

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

MEET THE CANDIDATES
Pages 11-15 

AUGUST 2020 Volume 7 Issue 8

Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley, Nocatee and South Ponte Vedra Beach

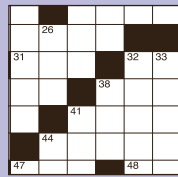
A Florida NewsLine Publication



page 3
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 8
Newcomers of Beaches



page 8
Puzzles



page 10
Get To Know...
Andrew Medina

Food rescue charity feeds thousands weekly

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

What are the chances that a film could inspire you to start a nonprofit that feeds thousands each week, while continuing to hold another full-time job? That's exactly what happened in late 2018 after Sunny Mulford of St. Augustine watched the documentary "Wasted! The Story of Food Waste."

"It changed my life," said Mulford. "Seeing all that waste and the harm to animals and the environment, we just had to do something about it."



Photo courtesy Ken Mulford

Epic-Cure volunteers at their warehouse in St. Augustine.

From there, things quickly moved from concept to reality. Sunny Mulford, her husband Ken Mulford and daughter Hanna created the food rescue organization they named Epic-Cure in late December 2018 and received nonprofit status from the IRS in February 2019. They secured a 2,500-square-foot warehouse — and last May the first rescued and donated food arrived, and clients in need began "shopping" for food items.

"We find it not only helps to preserve dignity, but also ensures that food will be eaten if patrons are able to 'shop' and choose the food they want," Ken Mulford said.

Food rescue cont. on pg. 6

Finding fungus in Palm Valley

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewline.com

Eric Pearson would be the first to tell you that his mushroom farm doesn't look very impressive from the outside, describing the structures as a bit of a "hodge-podge" set up.

Don't be fooled.

Take one step inside the grow room, a refrigerated shipping container that Pearson converted into a climate-controlled chamber, and the exterior quickly becomes insignificant. The shelves are lined with Blue Oyster, Yellow Oyster, Lion's Mane and Shiitake mushrooms in 100 percent



Son & Skye Mushrooms owner Catherine Pearson at the Beaches Farmers Market, representing the farm and holding an Oyster Mushroom.

humidity and a maximum temperature of 65 degrees (temperature sensors are used). It is a carefully balanced ecosystem engineered by Pearson, who holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida. He controls temperature, air flow and light in the grow room to maintain a seasonal variety of gourmet mushrooms at his Palm Valley family business, Son & Skye Mushrooms.

Pearson was working at a coffee shop when he first started to research the idea of a small farm. He and his wife Catherine stumbled upon mushrooms and soon realized that this was the perfect way to bring food closer to people — the couples' ultimate goal.

"It checked a lot of boxes for us," said Pearson, who grew up in Jacksonville Beach. "We started a family at the same time, so that really gave me the impetus to start a business."

The Pearsons' first mushroom sale took place in March 2015 after years of research. The company name is a pun

inspired by their three young children — the sons of "Son & Skye" are Simon, 7, and Joey, 2 ½. Their daughter's name is Skye, 5.

"The work fits us as a family — we have flexibility in our schedule, we can grow things and tinker and eat well. We get a lot of appreciation from people at the markets and restaurants; however, it is physically demanding work, and it is difficult to get away for even a few days," said Catherine Pearson, who was born in Philadelphia.

Eric Pearson says the best way to describe the farm is a "controlled growing system" as opposed to hydroponics or a field of mushrooms — two things he has heard folks mention when they imagine his livelihood. He began his business on his back porch by growing the oyster mushroom on straw.



Eric Pearson next to the steamer.

From there, he talked to chefs around town to gauge their level of interest in his product and found a positive response. In fact, Pearson now sells to 20 to 30 local restaurants and usually produces about 100 pounds of mushrooms a week. During the busy season and prior to the pandemic, Pearson would produce 250 pounds a week, and 90 percent of his sales came from standing restaurant orders. Pearson said summer months tend to be the slowest time for the farm.

The Pearsons now lease land in Palm Valley off Roscoe Boulevard where he or a staff member works every day to maintain the mushrooms. The first step at the farm is making bags that contain soy and sawdust. Water is added to the bags, and



Photos courtesy Tiffany Merlo Phelps

Son & Skye Mushroom Farm owner Eric Pearson holding a Lion's Mane mushroom in the grow room. (Pearson took off his face mask just for the photo.)

then they are then placed in a steamer for sterilization for six to 12 hours. Next the bags move to what the Pearsons refer to as the "lab area" where inoculation takes place in a very sterile environment with a consistent air flow to prevent contamination. The mushroom spawn, which the Pearsons currently purchase, is then added to the bag and sealed. It is referred to as a "block" at this point. These blocks next head to the incubating room for different amounts of time depending on the mushroom type, but the goal is for it to turn white, creating a white mold known as mycelium. Without mycelium, there would be no mushrooms. The Shiitake mushroom takes a longer time to incubate at 70 days. The last stop is the grow room where the mushrooms flourish in "flushes" within 10 – 14 days for most, and each block could have two to three flushes. It is at this point that harvesting takes place, and the mushrooms are placed into boxes and into an industrial refrigerator before being sold. Oyster



Eric Pearson sealing bags filled with soy and sawdust.

mushrooms are the fastest growing, and the Blue Oyster accounts for 60 percent of the sales. Typically, mushrooms cost \$5 for four to five ounces or \$16 – \$20 a pound, said Pearson.

Finding fungus cont. on pg. 10

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CHRIS *Strickland*

Why did Historic City News Endorse Chris Strickland for Sheriff?

By Tom Verri
St Johns County, FL

Last month I announced to the readers my endorsement of Chris Strickland for St. Johns County Sheriff. I explained how Chris Strickland's experience as former Director of The St Johns County Sheriff's Office far exceeds that of his opponent who runs a small agency of 21 officers. Read below why Historic City News of Saint Augustine and its Editorial Board endorses Chris Strickland for Sheriff.

Endorsement

It has been 16-years since we made an endorsement for this important constitutional officer and over that time our volunteer editorial board has paid attention to the current officeholder so we could be prepared when this day finally arrived. Historic City News endorsed David Shoar over Glenn Lightsey in 2004, and for the first six years, it looked like it was going to be a good fit.

Unfortunately, following the death of Michelle O'Connell on September 2, 2010, every interaction with Shoar, and later with many departments within the agency, became more and more strained. Shoar expected a "pass" from us on the mishandling of the case as each week brought to light another mistake or negligent step in the investigation.

From that point forward, every press release got fact-checked, we made public records requests to support almost everything his spokesman claimed, and what was reported was not always in lock-step with the sanitized version released by Chuck Mulligan. About three years ago, I was informed that the department would no longer issue me a "press pass" or allow me to make media inquiries because the sheriff would not approve what I was writing.

So, when Shoar came out with his endorsement of Robert Hardwick, I was concerned. It was clear that he would owe Shoar a considerable political debt. The land developers in Duval County started dropping \$1,000 personal donations into the campaign and before long, Hardwick's campaign account was in the six-figure range.

