was Nease High School. Our winner was Dana Muller. Congratulations!

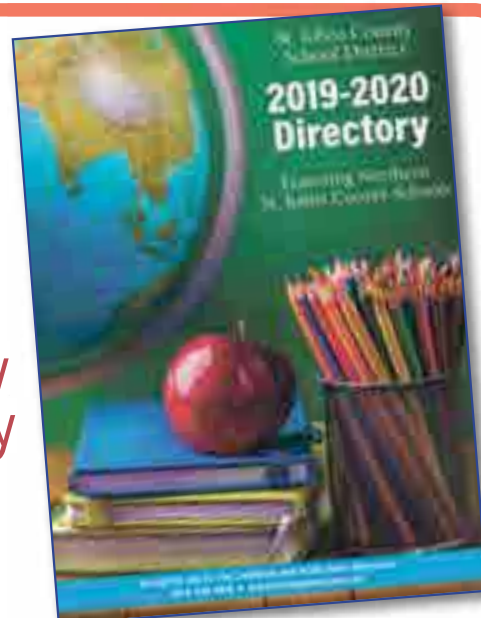
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around town

May 1
Jacksonville Camera Club
 6:45 p.m.
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.
www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

May 2
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

May 2
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

May 3
Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
www.rotarystjohns.org

May 5
8th annual Jacksonville Jewish Food Festival
 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 The Temple at 8727 San Jose Blvd.
www.thetemplejacksonville.org

May 6
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 New location: Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia
adsilby@yahoo.com

May 7
World Golf Village Toastmasters
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

May 7
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

May 9
American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring Dr. Mackenzie Moon Ryan
 6:15 p.m.
 Coquina Crossing Clubhouse, 4536 Coquina Crossing Drive, Elkton
 RSVP by May 6: (505) 980-7865 or pk-inchen02@gmail.com

May 9
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

May 10
Running of the Knights
 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Creekside High School
www.runningoftheknights.com

May 11
Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
 Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.
 Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
 Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

May 11
HAWKE's Dine on the Wild Side
 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 St. Augustine Alligator Farm
www.hawkewildlife.org

May 12
Mother's Day Extravaganza to benefit Nease Media Center
 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Top Golf, 10531 Brightman Blvd., Jacksonville
Carolyn.Milian@stjohns.k12.fl.us

May 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

May 14
Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's luncheon featuring Dean Martin tribute show
 11 a.m.
 Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd.
 RSVP by May 5, bartramtc@gmail.com

May 18
Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles
 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
 Repeating event on third Saturday of each month

May 18
Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting featuring Rik Feeney, "Publishing: What's New in 2019?"
 10 a.m.
 Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine
 Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com

May 18
Herbal Medicine and Foods from The Garden
 10 a.m.
 Garden of Eatin, Lake Beluthahatchee
 Pre registration required: (386) 972-1891

May 20
First Coast Newcomers Club Dinner/Trivia evening
 5:30 p.m.
 World Golf Village area restaurant
 Limited number; RSVP (904) 829-0643

May 20
All Star Quilt Guild
 9:45 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

May 21
St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org

May 21
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

May 21
Free Tools to Quit Smoking Class
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Wildflower Healthcare Clinic, 268 Herbert St., St. Augustine
 Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

May 31
Helping Hands of St. Johns County
 10 a.m.
 Faith Community Church, 3450 County Road 210W
jacqphil@aol.com

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calendar@floridanewsline.com

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take 5

Running of the Knights returns for ninth year

The Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club will host the ninth annual Running of the Knights on Friday, May 10 from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Creekside High School. The event includes a 5K, one mile fun run, centipede team race and family friendly festival. Funds raised will help support the school's student athletes, Power of Creekside Band and fine arts students. There will be a \$500 cash prize for the top male and female 5K finishers. The festival will feature original music by Sidecreek Band, a group of local musicians made up of Creekside alumni, in addition to performances by the Power of Creekside drumline and the Creekside cheer and dance teams. The Knight's Feast is sponsored by Smithfield Foods, featuring Curly's pulled pork sandwiches, Eckrich sausages and Nathan's Famous hotdogs, along with fresh fruit, drinks, and snacks. Visit www.runningoftheknights.com for event booth applications, sponsorship packages and registration.

North Florida Women's Chorale to perform in St. Augustine

The North Florida Women's Chorale is performing its annual free spring concert on Saturday, May 4 at 12 p.m. at the Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St. Titled "Much Ado About Women," the North Florida Women's

Chorale will sing moving songs of hope and encouragement for women's roles in society. The chorus is celebrating its 13th year with director Kerry Fradley, accompanied by Kathleen Vande Berg as collaborative pianist. In addition to singing, the chorus also selects a community service project for each concert theme; attendees are invited to donate items for care packages for women that are undergoing cancer treatments. Visit www.womenschorale.org for more information.

HAWKE hosts "Dine on the Wild Side"

HAWKE, Inc. (Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education), a 501 c (3) non-profit rehabilitation and educational organization, announces its 25th annual "Dine on the Wild Side" fundraiser benefit to be held on Saturday, May 11, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park. This ticketed event includes entrance to the alligator farm as well as a complete dinner. Melanie Stage, founder of HAWKE, will lead a guided boardwalk tour of the bird rookery, where thousands of nesting, wading birds, herons, egrets, endangered wood storks and roseate spoonbills can be viewed. Advance tickets are available online at www.hawkewildlife.org. Call (904) 692-1777 or email helphawke@windstream.net for more information.

Safe boating classes offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary

"About Boating Safely" is a one-day course designed to inform and instruct owners and passengers on recreational boats.

The next course is offered on May 11 beginning at 7:45 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport Conference Center. Any boat operator in the State of Florida born after Jan. 1, 1988, when operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or more, must have in their possession a Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card. Successful completion of the About Boating Safely course will meet this obligation. Visit <https://abs.mysafeboating.com> to sign up for the course or contact course instructor, Vic Aquino, at pe@mysafeboating.com for more information.

Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club "visit" Las Vegas

On May 14, Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will feature an Italian meal and tribute show to Dean

Martin, featuring Felix J. Deneau, Jr., at their luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. at the Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. New officers will also be installed: Beth Rosado, president; Donna Holland, first vice president; Laura Hernandez, second vice president; Maureen O'Connor, second vice president; Mary Ann Kriniske, treasurer; and Carolyn Rousseau, secretary. Cost of the luncheon, which features a choice of eggplant parmigiana and pasta, lasagna with meat sauce, or chicken marsala, is \$35. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Hilda Gilpin, 621 Pineland Lane, Saint Johns, FL 32259, no later than May 5. Indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line.



Photo courtesy Metro Creative

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Visit rivergarden.org or call (904) 260-1818.



with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: Can you dispel some of the myths surrounding Vote by Mail?

A: One of the biggest myths surrounding Vote by Mail ballots is that they are only counted when an election is close. The fact is, they are the first to be counted. Vote by Mail ballots are opened and processed by the canvassing board starting a week prior to Election Day, as they come in to our office. We use the high speed counter, which is different from the machines used at the precincts. We keep the results secure until 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Q: How does one make a request for a Vote by Mail ballot?

A: You can request one by visiting our website or calling our office. The request can be for up to two elections, or four years — or any number of elections in between. If the voter doesn't specify a time frame, we will send the Vote by Mail ballots for the four years. When the Vote by Mail time frame is expiring, we send out a postcard notification. Voters may either allow it to expire, or call us or go online to expand the request.

If you look on our website under "Quick Links," there is an option of "My Voter Status." Here, you can check your voter record as well as see if you will be receiving a ballot by mail. You can also check to see when the ballot has been mailed, and once you have returned it to us, you can see when we received it.

Q: What is important to note when filling out a Vote by Mail ballot?

A: In order to be counted, the voter must sign the outside of the envelope where it clearly states "Voter Must Sign." This is the signature that will be compared to the signature we have on file and serves as the official ID for

the ballot. If the signature here doesn't match or is left blank, we will contact the voter either by telephone, email, or US Mail, with the steps they must take to "cure" the ballot. Under current law, the voter has until the Monday prior to Election Day to cure.

Q: Are there typically a lot of Vote by Mail ballots that end up being not valid?

A: In November 2018, our office received more than 30,000 Vote by Mail ballots. Fewer than 100 ended up being rejected because the voter did not sign or the signature didn't match AND the voter didn't respond to our efforts to cure. That is really a very small percentage.

Q: What's the most important thing to note about voting by mail?

A: If you choose to Vote by Mail, you need to return the ballot in time to be counted. It must be received by our office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. Last election, we received approximately 200 ballots the day after Election Day. They had been postmarked either the day before Election Day or on Election Day itself, but were received by our office too late to be counted.

Q: What about overseas military voters?

A: They receive their ballots 45 days prior to Election Day and are the only group who may receive their ballot via email to print out and either fax or air mail back to us. Overseas military has an additional 10 days after Election Day for their ballot to be received and counted.

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

A: Readers can email me at voakes@votesjc.com or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, www.votesjc.com also has a wealth of information.



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

Q: Can you give us an update on the recent School Board vote on the high school site associated with the Silverleaf development?

