



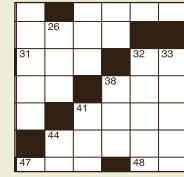
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## Horseplay provides hippotherapy for kids

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Vicky Carregal had worked as a physical therapist specializing in pediatrics for more than 10 years when she was exposed to hippotherapy, which uses a horse's movements as a therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment. She said she started using this newfound knowledge with three or four children that were already patients of hers and found they started seeing expedited progress: the children became stronger and more mobile.



Photos courtesy Vicky Carregal  
Vicky Carregal, founder of Horseplay Therapy Center, with Captain.

"It took just a few months for me to realize how successful this could be," Carregal said. "I brought in a speech therapist and an occupational therapist and we were amazed at the progress."

Carregal said that children who arrived for therapy in an agitated state would just settle and calm down and be able to do a task.

"It's almost like the horse knows he needs to counterbalance the child," Carregal said.

Horseplay cont. on pg. 18

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEADS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

By Shelley Howard  
mail@floridanewslines.com

For the past decade or so, the first day back to school in St. Johns County has been focused on the opening of a new school about every other year. This comes as no surprise, as St. Johns is one



Amid extreme humidity and temperatures, St Johns County Deputy Sheriff Schiffer keeps traffic moving on Race Track Road.

of the fastest growing counties not only in the State of Florida, but in the country. This year, with no new school opening and growth continuing at a sizable rate, the alternative was adding 35 "relocatables" (commonly known as portable classrooms) to a total of 393 across the county.

Some schools were able to maintain a smaller enrollment increase such as



Bartram Trail High School's new security glass at the entrance.



Photos courtesy Shelley Howard

Drivers need to be mindful of school buses and their stops: school is back in session in St. Johns County.

Fruit Cove Middle School, requiring only three relocatables, whereas Bartram Trail High School had to find space for 12.

Bartram Trail is the largest high school in the county with an enrollment of more than 2,800. The crunch has steadily placed a burden to hire qualified teachers, find parking for students, land for the relocatables, and many other stressors that come with more students on campus to monitor.

According to the St. Johns County School



Parents Mike and Melissa drop off son Ian for his first day of kindergarten at Durbin Creek Elementary School. Ian's two older brothers, now aged 18 and 20, also attended the school, making this Mike and Melissa's third time as kindergarten parents.

District, the student count for the district's first day of school, Aug. 12, was 39,159, an increase of 2,240 students or 6 percent over last year's first day number of 36,919. St. Johns County continues to be one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.

"We have lots and lots of students," said School Board member for District 1, Beverly



Creekside High School freshman, Kailey, waits for a transfer bus to take her from Durbin Creek Elementary where her mom, Ms. Kinney, is a fourth grade teacher.

Back to school cont. on pg. 14

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Louie!

**BREED:**

Yorkshire Terrier

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**

Walks in the neighborhood

**FAVORITE TREAT:**

Peanut Butter

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**

Housemate Kipper (4 year old Poodle)

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**

Local rescue, three years ago, was already named Louie at time of adoption.



**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!  
**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.



SEPTEMBER **PGS 12-15**  
Special Section

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## October's Enhanced Section Back To School Guide

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OCTOBER Ad Deadline is SEPTEMBER 19th

### MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?  
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Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to Palencia. Our winner was Sara Cowan. Congratulations!



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## around town

3:30 p.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

**Sept. 12**  
**St. Johns County Chamber Women with Vision Council**  
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Dr.  
RSVP: Sjcchamber.com  
**Rotary Club of Bartram Trail**  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)  
Westminster Woods, 25 State Road 13  
www.bartramtrailrotary.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

**Sept. 14**  
**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  
**Family seining**  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road  
(904) 823-4500

**Sept. 16**  
**All Star Quilt Guild general meeting**  
10 a.m.  
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

**Sept. 17**  
**Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Debbie Rider in "A Tribute to Linda Ronstadt"**  
10:30 a.m.  
Deerwood Country Club, 10239 Golf Club Drive  
RSVP by Sept. 11: sjaird@comcast.net  
**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 planning meeting**  
6:30 p.m.  
Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road  
www.stjohnscares.org

**Sept. 19**  
**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  
**Migrating Birds of North Florida**  
6:30 p.m.  
Wild Birds Unlimited store, 450 State Road 13N  
RSVP: wbu-jacksonville@yahoo.com or (904) 230-3242

**Sept. 21**  
**Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles**  
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13  
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month  
**LUNAFEST travelling film festival presented by American Association of University Women (AAUW)**  
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Corazon Cinema and Cafe, 38 Granada St.  
Tickets \$20; www.lunafest.org  
**St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum participates in Smithsonian Museum Day**  
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Download free ticket: www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday  
**Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting**  
10 a.m.  
Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine  
Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com  
**Traditional Healing with Nature's Plants**  
10 a.m.  
Garden of Eatin, Lake Beluthahatchee  
Pre registration required: (386) 972-1891

**Sept. 23**  
**Game Day fundraiser to benefit Horseplay Therapy Center**  
10 a.m.  
South Hampton, County Road 210W  
Sponsored by Helping Hands; jacqphil@aol.com to sign up

**Sept. 24**  
**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

**Sept. 27**  
**Helping Hands of St. Johns County**  
10 a.m.  
Faith Community Church, 3450 County Rd. 210W  
jacqphil@aol.com  
**Crafty Women: Candy Corn Button Art**  
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Julington Creek Service Center, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.  
(904) 827-6960

**Sept. 3**  
**World Golf Village Toastmasters**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Rd. 210W  
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

**Sept. 4**  
**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)  
**First Coast Newcomers Club Dinner/Trivia evening**  
6 p.m.  
St. Augustine restaurant  
Limited number; RSVP (904) 829-0643  
**Jewish Java**  
9 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP: (904) 886-8429

**Sept. 5**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7**  
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse  
pa@mysafeboating.com  
**Braille class for volunteers begins**  
Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. – 12 p.m.  
Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.  
(904) 466-2129 or dandltaylor@att.net

**Sept. 6**  
**Bartram Friday Book Club: "Alas, Babylon" by Pat Frank**  
10 a.m.  
Julington Creek Service Center, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.  
(904) 827-6960  
**Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting**  
7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)

St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse  
www.rotarystjohns.org

**Sept. 8**  
**Up Up and Away Heritage Singers**  
3 p.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP: (904) 886-8429

**Sept. 9**  
**Current Events Discussion Group**  
10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia  
adsilby@yahoo.com  
**Northwest United for Progress Club**  
Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.  
2777 Race Track Road  
nwsjcp@gmail.com  
**Living with Lung Cancer Support Network**  
6 p.m.  
Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.  
RSVP: (904) 880-5522

**Sept. 10**  
**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  
**Bartram Tuesday Book Discussion: "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann**  
6 p.m.  
Twisted Compass, 585 State Road 13  
(904) 827-6960  
**Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club luncheon**  
11 a.m.  
St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive  
RSVP by Sept. 6; bartramtncc@gmail.com

**Sept. 11**  
**Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support**



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# take 5

## Second Infantry Division veterans to hold reunion

The Florida Branch of the Second Indianhead Division Association will have its annual reunion in Titusville, Fla. on Oct. 18 – 20, 2019 at the Best Western Space Shuttle Inn. All veterans of the 2nd Infantry Division are invited. Call Mike Davino at (919) 498-1910 email [Zida.pao@charter.net](mailto:Zida.pao@charter.net) for more information.

## Library presents cooking demonstration

“Books & Bites: The Vikings, Who Were They Really?” will be held on Friday, Sept. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Julington Creek Service Center. Books & Bites, a cooking demonstration presented by St. Johns County librarians, combines their love of literature and food. Attendees will enjoy samples of Scandinavian cuisine while discovering the truth about Vikings, a seafaring and nomadic warrior people. With iconic tales of berserkers, warriors battling through grievous injuries, and chilling images of longboats coming ashore to pillage and plunder, the surface has only been scratched of this ancient culture. With so many successful military expeditions, where did they go? And who were they, really? Space is limited for this demonstration; call (904) 827-6950 to register.