As I skimmed over Hardwick's financial report recently, I noticed that all of the people who played a questionable role in the Michelle O'Connell case were also \$1000 personal donors. A cold chill ran down my back and I knew that the only hope for Hardwick at that point was complete independence from Shoar's influence.

We found that the closer we got to Election Day, the more influence Shoar was exerting over Hardwick. Next Shoar shows up drunk or high at the Republican Club's candidate debate, a crew of ranking deputies in tow. After which a loud verbal disturbance breaks out in the men's room between Shoar and J. B. Burney.

We can find no evidence that the current sheriff will not exercise his influence over the Hardwick, if elected. Anything less than an about face from the unaccountability of the past 16-years is not acceptable. For that reason, the Historic City News Editorial Board endorses Chris Strickland for Sheriff of St Johns County.

It's an impressive read to say the least. It illustrates some simple facts. Sheriff David Shoar wants you to vote for his guy, Rob Hardwick because he knows he will keep the curtain closed, and that the transparency and openness we the people of this county demand will be denied. Rob Hardwick has been backed by hundreds of thousands of dollars of money from outside St. Johns County. Rob Hardwick runs an agency of 21 officers and oversees 6 square miles in a community without schools, critical infrastructure, or serious crime and has never worked for The St Johns County Sheriff's Office. Rob Hardwick has never commanded more than a few people. Chris Strickland rose through the ranks of The St Johns County Sheriff's Office to the highest rank of Director of The Office of Sheriff. Chris Strickland found many broken things at that highest level of the agency and decided to run for sheriff. They want to stop him. Chris Strickland will bring the change, integrity, and honesty back. He will make sure we do not have another embarrassing embezzlement of taxpayer funds, he will not self-investigate on matters of police use of force. He has promised to equip all deputies with body worn cameras. He will restore the image of the office and give the people of this county an office they can be proud of once again. That is why I am behind him 100% and you should be too!

Strickland4Sheriff.com

Paid for by Chris Strickland, Rep. for St Johns County Sheriff

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet TWINKLES!



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Miniature Dachshund

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

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FAVORITE TREAT:

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FAVORITE FRIEND:

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HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:

When I saw her she was the size of a Twinkie...And her color was the same.

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Table of Contents

- 4 Q & A with Kelly Barrera
- 4 Q & A with Brandon Patty
- 5 Q & A with Vicky Oakes
- 5 Q & A with Eddie Creamer
- 6 Newcomers Alumnae
- 7 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 11 Election Guide

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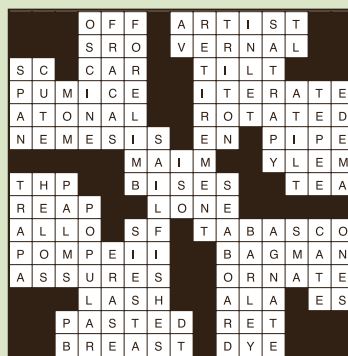


MYSTERY PHOTO



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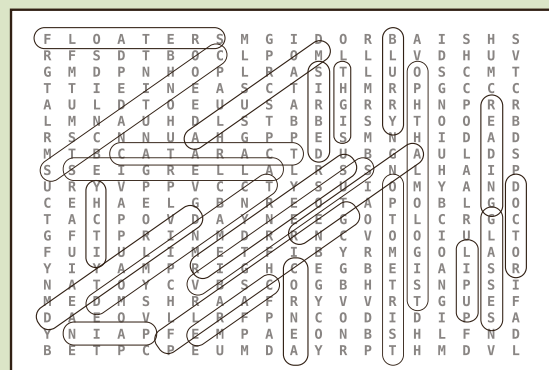
Last month's Mystery Photo was Our Lady Star of the Sea. Our winner was Charles Lizak. Congratulations!



Answers to our Puzzles PG 8



Answers: A. vision B. retina C. clarity D. distance



Advertisers' Index

Ackerman Cancer Center - Urology.....2	JJ's Liberty Bistro.....7
Affordable Water.....8	Joe McAnarney Campaign12
Anytime Fitness16	Mary Ellen Osterndorf Campaign13
Bryan Rendzio Campaign.....15	Mike Orfinger Campaign11
Chris Strickland Campaign.....2	River Garden2
Chris Strickland Campaign.....13	Rob Hardwick Campaign.....12
Christian Whitehurst Campaign.....12	Smiles By Glenos & Hadgis.....10
Creeks AC.....1	St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections..14
Cut Right On Time Lawns.....6	Starling Senior Living.....4
Dr. Erick Aguilar Campaign.....13	Tailored Living.....5
Family Remodeling.....8	The Right Cleaners8
Forever Vets16	Westminster St. Augustine.....6
George Burden Campaign.....13	Wild Birds Unlimited.....7
Jimmy Johns Campaign15	

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with St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon Patty

Q: What can you tell us about the recent closing of your satellite offices in the Northwest and Ponte Vedra Beach? Will this be permanent?

A: We have had to close our services in each of these annexes due to COVID-19. All services are available at our Main Office on US Highway 1 / Lewis Speedway, including passport services — which was the main service we offered at the annex. Passports may be obtained at the Main Office by appointment only; call (904) 819-3632 to make an appointment. We hope to reopen and expand the services we offer in the Northwest and Ponte Vedra annexes after the pandemic.

Q: What else has been happening in the Clerk's Office?

A: As part of our job as comptroller of St. Johns County, we recently published the annual financial report of St. Johns County. It's a 400 page rundown of the county's finances over the last fiscal year. Our office is part of the checks and balances of the county government to keep the public's trust. For instance, if the Board of County Commissioners authorizes a purchase and sends it to us to pay out, we make sure that we have all the pertinent information needed to have a successful transaction.

This responsibility and others that the Clerk's Office has are featured in a weekly Facebook video series. Visit www.facebook.com/StJohnsClerk to see the series. This is a great way to keep up with our office.

Q: Has funding for your office been impacted by the pandemic?

A: The Clerk's Office receives funding from two sources to reflect the specific functions we perform: from the state, we receive funding due to our court functions and from the county, we receive funding due to our role as comptroller and inspector general. Due to COVID-19 and the reduction of court cases and fees, the state of Florida has cut our funding by about 14 percent; the cut will be implemented in the fourth quarter, which will actually represent about a 40 percent decrease in that quarter's budget.

We are looking at reallocating some funding to cover the cuts and we are on guard for next year. I believe it is a testament to the fiscal conservation of this office for the past several years that we are hopeful to get through this without furloughs or reductions of services to the people of St. Johns County.

Q: Is there a date when jury trials will resume?

A: There is no firm date for a return to jury trials at this time, although other court proceedings continue. Video conferencing is being used at every opportunity possible.

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

A: A lot of questions can be answered by visiting our website, www.stjohnsclerk.com, which is most commonly used to pay traffic citations or search court records. People can also call our main office at (904) 819-3600.



with St. Johns County School Board Member, Kelly Barrera, District 4

Q: Regarding the new school year, what do we know about reopening plans at this point [interview date of July 16]?