A: The developer of Silverleaf wants to change the plan for the school site. The choices we were given were to accept the site adjacent to the Silverleaf DRI or have no high school site at all. The developer did agree to pay for building a road within the development to access the school from inside Silverleaf; this one DRI will generate one full high school of kids. It was quite a challenge to get to a place where we can make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners; that's really all the school board can do. It was a tense time of thoughtful consideration and in the end the School Board voted 3 – 2 to accept the site offered by the developer. The Board of County Commissioners will vote on this at their May 21 meeting.

Q: What did you hear from some of the neighbors?

A: Some neighbors wanted to keep the original 2015 agreement which had the school site located within the Silverleaf DRI, but that was off the table. The DRI has evolved over time.

Q: Have you seen the school site?

A: I did look at the property. It is a beautiful, flat, 100 acres. It was previously a sod farm. We asked the architects to think about how they can best site the school on the land. They can move the school east and forward on the

site and have retention ponds in order to not impact the neighbors too much.

Q: Do you have any other construction updates?

A: We are pushing close to converting Mill Creek Academy to a K-7 school next year. It will eventually be a K-8. It is beautiful. They have added an academic building and a gymnasium to the Mill Creek campus.

Freedom Crossing Academy and Palm Valley Academy are also on target for being K-7 schools next year.

Also next year, we are gearing up to expand Liberty Pines Academy with an additional academic building. It will take about a year to build with projected completion in 2020.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 1?

A: I'd like to emphasize that parents need to register their new students as early as possible, especially for kindergarten. If current residents would let their new neighbors who move in over the summer know to register right away, that will help us get the right number of teachers for next year. You can go to your zoned school to register; all schools will be open for the summer with reduced summer hours of 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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.



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

Q: Can you shed any light on the latest status of Hallows Cove, the pristine area of the St. Johns River within the RiverTown development on State Road 13?

A: This is the second or third time the subject of a marina at this location has come up. Years ago, the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for RiverTown was approved with a prohibition of any marina being built here. When Mattamy bought the property, they bought it with this approved DRI. Now it seems they want to build a 250 slip marina on the passive riverfront park at the mouth of Hallows Cove.

I certainly haven't heard an outcry from the community in favor of a marina. The last couple of times this came up, I received feedback from the community that they didn't want this property disturbed for a marina. I told the developer this and they withdrew the request, but sometimes developers

refile to see if the community has had a change of heart.

It hasn't come to the Board of County Commissioners yet. It would require a major modification with public hearings, meetings and the permitting process to change this use of land. I like to ask, what's the benefit? Is it to the community or to the individual requesting the change? So I need to hear from people in the community if they want or don't want a marina.

Q: Can you comment on the contract status of County Administrator Michael Wanchick?

A: I think it is important for people to realize how impactful this position is to their daily lives — and I think he's done a good job. The Board of County Commissioners can only hire two positions: the county attorney and the county

Jimmy Johns cont. on pg. 18

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfi.us)
 Sheriff's Office: Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org, (904) 824-8304
 Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150

Property Appraiser: Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@sjcpa.us; (904) 827-5500

Supervisor of Elections: Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com, (904) 823-2238

Tax Collector: Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us, (904) 209-2250

Clerk of Court: Hunter S. Conrad, (904) 819-3600

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
 District 1: Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301
 District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2smith@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0302
 District 3: Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0303
 District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304
 District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

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

State of Florida Elected Officials
 Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov, (904) 823-2300

State Senate District 7: Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610

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

U.S. Senate:
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**with Florida State Representative
Cyndi Stevenson, District 17**

Q: What is the upcoming schedule (after the date of this interview, April 12)?

A: We should be in "conference" soon on the budget. Session ends on May 1.

Q: Can you give us an update on the voter privacy bill you are sponsoring?

A: This bill is ready for the floor. The bill is an attempt to protect the personal information of 16 and 17 year olds who pre register to vote. Voter information including name, address, gender, political party and birthdate are all public record. The bill also now includes the provision that phone numbers and email addresses of all voters would no longer be public record in addition to all the information of the minors. This was added by amendment and I think it's a welcome addition.

Q: What can you tell us about the status of HB 25, which you are sponsoring?

A: This bill allows for ambulatory surgical centers to provide more affordable options to a hospital for qualifying surgical procedures, as well as allow a 48-hour stay. Now, many stays are less than 24 hours. It also adds certain birthing services to the suite of permitted services. This bill is also ready for the floor.

Q: What can you tell us about your Peer Specialist Bill?

A: This bill will allow more people (such as those who have overcome men-

tal illness or substance abuse themselves) to serve as peer specialists, which have been found to be very helpful in support of others to help in their recovery.

Q: Do you have an update on the cyber harassment bill?

A: This issue was brought to us by law enforcement and the terms of the bill I sponsored have now been included in a larger bill. HB 1043 makes the 2015 cyberstalking bill that we passed more effective; both bills target what is generally known as "revenge porn." When someone sends by electronic means a sexually explicit image of someone for the sole purpose of embarrassing or harassing the person depicted without their permission, the sender would be subject to prosecution under this law. Previously, law enforcement was unable to enforce against images sent directly by email. The 2015 bill required the image to be posted on the internet, which left out many intentional acts of revenge porn due to the proliferation of high quality photographic and recording devices and the ability to easily share digital images.

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

A: Readers can email me at Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov or call my local office at (904) 823-2300.



**with State Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit,
R.J. Larizza**

Q: What can you tell us about fraud in our area?

A: Florida is arguably the leader in the country in fraud. This is partly because we have a lot of senior citizens who have worked their whole lives and then retire here — they're natural targets for scammers who want to prey upon the vulnerable. Also, with the state's booming economy, construction fraud is prevalent.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell people to protect themselves against fraud. We are good at prosecuting, but we'd prefer to prevent fraud from happening. Don't be a victim.

Q: Can you give us some more information about construction fraud?

A: There are several ways construction companies are fraudulent. They can take people's deposits and then not pull a permit or do any work and then not be found. Or the construction company might utilize subcontractors and not pay them. The subcontractor can file a lien on the homeowner's residence and the homeowner ends up paying twice.

Some tips would be:

Make sure your contractor is licensed. You can check with your county's building and permitting department; they generally know if there are problems with a company. The Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce can also be resources.

Make sure your contractor is insured. Have them show you proof.

Don't give a big deposit up front. This is a red flag; the company might not be financially viable to complete your job.

Q: Can you tell us about some of the latest credit card fraud you have seen?

A: Counterfeit credit cards are something we are seeing. Basically, the scammer will steal a bank debit card from those racks in the store. They wash off

the identifying number on the front of the card and then buy stolen credit card information obtained from data breaches. They use an embosser to put the stolen information on the debit card and also can implant the information in the magnetic strip on the back. The credit card looks real — because it is a real card, but it has been altered with fraudulently obtained information.

Q: What are some other types of fraud to watch out for?

A: Ponzi schemes tend to work because some people get greedy. They want to make a lot of money fast, and that usually doesn't happen. It's important to use vetted, tried and true investment vehicles. Do your due diligence and don't become a victim.

Of course there are the internet scams involving the Nigerian prince who wants to give you money or the big sweepstakes you've won ... if you just give the sender a deposit. Scammers continue to send these emails because they can send so many. They only need one or two people to respond out of several thousand to be profitable.

A lot of scammers and fraudsters live out of the country and the odds of catching them are slim and the odds of getting your money back are even slimmer.

Q: Do you have any general advice to avoid being taken advantage of?

A: Prevention and protection are key. Use your credit card for purchases rather than your debit card. Credit card companies can give you chargebacks if you are scammed, but a fraudulent use of your debit card might empty out your bank account.

Our website (www.sao7.org) has more tips and Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's website (www.myfloridalegal.com) has information on some of the latest scams.

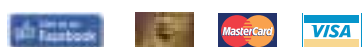
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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Chamber recognizes local business owners during National Small Business Week, May 5 -11

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is participating in National Small Business Week, May 5 — May 11. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and community members nationwide. According to Chamber sources, in St. Johns County small businesses include more than 6,000 locally owned and operated companies.

According to Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO, “This is a great opportunity to recognize our area’s small businesses that contribute significantly to our local communities, develop creative products and talent, and make advances with innovative technologies. We encourage everyone to shop local and support small businesses that comprise a significant portion of our economy.”

The Chamber’s numerous programs and services along with specialized councils and events help small business owners to start, build and grow their organizations and staff, and receive assistance for recovery from disasters.

Tom Dolan, owner of Meehan’s Irish Pub & Seafood House at 20 Avenida Menendez in historic downtown St. Augustine, has nine years in business at the location and 49 employees. He

is grateful for local talent in the service industry and from college students who depend on making an income at his 172-seat dining and bar establishment. Loyal support comes from area customers and visitors.

“The majority of our staff live nearby as do our customers who frequent Meehan’s. Visitors are approximately 40 percent of our business except during major events and festivals when we welcome more destination tourists,” he said.

