

# Ponte Vedra NewsLine

SEPTEMBER 2024 Volume 11 Issue 9

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

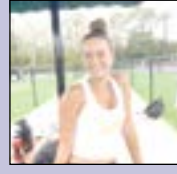
A Florida NewsLine Publication



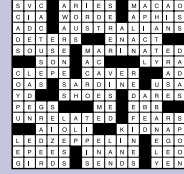
page 3  
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 5  
Q&A with  
Kelly Barrera



page 7  
Get To Know ...  
Cass Hoag



page 8  
Puzzles



Photos courtesy Sondie Frus

"Three Travelers in Search of a Vague Notion" by Nikki Hill (2023 Challenge Quilt First Place)

## Quiltfest: A celebration of unique and magical art

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Do you believe in magic? Would you like to see some real life magic with your own eyes? Well, the fiber artists of Jacksonville have gathered 465 samples of magically sewn works of art in the form of quilts for a show at the Prime Osborn Center in Jacksonville. "Sew Your Heart Out," the 37th annual showcase of

Quiltfest cont. on pg. 7

## Sisters in Crime: Local group focuses on mystery novels, equity in genre

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewsline.com

It is not every day that you get to sit in the library and pick the brain of a forensic accountant with more than 40 years of experience as a "Big Four" auditor, consultant and Fortune 50 executive. Unless you happen to attend a Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime meeting and then you get to do just that.

On a recent August morning, local mystery authors and readers came together at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library to listen to a presentation, "The Magic of Fighting Fraud", by forensic accountant John Tonsick, CFA, CFE. The hybrid meeting (both in person and via Zoom) was hosted by the local chapter of the national organization Sisters in Crime, and for many in this group dedicated to the advancement of women crime writers, it was an opportunity to conduct firsthand research for their crime story books. It is one way to better understand motives for murder — in a murder mystery, of course.

Take, for example, secretary Elaine Anwander. She is writing a murder mystery novel that includes Medicare fraud and found Tonsick's presentation to be very helpful.

Anwander, who is from Jacksonville,



Photo courtesy Tiffany Merlo Phelps

Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime President Lana McAra and Vice President Shelley Marsh.

joined the group first as a member, then as a treasurer and now as a secretary. She said her interest in mystery reading and the speakers at monthly meetings drew her to the organization.

"I really like the interactive format with the speakers," she said. "All of the speakers have been great, especially the subject matter experts."

Anwander added that the group's focus has also been to bring equity to the genre for women writers, and that remains true today. Both men and women are encouraged to join as well as writers from all genres.

Started in 2004, the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime chapter currently has 30 members, said Vice President Shelley Marsh.

Marsh, who is from Ponte Vedra Beach, was first attracted to the group when she attended a writing workshop in 2014



Photo courtesy Tiffany Merlo Phelps

Lana McAra introduces guest speaker forensic accountant John Tonsick at the August NE Florida Sisters in Crime meeting.

Sisters in Crime cont. on pg. 8



Support  
our  
Advertisers!



Is Parkinsons Disease or Essential Tremor  
Disrupting Your Quality of Life?

### FREE LUNCH & LEARN

in-person at **Aloft Hotel** in Jacksonville, or via **Zoom**

**Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00pm**

Join Experts to learn about options for managing this neurological disorder. Family & Friends are welcome to attend.

Register Online to Attend Event: <https://LearnDBS.com/1600>

Alaine Keebaugh, PhD 770-356-6410

| Aloft Hotel: 4812 Deer Lake Drive West, Jacksonville, FL, 32246 |



## Briefs

### New passport guide available from Clerk of Court

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller has announced the release of a new Passport Guide designed to help residents navigate the passport application process. Applying for or renewing a passport can be overwhelming and tedious, especially for first-time applicants. This guide aims to simplify the process by providing a clear, step-by-step outline on how to apply for or renew a passport.

The new Passport Guide not only makes the process easier, but also adds an element of fun. It's packed with helpful tips and information to ensure residents

have everything they need to successfully complete their applications. Whether you're preparing for your first international trip or renewing your passport for future adventures, this guide is a valuable resource.

By using the Passport Guide, residents can confidently prepare for upcoming travels, knowing that they have all the information needed to secure their passport with ease.

Visit <https://stjohnsclerk.com/passports/> for more information or call (904) 819-3632 or email [passports@stjohnsclerk.com](mailto:passports@stjohnsclerk.com) with questions.

### Jacksonville history is topic at Coastal

### Friends' luncheon

After the summer hiatus, Coastal Friends will highlight Dr. Scott L. Matthews, professor of history at Florida State College at Jacksonville, as the guest speaker at the Sept. 4 luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy. Dr. Matthews' topic will be "How the Civil War Fractured Jacksonville and Lessons for Us Today."

The luncheon is open to members and guests as well as the community. The menu will consist of classic caesar salad, bourbon-marinated filet tips with dauphinoise potatoes, sautéed asparagus, red wine demi, and mini cheesecakes for dessert. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25. Reservations must be made in advance by contacting the luncheon chairman at [bartshar@comcast.net](mailto:bartshar@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social club comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, Bunco, Canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, Mah Jongg, samba and wine socials. New members are welcome throughout the year. Contact [brookemeister@msn.com](mailto:brookemeister@msn.com) for more information on how to join.

### ElderSource seeks nominations of volunteers, professionals in aging sector for annual award

ElderSource will host its annual A Night with the Stars event on Friday, Nov. 8, and invites the community to nominate individuals working and volunteering in the aging industry for a Luminary Award. The ElderSource Luminary Awards recognize professionals and individuals for their daily service to seniors in the community. The event is presented by Florida Blue Medicare.

The public is invited to nominate individuals in four categories: Continually Committed, Everyday Innovator, Magnificent Millennial and Super Nova Volunteer. Information about how to nominate an individual is available on the agency's website ([www.MyElderSource.org](http://www.MyElderSource.org)) or by calling (904) 391-6692. The nomination deadline is midnight, Friday, Sept. 27.

Luminary Award winners will be announced at the event on Friday, Nov. 8, at the Florida Blue Conference Center — Deerwood campus. A Night with the Stars is an annual fundraising event designed to raise much needed funds to help ElderSource continue to provide resources and services to seniors, caregivers, and their families. Proceeds are used to support the Emergency Assistance Serving Elders, or EASE, fund, which assists older adults experiencing an unexpected short-term financial crisis. This fund was previously known as the Senior to Senior fund.

A Night with the Stars is supported by the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund through the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

ElderSource is the Area Agency on Aging

and Aging & Disability Resource Center for Northeast Florida whose mission is to empower people to live and age with independence and dignity in their homes and community. By connecting them to useful resources and guiding them to solutions, ElderSource is a starting point for those seeking support. The HelpLine receives more than 6,000 calls each month. This year, the agency celebrates 50 years of service in Northeast Florida, covering Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

Visit [www.MyElderSource.org](http://www.MyElderSource.org) for more information.

### Clerk's Office hosts successful launch of Family Law Workshop series

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's office reports the successful launch of the Family Law Workshop held on Aug. 7, 2024, in partnership with St. Johns County Legal Aid and the Law Office of Nancy Harrison.

"Our office is limited in our ability to provide legal assistance," said John Rundgren, Clerk Designee. "We are grateful that this initiative allows us to connect parties in family law matters to an experienced attorney and look forward to continuing this valuable service."

The workshop attracted 22 residents, who engaged actively and posed many questions. Among the key topics discussed were the complexities of child custody arrangements and the procedures for filing legal documents without representation. Attorney Nancy Harrison's presentation provided insightful guidance on various family law issues. Attendees appreciated her clear explanations and practical advice on topics such as divorce, child custody, asset separation, and pro se filings. She addressed these questions comprehensively, ensuring that attendees left with a better understanding of their legal rights and the family law process.