A: Our district's plan has to be submitted to the state by the end of July. We feel confident that the four options we have put out to parents will meet the state's requirements. The four options are:

1. Attend brick and mortar school as has been traditionally done.
2. School-based distance learning, where students will still be assigned to their home school. This is similar to what we saw last spring. Students will attend classes with teachers from their school. After the first nine weeks or the first semester, these students will transition back to their home brick and mortar school, or they have the option to attend St. Johns Virtual School for the second semester.
3. Attend St. Johns Virtual School, which is our local virtual school and has local teachers who understand our expectations, core philosophies and school environment. If students plan to come back to brick and mortar school next school year, the transition will be pretty seamless. Florida Virtual School is the statewide virtual school option, where teachers can be from anywhere in the state.
4. Families always have the option to homeschool their children.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As of July 21, the school calendar for 2020 – 21 has been revised to include a student start date of Aug. 31, 2020 and the extension of the school year into June 2021.]

Q: Why can't students do school based distance learning for the whole year?

A: This possibly could happen. Right now, though, the state's emergency order just gives us this option through the first semester. As with everything, this could be extended. Circumstances

could dictate change. What I like about the school based distance learning option is that it gives students who perhaps have family members with compromised immune systems the opportunity to still be part of their school's community, while minimizing risk.

Q: What is the question you are most frequently asked about these options?

A: I am asked pretty regularly something along the lines of "If my child is in academy courses, can they go into the brick and mortar school for academy classes only, or perhaps for specific electives such as band that don't lend themselves to distance learning?" The answer is yes. You just need to work with the principal of your school on a case by case basis. We are trying to make this "choice-friendly" for families based on their individual situation.

There is so much information available on our website (<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>) and I recommend that parents check it regularly. The FAQ section is constantly updated.

Q: How is the construction of the new schools coming along?

A: Everything is on schedule for K-8 School "MM" and High School "HHH." We do have dates for the upcoming public rezoning meetings: Aug. 4 at 6 p.m., a Virtual Town Hall for High School "HHH" and Sept. 22 at 6 p.m., a Virtual Town Hall for K-8 School "MM."

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 4?

A: I am thrilled for our teachers to get the extra funding provided by the governor's budget to bring their salaries up. We are looking forward to increasingly compensating all of our amazing teachers.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call me at (904) 547-7510.

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcf.us)

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org, (904) 824-8304
Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

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: Brandon Patty, (904) 819-3600

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

District 1: Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301

District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@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 4: Kelly Barrera, kelly.barrera@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:
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041
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FACEBOOK



with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: What can you tell us about the Voter Election Protection Standards, recently adopted by your office?

A: This addresses concerns about voting during COVID-19 and outlines the responsibilities of both elections office staff and voters.

Here's what voters can expect from my staff and poll workers:

- My office will provide mask, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for workers at the polls.
- We will provide clean voting locations, including check-in and voting booths.
- We will provide hand sanitizer for all voters entering the voting locations.
- We will provide clean pens for check-in and marking your ballot.
- We will provide quick access to ballots and voting booths to spend limited time within the voting location.
- An adequate number of voting booths will be provided inside the polling room to allow for social distancing.

Q: What should voters plan to do?

A: The voter's responsibilities are:

- You should call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238 in advance if you need to update your information or have any questions before going to vote.
- Before arriving to vote, make sure your address is current, study your sample ballot, mark it, bring it with you so that we can meet the goal of casting your ballot as efficiently as possible.
- Sanitize your hands upon arrival, and do not touch your mouth or face inside the polling room as you move through the voting process.
- Limit discussion inside the polling room to protect all in the room.
- Face coverings are encouraged to protect yourself and others. Masks will be available at the polling locations for voters upon request.
- Keep in mind that social distancing is everyone's responsibility. Be respectful of

others' space while waiting in line and inside the polling room.

Q: Do you have any updates about early voting, which will take place Aug. 6 - Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily?

A: I am excited about two new polling locations for early voting. One is the former Earth Fare store on County Road 210. It is huge — a former grocery store — and we will really be able to spread people out. The second new location, also large with plenty of room to spread out, is the Convention Center at World Golf Village.

Q: What can you tell us about Voting By Mail?

A: First of all, if you need a Vote by Mail ballot and haven't yet requested one, there is still a little bit of time — these ballots must be requested by 5 p.m. on Aug. 8.

If you do choose to Vote by Mail, remember that all ballots are due in our office no later than 7 p.m. on Primary Election Day, Aug. 18, to be counted. If they arrive later than that, they will not be counted. There are also Red Drop Boxes located only in the early voting locations, during early voting hours, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily. Did you know that you can track your Vote by Mail ballot on our website? You can see when we send it to you, when we receive it back and when the vote is counted.

Q: Looking ahead to the General Election in November, do you have any preliminary news to share?

A: My goal is to have two additional Early Voting locations above the eight we are offering in the Primary Election. Additionally, I would encourage voters to check the elections office website for any last minute polling location changes due to COVID-19 for the General Election.

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.



with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: What is coming up on the calendar of the Property Appraiser's Office?

A: It is almost time for TRIM (Truth in Millage) notices to be sent out to property owners. It's important to keep in mind that over the past four years, property values in St. Johns County have increased approximately 43 percent, which translates to higher taxes even without a tax increase.

Q: What can you tell us about TRIM notices?

A: TRIM is the most important document a property owner will get in St. Johns County. They will be mailed by our office on Aug. 14 and are also available online (www.sjcpa.us) as of that date. Within the mailing, property owners will receive a copy of the State of Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and a list of exemptions in addition to the TRIM notice. The TRIM notice also contains the date and time of the budget hearing for each of the taxing authorities, so property owners can attend to learn more.

Q: What will the TRIM notice contain?

A: The TRIM notice shows the market value, the assessed value and the taxable value of your property for 2019 and proposed for 2020. It will also show any exemptions for the property. Make sure you check your TRIM notice for accuracy as to values and exemptions. The taxes are listed by taxable authority and will show what the taxes would be if the county made no changes to the budget. This is called the "rollback rate," essentially what your taxes would be this year to allow the county to collect the same amount of money as last year. TRIM will also show the proposed taxes if the proposed budget is passed; this is what would be on the tax bill.

Beginning on Aug. 3, if you go to our website (www.sjcpa.us) or Facebook page, you can view a video with a detailed explanation of TRIM and the appeals process.

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

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

Q: What can you tell us about property valuation in the time of Covid-19?

A: In Florida, we are required by state statute to assess property as of Jan. 1 of the tax year. We are required to submit our tax roll to the taxing authority on July 1. We assess based on ownership, condition and use. Our assessments are largely based on market values and sales of the previous year, so any effect of Covid-19 on values will be reflected in the 2021 tax year, not this year. Statutorily, we can't make adjustments this year, because we always operate in arrears — and even then adjustments have to be statistically based. We don't know what's going to happen for the rest of this 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 or call me at (904) 827-5500.

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Newcomers Alumnae launches new website

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Newcomers Alumnae was formed more than 22 years ago to give graduates of newcomer groups an opportunity to continue growing in the community and to foster friendships through social activities.