Steve Hudson, MSIM, is a digital marketing expert and co-founder and president of local small business Law Firm Marketing, LLC and Digital Mark Company, LLC in northwest St. Johns County. He is a longtime Chamber member and Ambassador, and chairman of the North Business Council and graduated from the Chamber’s Leadership St. Johns program in 2018.

As a retired U.S. Navy military war veteran, former school teacher in St. Augustine, and successful entrepreneur, Hudson leveraged his experience as a specialist in data-driven marketing and SEO focus to increase his clients’ bottom line.

“Launching my small businesses and staying active in the Chamber while



Photos courtesy Linda Gay

Superintendent of Schools Forson visits North Business Council

On Tuesday morning, April 16, Superintendent of St. Johns County Schools Tim Forson spoke to members of the North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber at their regularly scheduled meeting at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Forson discussed the growth in St. Johns County Schools, the impact of the half-cent sales tax passed by voters to fund school construction, and safety in schools. Pictured are Stephen Hudson, North Business Council Chair, Superintendent Tim Forson and Isabelle Renault, president/CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber. The North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce promotes unity, educates and provides a forum to discuss issues that affect all local area businesses. The Council provides current information on local and state legislation and initiatives that have an economic impact on the areas that make up the North Business Council. Visit www.sjccchamber.com for more information.

Local Business cont. on pg. 21

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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.

Q: What is going to be built where the land is being cleared on the east side of Veterans Parkway, just south of Race Track Road? It is to the west and south of the Sutton Hollow subdivision of Julington Creek Plantation.

A: We reached out to Casey Dendor, planner with the St. Johns County Growth Management Planning and Zoning Division.

She said, "This property has been approved for a Fire Station site. The plans were approved in February and a Clearance Sheet has also been issued. At this time a building permit has not been issued."

Q: Are there any plans for the undeveloped area on the south side of Race Track Road near the intersection with St. Johns Parkway?

A: According to Dendor: "An application is currently in review for the Southwest Quadrant at Race Track Road and St. Johns Parkway. This is a Comprehensive Plan Amendment request to change the Future Land Use Map classification of 71 acres from Rural/Silviculture and Residential-A to Mixed Use and Conservation with an added text policy limiting development to 250,000 square feet of commercial and 400 multi-family units. Commercial and office uses are proposed to be community and neighborhood related in nature. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment application was transmitted by the Board of County Commissioners to the State on Feb. 19, 2019. Prior to final approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment application, there will be two more public hearings (to the Planning and Zoning Agency and Board of County Commissioners), these meetings are scheduled for May 2, 2019 (PZA) and June 18, 2019 (BCC).

"There is a companion Planned Development (PUD) application in for review to rezone the aforementioned 71 acres of land from Open Rural to Planned Unit Development to allow for a Mixed Use development consisting of 250,000 square feet of commercial/neighborhood retail and 400 multi-family residential units. This rezoning application first review has not yet been completed but I anticipate it will be later this week or early next week. If the Comprehensive Plan Amendment is approved, the PUD application will move forward. Once all or a majority of staff's comments have been addressed the PUD application will be scheduled for public hearings. One hearing before the Planning and Zoning Agency and the second before the Board of County Commissioners for final determination. Once this PUD application is scheduled for hearing there will be a Community Meeting held at least 15 days prior to the PZA meeting and noticed will be published in the paper and signs will be posted at the site."

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Golf carts – What you need to know

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Lately there has been some confusion in NW St. Johns County neighborhoods about the use of golf carts. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has compiled the following facts and information:

What is a golf cart?

A golf cart is defined as a motor vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and not capable of speeds greater than 20 miles per hour.

Where can golf carts be driven?

Per St. Johns County Ordinance, golf carts can only be operated on "designated roads" that have a speed limit not greater than 25 miles per hour.

What is a "designated road?"

A "designated road" is a county road that has received approval from St. Johns County for the use of golf carts. A road approved for golf cart use will have appropriate signage and/or pavement markings (generally a yellow and black sign portraying a golf cart and the words "Share the Road" for example) to indicate that such vehicle use is allowed. Just because a road is maintained or owned by the county does not mean that it is a road designated for golf cart use.

Which subdivisions in northern St. Johns County have designated roads for golf cart use?

The only subdivisions where golf carts may legally be driven are:

Nocatee
Palencia

Southaven/Markland
St. Johns Golf and Country Club
Cimarrone
Six Mile Creek
Sawgrass Country Club
Marsh Landing Country Club

Who may drive a golf cart?

Golf carts may only be operated by persons 14 years of age or older. The driver is not required to be licensed, but must have photographic identification like a state/military ID or school ID. There is a night restriction: juveniles under the age of 16 who do not hold a valid driver's license may not operate a golf cart on designated roads between the hours of 11 p.m. – 6 a.m.

What equipment must a golf cart have?

Golf carts must have efficient brakes and steering, safe tires, a rearview mirror and reflectors on the front and rear.

Can golf carts be operated on sidewalks?

No golf cart may be operated on any sidewalk adjacent to a county or state highway except on a multi-use path. A multi-use path is a sidewalk that has been approved by the county for use of golf carts and can be shared by bicyclists and pedestrians. The speed limit for golf carts on multi-use paths is 15 miles per hour.

Violations of the county golf cart ordinance may be prosecuted via county citation. Fines range from \$75 for a first violation to \$168 for the second and subsequent violations.

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Water Damage • Texture • Paint
- ◆ **Closets:** Shelves • Organizers
Additional Closets Built • Closet Painting
- ◆ **Decks:** Install • Repair • Remove
Power Wash • Stain • Paint
- ◆ **Docks:** Paint • Stain • Power Wash
Rail Repairs
- ◆ **Drywall:** Install • Remove
Repair • Replace • Tape • Spackle
Texture • Paint
- ◆ **Doors:** All types • Install • Remove
Repair • Paint • Door Knobs • Door Locks
Screen Doors • Doggie Doors
- ◆ **Dryer Vent Cleaning:** Avoid Fires
- ◆ **Fences:** Gates • Install • Replace
Repair • Power Wash • Paint • Stain
- ◆ **Flooring:** Tile • Wood • Laminate • Linoleum
Install • Replace • Repair • Remove
- ◆ **Garage Flooring:** Power Wash
Paint • Stain
- ◆ **Garage Shelves:** Wire Shelves
Wood & More
- ◆ **Gutters:** Clean Out • Power Wash • Painting
- ◆ **Kitchen Remodeling:** Full or Partial
Tile & More
- ◆ **Hurricane Protection:** Install & Remove
- ◆ **Light Bulbs** ◆ **Mail Boxes**
- ◆ **Mirror hanging** ◆ **Curtain Rods**
- ◆ **Smoke Alarm Battery:**
Replacement & More
- ◆ **Painting:** Interior • Exterior • Full Service
- ◆ **Power Washing:** Full Service
- ◆ **Screen Replacement**
- ◆ **Storage Sheds:** Kits only
- ◆ **Siding:** Vinyl • Wood • T-1-11 & More
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- ◆ **Soffit & Fascia Board:** Install • Remove
Replace • Power Wash • Paint
- ◆ **Tile:** Install • Remove • Replace
Walls • Flooring • Also Exterior
- ◆ **Picture Hanging** ◆ **Television Brackets**
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SUMMER CAMP

Guide

Summer fun events and camp guide

Looking for exciting and educational activities to keep the kids active this summer? The CreekLine is helping make your planning a little easier. Read on for a list of local attractions, upcoming events, and summer camps to check out for fun and memorable experiences.

St. Augustine Aquarium

www.saaquarium.com/
2045 State Road 16, St. Augustine,
Florida 32084
(904) 429-9777

Bricks 4 Kidz

www.bricks4kidz.com/florida-saint-johnscounty/camps/
(904) 399-3223 option 5

Code Ninjas

www.codeninjas.com/locations/fl-saint-johns/
(904) 450-5200

Barnes and Noble Story Time

St. Johns Town Center
www.barnesandnoble.com

Bravoz

<https://bravoz.com/programs-classes-specials/>
(904) 373-6381

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Summer Camp

<http://jacksonvillezoo.org/summercamp>
370 Zoo Parkway
(904) 757-4463

The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve Summer Camps

<http://gtmnerr.org/education-and-training/summer-camps/>
505 Guana River Road
(904) 823-4500

Creative Me Art Studio Summer Camp

www.creativemeartstudio.com/summer-camp
132 Everest Ln #3
(904) 770-2222

Bolles Ready? Set?! Summer Camp!

www.bolles.org/page.cfm?p=3136
Happy Acres Ranch Summer Camp
www.happyacresranch.com/summer-camp/
7117 Crane Ave., Jacksonville
(904) 725-1410

Jax Surf and Paddle Summer Camp

<https://jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com/pages/kids-camps>
222 1 St., Neptune Beach
(904) 435-7873

MOCA Art Camp

mocajacksonville.unf.edu/families-and-children/Summer-Art-Camp/
333 North Laura Street, Jacksonville
(904) 366-6911

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Summer Arts camps

www.ccpvb.org/arts-programs/youth-arts-programs
50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach
(904) 280-0614