## Bat Talk and Walk announced

St. Johns County Park Naturalist AyoLane Halusky will host a Bat Talk and Walk on Friday, Sept. 20, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland. Attendees will learn about the creatures of the night as they explore Alpine Groves Park at sunset in search of resident bats who live in the park. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions and stories to share and should meet at the second parking lot near the river. This program is free, but space is limited. Contact AyoLane Halusky at [ahalusky@sjcfl.us](mailto:ahalusky@sjcfl.us) or (904) 209-0348 for more information. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/bat-walk-and-talk-tickets-67031106845](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bat-walk-and-talk-tickets-67031106845) to register.

## Recreation Advisory Board to meet

The Recreation Advisory Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Executive Conference Room located in the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View. These meetings are open to the public. This month’s meeting will be held on Sept. 19. The Recreation Advisory Board provides a sounding board for new ideas, assists in solving problems, acts as liaison when called upon by other governmental bodies, represents the Parks and Recreation

Department’s posture on sensitive issues in the public arena, assists in the establishment and completion of goals, objectives, and budgets to provide leisure time programs and facilities for communities in St. Johns County. It is comprised of seven members, each serving two-year terms, and seeks district representation. Visit <http://www.sjcfl.us/Recreation/AdvisoryBoard.aspx> for more information.



Photo courtesy Metrocreative

## Men’s discussion group to form

A new men’s discussion group is forming in the County Road 210 area: OMNI / Older Men = New Ideas. The group’s focus is on living and enjoying a healthy retirement and encouraging meaningful conversation. It’s purpose is to fill a niche for men to just get together and talk and listen to each other. With so many new people in the area, this is a chance to meet new people and welcome them to our community. Topics will be chosen by members and

no political, religious or inappropriate topics will be tolerated. Any male over the age of 55 is welcome to attend. Faith Community Church, located at 3450 County Road 210W is the meeting place and the group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. This month’s meetings will be Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. Refreshments will be served, and there is no charge or expected donation. Reservations are not required. Contact [jacqphil@aol.com](mailto:jacqphil@aol.com) for more information; do not contact the church.

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**Eddie Creamer**

**Q: Do you have an update on the TRIM Notices we discussed last month?**

A: TRIM (Truth in Millage) Notices were mailed by our office on Aug. 16 and are also available online ([www.sjcpa.us](http://www.sjcpa.us)). Also currently available on our website and Facebook page is a video with a detailed explanation of TRIM.

**Q: What are the property value statistics for this year?**

A: This year, the total just market value of all properties in St. Johns County is \$38.3 billion. The total taxable value is \$28.5 billion, an increase of \$2.8 billion over the previous year. About \$1.2 billion of this increase was new construction.

**Q: Do you have any residential sales statistics to share?**

A: All of our appraisals are sales-based, so we take all the sales that come in and then we qualify them (i.e. take out the foreclosures, transfers between family members etc.) This year, we qualified about 8,400 residential sales and came up with a median sales price of single family homes of \$330,000. There were 4,389 newly constructed residences added. We qualified 1,219 condo sales and determined a median sales price of \$187,000 with 130 new condominium units added.

**Q: How about growth?**

A: We assessed 138,132 parcels of property for 2019. On average, St. Johns County issued 448 single family building permits per month and therefore we will be adding about 4,500 or so new residences to the tax roll next year.

**Q: Where is most of the growth occurring?**

A: We have large numbers coming out of the north part of the county, specifically north of International Golf Parkway. Areas such as Nocatee in the northeast and RiverTown and Durbin Crossing in the northwest are accounting for a large number of the increase, but we are also starting to see a bit more growth south of State Road 207 in the Wildwood area. We still have Silverleaf between County Road 210 and State Road 16A as well as Grand Oaks off State Road 16 coming online. With roads going in and plat maps starting to come to us from Silverleaf, I would expect to start seeing sales there next year.

**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](mailto:Eddie@sjcpa.us) or call me at (904) 827-5500.

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

**Q: How did the first day of school go?**

A: I went to 11 schools in District 1 on the first day, Aug. 12. I saw lots of students all ready to learn. We opened this year with 2,000 more students than the first day last year, which is beyond our projections. As of Aug. 16, our growth percentage was 4.7 percent and we had projected 3.5 percent. We are still hiring teachers and associate teachers to handle this growth and we always have a big influx of students after Labor Day as well. I'm never really comfortable with our numbers until after Labor Day.

**Q: Where do you see the biggest challenge regarding growth?**

A: Nease and Bartram Trail are both pushing 2,900 students. This makes me even happier about the new high school coming sooner than we originally planned. We hope to break ground in two to three months with an anticipated opening of fall 2021. Then in January 2022, the bond issue from building Ponte Vedra and Creekside high schools will mature and will leave us with more bonding capacity for additional schools.

**Q: Are there any programs offered in the schools to help handle all the new students?**

A: There are a few programs offered to make new students feel welcome. Research shows that the hardest transi-

tions are from fifth to sixth grade and from eighth to ninth grade, so basically from elementary to middle and from middle to high school. All high schools in the county offer Link Crew, which pairs a senior with a new freshman to help onboard these new students. I'm very thankful for this. In all middle schools in the northern part of the county, another program called WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) is offered. This is similar to Link Crew and has an eighth grader mentor a sixth grader to help smooth the transition.

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

A: One thing I'd like to bring to everyone's attention is that we are having to be very strict with people coming to our schools for any reason. They must complete the School Access Form online even if they are just coming on campus to have lunch. This form is prominently displayed on every school website and the main page of the district's website ([www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)).

**Q: How can our readers contact you?**

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



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

**Q: Can you bring us up to date with the impact on law enforcement of the Florida legislature's recently passed hemp bill?**

A: This bill, which defined hemp as having less than .3 percent THC, became effective as a law on July 1. Hemp is almost identical in size, smell and texture to marijuana and is now not a controlled substance. The problem this has created is that previously, law enforcement would use a field test at the scene. A law enforcement officer could testify that based on their training and experience, something that looks and smells like marijuana would be probable cause to search. Now, without an accurate test for THC level, we cannot tell if it is marijuana (illegal) or hemp (legal).

**Q: Are there accurate lab tests for THC levels?**

A: Most labs don't test accurately for the percentage of THC, only whether it is present or not. So, we have a proof problem between the low levels of THC allowed in hemp and the higher levels in marijuana.

**Q: So what does law enforcement have to do now?**

A: Now we have to employ the "Smell Plus" test. We need other observations than just smell to lead to probable cause to search. For instance a person

might admit that it's marijuana, or perhaps the law enforcement officer can see a very large quantity packaged in individual bags. Law enforcement agencies have adapted, but we still don't know what appellate courts will require for probable cause.

**Q: How are you handling this in our area?**

A: Some jurisdictions have talked about just not prosecuting a misdemeanor amount of alleged marijuana (20 grams or less). We have not adopted that here in the 7th Circuit. We are looking at everything on a case by case basis, because marijuana is not legal. We have more to prove now and a little more work to do, but I think our position is prudent until we get more information from the courts. Law enforcement can send cases to us to decide if they are prosecutable.

**Q: What is the bottom line?**

A: The hemp bill has created a lot of uncertainty, but the message I want to get across is that smoking marijuana is still illegal unless you are prescribed medical marijuana.

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**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff David B. Shoar, [dshoar@sjso.org](mailto:dshoar@sjso.org), (904) 824-8304  
Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150

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

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

**Tax Collector:** Dennis Hollingworth, [taxcollector@sjctax.us](mailto: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](mailto:bcc1johns@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0301  
District 2: Jeb Smith, [bcc2smith@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc2smith@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0302  
District 3: Paul Waldron, [bcc3waldron@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc3waldron@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0303  
District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, [bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0304

District 5: Henry Dean, [bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0305

**St. Johns County School Board ([www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us))**  
District 1: Beverly Slough, [beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us), (904) 547-7510  
District 2: Tommy Allen, [tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto: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](mailto:Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov), (904) 823-2300

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

**Federal Elected Officials**  
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## The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

### OffenderWatch Program

Did you know that sex offenders or predators move an average of four times a year? It is for this reason that our citizens want and need easy access to sex offender data so they can run neighborhood searches around their home and school. About 80 – 90 percent of us likely have a sex offender living within a one mile radius of our home, our children's school, and place of work.