“Even though the pandemic has temporarily forced us to cancel most of our functions, we are still continuing to reach out to our members,” said Brooke Freeman, Membership Chair of Newcomers Alumnae. “We have more than 200 members from Ponte Vedra Beach,

Nocatee, Jacksonville, Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and St. Augustine and we're proud to unveil our new website where the public can get more information about our club.”

Visit <https://newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org> or contact brookemeister@msn.com for more information. Find out about the group's many activities such as book club, Bunco, canasta, Happy Hour, Lunch-in, wine socials, mah jongg and adventures and outings.

Food rescue cont. from pg. 1

Epic-Cure works with a variety of organizations, stores, and farms to receive and distribute most types of food items available in grocery stores. Its primary partnership has been with Feeding Northeast Florida (FNF), the local chapter of Feeding America. Through the arrangement, Epic-Cure picks up food from a number Winn-Dixie supermarkets and FNF picks up from Publix, Costco, Whole Foods, and Sam's Club and delivers it to Epic-Cure's warehouse each week.

Today, Epic-Cure is bursting at the seams, providing more than 300,000 pounds of food per month in St. Johns and Putnam counties, in large part due to the coronavirus outbreak. Mulford said that for awhile, they had to shift to a drive-through format and suspended the ability for patrons to “shop” for their own food, but now they have resumed normal operations, with social distancing.

Demand has more than doubled in recent weeks, both from unemployment and because many food security nonprofits in the area have halted operations as their senior-aged volunteers — the most vulnerable to the virus — have prudently remained at home. Compounded by well-publicized “runs on the stores,” which dropped its deliveries from markets by 70 percent, Epic-Cure became a partner agency of the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture (USDA) to help fill the gap.

“Our primary goal is food rescue, but our priority is to feed people, so partnering with the USDA helps us meet that immediate need,” Sunny Mulford said.

Epic-Cure is completely run by volunteers, many of whom are clients or are connected with partner organizations, with more than 1,700 hours logged in May. Sustainability is a critical part of Epic-Cure's operations. Any food that is not usable or is left over goes to local farms for feeding livestock and composting.

“One day a distributor sent 8,000 pounds of lettuce to us — an entire semi-full. Over two days we distributed all but 12 cases, which we sent straight to the farm,” Sunny Mulford said.

One of Epic-Cure's core activities is seniors teaching cooking classes to low-income middle school students.

“Students not only learn sustainable practices, from sourcing and preparation to post-consumption, but also self-reliance and marketable resume-building skills, while our senior volunteers improve their well-being through activity and purpose,” Sunny Mulford said.

Visit www.epic-cure.org/ for more information about donating or volunteering.



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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Market Insight



The Greatest Sports Deal of All Time

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

The American Basketball Association or ABA operated for about a decade in the 1960s and '70s. The new league offered exciting new rules designed to attract fans; the red, white, and blue ball, the three-pointer, and the slam dunk were distinctive features of the old ABA. The league also offered jobs to players who had not yet finished college. The older NBA did not do this, requiring that its players be four years out of high school before they could join.

The ABA created a "hardship rule" that allowed teams to sign younger players and one of those players was Julius Erving, popularly known as Dr. J. The ABA was also known for paying big contracts to star players. Local legend Artis Gilmore, who led Jacksonville University to NCAA finals in 1970, was one. The 7-foot 4-inch center signed with the Kentucky Colonels in 1971 for \$2.5 million.

As the '70s dragged on, the NBA increasingly coveted some of the ABA players, especially Dr. J and it became increasingly obvious that the two leagues would merge. The Silna brothers, Ozzie and Daniel, had made a fortune manufacturing polyester, which was very popular at the time. They wanted an NBA franchise, but none were for sale, so they fixed on the idea of buying an ABA team and having that team merged into the NBA.

They bought the Carolina Cougars in 1974 and then moved the team to St. Louis. They renamed the team the Spirits of St. Louis, a reference to Charles Lindbergh's plane, which he used for his famous solo crossing of the Atlantic in 1927. In 1976, the two leagues merged, but the Spirits were left out. Only four of the remaining seven teams, the Indiana Pacers, the NY Nets,

the San Antonio Spurs, and the Denver Nuggets, were allowed to make the leap to the NBA. The Virginia Squires folded outright, and the Kentucky Colonels' owners were paid \$3.3 million to go away.

The Silna brothers held out, turning down an offer of \$5 million. They eventually settled on a deal that would go down in the annals of sports history. The former Spirits owners would be paid one-seventh of the TV revenues from each of the four teams that made the NBA leap in perpetuity. That would ultimately add up to 2 percent of the NBA's TV revenues. The first year's check was for \$521,749. Checks kept arriving every year and kept going up. The annual payments rose to \$4 million and then to over \$17 million over the next several decades. Finally, in 2014, the Silnas agreed to forego a portion of their future TV revenue in exchange for half a billion dollars.

The story has become a sports legend that has nothing to do with winning games. The Silna brothers' deal is one of the most lucrative in history, netting the pair around a billion dollars. The story deserves a happy ending, but does not get one. Apparently, the Silnas invested a large quantity of money with Bernie Madoff, the legendary Ponzi-schemer and crook. How much money the brothers lost in the scam is unclear, but the government was seeking to recover \$24 million of fake profits that Madoff distributed to the brothers as part of his nefarious scheme.

Scott A. Grant is a local author, historian, columnist, and speaker. He is president of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfastic.com.

St. Johns County approves CARES Act Funding Program

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

The St. Johns Board of County Commissioners approved Phase I of a \$46 million CARES Act funding program on July 14, 2020 that focuses on small business recovery, resident assistance, and non-profit organizations.

County staff contacted community stakeholders to conduct a needs assessment and gather feedback to fund programs essential to recovery efforts. With \$10 million allocated to an expanded Back to Business Grant Program, the funding reinforces St. Johns County's commitment to ensuring small businesses remain at the forefront of the economic recovery effort. Launched in May and funded by the Community Development Block Grant, the Back to Business Grant Program provided short-term financial assistance to St. Johns County businesses that suffered a disruption in operations or a loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. CARES Act funding will allow the county to expand the Back to Business Grant Program and decrease program criteria to assist additional businesses.

The new St. Johns County CARES Act Funding Program also allocated \$3 million to individual resident assistance programs that helped with mortgage payments, rent, and

personal expenses incurred due to COVID-19. The new funding will allow the continuation of the program that was funded by state grant funds, which have been depleted. The program will provide qualified residents with the necessary assistance to remain in their homes and continue on a path to economic recovery. In addition, the county will begin actively soliciting proposals from local nonprofit agencies that have suffered from COVID-19 to apply for a portion of \$5 million of the funding. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that nonprofit organizations are an integral part of our community and their services are vital for the county's vulnerable residents.

Expanded COVID-19 testing and contact tracing efforts were also bolstered with \$2.5 million, and social distancing and decontamination programs received \$1.5 million in funding. The program also allocates \$1.5 million in funding to the City of St. Augustine and \$125,000 to the City of St. Augustine Beach for COVID-related expenditures.