University of North Florida Youth Sports and Fitness summer camps

www.unf.edu/recwell/camps/
(904) 620-2998

Jewish Community Alliance Summer Camps

jcjax.org/camp/
8505 San Jose Blvd.
(904) 730-2100

The Black Raven Pirate Ship Adventures

www.blackravenadventures.com/
111 Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine
(877) 578-5050

Campapalooza Summer Camp Southside

2342 Eagles Nest Rd. Jacksonville
(904) 233-5605

PGA TOUR Academy Summer Camps

www.pgatourexperiences.com/tour-academies/junior-golf-camps/summer-camps/
(877) 611-1911

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Summer Programs

www.sjcf.us/Recreation/Youth/summer.aspx
(904) 209-0377

MOSH (Museum of Science and History)

themosh.org/
1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville
(904) 396-7062

Stoked To Surf Camp

www.stokedtosurfcamp.com/surfcamp.html
Aqua East 1850 A1A South, St. Augustine
(904) 501-4446

Camp guide cont. on pg. 14



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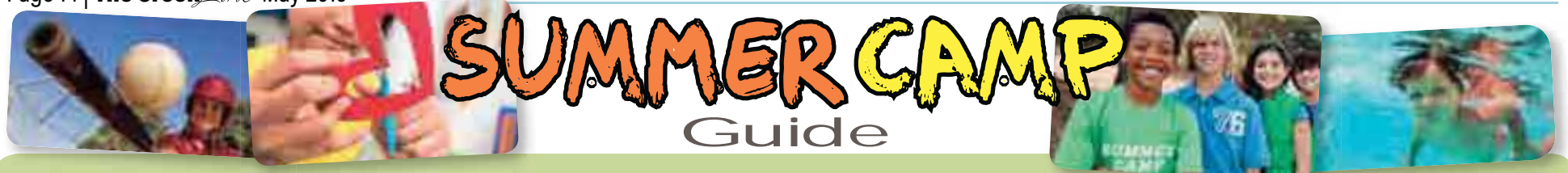



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Camp guide cont. from pg. 12

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

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J&S Carousel

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Sweet Pete's Factory Tour

www.sweetpetescandy.com/collections/camps
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Adventure Landing

jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com/groups/day-care-summer-camp/
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(904) 246-4386

St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park

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(904) 824-3337

Tree Hill Nature Center

www.treehill.org/
7152 Lone Star Road, Jacksonville
(904) 724-4646

Home Depot DIY Kids Workshops

Various locations around Jacksonville and St. Augustine
http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/kids-workshops

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary Tours

www.cattyshack.org/
1860 Starratt Road, Jacksonville
(904) 757-3603

St. Augustine Pier Splash Park

www.simplystaugustine.com/beaches/st-augustine-beach-pier-splash-park/
350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine

Fort Clinch State Park

2601 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Beach
(904) 277-7274

Washington Oaks Garden State Park

6400 N Ocean Shore Blvd, Palm Coast

St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum

www.staugustinelighthouse.org/visit/main
81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine

St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum

www.thepiratemuseum.com/

12 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine

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Doing Dishes Pottery Studio Story Time

www.doingdishes.com/story-time
San Jose Location, 5619 San Jose Blvd.,
(904) 730-3729

Ft. Caroline National Memorial

www.nps.gov/timu/learn/historyculture/foca.htm
12713 Fort Caroline Road

Jacksonville Public Library Summer Reading Program

Various locations. Check online for updated events throughout the summer.
www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

St. Augustine Wild Reserve Tours

www.staugustinewildreserve.org/Tours.htm
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SUMMER CAMP

Guide

Refresher on swimming pool safety

By Tracie Boudreau
mail@floridanewsline.com

Summer is almost here and it doesn't hurt to have a refresher on some safety points concerning pool usage. According to Red Cross.org here are a few safety reminders (the full list can be found on their website):

Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.

Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.

Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim well.

If a child is missing, check the water first.

While the kiddos are splashing around, be sure to supervise them. Have them wear life jackets as an extra safety measure.

The Red Cross has courses on home pool safety, first aid and CPR/AED

classes so everyone can be prepared in case of an emergency.

Of course no one wants an emergency, so in addition to the classes the Red Cross offers there are also other rules often seen at public pools to prevent accidents from occurring. "No running" is a very common rule and cries of "Walk" can often be heard directed at young people. While playing HORSE is fun, horsing around the pool can lead to injury. Don't dive in shallow water and don't play around

drains in the pool.

There are additional tips on www.tampagov.net (see the website for the full list) such as:

Stay out of the water when you are very tired, very cold, or overheated.



Photo courtesy Tracie Boudreau
Signs with pool rules such as this one at the Julington Creek Plantation Recreation Center are common at public pools.

Swimming pool safety cont. on pg. 16

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SUMMER CAMP

Guide

Always practice summer sun safety

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

When the weather is warm, many people take time to relax at the beach or poolside. While such relaxation can provide a welcome break from busy schedules, it's important that men, women and children prioritize protecting their skin when spending time in the sun.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, basal cell carcinoma, or BCC, is the most common form of skin cancer. The American Cancer Society notes that each year there are more new cases of skin cancer in the United States than the combined incidences of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung and colon. Despite that prevalence, many people still



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Be sure to practice summer sun safety.

engage in risky behaviors in the name of outdoor enjoyment. Being safe in the sun won't take anything away from enjoyable outdoor activities, but exercising

such caution will help summer revelers reduce their risk for skin cancer and other conditions.

- Know the risks of UV exposure. Sunlight is needed to engage vitamin D production in the body, but too much sun exposure

can do more harm than good. Ultraviolet, or UV, rays from the sun and other sources, such as tanning beds, are the primary cause of skin cancer. Exposure also can lead to sunburns, premature aging/wrinkling and eye damage.

- Use only broad-spectrum SPF sunscreen. Look for a sunblock product that boasts an SPF of at least 30. The FDA requires any sunscreen with an SPF below 15 to carry a warning that it only protects against sunburn, not skin cancer or skin aging. Find a sunscreen that works against UVA and UVB rays as well. UVA rays are mostly responsible for contributing to skin cancer and premature aging. Reapply frequently, especially when swimming or engaging in activities that cause sweating.

- Know the difference between water-resistant and waterproof sunscreens. Manufacturers are no longer allowed to claim that their sunscreens are waterproof or sweatproof. A sunscreen may be able to repel water for a short time, but it should be reapplied when leaving the water or when spending long stretches in the water.

- Cover up whenever possible. It may seem counterintuitive in hot weather, but covering up can be beneficial to the skin and actually keep a person cooler. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeve tops and light-colored pants. Some materials are made with reflective properties, while others actually boast their own SPF.

Swimming pool safety cont. from pg. 15

Follow all swimming rules posted at the swimming area.

Don't chew gum or eat while swimming; you could choke.

Rainstorms are very common in Florida in the summer. Get out of the pool if there is thunder and lightning. Swimming is fun, but not around the diving boards and slides where the slider could accidentally run into a swimmer.

There are a lot of things to remember, but in general, read and follow the signs at every pool and listen to the lifeguards. They are there to keep people safe. Most importantly remember to have fun.

As Sean Smith, Aquatics Director at the Julington Creek Plantation Recreation Center, said, "We are looking forward to having another successful and safe summer."

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Session 6	July 15-18	Circus

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Get to Know ...

Bob and Sarah Trunell

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

Bob and Sarah Trunell met in 1989 while both were working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. Sarah, a dancer, and Bob, a magician, have traveled the world while entertaining vacationers with their talents.

Bob grew up in Boston and later served in the United States Navy. He has been doing magic and comedy since he was 17 years old and he loves every minute of making an audience gasp. He moved to Jacksonville Beach in 1974 and made the area his permanent home. Bob flies to ports all over the world to join cruise ships and wow the guests with his tricks and illusions. He also makes himself available for local events.

Sarah spent her childhood growing up on the British Isles island of Jersey, located about 14 miles off the northern coast of France. She found her passion for dance at the young age of three and later studied at a performing arts college in London. Like her husband, her dance career has taken her all over the world entertaining others. Currently, Sarah serves as a director at All-state Benefits — quite a change from her previous profession as a dancer, but she enjoys both the work and the people she works alongside.

The Trunnels created their own mini circus tour along the east coast and were married in 1992. They also headlined their own magic illusion show and have traveled to 70 countries sharing their passion. They retired the illusion show in 2010. Currently, the

two enjoy living in the St. Johns subdivision of Wingfield Glen with their newly adopted dog, Luna.

Q: What do you enjoy most about living in St. Augustine?

Sarah: We both love our neighborhood. We enjoy being close enough to everything without being right in the middle of it all.

Q: What inspired your passions for magic and dance?

Bob: I loved watching Canadian magician Doug Henning perform magic. He had several TV specials and a show on Broadway in the '70s. I also loved Johnny Carson and his sense of humor.

Sarah: My grandparents loved to dance and went out dancing almost every weekend. As a teenager, there was a TV show in the UK called "The Hot Shoe Show" with two lead dancers that I loved watching.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Sarah: We enjoy spending time with our friends. We love traveling and also staying home to enjoy our new backyard oasis. We enjoy this area and going to local restaurants.