A recording of the first workshop of the series can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/PR4wfY29BoM>

The next Family Law Workshop is scheduled for Sept 4, 2024, from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Visit <https://stjohnsclerk.com/courts/family-law> for more details about the workshop or family law services.

### Suppers for Seniors to provide hunger relief among older adults

Thousands of local older adults are currently on waiting lists to receive home-delivered meals. Each day they're forced to make tough decisions between buying medicine or groceries — and the problem is getting worse. Nonprofit ElderSource recently launched its Suppers for Seniors campaign, working to raise \$50,000 that will be matched by Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds to help move low-income people off the waitlist for desperately needed food assistance.

"More than 5,000 low-income older adults in our area need food assistance," said Linda Levin, CEO of ElderSource.

*"Before moving here, I had to weather several storms. I was alone and I was afraid. But here, I was not afraid. Feeling safe and secure made all the difference during the storm."*



**Delores**, Resident at Westminster St. Augustine

## DISCOVER A SECURE PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE AT WESTMINSTER ST. AUGUSTINE

You'll love the maintenance-free lifestyle, ideal location at World Golf Village and peace of mind of a secure plan for the future. Our Life Plan Community offers:

- Formal and casual dining venues
- Resident privileges on world class King & Bear and Slammer & Squire golf courses
- Exclusive *MyWLife* program for whole-person well-being
- A full continuum of supportive aging services, should your needs change
- And more!

**Call (904) 569-7871 today to learn more!**



**Westminster St. Augustine**

*Live Well. Be Happy.*

235 Towerview Drive, St. Augustine, FL 

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Nursing Care  
Rehabilitation | Memory Care

450 State Road 13 North  
Suite 106 PMB 101  
St. Johns, FL 32259  
(904) 886-4919  
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

**Publisher**

Mark Pettus

Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Editor**

Martie Thompson

Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Bookkeeper**

Emily Whitehead

Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Social Media**

SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Advertising Sales**

Linda Gay

Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

(904) 607-5062 cell

Ponte Vedra NewsLine community newspaper is a free monthly publication delivered to all addresses in Zip Codes 32081 and 32082. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Florida NewsLine endorses any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2024.



# BFFF Best Furry Friend of the month



Meet Louie!

- Breed:** Dachshund
- Favorite Activity:** Cuddling
- Favorite Treat:** Costco Dental Chews
- Favorite Friend:** His sister Ruby aka "Little Puff"
- How your BFF got his name:** Louie just stuck

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Ponte Vedra NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Ponte Vedra NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.

What do you want to read in Ponte Vedra NewsLine? Let us know! editor@floridanewsline.com



## Table of Contents

- 4 What's Happening in Ponte Vedra
- 6 Q&A with Vicky Oakes
- 9 PopHistory
- 11 Travel

When you advertise, you encourage repeat business, create traffic, and attract new customers!

Don't miss our October issue! Deadline 9/17/24

Call Linda Gay today to reserve your space! 904.607.5062

## MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com. Last month's Mystery Photo was the bridge by the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

## Answers

## Puzzles

## PG 8

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

A. meow B. purr C. whiskers D. pounce

## Ponte Vedra NewsLine reaches your target market!

Get your business in front of our readers!

Affordable Rates - Multi Issue Discounts - Complimentary Graphic Design

We make advertising easy ... Call today!

Linda Gay  
(904) 607-5062  
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

## Ready, Set, enjoy!

Refresh Your Yard and Enjoy Summer Birds

Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop

**20% OFF**

One regularly priced item

Valid in-store at the participating stores listed. Coupon not valid for Seed/Bird Food, Optics, Gift Cards, DSC Memberships or Sale Items. Cannot be combined with other coupons/discounts. Offer expires 9/30/24

**ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER**

<p><b>St Johns</b> 450 SR13 at Racetrack Rd (next to Publix) 904.230.3242 wbu.com/jacksonville</p>	<p><b>Jax Beach</b> 4138 Third Street South (between Trader Joes &amp; Staples) 904.246.6832 wbu.com/jacksonvillebeach</p>	<p><b>World Golf Village</b> 180 Capulet Drive #5 (At Murabella) 904.209.5754 wbu.com/staugustine</p>
--	--	---

# September

## Community Calendar

### What's Happening in Ponte Vedra

**Council on Aging** offers interest groups at the COA Center at UF Health Nocatee. Meetings are free and self-guided except for the Caregiver's Support Group. Advance registration for clubs and meetings is required; email pbrunell@Stjohnscoa.com or call (904) 814-9407. Tuesday clubs include: Widows and Widowers social group, second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Wednesday groups include: Mah Jongg Meet-up, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**Palm Valley Market** is held inside and on the grounds of the Palm Valley Community Center at 148 Canal Road, every Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The market offers organically grown produce, microgreens, eggs, grass-finished beef, all natural chicken, Mayport shrimp, prepared meals, preservative-free bread, honey, tea, natural skincare, custom jewelry and soy candles. Visit the Palm Valley Market Facebook page for more information.

**1st: Griefshare class** will begin on Sept. 1 at Ponte Vedra Church, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. This 13-week Christian-based support group for those who have lost a loved one either recently or in the past consists of a 30 minute video and discussion of work book questions. Contact Ann Cook at anncook111@gmail.com or (904) 891-3776 for additional information.

**5th: Bingo** will be held at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, on Thursdays from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. for four weeks beginning Thursday, Sept. 5. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information and to register.

**5th: Free Tech Help** with David will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Drop in for tech assistance with your Android, Apple, and Reader devices; no RSVPs required. Visit [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/](https://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/) for more information.

**7th: The Northeast Florida Chapter of Sisters in Crime** will meet at the

Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. (FOL Room) on Saturday, Sept. 7. Doors open at 10 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:15 a.m. The program is "How to Survive an Active Shooter Situation," presented by Marcus Melnick, a published author and court recognized expert witness. Bring your coffee and bring a friend. The group welcomes misters and sisters to learn more about writing, promoting, and enjoying crime fiction. This is a hybrid meeting; visit [www.nefloridasistersincrime.org](https://www.nefloridasistersincrime.org) for more information including pre-registering for Zoom.

**7th: Wellness events** at Sawgrass Village will be held every Saturday in September from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Hosted by Mind Body Social, all events are free and open to the community. Events include wellness classes such as yoga and barre, all held on the lawn in front of ABC Liquors. Visit <https://mbs.events/sv/> for more information and to register.

**10th: Vicar's Landing** monthly Boutique Sale will be held Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 1000 Vicar's Landing Way. The sale includes framed art, 14k gold, sterling silver, costume and designer jewelry, antique and household furnishings, plus many decorative knick-knack items. The public is welcome. Checks or cash only please. The Vicar's Employee Scholarship Fund receives all the proceeds. Call Janet Nicosia at (904) 607-2078 or Beverly Webb at (904) 315-2610 for more information.

**10th: Adult Coloring Club** will meet at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. No RSVP is required; bring a snack or drink for yourself or to share. Visit [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/](https://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/) for more information.

**12th: Birthday Celebration** for September babies will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane. Enjoy cake, ice cream and the music of Lou Parisi. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659

for more information.

**18th: Ponte Vedra Woman's Club** general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club. The program will be the club's annual kick-off and attendees will learn about upcoming events and programs as well as charities supported by the club. Registration required; visit [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](https://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) for more information.

**18th: Genealogy Group** will meet at the OA Center at UF Health Nocatee, 351 Town Plaza Ave. Ste. 205 on the third Wednesday of each month (this month, Sept. 18) from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. A genealogy expert will guide attendees in discovering their ancestors. Register by email to pbrunell@stjohnscoa.com or by calling (904) 814-9407.

**19th: St. Johns County Republican Party District 4** monthly meeting will be held on the third Thursday of each month (this month, Sept. 19) at 6:15 p.m. at Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. Visit [stjohns.gop](https://stjohns.gop) for more information.

**20th: Friday Flicks:** The Parent Trap at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will be held on Sept. 20 from 3 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. All ages are welcome. Call the library at (904) 827-6950 for more information.