All allocations will undergo a needs assessment and will be subjected to a thorough vetting process to ensure expenditures are in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

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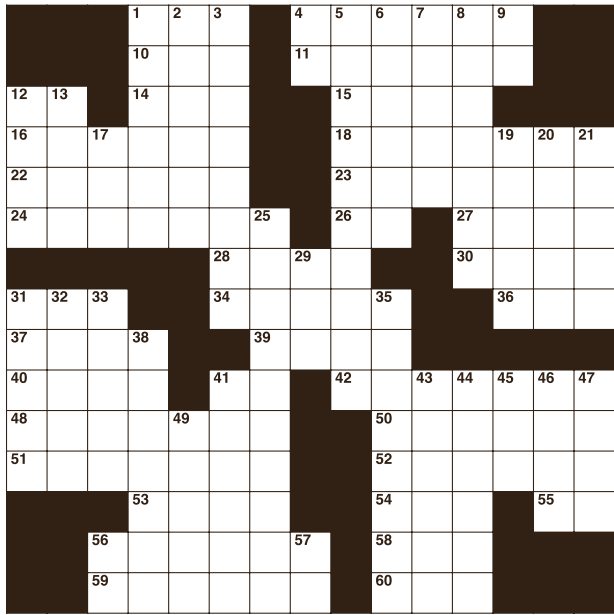
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PVI

Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of on
- 4. Creator
- 10. No seats available
- 11. About springtime
- 12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- 14. Automobile
- 15. A matchup
- 16. Porous volcanic rock
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Not written in any key
- 23. Revolved
- 24. Archival
- 26. Within
- 27. Smoker's accessory
- 28. Disfigure
- 30. Primordial matter
- 31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 34. Kisses

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Passerine birds
- 2. Noisy quarrel
- 3. The front arm or leg of an animal
- 4. Early multimedia
- 5. Golden years
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Small arm of the sea
- 8. Persian jurisdiction
- 9. Atomic #81
- 12. From end to end
- 13. Adorable
- 17. Ma
- 19. Nearly falling
- 20. Portable conical tent
- 21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 25. Fish with high dorsal fins

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Equal (prefix)
- 31. Aquatic plant genus
- 32. Choppers
- 33. Hand parts
- 35. Region bordering the sea
- 38. Well-liked
- 41. Nap
- 43. It's used to make beer
- 44. Related on the father's side
- 45. Senior officer
- 46. Delicacy (archaic)
- 47. Figures
- 49. A way to take away
- 56. Beloved sandwich __&J
- 57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)



Solve the code to discover words related to eye health and safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = I)

A. 26 15 17 15 2 4
Clue: Ability to see

B. 21 10 18 15 4 24
Clue: Part of the eye

C. 3 6 24 21 15 18 7
Clue: Sharpness of image

D. 19 15 17 18 24 4 3 10
Clue: Length between objects

EYE HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ALLERGIES
- BLURRY
- CARE
- CATARACT
- CONTACTS
- CORNEA
- DEBRIS
- DILATED
- DOCTOR
- DOMINANT
- FLASHING
- FLOATERS
- GLASSES
- ITCHY
- MACULA
- OPHTHALMOLOGIST
- OPTOMETRIST
- PAIN
- PUPIL
- READING
- REDNESS
- RETINA
- SIGHT
- VITREOUS

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



Photo courtesy Bonnie Evans

Newcomers of Beaches looking for new members

New to the Ponte Vedra area? Has there been a change in your life's status? Newcomers of the Beaches is a group within which women make new friendships that will last a lifetime. In spite of COVID-19, members were able to enjoy small group beach walks on Atlantic Beach and Mickler Beach. Virtual games are played where participants can meet other women in the area. A monthly virtual Book Club is very popular with books of great interest. Visit newcomersofthebeaches.com to learn more about this active group.

2020 - 2021 St. Johns County School Calendar

August 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Total 180 Days

- 8 Teacher Optional Planning
- 8 Teacher Planning (non-student day)
- 2 Teacher Inservice (non-student day)
- Classes Resume
- Student/Teacher Holiday
- End of Quarter

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Get to Know . . .

Andrew Medina

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com

Andrew Medina grew up in Hollywood, Fla., a certified lifeguard in high school and later a triathlon competitor with 20 events under his belt. Now Medina, who moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2017, works as an IT project manager for a healthcare company, but his focus remains on the water. He lives near the Palm Valley boat ramp and loves to go canoeing, kayaking and, most especially, paddle boarding every chance he gets along with his four-year-old son, Cooper, and his English Springer Spaniel, Sissy. That passion has led him to start the Ponte Vedra Paddlers group in hopes of gathering fellow local water sports enthusiasts together for outings and nearby adventures such as to Anastasia State Park's Salt Run.

Q: What do you like about paddle boarding and kayaking?

A: I love getting outside. I'm at my desk all day for my job, and I really like to connect with nature. I love the water. Paddle boarding is the next closest thing to being in the water that you can possibly get. On a boat, you are a little more disconnected from the water. And I love getting out and doing something active.

Q: What advice do you have for someone new to paddle boarding?

A: Stay in the no wake zone as often as you can. There is more boat traffic

right now due to COVID, so it is important to not linger in the center. If you do experience a larger wake, drop to your knees and point the front of the paddle board into the waves. This will reduce the impact of the wake, and it is the best way not to fall. Always check for boats before you cross from one side to the other. I always have a life vest on my son, and I bring one on board for myself. I am a very confident swimmer, but it depends on your comfort level and swim confidence. It is always best to have one on the vessel.

Q: What did you like about being a lifeguard, and what were some of the challenges?

A: I liked the idea of making people safe so they could enjoy the beach. Hollywood Beach gets a lot of tourists who might not be as confident as someone who lives near the beach. Plus, I got to hang out at the beach all day.

Q: What attracted you to compete in triathlons?

A: I first got into triathlons when I was living in Atlanta. A coworker (who is now a close friend) challenged me to do one. I slept on it for one night and with no training, equipment or knowledge of what it would take, I signed up for one. To train, you have to swim, bike and run. There are short triathlons called "sprints" and then the longest ones are called Ironman. For a

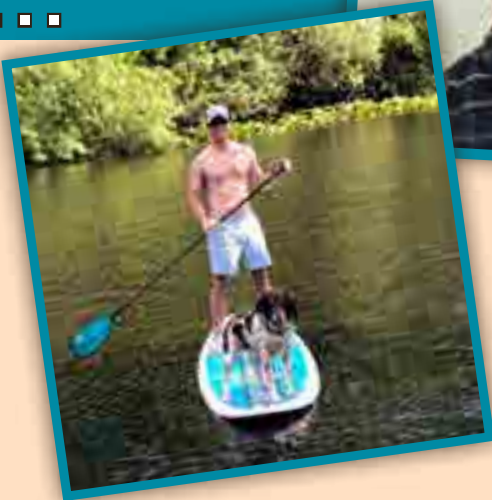
sprint, you should give yourself about three months of training to prepare. My friend Kevin who first challenged me, was kind enough to train with me. We would do long runs on Saturday mornings, swim during lunch breaks at work and cycle after work. This became an entire lifestyle. After I crossed the finish line of my first triathlon, I was completely hooked. I was all in. I continued racing and training for about six years until I was injured. One of my favorites was the Amelia Island "AmeliaMan" Olympic distance triathlon. I enjoyed this one because my family was able to come watch and cheer me on, and I had a great race.