The OffenderWatch Program is an online tool to keep you better informed as to where registered sex offenders and predators reside in our county. This system will enable anyone with an internet connection to search for registered sex offenders and predators within our county by name or address.

This program is two-fold: A geographic tool and an email notification program. With the geographic tool, any address in the county can be entered into a search engine, and a map will be displayed showing full information on the location of any registered sex offenders or predators living within a mile radius of that address.

The email notification program allows any person to enter up to five addresses in the county so that the Sheriff's Office can give notification of any offenders or predators who moves within one mile of that address. To sign up for the OffenderWatch program, visit [www.sjso.org](http://www.sjso.org), and click on the "I want to Locate Sex Offenders" tab on the right hand side of the Home Page, then scroll down to the

OffenderWatch link. Instructions will guide you through the process.

Also you will find safety tips for parents and children on our website. With recent events involving crimes against children, parents should remain diligent by knowing where their children are at all times.

Be familiar with their friends and daily activities, especially online and whom they might be "talking" to. Help build self-esteem in your child, listen carefully to their fears, and be supportive in all your discussions with them.

Replace your child's fear with knowledge and guide them in their decision-making. Practicing age-appropriate life skills early could assist them with more complex situations later. Teach them to trust their own feelings and assure them they have a right to say "no" to what they sense is wrong. Teach your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone does, assure them you are the person to discuss it with.

Most importantly, if someone tries to take a child away, the best defenses are the child's legs and voices. Try to run and scream before someone gets too close and call 911 immediately.

Visit [www.sjso.org](http://www.sjso.org) for more information on this topic as well as many others. Feel free to email me at [dshoar@sjso.org](mailto:dshoar@sjso.org) with any questions or concerns.

## Bartram Trail Branch Library to reopen Sept. 3

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

The Bartram Trail Branch Library is reopening at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 3, after the completion of a months-long fire sprinkler system replacement project. The temporary library at the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Office at Mills Field closed on Saturday, Aug. 24.

While staff work to prepare for the

branch's reopening, patrons will be able to return items to the Bartram Trail Branch Library's all-hours book drop at 60 Davis Pond Blvd. beginning Saturday, Aug. 24. While patrons will not have access to a physical library for a short period of time, no items will be due nor fines accrue on any days the library is closed. Additionally, all hold pickup dates will be extended.






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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



### Escape from Florida

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

There are not many exciting Civil War stories that occur in this part of Florida, or anywhere else in Florida for that matter. Aficionados are quick to point out a handful of small battles and skirmishes that took place in this area. The most interesting of these was the Battle of Horse Landing that took place on the St. Johns a few miles south of St. Augustine. The hero of that battle was a man named Captain John Jackson Dickison, commander of Company H of the 2nd Florida Confederate Cavalry. J.J. Dickison was the most active Confederate fighter in our area during the Civil War and controlled the land west of the St. Johns near Palatka. Union soldiers referred to the area west of the river as "Dixie's land" or "Dixieland." Union forces tended to concentrate in Jacksonville and St. Augustine, leaving the hinterland to Dickison and his mounted guerrillas.

Dickison and his troops accomplished a feat that is unequalled in the annals of war. They are credited with being the only cavalry unit in any army to ever capture an opposing warship. On May 22, 1864, Dickison and his mounted troops captured the USS Columbine at Horse Landing on the west side of the St. Johns River south of St. Augustine, near Palatka. The night before, a Confederate spy named Lola Sanchez overheard Union officers planning to trap the Confederates. The local woman snuck out to Dickison to warn him of the danger. The Rebels set a trap of their own, hiding their cannon in the brush along the shoreline. When the Union gunboat drew close to shore, the Rebels opened up with their cannon, crippling the ship. The blood of the dead and dying ran red in the St. Johns as the boat grounded on a mudbank near shore. Dickison and

his men stripped the ship of everything that wasn't nailed down, including two large lifeboats.

They catalogued each item taken off the warship. It is a lengthy list. Dickison held onto one of the lifeboats. Less than a year later, that lifeboat would play a dramatic role in one of the final chapters of the war. In April 1865, Richmond fell and shortly thereafter Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and much of his cabinet fled southward. They were headed for Florida and then hoped to make it to Cuba. Davis was captured in Georgia wearing his wife's clothes, but Secretary of War John C. Breckenridge continued alone. Breckenridge, a former vice president of the United States, was a veteran of both the Mexican and Civil wars. On May 20, he met up with Dickison in Gainesville. Dickison gave him the lifeboat taken from the USS Columbine.

Breckenridge and his party continued down the St. Johns River in the purloined craft. At Lake Harney they dragged the boat 12 miles overland to what is now Titusville before proceeding further south along the Indian River. Somewhere near Jupiter, they hijacked a larger boat with a sail. Breckenridge succeeded. The second stolen boat got him to Cuba. He would hide overseas for three years until he received a pardon from President Andrew Johnson.

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

## Spotlight on North Business Council Meet Donna Lueders of INK!



Photo courtesy Donna Lueders  
Donna Lueders

Donna Lueders serves as the vice chair of the North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. She is also the executive director of INK! (Investing In Kids), which provides innovative programs and classroom resources to promote the academic success of St. Johns County public school students. She has been with INK! for 13 years, following a career in public administration and criminal justice; she worked as a victim's advocate for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office as well as the State Attorney's Office, 7th Circuit.

### Q: What programs does INK! offer?

A: We have an early literacy program to get children ready for kindergarten called Five Learning Years (FLY). Take Stock in Children offers scholarship opportunities for students beginning in middle school and follows them through high school. What makes this program so successful is we have volunteer mentors who meet with the students throughout this time and form a tight knit bond. Our goal is to have children succeed, whatever that looks like for each individual child.

We also offer school supplies directly to teachers that they can disseminate to their students. We are trying to alleviate teachers having to pay for these themselves. We rely on donations of

school supplies and our Tools 4 Schools drive was just completed.

THE PLAYERS' Make a Mark started as a pilot program in January. The community can nominate a teacher who goes above and beyond and we recognize three teachers (one elementary, one middle and one high school) each month to let them know they are appreciated.

Finally, we sponsor the Teacher of the Year celebration for the county.

### Q: What is your biggest challenge?

A: As the county's population grows, it is INK! being able to sustain or increase our support. We always need volunteers and donations and we pride ourselves on ensuring a return on investment for each individual or business sponsor.

### Q: What is the best thing about being a part of the North Business Council?

A: You can connect with people and also connect people to others. Most people in the Northwest live in St. Johns County, but work in Duval and sometimes their focus is there. We try to be a voice for the needs of St. Johns County Schools. At any of our schools, there are pockets of need.

### Q: What would you say to others about joining the North Business Council?

A: It is a unique opportunity to get engaged with like-minded individuals who want others to succeed. You can learn best business practices at the same time as connect with others who can support your business.

*The North Business Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Visit [www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com) for more information.*

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**Briefs**

**Water treatment business celebrates 30th anniversary**

Mark and Terri Kinder started Affordable Water in 1989 with a credit card and a hatchback Honda car. They knocked on doors to find customers and hired a part time employee, a plumber who installed their systems, while Mark Kinder delivered the salt needed for the systems out of the back of his Honda.

By 2019, the business has grown to 20 employees. Terri Kinder said that several key employees have been with the business for more than 25 years and feel like family.

The Kinders attribute their business's longevity and success to their emphasis on superior customer service.

"We have concentrated on customer service, which has really paid off with lots of happy customers and referrals," Terri Kinder said.

Angie's List has awarded Affordable Water its Super Service Award for the last nine years in a row; only 5 percent of companies achieve this honor. "We hire and train our employees to treat our customers the way they would want to be treated and follow the Golden Rule," Terri Kinder said. "Any time you call our office you will talk to a real person...no computer prompts."

**Migrating birds of North Florida lecture offered**

Master Naturalist Gary Whiting and Expert Birder Cathy Murphy will host a workshop about migrating birds on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Wild Birds Unlimited, 450 State Road 13N in Fruit Cove. Because Northeast Florida

is a "flyway" for migration, many seasonal avian visitors may be seen from fall through spring. Attendees will learn how many species journey thousands of miles, some from the Arctic to the tip of South America, and will enjoy stunning photos, amusing anecdotes, and interesting facts about how to observe and attract many of these migrators. Space will be limited to the first 45 responses; email wbu-jacksonville@yahoo.com or call (904) 230-3242 to reserve a seat.