Q: Bob, what is your favorite magic trick and are you still learning new acts?

Probably a metamorphosis trick by Henry Houdini. It usually gets the biggest reaction from the audience. And yes, I'm always looking for something



Photo courtesy Bob and Sarah Trunell
Bob and Sarah Trunell

to fit in the show. It keeps the juices flowing. It's not really work for me and I'll keep doing magic as long as I physically can.

Q: You've traveled to so many countries. Where have you enjoyed the food most?

Sarah: Well, you can't beat Italy.

Bob: Maybe Vietnam? We like to go off the beaten path to find restaurants. Funny story about eating dinner in Barcelona. They don't eat until 10 o'clock at night, so we walked into a restaurant at 7 p.m. and they looked at us like we were crazy.

Sarah: Yes, Vietnam. I can speak French and Spanish, but in many places we can't communicate all that well, so something that we would do is just point to things on the menu and wait on the surprise of what we were getting. We've had some interesting meals.

Get to Know ...

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

Library closed cont. from pg. 1

taken a limited supply of books to the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks NW Office at Mills Field, which will be used as a temporary location while the building is closed. This temporary storefront, which is located just two miles north of the library branch, will allow patrons to borrow items they have requested and return items during open hours. (These hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

"This location will not have an after hours book drop nor will patrons be able to pay fines in cash here," Chandler said. "Credit cards are accepted for fines over \$3."

Many ongoing library programs have also found temporary homes for the summer:

Adult Crafts and the Friday Book Club will be held at the Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

Tuesday Night Book Club will be held at the Twisted Compass, 585 State Road 13

Story Times will be held at Faith Community Church on County Road 210, just west of Cimarrone

The FLYP children's summer programs will be held at Switzerland Community Church as usual.

The library's phone number will remain the same as it will be forwarded to the temporary location at Mills Field for the summer.

Visit www.sjcpls.org/closure/ for more information and updates on library events and construction.

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Creekside students have the right beat ... and all that jazz

By Heidi Brosofsky-Weaver
mail@floridanewslines.com

It's easy to spot percussionists. For them, everyday objects become instruments, and there's no such thing as sitting still. They're always tapping a hand or foot along with the music in their minds. And Creekside High School percussionist Jackson McLeod is no exception. Recently, he took his drumming skills a step further by composing and performing a complex, three-minute piece of music on the tenor drums that earned him a Superior with Distinction at the Florida Bandmasters Association State Solo Assessment.

To receive this top honor, musicians must memorize lengthy measures of music and perform at a superior level without using any sheet music, according to Rick Fowler, Creekside's director of bands. McLeod spent approximately 20 hours writing and another 20 hours memorizing "Balloon," which he describes as a "fun and bouncy" piece packed with rhythmic patterns. In a day when many want instant gratification, Jackson feels the time commitment is worth the "freedom to write what you want and express yourself better."

"What Jackson did takes a lot of mental fortitude," said Creekside assistant director of bands, Jackson Gilchrist. A percussionist himself, Gilchrist said drummers often play hundreds of additional notes in relation to other instruments during a song due to the nature of the instrument.



Photo courtesy Lisa Edmond
Marimba trio of Ally Esmond, Ryan Peters, and Lilli Mulholland received Superior with Distinction honors at the state assessment.

"Typically, students use variations of what they have played before in order to write out a more complex composition," said Gilchrist.

Playing with speed and precision can be challenging in competition, but Jackson said he prepares his mind by "flipping a switch into performer mode." What's more, he works through his nervousness by having an "alright, I'm going to try my best and see what happens" attitude.

This can-do attitude and work ethic helped the marimba trio of Ally Esmond, Ryan Peters, and Lilli Mulholland also reach their goal of receiving Superior with Distinction honors at the state assessment. The trio practiced once or twice daily for months to perform a complicated, five-minute piece weaving in and out on only one marimba.

"There were parts that were really confusing to play together, and we would spend hours on just one section," Mulholland said. According to Esmond, they had a great time adding "personalities to the piece," and all three band members said the experience was 100 percent worth it.

"I enjoyed spending time with my friends and playing," said Peters.

Like most percussionists, these students play at least 12 different instruments, such as tenor, snare, and bass drums, drum set, cymbals, bass, timpani, bongo, sleigh bells, wood blocks, triangles, xylophone, marimba, metallophone, vibraphone, tambourine, maracas, and gong. Along this line, Gilchrist shared a saying from a former college professor: "Typically students need to be both a drummer and a percussionist. They have to go through the progression of drummer to percussionist. It is harder to 'become' a percussionist, but a percussionist never forgets where they come from."

While percussion is often considered the heartbeat of the band, the entire Creekside band is full of heart and skill. For example, trumpet player Brady Gannon also received FBA Superior with Distinction honors at the state assessment.

Additionally, all three of Creekside's



Photos courtesy Heidi Weaver
Percussionist Jackson McLeod with his tenor drum

jazz bands earned Superior awards at the Jacksonville University Jazz Festival, where they were judged by some of the top collegiate and professional jazz musicians in the United States. Quint Johnson and Henry Van Boskirk received two of three awarded "Best Soloist of the Festival" awards for tenor sax and piano, respectively.

With many middle schoolers looking forward to upcoming high school marching band opportunities, McLeod reminded that it's "never too late" to pick up an instrument.

"You can always start from somewhere and end up where you want," he said.

He shared a story of his friend Spencer Mueller, who began playing as a senior and made it to the state assessment. For McLeod, it's as simple as setting goals, working hard, and of course, drumming on everything from a desk, his knees, or even the kitchen sink.



Photo courtesy Colleen Sperry

Florida NewsLine team attends JAX Chamber Trade Show

On April 2, publisher Mark Pettus and marketing representatives Jeremy Moriarty, Heather Seay and Linda Gay represented Florida NewsLine at the JAX Chamber's annual Trade Show, held at UNF University Center. They joined other Chamber members and attendees eager to network and learn about member businesses all over the Jacksonville area.

Jimmy Johns cont. from pg. 7

administrator. Michael Wanchick has asked to be retained in his position for one or two years and then he wants to retire.

After more than 10 years in this position, he has a lot of institutional knowledge that is hard to immediately duplicate. I think we need to make sure we determine how much time we would need to get someone up to speed to replace him whenever that time comes. Should we look within the county or elsewhere? I like to look to the inside, but not to exclude a potential superstar from the outside.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to postpone this discussion to our second meeting in May. This was a good compromise for our new commissioner, who felt he needed time for research, as well as to not make too late

of a decision which might leave staff wondering if Wanchick would be here for the next round of decisions.

Q: What can you tell us about the status of the new fire station for the Northwest?

A: This project is fully funded and permitting is underway, although a ribbon cutting date is still to be determined. I look forward to an additional fire station that will improve response times for our first responders as well as lower insurance rates for our residents. There are multiple benefits to the new neighborhoods in the area as well as the new Town Center.

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

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

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Alhambra's "Big" an entertaining wish come true for audiences

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Alhambra Theatre and Dining's production of "Big" explores the truism that all little kids want to be big. But what happens if a young boy's wish comes true? The stage production, with book by John Weidman, music by David Shire and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr., is based on the motion picture of the same name starring Tom Hanks that was released in 1988. Fans of the film will undoubtedly be entertained by "Big, the Musical."



Photo courtesy Alhambra Theatre and Dining

The show, which centers around an adolescent boy (Josh) wishing he was big and then actually becoming so, will be delightfully familiar to audiences — and the addition of musical numbers freshens up the production and allows for some interesting nuances. Particularly well cast are the leads, Rodney Holmes as Josh and Heather Kopp as Susan. Holmes perfectly portrays being a little boy in a man's body, with predictably immature and often awkward reactions to various adult situations he finds himself in. Kopp as Susan, Josh's love interest, depicts a woman who might be growing cynical to adulthood and therefore drawn to the innocence of boy/man Josh.

Yes, the show contains the iconic large piano on which Josh dances and plays music. Fancy footwork and keys that light up are mesmerizing. Fortune telling machine Zoltar also takes its place as a key prop in the story.

Notable scenes include the adults at the MacMillan Toy Company who are so used to being "yes people" to big boss MacMillan (astutely portrayed by Steven Flaa) that they appear to be

automatons in early dance scenes. The unadulterated childhood joy that Josh brings to the toy company as its newest employee is infectious, and by the end of the show, the toy company employees' dancing is more energetic and spirited.

Songs like "My Secretary is in Love," sung in a witty repartee style by vocal powerhouse Kopp as Susan as well as "Coffee, Black" by Holmes as Josh add comic relief. Another amusing aside is the scene with Susan's best friends as they check out her new beau, Josh, and perform "The Real Thing."

Meanwhile, back in Josh's old life, his mother (Mrs. Baskin, portrayed by Katie Nettle) poignantly sings a song all parents can relate to about how quickly their children grow: "Stop Time."