Q: Do you need to be experienced to join the Ponte Vedra Paddlers, and what is the best way to join?

A: This is not meant to be a hard-core paddling group. This is a very casual group. We have about 20 members through a neighborhood social media site. The best way to learn is to come out to a paddle. We love to take in the sights, bring a cooler and often see dolphins and manatees in the water. I am also looking for feedback on what the community would like to do and what time and how often the group should meet. Email Andrew.medina50@gmail.com with any questions or interest in joining the group.



Photos courtesy Andrew Medina
Andrew Medina



Andrew Medina paddling with his dog, Sissy.

Finding fungus cont. from pg. 1

Catherine Pearson, who holds a bachelor of science degree in biology, works the farm's booth at local farmers markets and often talks people through what to do with a mushroom once they purchase it, offering vetted recipes and simple advice.



Blue Oyster mushrooms.

"Before Covid, we would deliver to the nicest kitchens in Jacksonville, and it was an honor to be involved with these restaurants," she said. "Now the business on that end has significantly decreased. We have been at the Beaches Farmers Market weekly since March, and it has been inspiring to be around the other vendors. They are enjoying running their own farms and businesses, like us, and bringing such quality goods that really sell themselves. It has also been invaluable being at the market, interacting with the people who are going to eat the mushrooms."

The Pearsons also sell the mushrooms to a local Grassroots Natural Market with plans to expand to other stores, and their goal is to integrate all their buildings into one facility and offer other mushroom products such as mushroom jerky.

For more information about Son & Skye Mushrooms or to purchase a grow kit or mushrooms, visit sonandskye.com.



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Get to Know . . .

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

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Meet your local candidates By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

In advance of the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, Aug. 18, Ponte Vedra NewsLine invited each of the candidates that will appear on northern St. Johns County voters' ballots for US Congress District 4, St. Johns County Sheriff, County Commission District 1, and Public Defender 7th Judicial Circuit to submit a statement for this election section.

Ponte Vedra NewsLine offered this opportunity to all candidates for these Primary Election races as a community service; no purchase of advertising was required. The content of the statements was left up to each candidate; the only stipulation was that the statement could not exceed 200 words. No editing of the statements took place. Each statement is printed in its entirety, as submitted by the candidate.

US Congress District 4

Erick J. Aguilar (Rep.)

I am a Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Florida 4th District consisting of Nassau, East Duval, and St. Johns counties. Born in Honduras, raised in Brooklyn, NY, and have resided in Jacksonville since 2000 while stationed in HSL-48 at NS Mayport. Married with five children (two sons and three daughters), one more on the way. Earned five advanced degrees in business, leadership, IT, and history. I served in the U.S. Navy; retired as a Navy Chief in 2016 after 20 years of honorable and dedicated service. I have been teaching as a professor in business, history, and IT for 14 years, private consultant, and stock trader. My campaign is about Advancing America's Families! Top issues: Economy, Education, Public Safety, Military/Veterans. My staff is composed of at least 70 percent veterans

ready to continue to win for the people! The campaign is focused on results! I am self-funded; keep your money, I am asking for your vote! My team will bring solutions where others failed! I am ready to serve our country at another level as your next Congressional Representative in our beloved U.S. Congressional Florida 4th District.

John Rutherford (Rep.)

Did not submit a statement.

St. Johns County Sheriff

Rob Hardwick (Rep.)

My name is Rob Hardwick and I am running to be your next St. Johns County Sheriff. I'm a combat veteran who served 25 years in the United States Army and the Florida National Guard where I completed two combat tours

overseas. In addition, I have worked in law enforcement all of my adult life in several agencies. As Chief of Police, I took a department that was crippled by inefficiencies and quickly turned it around. Finally, I am active in many community organizations and am proud to mentor our youth through athletic programs as a coach. As your next Sheriff, I am committed to ensuring that local law enforcement remains a positive community partner. I want to try to address our problems head-on by having conversations with the community on various topics. It is equally important for law enforcement to promote accountability and transparency. I would also like to continue to invest in the latest technology and crime-fighting tactics to keep us safe and save taxpayer dollars. Lastly, an issue that is near and dear to my heart is the mental

health of our community. Please vote for me, Rob Hardwick, for St. Johns County Sheriff on Aug. 18.

Chris Strickland (Rep.)

I am honored and grateful to be able to run for Sheriff of St. Johns County. I began my law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff at age 19 and during my 30-year career at the SJCSO, I rose through the ranks from deputy to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander and finally Director of the Office of Sheriff. When elected, I will bring a revitalized energy to the Sheriff's Office and a new sense of direction. I will build an office structured on accountability and excellent community relations. I will conduct an immediate review of use of force policies currently in place and adhere to

Meet your local candidates cont. on pg. 12



Vote on August 18th

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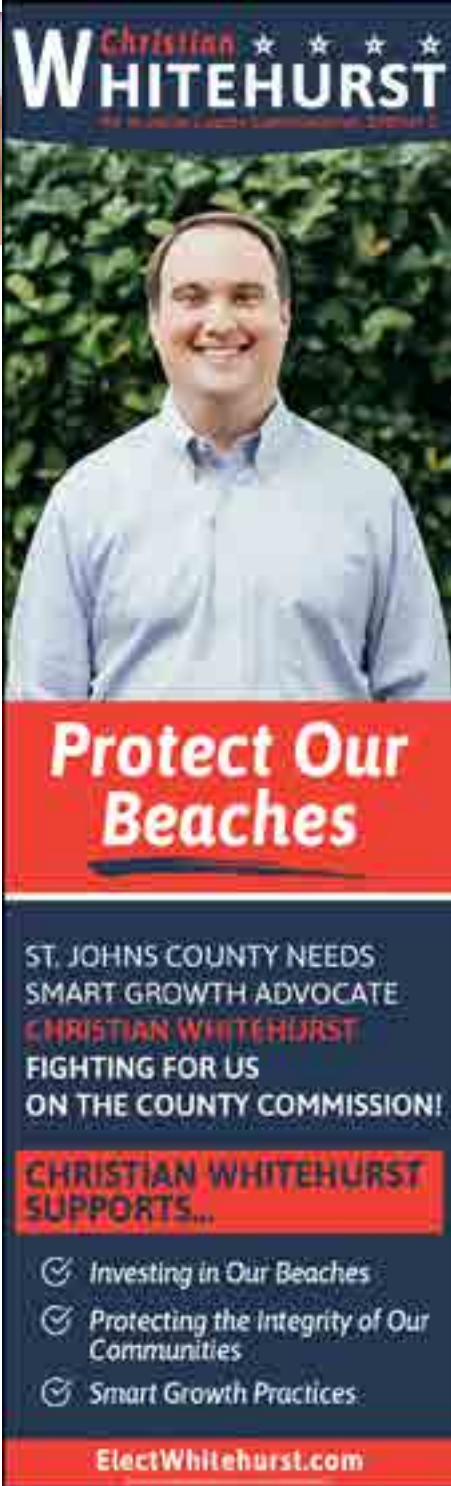
Every day when I walk into the courtroom, I am reminded of the responsibility I have to the law and to the people of St. Johns, Volusia, Flagler, and Putnam Counties. I am reminded of the responsibility to serve with honor and integrity, to uphold the law with common sense, and not to legislate from the bench.