**Hospital earns Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ for a second year**

Memorial Hospital has earned Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ — which recognizes hospitals for their excellent performance in safeguarding patients from serious, potentially preventable complications during their hospital stay — for a second consecutive year. Hospitals named to this list are in the top 10 percent in the nation for patient safety.

Patient safety measures how well a hospital prevents injuries, infections and other serious conditions based on 14 serious, potentially preventable adverse events. Healthgrades uses inpatient data from the Medicare Provider Analysis and Review database and software from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as its methodology.

Memorial Hospital Jacksonville continues to earn the 2019 Women's Care Excellence Awards recognizing hospitals that consistently deliver outstanding clinical outcomes in women's care service lines. Patients who are treated in hospitals that receive one or more of these awards have a significantly lower risk of suffering from in-hospital complications than if they were treated in a hospital that did not.

Memorial's Women's Services earned a five star rating in the South Atlantic Women's Care awards in Labor and Delivery: Five-Star recipient for vaginal delivery for five years in a row (2015-2019); Five-Star recipient for C-section delivery for two years in a row (2018-2019); and GYN Surgery: Five-Star recipient for gynecologic procedures in 2019.

**Preschool celebrates grand opening with ribbon cutting**

Chappell Schools held the grand opening of its newest school on Longleaf Pine Parkway on Saturday, Aug. 3. The event included an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony and was headlined by Jacksonville's NBA superstar, Artis Gilmore.

Chappell Longleaf is an ecological learning center certified as Eco-Healthy®.



Photo courtesy Chappell Longleaf  
Chappell marketing director Barbara Thayer; President and CEO Nancy Dreicer, and center director Kat Mesete.

"The center will be conscious of Early Childhood nutrition and serve only organic milk, purified water, and fresh fruits and vegetables," said Nancy Dreicer, Chappell CEO. "We will have gardens with each child eating something they grew during the school year, and we will visit with local hydroponic farms."

Chappell Schools has a 60-year history in Jacksonville. Chappell's curriculum is

supported by trained teachers who use Hatch Technology® and the Sunform Alphabet System® to prepare the children and measure their progress individually. The schools use both the FrogStreet® and ELLM Plus® curriculums. Chappell Longleaf will be supported by Chappell's physical education, music, resource and reading specialist staff and will "make learning fun" for the children daily.

Chappell Longleaf will serve children from six weeks through VPK and will service six local elementary schools with before and after care, as well as a summer and holiday camp program.

**Sports complex comes one step closer to reality with selection of local engineering firm**

Local development company Saint Johns Development Partners has selected Matthews Design Group as the civil engineering firm for Project Family, the 175,000 square foot indoor sports complex planned for Race Track Road in St. Johns County.

Matthews Design Group will begin to submit the first applications for permit reviews to St. Johns County for the Site Development Permit, to the St. Johns River Water Management District for the Environmental Resource Permit, and to JEA for the Utility Permit. Saint Johns Development Partners hopes to have these permits secured by the end of the year, allowing construction activities to commence on the project in NW St. Johns County.

"As a Jacksonville native, I feel strongly about selecting local companies to bring this sports complex to fruition," said Lisa Davis, CEO of Saint Johns Development Partners.

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North Business Council welcomes Andy Harris



Photo courtesy Linda Gay

At the Aug. 20 meeting of the North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber, attendees heard speaker Andy Harris, Lincoln operations manager for Bozard Ford Lincoln in St. Augustine, who discussed business branding and community involvement. The North Business Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Visit [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com) for more information. Pictured are North Business Council chair, Stephen Hudson, Andy Harris of Bozard Ford, and Eric Tatro, North Business Council Communications chair.

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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Tips for grabbing the best deals on school clothes

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

Children and parents often look forward to the dawn of a new school year, but before the first homeroom session can take place, parents may need to take their students clothes shopping.

According to a 2018 survey by Deloitte, parents spend an average of \$510 per household on apparel, school supplies, electronic gadgets, and other items for their kids' return to school. The back-to-school season runs from July through September, during which American households alone spend \$27.6 billion, which is second only to the holiday season in regard to the most lucrative times for retailers.

Apparel is a large part of back-to-school shopping. Many parents find they need to outfit their kids with a new wardrobe each year. Jeans and leggings that fit like a glove in June may only reach mid-calf by Labor Day. To make the shopping process less harried and more productive, parents can employ these strategies.

**Take inventory:** Go through kids' wardrobes and see what can be salvaged and what might need to go. This is the perfect opportunity to put aside gently used, outgrown items that may be passed on to someone else who can use them. Be sure to make a list of any items that the school requires, particularly in regard to uniforms or dress codes. By knowing what's in stock in the closet, you'll have a clear

idea of what you need to buy.

**Check for tax-free discounts:** Some states, like Florida, offer tax-free or discount shopping incentives, which can add up to considerable savings. It may be well worth the effort to stock up on necessities during these times.

**Sign up for loyalty programs:** If yours is a child who prefers certain brands, sign up early in the year for such brands' loyalty clubs.

**Get enough to get by:** While certain clothing sales happen between July and August, oftentimes the real savings begin in October, according to the budgeting resource Money Crashers. Wait until that time to buy the bulk of kids' school clothes. After all, the first weeks of school are usually warm, and summer clothing will still suffice with a few new items thrown in to freshen up wardrobes.

**Invest in quality shoes:** Sneakers and other shoes can be expensive; however, investing in quality brands can help you avoid having to buy shoes frequently. Watch for shoe sales and stock up on coupons. Many stores offer "buy-one, get-one half off" during the back-to-school season.

In addition to these tips, save more by shopping overstock stores or warehouse clubs for name-brand items at lower prices.

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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Manage hectic school mornings

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.com

If a typical school morning sees your family rushing around and out the door with nary a moment to spare, only to be left feeling like you ran a marathon by 9 a.m., a new approach to your routine might be necessary.

Mornings, especially in households in which parents who work outside of the home and have one or two kids requiring drop-off at their respective schools, can often be hectic. Starting off the morning feeling harried and stressed can carry over into the mood of the day, affecting productivity as a result.

According to Dr. David Anderson, PhD, senior director of the ADHD and Disruptive Behavior Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute, busy mornings can be the most stressful moments of the day. Homework hour and getting prepared for bed are other typically stressful times of the day for families.

If less stressful mornings are a goal for your family, try these strategies.

**Start the night before:** Doing as much preparatory work the evening before can make quite a difference in taming hectic mornings. Things that can be done in advance include checking and stocking backpacks, signing paperwork, making lunches, setting out clothing, showering, and having breakfast foods ready to go.

**Establish a "launch pad":** Ann Dolin, a Virginia-based education specialist, suggests having a launch pad, or a place where all school-related items are prepped and stored. It can be a basket, box or another container big enough to contain school items. Children can drop and pick up the items as needed.

**Make the routine the boss:** Positive Parenting Solutions founder Amy McCready says families can implement a "when-then" routine that sets the tone for the morning. "When everyone is dressed, hair combed, breakfast eaten, and school supplies packed, then you can watch 10 minutes of an educational cartoon." This puts the routine in control rather than making the parents the bad guys.

**Make kids responsible:** Too often parents add more stress to their plates by showing up at school with forgotten lunch boxes or band instruments. Instead, parents can stop rescuing their children and help train them to be more responsible — an essential trait.

**Chart wake-up times:** It may seem like micromanaging, but scheduling wake-up and bathroom times can help everyone know where they should be and when they should be there. It also helps avoid bottleneck situations in the bathroom or kitchen.

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September 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

- Teacher Optional Planning
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- Classes Resume
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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to school cont. from pg. 1

Slough. “The number of new students was beyond our projections and we haven’t seen this level of growth in awhile.”

Administrators are working together as a school family to stay on top of growing pains — as was evident on the first day of school as Principal Chris Phelps, deans and teachers were out in full force

monitoring the campus and answering questions. While educating 2,800 students can be an exhausting task, they need only hold on a little longer as the school district recently announced that a new high school will be budgeted sooner than previously indicated with an opening date of fall 2021.