**21st: Birding 101** with St. Johns Audubon will be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Participants will learn the basics of birding and how to use the eBird smartphone app before going on a short, guided walk through Bird Island Park with an educator from St. Johns Regional Audubon. Participants are encouraged to download the eBird app prior to attending the program. This program is best suited for ages older than 14. Space is limited; RSVP to (904) 827-6950 or [sjcpls.org](https://sjcpls.org).

**21st: The Nocatee Farmers Market** will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10

a.m. – 1 p.m. at Nocatee Station Field. The Farmers Market is open to the public.

**22nd: Luau Party** at the Local, presented by the Ponte Vedra Beach Woman's Club, will be held Sunday, Sept. 22 from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. at 301 Atlantic Blvd. Tickets (\$45 per person or \$80 for two) include a signature cocktail, buffet dinner, and live entertainment. Visit [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](https://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) for more information and to purchase tickets.

**26th: The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church** will host a free combination in-person and virtual workshop, "Taking the Plunge: Faith to Override Fear During the Job Search," presented by J. Dianne Tribble, Certified Professional Life Coach, on Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Formation and Arts Building, Room F106, Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive. Email [pottesen66@gmail.com](mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com) to register for in person or to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome to attend.

**26th: Check your blood pressure** with Diane DeCarlo at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 26 from 10:30 a.m. – 11a.m. There is no charge for this event. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information.

**26th: "Spouse in a Nursing Home? Do You Have to Go Broke?"** a free lecture by Megan Wall, St. Johns County Legal Aid, will be presented at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, on Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information and to register.

**28th: GTM Research Reserve** will host its monthly Beach Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. No registration is required; meet at the Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Visit [gtmnerr.org](https://gtmnerr.org) for more information.

Personalized financial advice to help achieve your goals

Ameriprise Financial

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value  
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S. Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2022 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



**Chris Thompson**  
CFP®, CMFA®, CRPC®  
Managing Director – Private Wealth Advisor  
Certified Financial Planner  
Certified Military Financial Advisor  
Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor  
**904.380.2290**  
818 A1A North, Suite 301  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
[chris.thompson@ampf.com](mailto:chris.thompson@ampf.com)  
[ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson](https://ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson)  
St Johns County resident since 1993

# QUILT FEST JACKSONVILLE



37th annual fiber arts exhibit—"Sew Your Heart Out"  
... over 400 judged quilts...sew creative.

September 19, 20, 21,  
2024 from 9-5



At the Prime Osborn Center  
1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL  
Park FREE in the Prime paved parking.

Shop for homemade gifts in the boutique and quilt sale room.

\$15 daily,  
\$14 for Seniors & Veterans  
Under 12 free  
See web for more information or click QR code.



[www.quiltfestjax.com](https://www.quiltfestjax.com) • Facebook: @quiltfestjax • Instagram: @jaxquiltfest



SHOP & EAT

a unique blend of upscale shopping, dining, and wellness.

215 Tourside Drive Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Free weekly wellness classes: [mbs.events/sv/](https://mbs.events/sv/)



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

**Q: What can you report about the first day of school, Aug. 12?**

A: The first day went really well. Each principal was so enthusiastic and there's a lot of excitement once the students and the teachers are in the building. Everyone really looks forward to opening the doors and welcoming our students and families back. The positive energy carries on through August. Our students were starting academics the second day!

**Q: Can you describe the new security procedures?**

A: The gates around the school buildings have to stay locked during the school day or be manned at all times if unlocked. This will take a little while for us all to get used to. The principals and school leadership have spent a lot of time training on these new procedures to make sure we are in compliance. As our Executive Director of Facilities and Operations Paul Rose said, safety isn't always convenient, but safety is safety.

**Q: How will volunteers or visitors be able to get into the schools?**

A: With the gates being locked, our parking lots and volunteers/visitors will be impacted. I highly encourage any family member who wants to be on school grounds during the school day for any reason, to include volunteering or attending an awards ceremony, to go ahead and do the volunteer clearance that includes a background check. This is what will be required to let you in the building.

**Q: What is the cell phone policy of our schools this year?**

A: We do have cell phone policies that are reinforced by Florida Statute. Cell phones are not allowed to be out during instructional time in the classroom.

**Q: Is the school board still working on the budget?**

A: Yes. As we work on the budget, we are encountering some significant challenges. As background, the Florida Legislature has set our school millage to the rollback rate for the past nine years. To illustrate, in 2015 – 2016, the rate was 7.228 mills. Currently, it is 5.278 mills. Over time, significant efforts towards cost cutting have occurred; however, we are becoming more and more limited in our options.

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

A: I would like to encourage parents to support their students by getting involved in our schools. Support from community members is also encouraged and welcomed. The quality of our neighborhood public schools reverberates to the quality of our community. Partnering with our public schools is vital to our community.

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

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



**with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer**

**Q: Can you give some background information on Amendment 5?**

A: Amendment 5 will be on Florida voters' ballots in November. Since this pertains to homestead exemption, which is constitutional, it must be voted on by citizens and requires 66.66 percent approval to pass. This amendment proposes an annual inflation adjustment to the homestead exemption.

As background, in the last eight years, our county has seen a 145 percent increase in property tax dollars collected, due to taxable value increases. This translates to higher property taxes for everyone. Amendment 5 could provide some relief if your property is homesteaded.

**Q: How does it work?**

A: Right now, the homestead exemption is \$25,000 applicable to all levies, and an additional \$25,000 applicable to all non-school levies. Most homesteads

in St. Johns County receive the full \$50,000 exemption.

If Amendment 5 passes, homeowners will continue to have both of the above bands of exemption, but the second \$25,000 band would be increased each year based on changes in the CPI (Consumer Price Index). So, if the CPI went up 5 percent, so would the exemption increase 5 percent. It would compound each year and the exemption amount will only increase, not decrease.

In the absence of a taxing authority reducing its millage rate, this would provide some additional relief to homesteaded property owners.

**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.

**Briefs** cont. from pg. 2

“As the Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Florida, ElderSource has always focused on connections, linking older adults and caregivers with resources that enhance their lives. We have a rare opportunity to make a big impact with this campaign.”

Funds raised through the campaign will help ElderSource provide home-delivered meals to local seniors in need through programs like Meals-on-Wheels. To meet the acute need — and in honor of ElderSource's 50th anniversary of service — Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds offered a one-time matching challenge grant of \$50,000. Because of this challenge grant, every donation made to Suppers for Seniors will be matched up to \$50,000. That means ElderSource has the opportunity to raise \$100,000 toward feeding low-income older adults in its seven-county Northeast Florida service area.

Visit [MyElderSource.org/SuppersForSeniors](http://MyElderSource.org/SuppersForSeniors) for more information.

**Villages of Hope receives challenge grant**

Florida ranks third in the United States

for sex trafficking, with Jacksonville

being the third highest within the state. In light of these alarming statistics, Villages of Hope has received a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds for 2024. This grant will support the construction of a 14-tiny-house community by Villages of Hope, aimed at serving women seeking a life free from sexual exploitation and addiction.

To date, the \$2.4 million capital construction project has raised more than \$1.3 million and is fully permitted by the City of Jacksonville. The challenge grant requires Villages of Hope to raise \$600,000 to receive the \$500,000 grant that will fund the remaining cost of construction.

“We are incredibly grateful for the challenge grant,” said Donna Fenchel, co-founder of Villages of Hope. “We call on the community to help us meet this challenge and make a meaningful impact.”

Visit [www.VillagesOfHope.org](http://www.VillagesOfHope.org) or call Villages of Hope at (904) 253-3123 for more information or to make a donation.