I have been privileged to serve you for the past five years. I would be grateful for your vote so I can continue to serve you.


 Judge Mike Orfinger

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

Meet your local candidates cont. from pg. 11

the guidelines listed in President Trump's Executive Order.

I will protect all our residents and visitors and keep our streets and communities safe from violent groups. I will outfit all deputies with body-worn cameras. I will not self-investigate. In any situation where an officer uses deadly force, the resulting investigation will be conducted by Florida Department of Law Enforcement. As a constitutional sheriff I will strenuously defend your right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by our Second Amendment.

The future of our county depends on proper leadership. I ask for your vote on Aug. 18.

**County Commissioner District 1
Jimmy Johns (Rep.)**

I was raised and educated in Northeast Florida. In college I earned degrees in Applied Physics from Jacksonville University and Civil Engineering from the University of Florida. In 2004 I founded Solid Rock Engineering Consultants, a full service engineering firm which serves clients across the Southeast. Kathy and I raised our family in Julington Creek. As a business owner, I understand how to balance multiple demands and how to

identify and adapt to changing priorities. Serving you has been an honor and allowed me to help protect your quality of life. Recently we have built three new fire stations, increased funding for first responders, paved over 1000 miles of roads and built new recreational facilities. And I have voted over 30 times to help restore and re-nourish our beaches. This all was done without raising your taxes and last year we had a \$16 million budget surplus.

My biggest challenges have been restoring our county after two major hurricanes. This has prepared me for the current issues that we face with the global pandemic. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you and would appreciate your vote, Because Experience Matters.

Christian Whitehurst (Rep.)

I'm Christian Whitehurst, candidate for St. Johns County Commission, District 1. I moved to St. Johns County 22 years ago, graduated from Nease High School and live in Julington Creek with my wife Courtney and our two daughters. My background is in business and I'm very

passionate about the future of St. Johns because we need a strong, decisive leader on our County Commission. St. Johns must have a strong, thriving economy, where we create opportunities for businesses to succeed and an atmosphere to attract new businesses. We must prioritize the safety and security of children and ensure law enforcement has the support they need to keep us safe. I will always stand with our veterans. Their service and sacrifice must be honored and I will ensure veterans are provided the services and attention they deserve. I will fight to protect our environment and ensure our beautiful beaches are preserved for our kids and grandkids. I believe smart managed growth is the best path forward for St. Johns. That means projects must provide a net-benefit to our community and our environment. I look forward to earning your vote on Aug. 18.

**Public Defender, 7th Judicial Circuit
George Burden (Rep.)**

While serving overseas, I learned firsthand what an UN-just system of laws looks like, feels like, and does to its people.

Meet your local candidates cont. on pg. 13

ON NOVEMBER 3, BRING BALANCE TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY!

VOTE FOR SMART GROWTH, COASTAL RESTORATION, AND SUSTAINABLE JOBS

For many of us runaway development has meant overcrowded roads and schools and loss of natural resources at a cost of our quality of life. Joe will work for **Smart Growth**, growth that balances development and conservation.

From Duval County to Flagler County, our ENTIRE coastline is a source of enjoyment and natural wonder. Our County needs sustainable plans to preserve and protect our ENTIRE coastline, and Joe will work towards adequate **Coastal Restoration** funding.

Current County decisions favor sprawling residential and retail development with low-paying jobs. We can learn from Palm Beach County where planning there has attracted new companies employing over 23,000 at an average salary of \$88,000/year. Our County needs higher-paying **Sustainable Jobs** to keep our families close to home.



Joe is a Julington Creek resident and retired architect with 40 years of experience in building codes and development standards.

As an experienced professional, he will fight to protect our community and BRING BALANCE to St. Johns County through smart growth, coastal restoration, and sustainable jobs.

ELECT NOVEMBER 3

Joe McANARNEY
FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

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Rob Hardwick
For St. Johns County Sheriff

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ON PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Paid by Robert Hardwick, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff. Use of pictures in uniform does not imply the endorsement or support of any law enforcement organization.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

Meet your local candidates cont. from pg. 12

It's no surprise, my first civilian job was with the Public Defender's Office. Thirty years later, I've earned the distinction of being "Capital Qualified" in trials and appeals and currently head a division that serves 13 counties.

My legal experience ranges from misdemeanors to capital offenses, from first appearances to arguing 41 cases before Florida's Supreme Court. I've led the Trial and Appellate Divisions, served as Chief Assistant, and held two governor appointments on the Judicial Nominating Commission.

In eight years as a City Commissioner, I rolled back taxes seven times. I've held leadership positions on the Housing Authority, Volusia County Water Alliance, the Race and Recreation Facility District, and worked with government agencies to secure funding for capital improvements, environmental projects like Breakers Oceanfront Park, and a Hope 6 Grant for low income housing.

As an Air Force veteran, a seasoned attorney, a small business owner, and the father of four sons I know Experience Matters! I have the experience needed to be your Public Defender. I'd be honored to have your vote.

Anne Marie Gennusa (Rep.)

I received my law degree from Temple

University and dual master's certificates from Villanova University in Government Contracting and Human Resource management. I began my legal career in 1994 as a "public defender" in Bronx, NY. I am admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, Florida, New York and the Middle District in Florida. I relocated my family to Florida in 1999.

During my 25+ legal career, I have been a public defender, criminal defense attorney, assistant state attorney and private practitioner with a concentration in criminal and family law for over 20 years. I have been rated AV-Preeminent, which is the highest possible rating an attorney can receive based on legal ability and ethical standards. I have held various leadership positions including president of the St. Johns County Bar Association, chair of Florida Bar's Grievance Committee and president of the Creekside H.S. Booster Club. I have provided thousands of hours of free legal work to the disabled, veterans and elderly. I am married to Robert "Bob" Lindsey, a retired Sergeant with SJSO and an honorably discharged Army veteran. I am mom/bonus mom to five, "Glamma" to Nora, and fur mom to Dixie and Ali.

Meet your local candidates cont. on pg. 15

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ELECTION DAY: **AUGUST 18th**
EARLY VOTING: **AUGUST 6th THRU 15th**

ErickForCongress.com (Podcast available)

Approved by Dr. Erick Aguilar. Paid for by Erick Aguilar Congressional Race Candidate



30 Years as an Assistant Public Defender

41 Appearances before Florida's Supreme Court

2 Governor Appointments Judicial Nominating Commission

10 Years Military Service USAF

20 Years as a Small Business Owner

25 Years of service on 5 Community Boards

And much more!