Another area of focus for the county this year has been in safety and security.

Notable changes include adjustments to school start and end times in an attempt to reduce traffic back ups and allow bus drivers more time to make all their routes in a timely manner. Additionally, drop off routes and entrance gates were tweaked with revised rules for parents and visitors to operate under a one-entry system. High

school students found they can no longer access campus before 8:30 a.m. to reduce unsupervised activity and also entered to find glass constructed to front office desk areas for the protection of students and staff.



Logan, Sage and Lo enter Bartram Trail High School, eager for their senior year.



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Gabe, Anica and Chance work together to navigate the entrance to Fruit Cove Middle School.

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Alexis gets a bike escort by dad and little sister.

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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Preparing your child for back to school success

By Dr. Raymond J. Huntington  
mail@floridanewline.com

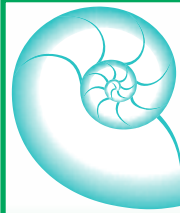
Going back to school does not have to be stressful for your child. In fact, a little effort now makes the transition easier — and your child will feel more motivated and ready to make it a great school year. Here are suggestions on how to prepare your child for going back to school this fall:

- Plan a few fun outings to gear up. Take your child out to lunch and to shop for school supplies and a first day of school outfit or two. Sometimes, picking out a backpack and new school supplies makes things fun, helping children ease into the idea of school.
- Spend time setting goals for the fall semester. This process helps children get into the right frame of mind for learning and focused on working hard toward the future. Encourage your child to reflect on last year and think about what could improve this year. Have him or her write down those goals and a few steps to take to reach them.
- For high school students, talk about college. Help your teen keep the big picture in mind by having regular conversations about higher education and career plans. What does your teen find interesting from an academic and career standpoint? Discuss visiting the guidance counselor early this fall to ensure your teen is aware of and on the right track with all of the college to-dos.
- Talk about the importance of staying organized. Organization is the key to do-

ing well in school, and it all starts with developing a good system for keeping track of homework and test and project dates. If you have a younger child, consider a simple homework notebook, while a student planner or smartphone planner app might work best for your middle or high schooler.

- Remind your child about good time management practices. Together, start putting important dates on the family calendar, such as curriculum night. As the school year gets underway, have your child show you how he or she will block off time in the hourly schedule of his or her planner and record important dates and deadlines.
- Encourage your child to advocate for him or herself. You'll do your child a big favor if you teach him or her how to communicate well with teachers and peers. The sooner your child takes ownership of his or her education, the more equipped your child will be to address problems correctly with the help of you and teachers.
- Be enthusiastic. Be a good role model for optimism. Remind your child of the great parts about school, whether that's seeing friends again, making new ones or getting back into a daily routine. Be positive and frame up the new school year as an opportunity for growth, learning and adventure.

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## Get to Know . . .

### Shorty Robbins

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

About 25 years ago, Shorty Robbins was introduced to the world of historical reenacting and it now colors most of her life — from hobbies to family outings to her period piece tiny home. Originally from Massachusetts, Robbins moved to Florida in the 1970s with her family and attended high school in Vero Beach. She earned a degree in recreation from the University of Florida and moved to the Jacksonville area after graduation. By 2001, she had moved to St. Johns County for a job as the administrative manager for the county's Parks and Recreation Department and, despite brief relocations for other jobs, has called the area home ever since.

She has particular interest in historical reenactments and during the "season," from April to September, said she usually attends one event per month. The biggest one is the Battle of Olustee reenactment unless she makes the drive to Gettysburg. She retired three years ago, but after running into long-time friend, Florida State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson at an event, agreed to be Stevenson's district secretary. Her history with the community makes her an asset in the representative's office. Robbins has two grown children and one granddaughter and shares her tiny home with two dogs and three cats.

**Q: How did you get the nickname "Shorty?"**

A: My given name is Robin and a family member gave me the nickname "Pigeon" when I was young. By the time I got to junior high school, some mean kids started calling me "Shorty" since I wasn't very tall. They intended it

to be a tease, but I liked the name better than my previous nickname, so "Shorty" stuck.

**Q: How did you get started as a reenactor?**

A: I was working at MOSH in Jacksonville on its "Maple Leaf" exhibit. I met the divers from the expedition to salvage the ship and they got me into reenacting. It was the summer of 1994 and I asked some questions about it . . . and the next thing I knew I was in a hoop skirt and a corset and going to events.

**Q: What do you do as a reenactor?**

A: Sometimes I do first person reenactments, like as Mrs. Chadwick, who was the only female passenger onboard the "Maple Leaf" or Lucy Wilson, from Lumpkin, Ga. I also do civilian reenactments; these represent the women who held it together when the men went out to fight. We research ahead of time and find out who the women are and why they are there. We demonstrate things like sewing, cooking and making bandages. Generally reenactors pick the thing that they're good at: I did period games and cooking big, involved meals over the open fire. Sometimes I and my whole family will participate as reenactors in an event.

**Q: How did you become interested in tiny houses?**

A: Actually this came about because of one of the reenactments. We were at Olustee and it was raining and I was tired of having a wet tent. So my daughter showed me a tiny house on



Photo courtesy Shorty Robbins  
Shorty Robbins

wheels that could be brought to the reenactments. I thought it was a great idea and I built my tiny house myself after attending workshops and viewing YouTube videos. My tiny house is Victorian and is outfitted for the period. I originally planned to just use it for attending the reenactments, but I loved it so much that two years ago I sold my home and downsized. My tiny house has a water pump and a pot bellied stove and a piano that turns into a bed at night, because they actually had such a thing back then. Now at the reenactments, I give tours of my period piece tiny house. Sometimes I like to leave a couple of modern clues out for the children who tour my home to find, like the television remote. (The television itself is hidden behind a painting on the wall.)

**Q: What do you like best about living in a tiny house?**

A: My tiny house is 125 square feet with 125 square feet of storage. It is so cozy and has everything I need. Plus, I can do my housework in 15 minutes!

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"Amazing experience from beginning to end! Arrived as scheduled, friendly and very organized staff - got an entire roof done in one day! Also, to my surprise, my front and back porch were left cleaner than when they started."*

Horseplay cont. from pg. 1

She formed Horseplay Therapy Center in 2014 as a 501(c) 3 since she feels passionate about offering hippotherapy to everyone who needs it. Although insurance is accepted, the non-profit status allows the organization to hold fundraisers and have sponsors.

Helping Hands of St. Johns County is sponsoring just such a fundraiser, a Game Day at South Hampton, on Sept. 23. Carregal said that one day she and the other Horseplay therapists were out having lunch while wearing their Horseplay shirts. Helping Hands founder Jackie Valyou approached them and asked if her group could do a fundraiser for Horseplay.

“The Helping Hands group is so giving and generous,” Carregal said. “I love their mission to help non-profit groups and we are so thankful they chose us as the beneficiary of this fundraiser.”

Valyou said the fundraiser will feature all types of games and prizes and the

community is invited to attend — and support Horseplay.

Carregal said that Horseplay Therapy Center presently has six horses — Captain, Brave, Ringo, Lizzie, Ringo, Rebel and Stony — as well as Prissy, who belongs to a woman who volunteers with the group two days a week. The horses all have a particular temperament, which allows them to be therapy horses; they have to keep a brisk pace and be strong, but they never work more than two hours in a day. Carregal said that Horseplay’s location, off State Road 207, also offers three treatment rooms for “off the horse” therapy.

So what does hippotherapy look like? Carregal said it is different from therapeutic riding, which teaches basic riding skills. Instead, at Horseplay Therapy Center, they outfit the horse with bareback pads and no stirrups or reins in order to allow the child

to receive as much movement from the horse’s movement as possible. The child then begins to move in rhythm and in sync with the horse, improving balance and stabilization of the child’s core. Ac-



Eli gets PT; he has SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) and he works a lot on core strengthening and balance.



Ana has Down Syndrome. Common diagnoses treated at Horseplay Therapy Center are Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, sensory processing disorder and developmental delay.



Kaelynn, who works with Melinda Clark, the occupational therapist, is riding Captain.

ording to Carregal, a horse’s hips and pelvis move much like a human’s, so therapists are able to work on a child’s posture while on the horse.