**Visit us online!**  
[www.floridanewsline.com](http://www.floridanewsline.com)

**ST JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**SHERIFF ROBERT A. HARDWICK**  
**EIGHTEEN APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT**

	LIVE.ME IS A LIVE-STREAMING VIDEO APP THAT USES GEOLOCATION TO SHARE VIDEOS SO USERS CAN FIND OUT A BROADCASTER'S EXACT LOCATION. USERS CAN EARN "COINS" AS A WAY TO "PAY" MINORS FOR PHOTO.		BUMBLE IS SIMILAR TO THE POPULAR DATING APP "TINDER" HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES WOMEN TO MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT. KIDS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE BUMBLE TO CREATE FAKE ACCOUNTS AND FALSIFY THEIR AGE.
	CALCULATOR% IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SECRET APPS USED TO HIDE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, FILES, AND BROWSER HISTORY.		BADOO IS A DATING AND SOCIAL NETWORKING APP WHERE USERS CAN CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS, AND VIDEOS AND CONNECT BASED ON LOCATION. WHILE THE APP IS INTENDED FOR ADULTS ONLY, TEENS ARE KNOWN TO CREATE PROFILES.
	HOLLA IS A SELF PROCLAIMED "ADDICTING" VIDEO CHAT APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO MEET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD IN JUST SECONDS. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT, AND MORE.		GRINDR IS A DATING APP GEARED TOWARDS LGBTQ+ PEOPLE. THE APP GIVES USERS OPTIONS TO CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS, AND MEET UP BASED ON A SMART PHONE'S GPS LOCATION.
	DISCORD IS AN APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO TALK TO FRIENDS AND STRANGERS IN REAL-TIME VIA VOICE, TEXT, OR VIDEO CHAT WHILE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT, AND MORE.		SKOUT IS A LOCATION-BASED DATING APP AND WEBSITE. WHILE USERS UNDER 17 YEARS OLD ARE UNABLE TO SHARE PRIVATE PHOTOS, KIDS CAN EASILY CREATE AN ACCOUNT USING A DIFFERENT AGE.
	ASK.FM IS KNOWN FOR CYBER BULLYING. THE APP ENCOURAGES USERS TO ALLOW ANONYMOUS PEOPLE TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS.		SNAPCHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR APPS IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE THE APP PROMISES USERS CAN TAKE A PHOTO/VIDEO AND IT WILL DISAPPEAR, NEW FEATURES INCLUDING "STORIES" ALLOWS USERS TO VIEW CONTENT FOR UP TO 24 HOURS. SNAPCHAT ALSO ALLOWS USERS TO SEE YOUR LOCATION.
	ROBLOX IS AN ONLINE GAMING PLATFORM WITH A CHAT FUNCTION. UNDERAGE USERS HAVE HAD ISSUES WITH SOLICITATION FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS.		HOT OR NOT ENCOURAGES USERS TO RATE YOUR PROFILE, CHECK OUT PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA, AND CHAT WITH STRANGERS. THE GOAL OF THIS APP IS TO HOOK UP.
	WHATSAPP IS A POPULAR MESSAGING APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO SEND TEXTS, PHOTOS, VOICEMAIL, MAKE CALLS, AND VIDEO CHATS WORLDWIDE. WHATSAPP USES AN INTERNET CONNECTION ON SMARTPHONES AND COMPUTERS.		OMEGLE IS AN ONLINE CHAT SITE WHERE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. USERS ARE ABLE TO CHAT ANONYMOUSLY VIA VIDEO, PRIVATE CHATS, OR GROUP CHATS. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY HAS BEEN AN ISSUE ON THIS SITE.
	KIK ALLOWS ANYONE TO CONTACT AND DIRECT MESSAGE YOUR CHILD. KIDS CAN BYPASS TRADITIONAL TEXT MESSAGING FEATURES. KIK GIVES USERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.		MEETME IS A DATING SOCIAL MEDIA APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY. AS THE APP'S NAME SUGGESTS, USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEET EACH OTHER IN PERSON.
	WHISPER IS AN ANONYMOUS SOCIAL NETWORK THAT PROMOTES SHARING SECRETS WITH STRANGERS. IT ALSO REVEALS A USER'S LOCATION SO PEOPLE CAN MEET UP.		TIKTOK IS A MOBILE DEVICE APP POPULAR WITH KIDS USED FOR CREATING AND SHARING SHORT VIDEOS. WITH VERY LIMITED PRIVACY CONTROLS, USERS ARE VERY VULNERABLE TO CYBER BULLYING AND EXPLICIT CONTENT.

**Ponte Vedra NewsLine is available online!**  
[www.floridanewsline.com](http://www.floridanewsline.com)

**FOLLOW SJSO ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** [WWW.SJSO.ORG](http://WWW.SJSO.ORG)



**with St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller John Rundgren, Clerk Designee**

**Q. What is the significance of the Popular Annual Financial Report?**

A. The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a simplified, easy-to-read version of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which is a detailed financial statement that the St. Johns County Comptroller's Office is statutorily required to complete each year. Clerk Brandon Patty launched the PAFR in 2020 to ensure residents have an easy-to-read booklet on the annual audit. The PAFR highlights key developments and major financial points, helping residents understand the financial situation of St. Johns County. Unlike the detailed ACFR, the PAFR focuses on selected financial data, providing a reader-friendly road-map of the county's finances.

**Q. What are the largest expenditure categories for St. Johns County?**

A. Public Safety was the largest expenditure in 2023, followed by Transportation, General Government, and Culture and Recreation.

**Q. The section about Investments shows we are earning significant returns in the last fiscal year. What does this mean?**

A. St. Johns County made more than \$30 million from investments in FY 2023. The county's top priority is investment safety, liquidity, and return on investment. By carefully managing daily cash and investing in options like Florida Prime SBA (State Board Administration), the county earned interest. This interest income supports various government and enterprise funds, and St. Johns County's strong financial health is reflected in its excellent bond rating.

**Q. What is the Clerk and Comptroller's role in managing county government finances?**

A. Our office functions as the county's accountant, internal auditor, and custodian of funds. We manage St. Johns County's investments, oversee payroll, handle bill payments, and prepare both the ACFR and PAFR.

**Q. How can residents review the PAFR?**

A. To review the PAFR, visit our website at [stjohnsclerk.com/PAFR](http://stjohnsclerk.com/PAFR). If you have any questions or would like to request a speaking engagement from the Clerk's Office leadership team, call (904) 819-3601 or email [clerk@stjohnsclerk.com](mailto:clerk@stjohnsclerk.com).



**with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes**

**Q: When is the next election?**

A: The 2024 General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

**Q: Are there any registration deadlines ahead of the election?**

A: Yes, the deadline to register to vote for this election is Oct. 7, 2024. Voters can visit our website [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) to register online.

**Q: Is there anything voters should be doing to prepare now for the 2024 General Election?**

A: Yes! It's never too early to get election ready. I recommend visiting [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) and using the Check My Status tool to make sure that your information is up to date. It's also important to keep an updated signature on your voter record, especially for our voters that vote by mail. Voters needing to update their signature can download the Florida Voter Registration Application on our website, [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov), and print, complete, and mail the form to the Elections Office. This service can also be done in person at the Elections Office, or at any St. Johns County Public Library or DMV office.

**Q: If I voted by mail in 2022, will I automatically get a vote-by-mail ballot this year?**

A: No. Due to law changes, vote-by-mail

requests expire at the end of each year. If you have not made a vote-by-mail request, you will not be mailed a ballot. To request a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2024 General Election, visit [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed for the 2024 General Election is Oct. 24, 2024, at 5 p.m.

**Q: When is early voting for the General Election?**

A: Early voting will begin Monday, Oct. 21, and continue through Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Locations will be announced closer to the election.

**Q: Do I have to be registered in a certain party to vote in the General Election?**

A: No, the General Election is an open election; party affiliation does not matter. All voters within a precinct will receive the same ballot with all candidates and parties on it.

**Q: What ways can voters contact the Elections Office?**

A: The St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Residents can visit or call the office with any questions during business hours at (904) 823-2238. Our website, [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) also has a wealth of information.