Visit our website for the whole story

BurdenForPublicDefender.com

On August 18th, Vote for EXPERIENCE in the Public Defenders' Office. VOTE BURDEN

Paid political advertisement, George Burden, Rep. For Public Defender

CHRIS



Strickland

(Rep)

for ST JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF

The Chris Strickland Platform:
When I am elected Sheriff I will;

1. Begin equipping ALL deputies with body worn cameras.
2. Protect all our communities, residents and visitors and keep our streets safe from violent groups.
3. Restoring and maintaining integrity, openness, and honesty.
4. Set up strong protocols for budgetary and fiscal management and responsibility and prevent another embarrassing embezzlement of tax-payer dollars.
5. We will not self-investigate. Any situation where an officer uses deadly force, the resulting investigation will be conducted by Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
6. Conduct a Domestic violence policy review to include procedures for handling officers involved in domestic incidents. Update policies and procedures that oversee reporting of sexual harassment and misconduct in the workplace.
7. Establish protocols to deal with mental health calls for service utilizing mental health professionals accompanying deputies to the scene.
8. Work hand in hand and build a good working relationship with the County Commission to examine and fulfill the needs of Saint Johns County.

Our next sheriff has to be able to navigate through changing times and have an extensive background with this particular sheriff's office and our community. As your Sheriff my goal for the upcoming term is to provide transparency to our community. I will restore the reputation of the Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office and we will be an example to follow throughout the United States.



Strickland4Sheriff.com

Paid for by Chris Strickland, Rep. for St Johns County Sheriff

PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 18, 2020

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY



For info on voting during COVID-19 See the VOTER ELECTION PROTECTION STANDARDS available at votesjc.com

4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 823-2238
www.votesjc.com

We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.

ON OUR WEBSITE www.votesjc.com

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote by mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

- Democrats receive a Democratic ballot
- Republicans receive a Republican ballot
- Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party receive a nonpartisan ballot

Vote: It's Your Choice!

Call 823-2238 for your vote by mail ballot today! You can also use the online request form on our website www.votesjc.com. Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is 5 PM August 8th.

Make sure your vote counts!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on the vote by mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote by mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your mail ballot in a red box at any early voting site during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot is due in the Elections Office no later than 7 PM on election day. If it is late, it will not count.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID WHEN VOTING IN PERSON

Voter information cards are not a valid form of identification when voting. Be sure to bring a current and valid photo ID when voting in person. If the photo ID does not contain your signature, an additional ID that includes your signature shall be required. Example: Photo on Student ID and signature on a library card are acceptable. If you do not bring any ID, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card issued by DMV
- United States Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID
- Concealed Weapon ID or Firearm License ID
- Government Employee ID

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ DATES & TIMES ~ August 6th – 15th ★ Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM Daily At All Locations

New Site

Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway (Earth Fare) 120 Shops Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	Julington Creek Annex 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	Supervisor of Elections Office 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095	Southeast Branch Library 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, FL 32086
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New Site

St. Johns Convention Center At World Golf Village 500 S. Legacy Trl. St. Augustine, FL 32092	Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	St. Augustine Beach City Hall 2200 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32080	Hastings Branch Library 6795 S. Main St. Hastings, FL 32145
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ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 18, 2020
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit www.votesjc.com or call the Elections Office at 823-2238.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Meet your local candidates cont. from pg. 13

Matt Metz (Rep.)

I have been working at the Public Defender's office for a decade and for the last four years I have managed the largest trial division in four counties, while maintaining a caseload averaging over 450 cases per year. In this role, I manage 20 other employees, including 12 felony trial attorneys. While I juggle my own cases, I am coordinating time-off, mentoring younger attorneys, helping create office policy with our current Public Defender James Purdy, and resolving attorney-client issues. I am the only candidate currently supervising 10+ employees. I am the only Board Certified Criminal Trial Attorney in this race. My undergraduate degree in Business Management from the University of Florida has helped prepare me for projects I have assisted in, such as transitioning the office to a paperless system. I have been at the office long enough to know how our system works, what works within that system, and I still have the energy and vision to change the things that don't. I was born and raised in this Circuit and am currently raising a family here. Success for our community means success for mine too. I look forward to serving you!



JIMMY JOHNS FOR ST JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

BECAUSE EXPERIENCE MATTERS

"I am dedicated to continuing the excellent lifestyle we enjoy in St. Johns County. I helped lead the recovery following two major hurricanes and have used these experiences to effectively manage the COVID-19 Pandemic in St. Johns County. As your County Commissioner, I have always voted for increased budgets for our St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. All of this has been accomplished without raising your taxes and has led to a \$16 million surplus in our most recent budget. With your help, I will work to make sure that you and your family will continue to live in a thriving, vibrant community with the best quality of life in Florida"

WE CAN CONTINUE TO GET POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY:

- ★ Voted over 30 times for beach re-nourishment and improvement projects
- ★ Help small businesses re-open quickly and safely
- ★ Support our county sheriff's officers and first responders
- ★ Protect our Parks, Rivers and Trails
- ★ Create jobs and cut wasteful spending

f VOTEJOHNS.COM

VOTE JIMMY JOHNS

VOTE AUGUST 18TH | EARLY VOTING: AUGUST 6TH-15TH

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY JIMMY JOHNS FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1, REPUBLICAN

Keep Judge Bryan R. Rendzio

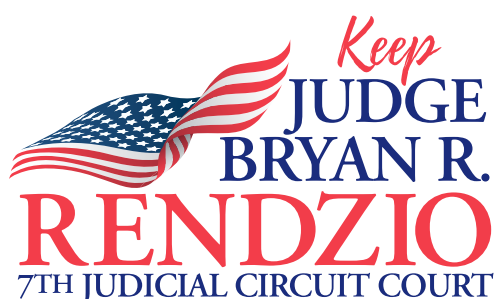
Judge Bryan Rendzio was appointed Circuit Court Judge by the Governor to fill a vacancy. Now he is running for election to the office. He is widely respected for his knowledge of the law and his judicial demeanor. As Circuit Court Judge he serves us well, presiding over Unified Family Court cases in St. Johns County. Judge Rendzio and his wife, Stacy live in St. Johns County. They are active community citizens and have two sons who attend our public schools.



Whether you vote by mail, vote early or vote in person, please vote to *keep* Judge Bryan Rendzio.

For more information
keepjudgebryan.com

**ELECTION
DAY
TUESDAY
AUGUST 18**



Bryan Rendzio for Circuit Judge
130 Corridor Rd. • P.O. Box 154 • Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bryan Rendzio, nonpartisan candidate for Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Group 27

AF@ Sawgrass

Next to Pet Supermarket @ Ponte Vedra
Shopping Center 880 A1A PV Beach

(904) 395-2500

Certified Personal Trainers
Golf Certified TPI Trainer

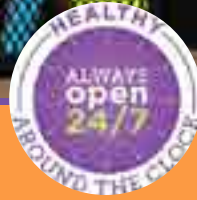
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Hi my name is Jay Worley!
I'm a Certified Personal Trainer here at
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important to me to keep active, train
and live a healthy lifestyle.

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