"Big" includes a number of children in the cast and all are very talented. Of note, Ari Walz as Young Josh and Jonathan Reid as his best friend Billy, make the most of their time in the spotlight.

Chef DeJuan Roy has created a delicious menu for this production, including a starter of either potato and bacon chowder or spring mix salad and then entree choice of brown sugar crusted corned beef, oven seared red fish, quinoa bowl or his Aunt Mae's fried chicken recipe that was especially moist and flavorful. Save room for either caramel apple strudel or banana cream pie; both are worth the calories.

"Big" will appear at Alhambra Theatre and Dining until May 5. Visit www.alhambrajax.com for tickets and more information.

BTHS student named local musical prodigy by PBS

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Local singer Katryna Alexis Cabrera was recently chosen as one of 22 finalists to be named as a Jacksonville musical prodigy for the PBS show "Celebration of Music" Talent Search. The show showcases the best musical talent across America.

Cabrera has been performing since the young age of seven. The now 15 year old singer/songwriter enjoys sharing her talent through all genres of music. She has performed at countless events in the Jacksonville area and elsewhere. To name a few, Cabrera has performed at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, Daily's Place Amphitheatre, Orlando Convention Center, Tallahassee Capitol Hill, Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Grounds and the Ritz Theatre.

As an adopted child from Miami with an autistic brother, whom she calls her biggest inspiration and hero, Cabrera is actively raising awareness for foster care, adoption, and autism through her talents. She also strongly promotes

self confidence due to being raised in a diverse family. Aside from being adopted and biracial, her adopted father was born in Cuba and her mother was born in the Philippines. Her parents are especially proud of their daughter's strength and talent.

"We are the lucky ones, along for the ride. She has a gift. Her brother gives her purpose and keeps her grounded," her mother, Del, said.



Photo courtesy Del Cabrera
Katryna Cabrera with PBS Celebration of Music host Ethan Bortnick.

Along with her passion for music, Cabrera is an honor roll student at Bartram Trail High School who enjoys playing volleyball with the school and with the Orlando-Tampa Volleyball Association. She is also a member of the Ritz Voice Elite and the Bartram High

School Voice Ensemble Choir. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at Foster Closet.

In the future, Cabrera plans to continue using her voice to help children in some way, especially those dealing with autism.



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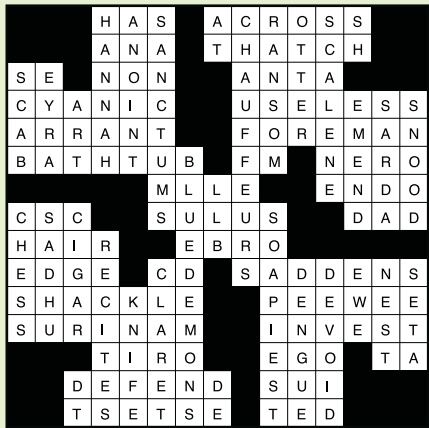
Photo courtesy Christa L. Ritchie

Bartram football players encourage Cunningham Creek students to “Crush the FSA”

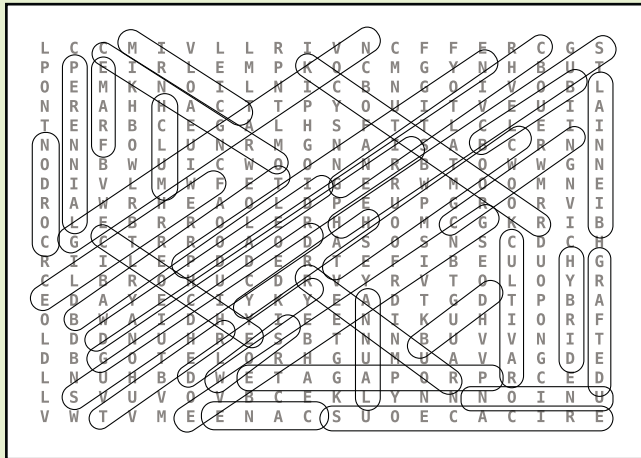
On April 1, Bartram Trail High School football players visited students in third through fifth grades at Cunningham Creek Elementary at a “Crush the FSA” pep rally. Cunningham Creek students cheered on their Bartram team player as he competed in a football egg relay and small football throwing contest in an effort to motivate the younger students to do their best on the FSA. Over the last year, Bartram football players have visited Cunningham Creek monthly to read to these students. Teacher Christa Ritchie said, “Our students absolutely enjoy this time with the football players. It has connected our students with their feeder high school.”

Answers to puzzles on page 24

Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. trowel B. soil C. cultivate D. growing



BTHS Happenings

Bartram Trail junior represents Florida DECA

By Delaney Cantrell

Bartram Trail High School junior Zachary Breitbart has accomplished big things this school year, particularly with DECA.

DECA is a club that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges all around the world. Bartram Trail’s DECA chapter recently traveled to Orlando for the state competition and a few competitors advanced to the international competition in April.

Breitbart is one of the officers leading Bartram’s DECA chapter and decided to become more fully involved with the club by applying for a state officer position. Breitbart found out in January that he was chosen as the Florida State DECA president.

“After filling out the application packet containing your personal information,” said Breitbart, “you proceed to campaign and the delegates vote for the candidates.”

Breitbart’s role in Florida DECA involves leading and ensuring that the organization is running smoothly.

“So far my biggest project has been to coordinate making 75,000 meals for our fall donation drive called Helping Hands, where participants come together and assemble the meals,” said Breitbart.

The newly elected president has also held meetings, made vlogs, and helped run the social media accounts. During the opening ceremony of the recent state competition, he even found himself giving a speech in front of 2,000



Photo courtesy Zachary Breitbart
Zachary Breitbart

members.

Along with Breitbart, there is an executive vice president as well as three other vice presidents. The other officers are from Tampa, Miami, Jupiter and Fort Lauderdale.

Breitbart does not keep his activities isolated to just DECA. While academically being at the top of his class, Breitbart also stays busy with various clubs around Bartram including National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, and Science National Honor Society. He hopes to attend the University of Central Florida to pursue a career in physics or engineering.

This opportunity has only benefited Breitbart and he is grateful to have been presented with it.

“This experience will help me throughout life from the connections I will make, and the unmatched experience of being able to perfect my leadership skills to give all 10,000 members in Florida the most out of DECA,” he said.

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Photo courtesy Bob Mitchell

Blue Heat wins Jacksonville Invitational

The WGV Blue Heat fifth grade team won the Jacksonville Invitational Basketball Championship on March 31. The Blue Heat went 3-0 over the weekend to put themselves in the championship bracket and defeated the Georgia Ignite by 14 in the championship game. The Blue Heat were led over the weekend by 44 points from Ty “Buckets” Duncan, 26 rebounds from Marc “Mr. Windex” Mitchell, 10 assists from Andrew “Dropping Dimes” Speace and eight steals from Landon “Sticky Fingers” Wagner. Members of the Blue Heat are Langston Hackworth, Aidan Nicolitz, Ty Duncan, Cameron Cooper, Marc Mitchell, Andrew Speace, Dylan Vancannon, Cameron Hugenerd, Landon Wagner. The team is coached by Austen Morgan, Scott Cooper and Bob Mitchell.

Local Business cont. from pg. 9

participating in Council and professional networking activities has propelled my organizations to grow quickly and responsibly,” he said. “The Chamber has helped me forecast important growth and business trends in the region. Chamber experts and speakers know our area and provide tips for staying ahead in our burgeoning county, and beyond.”

Joe Finnegan is the owner and innkeeper of St. Francis Inn, located at 279 St. George Street in the oldest settlement section of historic downtown St. Augustine. In June 1985, when Joe and Nancy Finnegan became the owners of the Inn, they quickly set out to learn the importance of guest and customer service along with budgeting, marketing, management, administration, and other business functions.

Finnegan depends on the Chamber to learn about the economic impact of growth and development, infrastructure, politics, tourism and hospitality in St. Johns County along with current laws and regulations about taxation.

“I place importance on attending the Chamber’s Tourism and Hospitality Council and Historic St. Augustine Area Council meetings and speaker events to learn about county wide

initiatives and innovations to stay active and current,” he said.

The Chamber’s Ponte Vedra Beach Division serves many small businesses and one is co-owned by two women. Trasca & Co Eatery was opened by Sara Frasca in 2015. It is noted for its “Panino” sandwich which was invented by Frasca’s grandmother. Earlier this year, Trasca & Co merged with Karina Coryell, of KC’s Kitchen fame. The merger of two community minded small businesses has been met with enthusiasm.


The SBA was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy in the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. Visit www.sba.gov for more information.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit business membership organization. The Chamber is one of the largest business networking organizations in northeast Florida. Visit www.sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681 for more information.



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STARLING

Historic anchor dedicated at Palencia Elementary School

By Tabitha Pattishall
mail@floridanewsline.com

On March 27, a legacy gift unveiling and dedication was held at Palencia Elementary School: the school's class of 2018, the first to enter Palencia Elementary when its doors opened in 2012, donated a historic anchor for future students to enjoy.