## 17 ACRES OF PLANTS, TREES AND PALMS



TREE FARM & NURSERY

BOGO

VIBURNUM SHRUBS

All Sizes  
Fast Growing,  
Great Privacy Hedge  
Offer expires 9/30/24

Viburnum 2 ft – 16 ft



**WE ALSO OFFER**

- Landscape & Design Services
- Drainage Solutions
- Brush Clearing
- Natural Area
- Retaining Walls
- Natural Plant Privacy Screens

Installation and Delivery Available

7280 State Road 13 North  
St Johns FL 32092

904-545-4022  
[www.sjtreefarm.com](http://www.sjtreefarm.com)





2024 General Election

November 5, 2024

Deadline to Register to Vote or  
Change Party Affiliation  
October 7, 2024

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE,  
UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION,  
OR REQUEST A NEW VOTER CARD ONLINE



VISIT [WWW.VOTESJC.GOV](http://WWW.VOTESJC.GOV)  
TO CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS

For registration and election  
information, call or visit:

904.823.2238     [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov)

# Life

travel · pantry raiders · gardening  
fishing · entertainment · puzzles

## Get to Know ...

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewsline.com

### Cass Hoag

When Cass Hoag graduated from the University of Florida in 2022, she had a very clear plan in mind. She was going to head to Australia, a country she had fallen in love with during a college study abroad program. She wanted a chance to explore more before pursuing a career with her degree in biomechanical engineering. Her parents supported her plan, but asked that she spend one summer with them in Nocatee prior to leaving. Hoag, who grew up in Indiana, agreed and spent that time playing pickleball with her father for fun, a hobby the two picked up six months prior to graduation. Soon, the duo went to tournaments together and slowly began to win. Hoag's father, now a Senior Pro, took lessons with Coach Yohann Nogradat, and Hoag joined him. After observing Hoag play, Nogradat suggested that she go pro. It was something Hoag had never considered, but she and her parents decided that she should try it for a year. "It was essentially a lot of training, a lot of entering into tournaments and honestly a lot of losing," said Hoag, 25. Fast forward to 2024 and Hoag is not only still playing, but she is one of the top female players on the U.S. Pro Circuit and has secured two sponsors (Selkirk Sport and K-Swiss). She has competed in 17 professional



Photo courtesy Cass Hoag  
Cass Hoag

tournaments, participating in a total of 60 pro matches so far with a Dupr (Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating) rating of a 4.9 out of 5.5. When Hoag first started training and playing, she was matched with a local player, Zak Parks. Hoag said her game improved thanks to Parks. "I would not be playing pickleball now if it wasn't for Zak. He is so smart and able to see things right away," she said. They played together for a year before Parks broke his arm while playing and encouraged Hoag, now his girlfriend, to find another partner. Hoag is now partnered with Anderson Scarpa most of the time, beating two premier level teams with him and boosting her Dupr rating by doing so. She is also interested in playing singles one day. When her game is no longer improving, Hoag said she plans to use her degree to work with prosthetics, noting that her hometown of Warsaw is known as the "Orthopedic Capital of the World." For now, she travels year-round to tournaments, feeling grateful every day for the opportunity.

**Q: You are rated as one of the top 50**

**players in the world. How surprised were you to be ranked so high?**

A: I was shocked. I did not expect any of it. Like my parents said, "Let's just see how it goes," and then it went really well. I was just having a good time, and I still am.

**Q: What do you like about playing pickleball?**

A: For beginners, I like that it is very welcoming and very easy to pick up. Now as a pro, I like that there are a lot of different elements to it. You must have both power and control.

**Q: You are also a pickleball coach at the Brown Family YMCA. How do you like this job?**

A: I love coaching, and I like beginners because there is so much improvement when you first start playing. It is so fun to watch.

**Q: You mentioned being nervous when you first started playing as a pro. How did you ease your nerves?**

A: The biggest thing is just getting that experience. I am not competitive at all. It is just not who I am. If I feel that I played well, then I am happy.

**Q: What suggestions do you have for someone who wants to play more seriously and someone who just wants to play for fun?**

A: If you are trying to take it more seriously, my biggest advice is to drill. It is not as fun, but it is very rewarding. You would choose one thing you want to work on and do it over and over until you master it. If it is just for fun, just go to the parks and play. You will learn so much just by playing, and people are so welcoming in this sport.

**Quiltfest** cont. from pg. 1

quilts by Quiltfest Inc. of Jacksonville will be at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, Sept. 19, 20, and 21, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily.

What is so magical about quilts and why is it worth your time to come see this show? It must be magic for a sewing artist to be so passionate about creating works of love and beauty that one would work for hours to create each quilt. In fact, some quilters admit to taking as long as 20 years to finish their work. A quilt might yield a pleasing pattern from the play with color and shape; it might tell a story or make a statement about current events; or it might be an image suitable to hang on a wall. Whether it takes a few days, weeks, months, or years, the quilts are stunning. And to see them all together is magical.

So grab your friends and family for a unique outing. Maybe you will find something handmade to purchase at the boutique or the quilt sale room. There are also opportunities to buy small items to support Community Hospice PedsCare Bereavement, for you or your children to test out using a sewing machine or help make Me Dolls and Heart pillows for hospitalized patients, to win a quilt or basket of goodies, or to buy a gift for the quilter you know.

Tickets for the Quiltfest are available the days of the show or at numerous quilt stores in the region (until Sept. 7). Tickets are \$15 per day with children younger than 12 free and \$1 off for seniors and veterans. Parking in the Prime Osborn official lot is free. Visit [www.quiltfestjax.com](http://www.quiltfestjax.com) for a look at the 2023 winners, ticket information, and directions.

**Visit us online!**  
[www.floridanewsline.com](http://www.floridanewsline.com)

### Get to Know ...

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at [editor@FloridaNewsLine.com](mailto:editor@FloridaNewsLine.com)



Family Owned  
and Operated  
since 1989

**Residential Commercial**

**CLEAN WATER FOR YOUR HOME**

**Affordable Water solutions for your home with the best customer service in the industry.**

- Water Softeners & Filtration Systems
- Service on most makes and models
- Delivery of Salt & Potassium for your system




Call today **904-262-0197** for your Complimentary Water Test & Analysis.

 3760 Kori Road • [www.affordablewaterjax.com](http://www.affordablewaterjax.com)


License #W-32

**Effective Marketing. Better Results.**

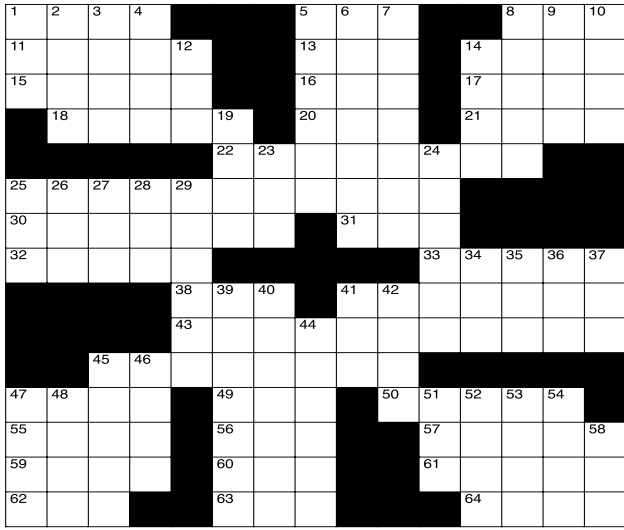
Advertise with your community newspapers!