As for speech therapy, Carregal said, “You’d be surprised about how determined children are to get their horse to ‘go!’”

She said the children are happy and content to be outside and hearing the nature and animal noises and look forward to going to therapy.

“I wasn’t a ‘horse person’ growing up, but hippotherapy has become so important to me,” Carregal said. “I’m passionate about offering this therapy that also provides social and emotional benefits.”

nies, dominoes and board games. Prizes will be awarded in gift cards and theme baskets. Tickets cost \$25 and include lunch; all proceeds benefit Horseplay Therapy Center. Contact Jacqphil@aol.com for more information or to sign up.

Visit [www.horseplaytherapy.org](http://www.horseplaytherapy.org) for more information about Horseplay or email [horseplaytherapycenter@gmail.com](mailto:horseplaytherapycenter@gmail.com) if you have questions about hippotherapy.



Therapy horse Brave.



Therapy horse Rebel.

Helping Hands’ Game Day fundraiser to benefit Horseplay Therapy Center will be held at South Hampton on Sept. 23 beginning at 10 a.m. The event will feature all types of games, bridge, Pen-

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# Local beekeepers boast of benefits

By Heidy Brososky-Weaver  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Bee-lieve it or not, beekeeping is becoming a sweet hobby and business for many locals, and they are happy to share what all the buzz is about.

When Susan Roark and her husband Ron decided to retire in St. Johns County several years ago, one of her goals was to become a beekeeper and gather enough honey for her family. Twenty-three hives later, Roark now enjoys educating others about beekeeping while selling part of her harvest.

Roark even sets up a display table with colorful pictures and information on everything from baby bees and bait hives to queen bees and royal jelly.

“Bees are a passion of mine. They fulfill a need to keep learning,” said Roark, a former teacher, high school administrator, and graduate of the University of Florida Bee College.

A registered beekeeper, Roark’s hives are inspected annually for diseases and pests by the Florida Department of Agriculture.

“It’s important to keep your hives healthy,” said Roark, who only uses local bees that gather pollen from various plants such as goldenrod, saw palmetto, and gallberry. In addition, registered hives are on the Anastasia Mosquito Control’s radar,

offering more protection from area-wide sprays.

Keeping a healthy hive can be challenging, as Fruit Cove resident Natalie Highsmith discovered. She is in the process of rebuilding her hive after sharing bees with a friend whose hive was inexplicably depleted.



Photos courtesy Heidy Brososky-Weaver  
Luke and Zachary Highsmith.

“There are no finite rules. You kind of learn as you go,” said Highsmith.

Although her hive just yields a small amount of honey, beekeeping brings great joy to her and her two young sons, seven-year-old Luke and four-year-old Zachary.

“It’s weird how we like honey, but it comes from the bee’s insides,” said Luke. A science-loving Hickory Creek Elementary student, Luke also added that honeybees, unlike other bees, die after stinging a person.

To prevent bees from stinging, Highsmith blows smoke into the hive.

“They don’t like sudden moves or noises; so, you heat them to cool them down,”

said Highsmith, who got hooked on the hobby while living in Colorado.

As for long-time Fruit Cove residents Cindy Blackwell and her husband, Skip, they started their business, Hives and More, after retiring.

“We have never worked harder,” quipped Blackwell.

They not only sell honey from her 300 hives, but also they build and sell bee equipment such as starter kits (complete with eggs, baby bees, worker bees, a queen, and honey for around \$150).

Blackwell said there is not much to maintaining a hive during the warm months, although weather has a lot to do with the honey yield. In the winter, however, she gives bees sugar water and finds one of the biggest challenges is making a queen bee and keeping her happy.

“Queens can be pretty prissy,” laughed Blackwell.

For Blackwell, her business is about awareness.

“There is a shortage of bees, and it’s hard to grow gardens without them,” she said.



Susan Roark enjoys educating others about beekeeping while selling part of her harvest.

Three-fourths of flowering plants and about one-third of the world’s food crops depend on pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats, and birds to reproduce, according to the United States Department of Agriculture website.

In addition, Blackwell uses honey as an antibiotic. There is a widespread belief that eating local, raw honey can alleviate allergy symptoms by regularly exposing a person to local pollen, as well.

For those who catch the buzz about bees



Natalie Highsmith blows smoke into the hive.


and beekeeping, there are shirts, signs, and bumper stickers galore. In fact, a bumper sticker spotted on a car

at the corner of Race Track Road and State Road 13 summed up their prevailing attitude: “Honey Bees Rock!”







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# Going Dutch: St. Johns County students participate in international exchange with the Netherlands

By Eric Rakov  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Instead of the traditional summer camp, 11 middle schoolers from St. Johns and Duval counties spent two weeks in the Netherlands with host families as part of Children's Summer International Village (CISV) Interchange Program. While in the Netherlands, each US delegate was paired up with an Interchange partner of the same age and interests who they lived with and were basically treated like a member of the family. Each delegation was also accompanied by a team of CISV youth leaders from their home country to help organize activities and liaison with the parents overseas (the youth did not bring cell phones on their trip).



Photo courtesy Eric Rakov  
Middle schoolers spent two weeks in the Netherlands with host families as part of Children's Summer International Village (CISV) Interchange Program.

They came their 11 Dutch Interchange counterparts to stay with their family in North-east Florida. Throughout the Interchange program, the students alternated between group activities facilitated by their delegations' youth leaders, and also had "family time" to enjoy typical summer activities with their host families such as hiking, touring, visiting amusement parks, attending sports events, shopping, the beach or other everyday activities.

Drew Bak, an eighth-grader at Fruit Cove Middle School who spent two weeks with his Interchange partner's family in Bussum (just outside of Amsterdam) noted that a striking difference between the US and the

Netherlands was the prolific use of bicycles and public transportation.

"It's easy for kids there to travel and walk around; here, we have to have our parents drive everywhere because there is not really any public transportation."

Bak's Dutch counterpart, Floris (who is bilingual) also remarked on the differences he noticed when experiencing life as an American teen for two weeks.

"They can't bike to places... they have to rely more on their parents to get from place to place," he said.

As for the Florida attire? "They wear different clothes... shorts and tee shirts because of the weather."

When asked what else surprised him about his visit overseas, Bak said, "I was surprised about how nice and open they were... after a couple of days, I felt like I knew them for years and could tell them anything."

The Dutch CISV Interchange delegation said their farewells and headed back to the Netherlands on Aug. 7. Thanks to modern technology, these students will remain friends and continue to be a part of each others' lives for years to come, and will always have a "home away from home" when they travel abroad again.

*CISV is a non-profit group that relies 100 percent on volunteers, with a mission to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world. The Jacksonville Chapter of CISV is one of the most active, and hosts Interchange as well as facilitates many other youth camps and programs which all have the common goal to promote world peace through international friendships. Camps and programs are designed for youth aged 11 - 18. Visit <http://jacksonville.cisvusa.org> for more information.*



Photo courtesy Peter Gallant

## Local student breaks world hula hooping record

Thomas Gallant, 2019 graduate of Creekside High School, is the official world record holder for the one mile run while hula hooping. The Guinness Book of World Records recognized his Nov. 18, 2018 record of 6:53:37 at the Creekside High School track. Gallant is continuing his education and his hula hoop running at the University of Central Florida this fall.

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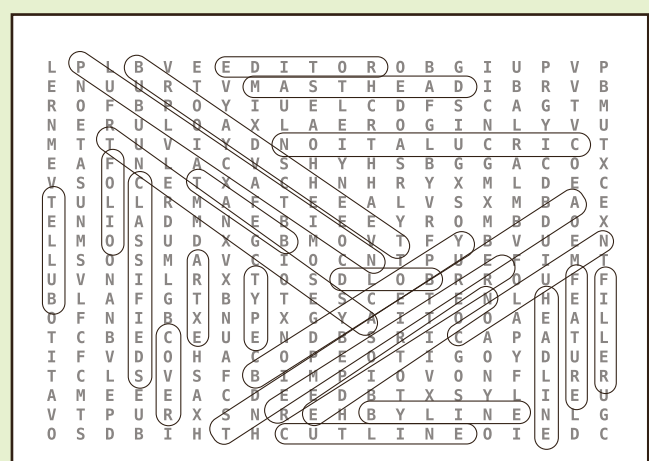
We are excited to announce the arrival of, **Raquel Perez APRN,** in Mid-September

Answers to puzzles on page 24

## Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. text B. summary C. title D. character



## School Briefs

### New post-football game option for high schoolers

5th Quarter BT is a non-profit corporation established to provide free, fun, alcohol and drug-free events for high schoolers following Bartram Trail High School home football games. Each event will feature music, Poppin-Box Popcorn, fresh cotton candy, Top Down shaved ice, giveaways and large, age-appropriate inflatables including a bungee trampoline, Meltdown, Wipeout and a 73-foot obstacle course — all provided free of charge.