The anchor, which dated back to the 1800s, had been "caught" by a tugboat towing a boat to Jacksonville and had just been restored in Tallahassee. Sixth grader Adelynn Salmons won an essay contest that conjured up a fictitious backstory for the anchor.

"I have always had a passion for writing," Salmons said. "I wrote a story about a pirate crew who found an amazing anchor, and they went on a crazy journey to find it."

Not only did many students from last year's fifth grade graduating class attend the ceremony, but so did many special guests. Current principal, Catherine Goodrich, and former principal Alan Anderson were both present "wearing" Pirate Pride on their sleeves. Also in attendance were school board members Kelly Barrera and Patrick Canan, Deputy Superintendent Brennan Asplen, and Christina Langston,



Photo courtesy Tabitha Pattishall
The Palencia anchor was dedicated as a gift to the school from the school's first graduating class.

chief of community relations for Saint Johns County School Department.

Superintendent Tim Forson attended the ceremony as well. He said, "The dedication of the anchor at Palencia symbolizes, for students and families today and into the future, the importance of being grounded and having a foundation on which to build success in our lives."

"Mary Poppins" debuts at Fruit Cove Middle

The audience at Fruit Cove Middle School's musical, "Mary Poppins," was treated to a spoonful of enjoyment. Approximately 75 cast and crew members were involved in this musical production, with Anna Villanova playing the title role of the beloved Mary. Veronica Geller, Teya Miller, Cheryl Sweet, Cheryl Heymann, and Jeff Staffaroni made up the team of directors.



Photos courtesy Heidi Weaver

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Travel

Highlights of the Lowcountry

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Charleston and Savannah rank among the top tourist destinations in the United States and fortunately, they are within driving distance from Jacksonville. Visit these Southern gems if you've never been, but unfortunately, they are pricey. It is possible to find some less costly but equally fabulous cities and Lowcountry attractions nearby.

First up, Beaufort, S.C., pronounced as the locals say, "Like beautiful - Beaufort." Beaufort lies just 40 miles from Savannah and 70 miles from Charleston. The city, founded in 1711, was overtaken by Union troops during the Civil War. The soldiers found the place so lovely, they spared it from destruction. Many of the mansions acted as hospitals. Take a scenic walking or carriage tour past some of the antebellum homes including sites from the iconic Hollywood movies: "The Big Chill," "The Great Santini" and "Forrest Gump." Literary fans will enjoy the Pat Conroy tour. The Arsenal looks like a castle with gothic church windows, and the downtown restaurant scene oozes southern hospitality and excellent seafood.

Georgetown, close to Pawleys Island, became one of the most interesting small towns I've visited. Main or Front

Street offers five museums, including a Gullah Museum and the elegant Kaminsky House, circa 1769, on the banks of the Sampit River.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Beautiful Beaufort

Rice plantations flourished in the area and by 1840, the region produced nearly one-half of the total rice crop of the United States, and the port exported more rice than any port in the world. The local variety called "Carolina

Gold" was in demand worldwide. This labor-intensive crop provided great riches for the planters. Rice plantation workers in the South Carolina Lowcountry afforded their masters the highest per capita income in the American colonies, and they continued to earn huge profits up to the Civil War. Eventually, saltwater infiltrated and halted production. Today, Georgetown delights shoppers and its boardwalk/wharf area brings scenic dining opportunities.



Carriage ride in Beaufort

Head on to Huntington Beach State Park where Atalaya Castle — not really a castle, but more a folly — is the star. The wealthy and eccentric couple, Archer and Anna Huntington, built the one-story brick structure on more than 9,000 acres.

A most unusual construction, the floor, walls and ceiling are all brick. Cool in

the summer, but in February when I visited, the place was damp and chilly. Take a guided tour to learn about the Huntingtons and their monkeys and dogs.

Anna Huntington was a famous sculptor, and many of her works are displayed across the highway at Brookgreen Gardens. Brookgreen's immense property contains more than 2,000 works by 425 artists, and in the words



Unusual entrance to Atalaya Castle

of Wayne Craven, author of the book, "Sculpture in America," it is "unequaled in its size, focus on figurative works, visibility of the sculpture to the visitor, and integration within a garden setting." Anna's Don Quixote is a must-see, modeled from a dying horse she pur-

chased for the project and then nursed back to health.

A visit to Pawleys Island brings you to the southern end of the Hammock Coast and one of the oldest resort areas



Dining in Beaufort

on the Atlantic Coast. Pawleys Island offers unique waterfront lodging and no mundane trappings

or distractions. No businesses dot the island other than its two historic inns that stand alongside a collection of beach homes. Staying on Pawleys Island is indeed a getaway.

Make the drive to the Lowcountry and take time to relax. Enjoy some seafood, a Lowcountry boil and perhaps a praline and tea from the Charleston Tea Plantation, the only one in the United States.

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

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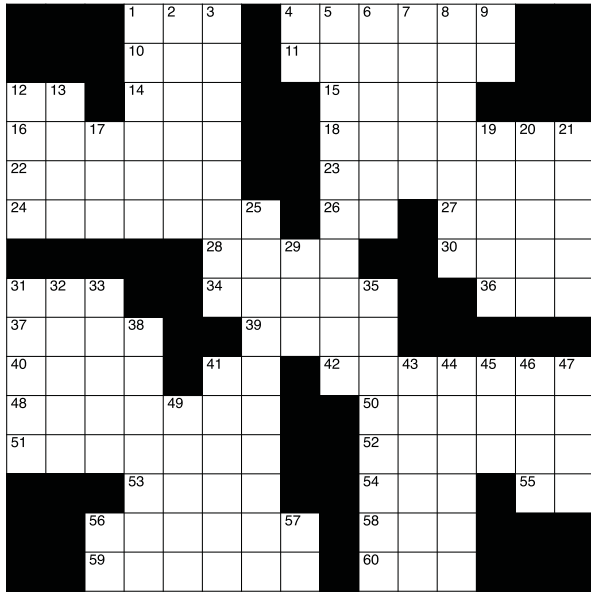
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Puzzles

Answers on page 20
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Maintains possession of
- 4. Other side
- 10. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 11. Lawn buildup
- 12. Southeast
- 14. Negative
- 15. Greek temple pillar
- 16. Blue
- 18. Pointless
- 22. Complete
- 23. Supervisor
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 26. Radio frequency
- 27. Cruel Roman emperor
- 28. Young woman (French)
- 30. Within
- 31. Civil Service Commission

CLUES DOWN

- 1. ___ and her sisters
- 2. Smear or rub with oil
- 3. Holy places
- 4. Indicates position
- 5. Drives around
- 6. Price
- 7. Semiaquatic mammal
- 8. With three uneven sides
- 9. Sacrifice hit
- 12. Covers a wound
- 13. Jaguarundi
- 17. Works produced by skill and imagination
- 19. A way to improve
- 20. River along India and Nepal border
- 21. Hairnet
- 25. DePaul University athletes
- 29. Bachelor of Laws
- 31. Game of skill
- 32. Holy man
- 33. Cylinder of tobacco
- 35. Most ingratiating
- 38. Repeats aloud
- 41. Red wine
- 43. Debilitating tropical disease
- 44. Entirely lacking
- 45. Female sheep
- 46. Where a bird lives
- 47. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 49. Cutlery
- 56. Symptom of withdrawal (abbr.)
- 57. Delaware

TOIL IN THE SOIL WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ANNUAL
- BARE ROOT
- BIENNIAL
- BUD
- BULB
- CANE
- CHITTING
- CLOCHE
- COMPOST
- CORDON
- CORN
- CROWN
- CULTIVAR
- DEADHEAD
- DECIDUOUS
- ERICACEOUS
- EVERBEARING
- FERTILE
- FRAME
- GERMINATION
- GRAFTED
- HARDY
- HERBACEOUS
- HYBRID
- MULCH
- ORGANIC
- PERENNIAL
- POLLINATION
- PROPAGATE
- REPRODUCING
- ROOTSTOCK
- RUNNER
- SOW
- TUBER
- UNION
- YIELD

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

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gardening.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = O)

A. 18 24 1 22 8 16
Clue: Garden tool

B. 2 1 17 16
Clue: Dirt

C. 5 13 16 18 17 20 21 18 8
Clue: Prepare land

D. 14 24 1 22 17 15 14
Clue: Getting bigger

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Andrew White
Andrew White caught this largemouth on Lake Kerr recently using soft plastics.

There are many attributes that make fishing a great sport. Getting outdoors, spending time on the water, bonding with friends and family — and the thrill and the challenge of the catch. While there are other sports or outdoor activities that might offer some of these same characteristics, there is one benefit that fishing offers that separates it from these others, and that is you get to eat what you caught.

Humans eating fish may date as far back as two million years ago. Fish was considered a major food source for

survival and may also be credited to brain development in early man. Today, fish is regarded as one of the healthiest protein sources containing considerable amounts of Omega 3s which can help reduce the risk of stroke or heart disease. Deemed “brain food,” fish can also take credit for promoting brain health, improved memory, and prevention of Alzheimer’s.