**Linda Gay**  
**904-607-5062**  
[Linda@floridanewsline.com](mailto:Linda@floridanewsline.com)

# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Unequaled
5. \_\_\_-fi (slang)
8. Synthetic resin
11. Chadic language Bura\_\_\_
13. Influential come Election Day
14. Bucket
15. European river
16. Earn a perfect score
17. Horizontal passage
18. Barely sufficient
20. Dekaliter
21. Goo Goo Dolls hit
22. Australian city
25. Female servants
30. Plumbing fixtures
31. Tooth caregiver
32. Book of Esther antagonist
33. Say aloud
38. Thyrotrophic hormone
41. Absolute
43. Untimely
45. Area or neighborhood
47. Juicy fruit
49. Expresses distaste, disapprova
50. S. American rodents
55. Swedish rock group
56. Influential American presiden
57. Volume
59. Begged
60. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Good friend
63. Body part
64. Tableland

### CLUES DOWN

1. Barrels per day (abbr.)
2. Body parts
3. Invests in little enterprises
4. Rock legend Turner
5. Dug into
6. Laughed
7. Northern European nation
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Eight
10. Substitutes (abbr.)
12. Moved swiftly on foot
14. Compensated
19. Volcano in the Philippines
23. Speak ill of
24. One who publishes
25. Expression of bafflement
26. Macaws
27. Matchstick game
28. We all have our own
29. Divinatory
34. Explosive
35. Follows sigma
36. Sea eagle
37. Type of bread
39. Bit used with a set of reins
40. Time away from work
41. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
42. Lots on your plate (abbr.)
44. Actor Brosnan
45. It's part of packaging
46. Towards the oral region
47. Public Theater creator Joseph
48. Ancient Syrian city
51. Swiss river
52. Mollusk
53. A French abbot
54. Hoagies
58. Not present (slang)

## FELINE FUN WORD SEARCH

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

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

## CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to cats. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = E)

**A. 21 14 16 12**  
Clue: Sound a cat makes

**B. 6 22 19 19**  
Clue: Cat's vibration

**C. 12 26 23 2 11 14 19 2**  
Clue: Sensory hairs

**D. 6 16 22 7 5 14**  
Clue: Jump on suddenly

**Sisters in Crime** cont. from pg. 1  
and then another in 2019. Then the pandemic hit, and the workshops stopped. One of her goals since becoming board vice president in January is to bring the writing workshops back, beginning with one slated for October. Marsh is currently writing a cozy mystery series that will be published in summer 2025.

President Lana McAra, who is from Live Oak, was first a speaker at the group before becoming a member and then became president in January. She said the group has high quality guest speakers booked through next June, some in person and some by Zoom. This enables more members to attend, and Zoom pre-

sentations also allow the group to attract speakers from across the country, creating a global reach. Past speakers have included a private investigator, a missing persons advocate, a police officer's wife and a Wounded Warrior representative. Future speakers include an anti-violence specialist and an attorney.

McAra, who published her first book in 1996, said novice writers, longtime authors and avid readers all come together at meetings to learn, gather research, ask experts questions and offer tips and encouragement to each other. She said she is proud to serve with fellow board members who work hard and enthusiastically.

"We are building a community locally," said Marsh.

McAra said she has been interested in mysteries since the fourth grade after reading Nancy Drew and Agatha Christie. She started off by writing romantic mysteries.

"I could not write a book without a mystery. So, that has become my trademark. Whatever the genre, it is going to have a mystery," said McAra, who is also a ghost writer of 44 titles, podcast host and Divine Downloads founder.

McAra noted that membership, while it does come with perks such as discounted

workshop rates and a Zoom link, is not required to attend any of the meetings or workshops. The next meeting will be held on Sept. 7 at 10:15 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Library with guest speaker Marcus Melnick, "How to survive an active shooter situation."

[Author's note: Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime is presenting a writing workshop, "Double Vision: Writing Dual Timelines" on Oct. 5 at the San Marco Community Center. Author Denny S. Bryce will be the guest speaker. Visit [www.nefloridasistersincrime.org](http://www.nefloridasistersincrime.org) for more information about becoming a member or to sign up for workshops.]

# Community Marketplace Call to advertise (904) 886-4919

**Mandarin United Methodist Church**  
*Celebrating 150 years*  
11270 San Jose Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32223  
(From I-295 go south on San Jose Blvd. 1/2 mile on right)

**United Methodist Women's 34th Annual Fall Craft Festival**  
Saturday, October 5, 2024  
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

All Hand Crafted Items: 100+ Crafters, clothing, jewelry, concessions, seasonal gifts, baked goods, children's shop, country store and more!  
All proceeds support UMW Mission Projects

No Pets Allowed

**RD & Sons PAVING LLC**  
**386-302-3406**  
Driveways Parking Lots  
Asphalt Paving Millings  
Crushed Concrete Crushed Asphalt Stone  
**Robert Dow**  
[www.rdandsonspaving.com](http://www.rdandsonspaving.com)  
Licensed & Insured

**PRESSURE WASHING SERVICE**  
PROOF IS IN THE WORK  
SERVICES

- EXTERIOR CLEANING
- EXTERIOR PAINTING & RESTORATION
- HOT WASH & SOFT WASH
- ROOF CLEANING
- POOL ENCLOSURES
- DOCKS & WALKWAY

CALL US TODAY: **904-622-3000**  
[www.powwashjax.com](http://www.powwashjax.com)

**Heaton Movers LLC**  
Robbie Heaton  
904-705-6133

Moving and Delivering  
Cleanouts and Removals  
Packing and Unpacking  
Handyman Services

Licensed and Insured  
Veteran Owned  
*Here when you need us.*

We offer **Fictitious Name Advertisement**  
Call Linda 904-607-5062

**AUTOS WANTED**

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

**HEALTH & FITNESS**

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)

Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. 1-866-477-9045

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

**HOME SERVICES**

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup: A small amount of water can cause major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out wet areas & repair to protect your family & your home value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809. Have zip code!

Professional lawn service: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration & mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! 1-833-606-6777

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year war-

**Job Finder September:**

Experienced driver needed to handle towing and parking a trailer as needed for events. Must have Florida driver's license (CDL preferred), insurance, clean driving record. Truck is provided; earn \$150 per event. Contact Susan at Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County at (904) 466-0065 or [susanjpact@gmail.com](mailto:susanjpact@gmail.com).

ranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Become a published

author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/ads](http://dorranceinfo.com/ads)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Time-share Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info

package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Addi-

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!** UP TO **50% OFF INSTALLATION**

**ERIC HOME** FREE ESTIMATE **1.833.370.1234**  
Expires 10/31/2024 MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by live or live operators and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a Do Not Call list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservices.compliance.com](http://homeservices.compliance.com). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [eriehome.com/erie-licenses/](http://eriehome.com/erie-licenses/)

**Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
**1-855-417-1306**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

tional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer.) Call 1-844-501-3208

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-833-399-3595

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home,

your assets now for as little as 70¢/day! 1-844-591-7951

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call 1-888-489-3936



By Scott A. Grant  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

# PopHistory

## Murder in Saint Augustine

In the early evening of Jan. 23, 1974, Athalia Ponsell Lindsley was hacked to death by an assailant wielding a machete on the front steps of her home at 124 Marine Street in St. Augustine. The brutal murder remains unsolved to this day.

Suspicion immediately fell on Athalia's neighbor, Alan Griffin Stanford Jr. An 18-year-old neighbor on the other side saw a man attacking Athalia and shouted to his mother "Mr. Stanford is hitting Mrs. Ponsell." The youth would later recant saying he could not be sure that the assailant was Mr. Stanford.

The coroner determined that Athalia had been struck nine times by a machete, severing one of her fingers and nearly decapitating the 56-year-old victim. The only thing missing from the house was a pet blue jay whose cage had been smashed.

Athalia and Stanford had a long running feud, beginning with the six rescue dogs she kept in her house who Stanford claimed barked incessantly. Additionally, Stanford was the County Engineer, and Athalia criticized him frequently at County Commissioner meetings, claiming amongst other things that he lacked the requisite certification to qualify as a county engineer.

Athalia Ponsell Lindsley was a wealthy socialite from the north. She had been born in Ohio, but grew up on an island off the coast of Cuba. She was an attractive young woman and worked for some time as model and showgirl in New York City. She had dated and was rumored to be engaged to Joseph Kennedy Jr., older brother of future President John F. Kennedy. She also appeared as a hostess on Bud Collyer's television game show "Winner Takes All."