According to 5th Quarter BT founder Claudine Owen, It's been said there are basically three groups of students in high school. One group is going to party; one group isn't; and the third and largest group are those students trying to make the decision which group to be in. 5th Quarter BT strives to give all of those students a place to go — a safe place where they can hang out and have fun with their friends without drugs or alcohol.

The first event will be on Friday, Sept. 6 following the Bartram/Creekside game on the grounds of Faith Community Church, 3450 County Road 210W. This is not just a Bartram Trail High School event; it is for all high schoolers.

### Creekside FBLA students place at national competition

Nineteen students from Creekside High School attended the FBLA National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas this summer after advancing from the Florida State Leadership Conference/Competition held earlier this year. Each state could enter their top four participants for each event.

National finalists from Creekside were: Michael Frenk, first place in Data Security; Spencer Reagan, third place in Help Desk; Teegan Bailey, fifth place in Future Business Leader; Elyse Soracco sixth place in 3D Animation; Michael Frenk sixth place in Computer Problem Solving and Clay Carter 10th place in Networking Concepts.

Lynda Kelly, with Kathy Sinardi assisting, established the Creekside's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America in fall 2013. With 225 members last year, 128 members participated in the District 27 Competition, where 82 members qualified for the State Competition. Fifty of the 82 members competed at State in Orlando, where 19 members placed in the Top Five at the State level. FBLA has more than 60 competitive and skills



Photo courtesy Lynda Kelly

events from the areas of technology, public speaking, communication, business, finance, and management. More than 9,500 of America's best and brightest high school students traveled to San Antonio to "Create. Lead. Inspire." as they competed for the opportunity to win more than \$179,000 in cash awards.

### Palencia PTO off and running in new school year

Palencia's PTO has been working hard through the summer to get the ball rolling for the start of the new school year. After a successful fundraising campaign last year, the school was able to install new playground equipment and expand the fenced-in play area on campus. Because of this and other new security enhancements, Palencia students will no longer be going to the public Pirate Ship Park for regular recess and there is no longer a security reason for kids to wear a specific color tee to school each day of the week.

"Now that students will be on campus for the entire day," said PTO Co-President Amy Gramatges, "the 'Color of the Day' spirit wear shirts were not as important, so new designs, colors, and options were created."

Visit <http://palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com/spirit-wear.html> for more information.

On Aug. 26, Palencia Elementary kicked off its biggest fundraising drive of the year: Boosterthon. This pledge drive has proven to be a successful moneymaker for the school for several years. This year's theme is the Wild West, and the fundraising goal is \$40,000. Monies are to be allocated toward the replacement of projectors in the classrooms. The Boosterthon run will take place on Sept. 6.

This year's fundraising efforts are going to support a variety of initiatives, including additional playground enhancements, smart boards for classrooms, audio visual equipment for the cafeteria and the continual refresh of outdated technology.

Visit <http://palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com/parent-pirate-crew.html> for more information about joining the school's PTO.

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**Griefshare** will be held at Fruit Cove Baptist Church from 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights in Building 3, Room 3. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Call Cecille Hammond at (904) 859-6098 or Gwen Davis at (904) 287-0996, for more information or to register. Childcare is provided.

**St. Therese Mission** holds mass at 11 a.m. on Sundays at Patriot Oaks Academy Cafetorium, 475 Longleaf Pine Parkway. The mission is sponsored by San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church in Switzerland. All are welcome to attend.

**Prevail**, a care and support group for single moms, will be held at Fruit Cove Baptist Church in the ROC-Room 301 on Wednesday nights from 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This class includes a bible study, fellowship, and childcare. For more information or to register contact Denise Hodges at (904) 651-7625 or Gwen Davis at (904) 287-0996.

**The Patriotic Rosary** will be prayed at 7 p.m. at San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church, 1718 State Road 13. All are welcome to join in prayers for our nation.

## A roaring good time at Vacation Bible School

By Tracie Boudreau  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

San Juan del Rio Catholic church just wrapped up another Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. The midsummer week-long program was jam packed with faith-filled art projects, fun games, and fellowship. The theme this year was "ROAR. Life is wild. God is good."

Vacation Bible School was a great opportunity for the younger kids to have faith-based fun and for the older kids to get service hours and experiences. There

were plenty of high school and middle school students on hand to lead the groups of elementary campers who were noticeably having a great time.

San Juan del Rio youth minister Liz McGillin said, "At San Juan del Rio, we are a family and it was amazing to see that family come together to put on our best VBS yet! We cannot wait until next year."

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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

If you haven't been shrimping yet this year, now is the time to gather your gear and get started. Even though the season is still early, the numbers and the size of the shrimp (mostly larges) are more typical for later in the season.

Years back, shrimping was mostly a nighttime event. As evening approaches and the sun sets, shrimp will leave the deeper waters and channels in favor of shorelines and shallow water. Baiting an area with shrimp meal that has been rolled into a clay or dough ball and tossed into the shallow water area you intend to shrimp is how you begin. Lighting up your area with lanterns is the next step needed to attract shrimp to where you will be shrimping. Shortly after sunset, using a 3/8 inch mesh cast net, begin throwing the net in the areas you have baited. Remember to add additional bait balls as needed to keep shrimp attracted to your area and that sometimes it takes a little patience waiting for the shrimp to move in. Nighttime shrimping usually works best from a dock or a boat in as little as three to six feet of water.

Daytime shrimping has become the more common way to shrimp the St. Johns River. Unlike nighttime shrimping, baiting an area is not needed at all; however, in most instances, a boat is needed. If you don't have access to a boat, there are still a few locations in Jacksonville where daylight shrimping can be done from a seawall. One such popular area is the Friendship Fountain/St. Johns Marina Boat Ramp seawall on downtown's Southbank.

When shrimping during daylight hours, one only needs to locate the shrimp as they leave the shallow waters from the night before. Mouths of creeks and points are good places to begin looking. Again, using a 3/8 inch mesh cast net is your only weapon of choice. Because of the depths and current involved for daytime shrimping, extra rope tied to your net and webbing may be required. Webbing on a net has somewhat of a



Photo courtesy David Lifka  
Eighth grader Dawson Vaughn of Julington Creek Plantation with shrimp he caught recently in Doctor's Lake. The shrimp were caught throwing a six-foot webbed cast net in 20 feet of water.

parachute effect when throwing in deeper water, helping your net open more or stay open all the way to the bottom. Webbed nets can be bought online, at select local bait and tackle stores, or homemade with duct tape. Duct taping your net instructions can be easily found online.

Icing down your shrimp prior to heading and deveining will help make that job a little easier. Headed shrimp can be stored best in Tupperware-type containers filled with water and then frozen, easily keeping them fresh for many months to come.

**Fishing Report:** Time to go shrimping. Doctors Lake and the north side of the mouth of Julington Creek have been very productive. Live shrimp baits are best for all types of river fishing now.