While eating fish can be healthy, how it is prepared can often make a difference. Deep fried seems to be a favorite, but by doing so you lose much of the nutritional benefits. When frying, try to use a heart healthy oil, and a frying pan rather than a deep fryer, as this can help lead to a healthier fried fish dinner.

For the health conscious, if frying the fish you caught is out of the question, don’t worry — there are more ways to cook fish healthy than all the ways Bubba Gump has to cook shrimp. You can grill, steam, broil, and bake, sauté, stir fry, boil, camp fire, smoke, and microwave them. Recipes for these methods are easy to find with searches on the internet.

One of the quickest, easiest, and healthiest ways to cook your fresh catch is in the microwave. Starting with any piece of fish on a microwave safe plate, you can prepare the fish similarly as if you were to bake or broil it. First,

season the fish with your favorite herbs and spices or just dust it with some salt and pepper. Add some butter or butter substitute with maybe a little lemon or lime. Cover the prepped fish with some plastic wrap to help prevent splattering and microwave for a minute or two until the meat turns white and flakey. Just for fun, you can add an additional sprinkle of cheese and another quick zap for a very tasty fish dinner.

Fishing Report: The river has been providing good catches of bream, bass, and catfish. Reds have been around docks and pilings. Conditions are right for croaker to show any time.

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

Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.

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**2018 - 2019 St. Johns County School Calendar**

| MAY 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|
| M        | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|          |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 6        | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27       | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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

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**ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
PROPERTY APPRAISER**

**Eddie Creamer**



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**NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL**

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Re-Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 25th day of April, 2019, for the Collection of 2018 Taxes, to reflect all changes made by the Value Adjustment Board.

**EDDIE CREAMER**  
PROPERTY APPRAISER ST. JOHNS

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**For additional information, please visit our website at [www.sjcpa.us](http://www.sjcpa.us) or contact us at (904) 827-5500**

# Gardening

**Summer is coming**

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Sometimes I have hankered to live farther north just to be able to grow some of the fruits, flowers, and vegetables that I grew up with, but seeing last winter's devastating storms that swept across the plains and northwards, I realize we are relatively lucky in northeast Florida. Encouragingly, this hurricane season may be less busy than average, according to Colorado State University predictions (<https://tinyurl.com/y5ltxj43>), but it only takes one major storm to have devastating impacts, as we know.

There are certainly beautiful plants that grow here in Zone 9 that would struggle to survive in colder climates, but the flower garden in the height of summer is not always at its best. Heat and humidity can take their toll. At the Extension program, "A Day of Gardening" held in February, two of the speakers, Linda Reindl with the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association and Billy Butterfield, owner of Ameriscapes Landscape Management Services in Orlando, told us about some of their favorites. Here I'll provide a list; you can find information on the internet on their cultural requirements (sun/shade, moist/dry), growing habits (height, spread, annual or perennial) and other attributes, like being attractive to pollinators. (Remember: right plant, right place.)

Gerbera daisy "Sweet" series; Salvia "Big Blue"; Alternanthera "Purple Prince"; Dianthus "Jolt"; Verbena "Finesse" (*V. bonariensis* hybrid); Coleus "Campfire Orange"; Zinnia "Zahara" series; Melampodium "Derby"; *Melinis nerviglumis* "Savannah" (a grass); "Bounce" Impatiens (downy mildew resistant); Caladium; "Sedona Sun" ornamental pepper; Ipomoea "Floramia" series (ornamental sweet potato); Gomphrena, globe amaranths; Dwarf vinca "Soiree" series; Lantana "Little Lucky Red". As you may know, none of these are native Florida plants, but all should be Florida-Friendly™. If any are inclined to spread by seed, a good layer of mulch should prevent that, and it will keep the soil cool and moist.

I often consider turning over my yard entirely to native plants, but there are some

beautiful exotic flowers and shrubs that make me hesitate, especially when native plants are not often sold locally. One native plant that can be found is the orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), but it sells out quickly. The tropical or Mexican milkweed (*A. curassavica*) is far more widely available, and is also prime Monarch butterfly fodder, but it isn't native, and that isn't always made clear.


Grass is now growing well, and probably needs mowing once a week. Whatever your grass type, mow at the highest recommended height, as its roots will be stronger with longer leaf blades to feed them. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/y29f7dhz> for more information. If rains are adequate, a lawn may not need regular watering. With an automatic system it may be tempting to set it and forget it, but you will probably do more harm than good. Excess moisture leads to overly lush growth, which is tempting to insects and can also promote the growth of fungal diseases. A soil moisture sensor is a helpful aid in combination with an automatic irrigation setup as it simply shuts off the system when soil moisture is adequate. To check that you have the correct information about when and how you may water your lawn, see <https://tinyurl.com/yy4yh6os>.

If maintaining your lawn is too taxing in the summer heat, consider expanding your flower or shrub beds to reduce its size. You would provide more habitat for beneficial insects and birds, and could save your energy. An easy method (but HOA members will need to clear this with their association): layer clean cardboard or newspaper, leaves, compost, and mulch, and secure the edges with pavers which will keep the area looking tidy. Come fall, the summer heat will have killed the underlying turf, rotted down much of the other material, and you will have a new bed ready to be planted.

The May-June edition of "A New Leaf" will be available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9yfxd89>. I'm looking forward to those timely tips and useful articles. Enjoy!

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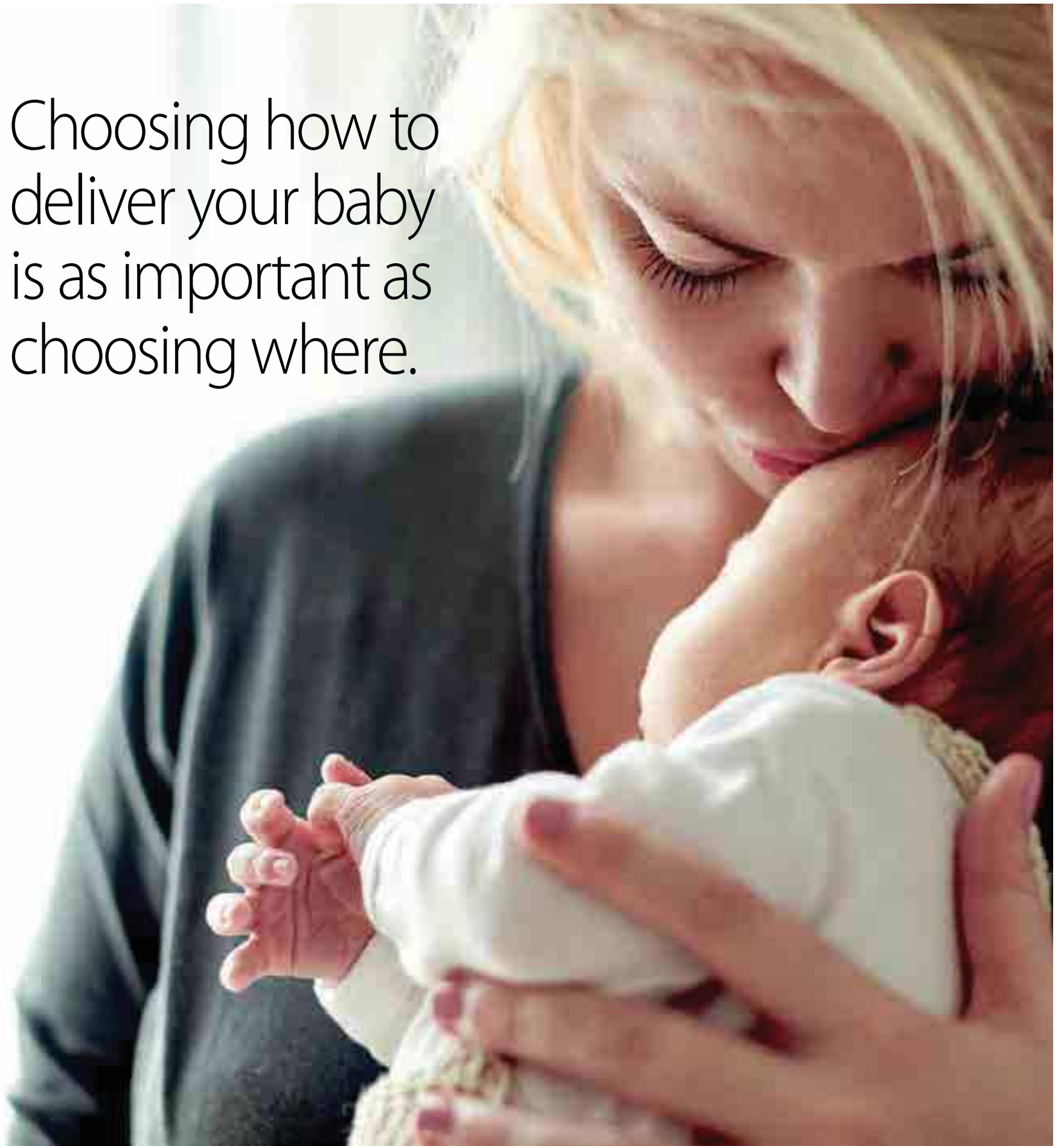
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