When she moved to St. Augustine, she was an outsider from the north who tried to change things. That did not go well. She ran unsuccessfully for State Senate and planned to run for a seat on the St. Johns County Commission. She showed up regularly to voice her opinion at commissioner meetings. At a meeting in October 1973, Athalia claimed that Stanford had "threatened my life."

Four months before the murder, Athalia married James "Jinx" Lindsley, a former mayor of St. Augustine and a successful realtor and real estate investor. The couple did not live together. She lived in her home on Marine Street and her husband lived at the historic Lindsley house on St. George Street. On the day of the murder, they had

traveled to Jacksonville together on a shopping trip before returning to their separate homes.

In February, county mechanic Dewey Lee discovered what appeared to be the murder weapon in the marsh a few miles from the murder scene. The sheriff found the machete, a wristwatch, dark pants, a white shirt, belt, and a purple tie all wrapped up in a pink towel. The items were blood stained. The watch was traced to Stanford by the serial number. It was determined the pants and shirt had been purchased by Stanford's wife.

At trial, defense attorney Edward Booth argued that the sheriff's office was out to get Stanford and very well may have planted the evidence against him. Or perhaps it was Dewey Lee who committed the crime and planted the evidence. Witnesses testified that Stanford was in his office at the time of the murder. The lone eyewitness who had originally identified Stanford now said the assailant was heavier with more hair.

The jury deliberated for two and a half hours, before returning a verdict of not guilty. During that time, they enjoyed a dinner on the county. Sheriff Dudley Garret disagreed with the verdict and

did not pursue the case any further believing he had caught the killer.

The tragedy was not entirely over. In November, a friend of Athalia's, Francis Bemis, a newspaper writer, who was researching the case, was found dead in a vacant lot near the corner of Bridge and Marine streets. Her skull was crushed. Like Athalia, her murder has never been solved. Some say the ghosts of both women still haunt the bay front.

*Scott A. Grant is a local historian and author. By day he runs Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra. He welcomes your comments at [scottg@standfastic.com](mailto:scottg@standfastic.com)*

**Visit us online!**

**www.floridanewsline.com**

## Lutheran Church celebrates 25 years of worship in a stable

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Lord of Life Lutheran Church celebrated a quarter century of worship in a stable on Aug. 11. Located on six acres of land at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N, the old stable was part of what Lord of Life purchased when it moved to this site in 1999 from a nearby place on Solana Road. Congregants first worshiped in a manufactured home, and slowly realized the space and potential of the horse stable.

“We remind ourselves that Jesus was born in a stable,” said Sheila Kolesaire, the church council president. “We love this unique and unpretentious space that frees us to focus on the preaching by Pastor Karen Biggerstaff each Sunday.”

The wooden posts running down the length of the building help visitors imagine the horse stalls that were once there. Over the years improvements have been made by local businesses, congregants, and scouts working on Eagle rank projects including a walkway, prayer garden, tables, and a Little Free Lending Library for the community.

“Lord of Life is one of four Lutheran churches in St. Johns County and feels proud that it has remained stable — no pun intended — while some 4,500 churches of all denominations closed in 2019 in the US,” Kolesaire said.

Since the church purchased the site in 1999, it has had enough land to host its annual Pumpkin Patch on the front lawn, offering hundreds of pumpkins through October, so this will be its 25th year. Plans are underway for how to celebrate this milestone too.

“We have an electric mix of congregants from active 90-year-olds to families with college age children,” said Pastor Biggerstaff, who joined Lord of Life this spring. “We have a number of recent widows, and I’ve seen that this church has been a good place for active seniors to make friends,” she added.



Photos courtesy Sheila Kolesaire  
Five of about 10 congregants who have been with Lord of Life for the 25 years it has worshiped in this stable: Deb Nye, Hilda Markantonatos, Floyd Wiggins, Cathy Wiggins and Cindy Tanton.



## Your carefree oasis of luxury awaits!

Feel right at home at one of our Starling communities. Live in unparalleled environments that feature resort-style amenities and comfortable residences. Select from luxurious independent living, assisted living or memory care lifestyles.

Whether you’re sampling the delectable dining options, enjoying the full-service salon or pursuing a new hobby, Starling is all about embracing life with friends, family, and community.

Learn more at [www.StarlingLiving.com](http://www.StarlingLiving.com).



  
**STARLING**  
AT PONTE VEDRA  
ASSISTED LIVING  
AND MEMORY CARE  
904-686-3700  
ALF#12887

  
**STARLING**  
AT NOCATEE  
ASSISTED LIVING  
AND MEMORY CARE  
904-834-4199  
ALF#13109

  
**STARLING**  
AT NOCATEE  
INDEPENDENT  
LIVING  
904-834-4511

  
**STARLING**  
AT SAN JOSE  
ASSISTED LIVING  
AND MEMORY CARE  
904-337-6350  
ALF#12887

WELLNESS • ENGAGEMENT • CULINARY • SERVICE

Call today to learn about current specials!

## Landrum kicks off year with exciting back-to-school events

By Jennifer Werba  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Landrum Middle School recently buzzed with energy as students, parents, and staff came together for a series of dynamic back-to-school activities. The excitement began early with the school’s dedicated eighth grade WEB leaders, who underwent special training before warmly welcoming the incoming sixth graders for an exclusive orientation event the week before school started. This initiative ensured that our new students felt at home and ready to thrive from day one.



Photos courtesy Jennifer Werba  
Meet the Teacher event at Landrum Middle School

The momentum continued with the highly successful “Meet the Teacher,” where students and their families had the opportunity to walk through their schedules and connect with the educators who will be guiding them throughout the year.

Capping off the festivities, the Landrum Middle School PTO hosted an exclusive “Meet the Principal” event at The Lodge. Parents gathered for a chance to

meet the school’s new principal, Troy Kasting, in an informal and welcoming setting. The event not only provided a unique opportunity for parents to connect with each other but also allowed Kasting to share his background, vision, and goals for the upcoming school year.

## Gold medal year at Ocean Palms

By Lisa Farese  
mail@floridanewsline.com

New schedules, new teachers, and new beginnings abound on the heels of the first day back to school at Ocean Palms Elementary. Kindergartners and new Ocean Palms students toured the school on Aug. 9, learning about what to expect the first day and how to navigate the grounds to find their classrooms and the many resources on campus.

Additionally, on Aug. 7, teachers and staff were welcomed back with a Metro Diner lunch provided by the PTO. The staff enjoyed refreshments, while decked out in their “Go for the Gold” attire. Finally, on Aug. 9, students and families were welcomed back into the school to meet with teachers and reunite with friends and classmates — kicking off a school year that promises to be pure gold!



Ocean Palms students and families headed into school for Meet the Teacher to visit with teachers and reunite with friends and classmates.



Photos courtesy Lisa Farese

Kindergartners and new families to Ocean Palms Elementary heard a brief presentation about the school and toured OPE in preparation for their first day.



Teachers and staff were welcomed back to school with a “Go for the Gold” themed lunch.

# Travel

## Buffalo Bill, Western Art and Rodeos in Cody, Wyoming

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The allure of the West can be strong. I'd heard that Cody, Wyoming, founded by namesake Buffalo Bill Cody in 1896, exceeds expectations. The authentic downtown, surrounded by wide-open landscapes, soaring mountains, and many Western-style activities, sounded terrific. And it was.

Cody frequently appears in national media "best lists," with Travel & Leisure Magazine naming it "One of the Most Beautiful Towns in the U.S." and "A Top Art Town." The only negative I can think of is that Cody is somewhat difficult to get to for Easterners. I flew into Denver and took a bus. I could have flown to Billings or Cody, but the cost is higher. Once you arrive, you will want to stay.