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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- ◆ **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 Install • Remove • Replace
- ◆ **Soffit & Fascia Board:** Install • Remove Replace • Power Wash • Paint
- ◆ **Tile:** Install • Remove • Replace Walls • Flooring • Also Exterior
- ◆ **Picture Hanging** ◆ **Television Brackets**
- ◆ **Wallpaper:** Remove • Wall Repair • Paint
- ◆ **Wainscoting:** Install • Remove • Paint
- ◆ **Wood Rot:** Repair all Areas Around the Home

Office Manager Debbie

**904-801-9816**

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**Saturday, October 5, 2019**  
**9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

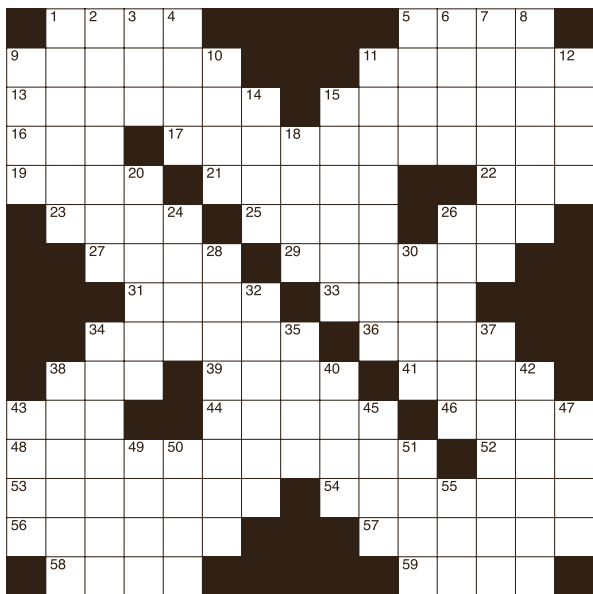
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No pets allowed.

# Puzzles

Answers on page 20  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Babies' eating accessories
- 5. Charge on a coat of arms
- 9. Set of five
- 11. California town
- 13. One who cites
- 15. Elected official
- 16. Japanese delicacy
- 17. Couldn't be happier
- 19. Enormous
- 21. Hunter's tool
- 22. Georgia rockers
- 23. Cold wind
- 25. Beginner
- 26. Where you sleep
- 27. Without
- 29. We all have them
- 31. Spoiled

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Spread over
- 2. Dyes
- 3. British thermal unit
- 4. Small city in Maine
- 5. Having an affection for
- 6. Welsh for John
- 7. Plays that ridicule
- 8. Not of your right mind
- 9. A way to get there
- 10. Hideaways
- 11. Relating to neurons
- 12. "Family City USA"
- 14. Proof of payment (abbr.)
- 15. Flew high
- 18. Wreaths
- 20. Got rid of
- 24. Shortly
- 33. Platform
- 34. Drama and horror are two
- 36. In abundance
- 38. Turf
- 39. Inventor Musk
- 41. Negative answers
- 43. French river
- 44. Saps of energy
- 46. Type of sandwich
- 48. Sets apart again
- 52. Engage in a contest
- 53. Sufferings
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Digs into
- 57. Fish have them
- 58. Speaks
- 59. Storage unit

- 26. Confer
- 28. Monies given as support
- 30. German electric car
- 32. Objects of an earlier time
- 34. Flat-bottomed boats
- 35. Small waterbird
- 37. Willingness to please others
- 38. Military actions
- 40. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 42. Took to the seas
- 43. Romanian city
- 45. What the sun eventually does
- 47. Titans' DC Dean
- 49. Resentful longing
- 50. Ceases to live
- 51. Pouches
- 55. Humbug



Solve the code to discover words related to writing.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 10 = t)

**A. 10 2 8 10**  
Clue: Written words

**B. 1 7 14 14 3 4 17**  
Clue: Short explanation

**C. 10 19 10 12 2**  
Clue: Name of book

**D. 9 22 3 4 3 9 10 2 4**  
Clue: Person in a story

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

**WORDS**

- ADVERTISEMENT
- ASSIGNMENT
- BEAT
- BODY COPY
- BOLD
- BROADSHEET
- BULLET
- BYLINE
- CIRCULATION
- CLASSIFIEDS
- COLUMN
- COVER
- CUTLINE
- EDITION
- EDITOR
- EXTRA
- FEATURE
- FILLER
- FOLIO
- HEADLINE
- MASTHEAD
- PUBLICATION
- REPORTER
- TYPE

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

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# Travel

## Cooperstown, NY and the Boys of Summer

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewline.com

In 1974, Chevy reduced the essence of America to a famous jingle: “Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet.” Too simple for sure, and more than a bit self-serving, but it hit a home run with many. Nearly five decades later, an idyllic place in upstate New York still hits ‘em outta the park. Cooperstown draws folks with three centuries of American history and baseball.

Beyond the post-card-pretty vintage town square, Cooperstown is home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, a near-religious pilgrimage site for enthusiasts of the game. They come to pay homage to the heroes

of the game and connect with the sacred relics: balls, bats, uniforms, shoes, scorecards, and those famous baseball cards mom threw in the trash.



World Series trophy

Tourists from all over the world travel to the unlikely destination reached only by two-lane roads through rolling hills of bucolic farmland (unless flying in by private jet). The town sits on the southern shore of Lake Otsego, aptly named Glimmerglass by James Fenimore Cooper in his “Leatherstocking Tales.” The novelist’s father, William Cooper, founded

the town in 1786, a visionary. He bought land and resold it to pioneers giving them years to pay. He moved

his own family there in 1790, became the county’s first judge, and served two terms in Congress.

His son, James Fenimore, grew into the town’s most famous resident and continued to encourage others to build and promote the summer retreat; however, a major fire struck the town in 1862. Fortunately, the Clark family came along, making a fortune from their connection and investment in Singer sewing machines.

In later generations, art collector and philanthropist Stephen Clark became instrumental in creating the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The complex opened in 1939.

Baseball fans spend most of a day touring the brick repository — from the introductory film to three floors of displays, the newer ones interactive. The Hall of Fame dominates in a glassed domed area with individual plaques displayed on the wall. To become a Hall of Famer, a player must be considered

worthy of having his name placed on the ballot. He must have spent 10 seasons in the major leagues, be retired from the game for at least five years, and receive at least 75 percent of the vote. Induction ceremonies occur in late July when the population of the town swells.

“It’s a madhouse,” said my guide, who led a tour relating fascinating stories about the Boys of Summer. “The spirit in the town can hardly be contained. We’re thrilled when it happens and then glad to watch the crowds go.”

Tourists with big



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Babe Ruth plaque

budgets stay at The Otesaga Resort Hotel, the granddaddy of the town, open since 1909. Numerous B & Bs are scattered about and chain hotels are located a few miles out of the historic area. They are popular with youth teams who come to play in Doubleday Stadium.

Cooperstown isn’t all baseball; the



Prized Mickey Mantle baseball card

Farmer’s Museum is one of the finest living history museums in the U.S. and a must-stop for all families. My daughter, two grandsons and I entered through the most elegant dairy barn imaginable, formerly part of the Fenimore

estate. The boys participated with the costumed interpreters. We all rode the gorgeous Empire State carousel.

We ate at local establishments as no chains are allowed downtown. We didn’t have time to visit the Fenimore Art Museum, attend the Glimmerglass Opera or take a boat ride on the lake.

“When we go back to the Hall of Fame,” said one of my little guys, “I want to look at all those baseball cards. And take more money for the gift shop!”

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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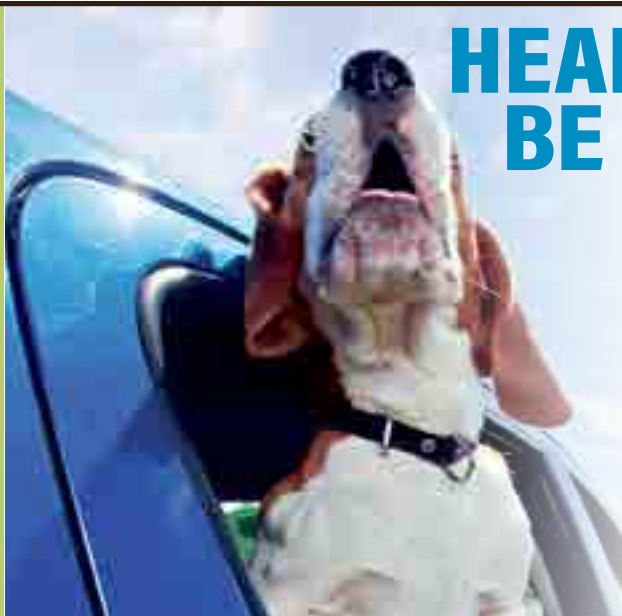




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