I began with a Cody Trolley Tour to learn a little history and get a grasp of the town's layout. Much of downtown is walkable. I wanted to learn about the

famous showman Buffalo Bill Cody, so I headed to his original hunting lodge, where a reenactor told his tales. The Pahaska Teepee Lodge rests near the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone. When visitors traveled by horse and carriage, they'd spend the night at the lodge before going into the park. Cody wisely chose the location, as do many travelers today. The old lodge remains a tourist attraction, but you can stay on the property.

The town's spectacular attraction is the Buffalo Bill Center for the West. The complex includes five museums under one roof: Whitney Western Art Museum (a Smithsonian affiliate), Plains Indian Museum, Buffalo Bill Museum, Draper Natural History Museum, Cody Firearms Museum, and a research library. It's so large that the admission (just \$23) covers two days. You'll see just a fraction of the 100,000 Western American artifacts, including exceptional paintings and sculptures, taxidermy animal



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Buffalo statue in Cody, Wyoming.

displays, Buffalo Bill memorabilia, interactive exhibits, and videos. For a truly enriching experience, sign up for one of the museum's Exclusive Tours, led by an expert curator. The tours offer a behind-the-scenes look at the archives and allow you to tailor your visit to your specific interests.

Nearby, the Heart Mountain World War II Interpretive Center offers insight into a dark corner of U.S. history: the incarceration of 14,000 Japanese American citizens following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Another day, I explored the Firearms Museum. While I'm not a gun enthusiast, I have to admit I found these guns and rifles fascinating. I followed a timeline of their development and enjoyed seeing famous people's firearms. The engraved details on some of the side plates look like works of art. Then, I went off to the Cody Firearms Experience, where I shot two guns at the indoor range. The facility maintains copies of many historic weapons, and I chose a 1795 Flintlock musket and a Gatling Gun. Firing the Gatling made me feel

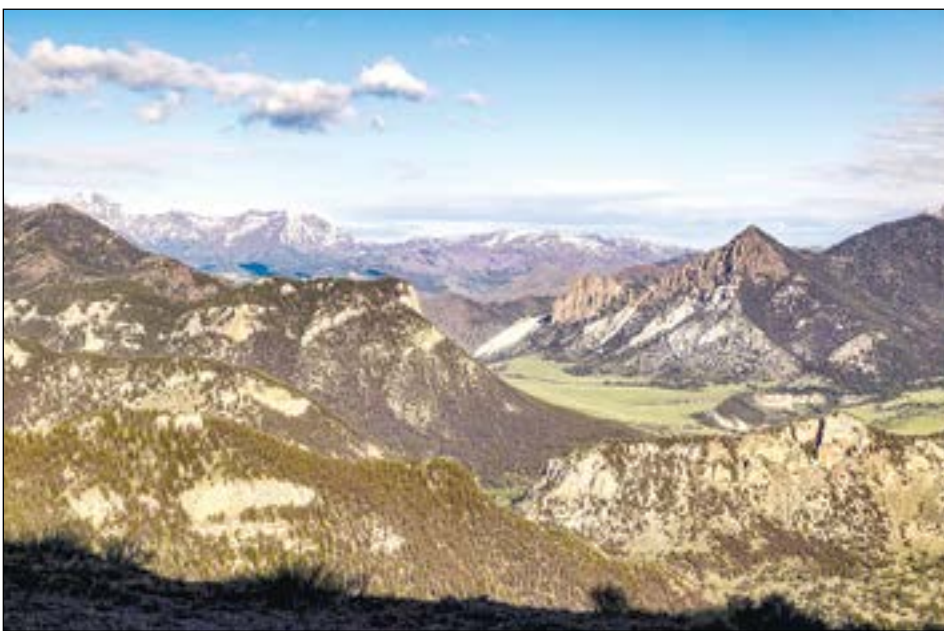
like a mobster; however, the musket was the most thrilling. My instructor loaded the gunpowder and the ball, and then I aimed and fired — with the gunpowder igniting close to my face.

I recommend dinner at the Cody Cattle Company while listening to live Western music. Then, walk over to the Cody Rodeo Fairgrounds. Rodeos run every night in the summer. First come the bucking bronco riders, then cattle roping, barrel racing, and lastly, the bull riders. What a fabulous show!

Lastly, I took a full-day bus trip to Yellowstone National Park. One day is not enough to see the geysers, bubbling mud pots, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. The bison were plentiful and easy to spot. Bears were fewer, but I saw about eight to 10, just not up close!

If your inner cowboy is calling, head to Cody. (Information: <https://www.codywy.gov>)

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



Scenic mountains in Wyoming.



### THE TAILORED CLOSET



LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED WITH OVER 12,000 INSTALLATIONS IN NE FLORIDA SINCE 2005

**CLOSETS • PANTRIES • HOME OFFICE • LAUNDRY**


## Floor Coatings • Cabinets • Organizers




LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED WITH OVER 12,000 INSTALLATIONS IN NE FLORIDA SINCE 2005!


- ✖ DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR FLOORS WITH 1 DAY INSTALLS!
- ✔ INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH
- ✔ EASY TO MAINTAIN
- ✔ UV STABLE
- ✔ ANTIBACTERIAL


**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED WITH OVER 12,000 INSTALLATIONS IN NE FLORIDA SINCE 2005!**






[www.tailoredcloset.com](http://www.tailoredcloset.com)  
**REQUEST A FREE CONSULTATION**  
(904) 645-0885





[www.premiergarage.com](http://www.premiergarage.com)  
**GET ORGANIZED TODAY**  
(904) 329-4986





## If Florida Blue has its way, our patients might have a new health issue.

# Access to care.

Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's exist to care for the health and well-being of our community. There is nothing more important to us than ensuring our patients can continue to see their trusted Baptist Health doctors and use our hospitals...now and for generations to come.

**What is the current status of the negotiations between Baptist Health and Florida Blue?** After months of little progress, we recently had a flurry of negotiations activity with Florida Blue including a demand from them to approve a one-year increase. We believe a short-term solution is no solution at all. Baptist Health needs a long-term contract with Florida Blue which will enable us to plan and invest in crucial community health initiatives without the looming threat of annual disruption. A long-term contract provides us with certainty, Florida Blue with network stability and our patients with continued access to the quality care they rely on.

**Why do we need a long-term agreement?** We exist to care for the community, with a history of providing critically needed services in good times and bad. This requires long-term planning, predictable income, and stability so that we can sustain our mission. For some services, we are the only local place to get help. We will not

be able to serve our community in the same capacity as we do today unless there is a correction in our contract that accounts for years of being paid at below-market rates while costs of providing care increased dramatically due to external factors beyond our control. Florida Blue has falsely accused us of demanding excessive rates, when in fact we have only asked them to pay market rates, consistent with what they pay other similar health systems in the state.

**As part of our commitment to make health care more accessible and affordable,** we also have invested in convenient, extended-hours access to urgent care in 17 locations, the largest network of primary care physicians, on-demand doctor visits 24/7 with board-certified physicians and two new ambulatory surgery centers to provide services at significantly reduced prices. Our more than 200 outpatient locations are ready to serve the community in lower-cost settings.

**With several weeks still to go, we remain committed to negotiating in good faith.** The time for gamesmanship and short-term solutions is over. We value our relationship with Florida Blue and hope that they will share our vision and commitment to the health and well-being of our community. We devote our lives to serving this community, and

we would not be doing this if it weren't necessary to protect the long-term sustainability of our health system.

We appreciate the support and understanding of our patients, team members, physicians, and community partners during this negotiation process. It's very important that people know this is not how we wanted this to go, and we do not want anyone's health care to be disrupted.

- If you'd like to speak with a Baptist Health representative about our negotiation with Florida Blue, call us at **904.202.3247 (FAIR)**.
- For information about your benefits, call the number on the back of your insurance card. This negotiation potentially impacts patients with any Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan which is serviced by Florida Blue.
- To learn about all the insurance plans we accept, visit [baptistjax.com/florida-blue](http://baptistjax.com/florida-blue)

