



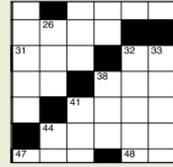
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County School Board
member
Beverly Slough



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Amy Grimm



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Puzzles

Julington Creek Elementary partners with St. Augustine Garden Club to beautify school

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Cara Beth Downs

St. Augustine Garden Club member Ellen Swain and Julington Creek Elementary Vice Principal Jennifer Sparks observe the fifth graders' efforts.

Fifth graders at Julington Creek Elementary have recently had the opportunity to learn about community partnerships, grant writing and gardening — all while beautifying their school.

Students in teacher Cara Beth Downs' gifted class became engaged in gardening upon receiving a grant from the St. Augustine Garden Club to start a hydroponic garden at the beginning of this school year. They developed a leadership team and began maintaining the garden themselves.

"All leadership teams worked towards a common goal and helped maintain the tower garden, which included the idea of Arbor Day and the love of our environment and the need to protect it," Downs said.

This led to their interest in applying for another grant offered by the Garden

Julington Creek cont. on pg. 17

FIELD OF DREAMS celebrates Opening Day

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Field of Dreams held its 2018 Opening Day on Feb. 3, a chilly Saturday morning at Aberdeen Park. In its eighth season, the Field of Dreams is a baseball league for children with special needs. This year, there are 10 teams with total of 154 players registered.

There are two innings in each game and each player bats each inning. The league has games each Saturday until April 7, with no games on March 17 due to Spring Break.

The Bartram Trail High School softball and baseball teams came out to volunteer as buddies for opening day. Many other



Photos courtesy Stephanie Triay
Brehanu Bergin running into home.



Daniel Saxton and Jake Matalobos with their buddies.

volunteers and parents also came out to support the Field of Dreams.

This season the league is in the process of fundraising for a 7,850-square foot boundless playground that will be accessible to children of all abilities. The league's goal is to open the \$650,000 facility in 2020. There is a GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com/boundlessplaygroundsjc) where supporters may donate to the cause.



Hayden Chadwell having fun with his buddy.

Marywood library books get new life

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Marywood, the retreat center located off State Road 13 in Fruit Cove, will be undergoing renovations this spring — including remodeling the library space as a lounge for guests. This will necessitate the relocation of more than 2,000 books and new directory Matt Achorn immediately thought of donating them to prisons.

Located on the St. Johns River, Marywood was built in the 1950s to host refugees from Cuba. The property has evolved into a hospitality inn for guests and retreats. The library gave guests a resource of material on spirituality, religion, and liberal arts.

"Marywood is not only a retreat center; it has a history of hospitality within in the St. Johns community," Achorn said. "The library has a legacy of charity and hope

that was dedicated to the late Monsignor Madden and deserves to inspire others."



Photo courtesy Tunu Ricketts
Shawn Jamerson and Matt Achorn at Marywood.

The honorable Monsignor Patrick Madden had a rich life in the United States after his ordination in Ireland in 1953. He served as teacher to Bishop Kenny, chaplain to Florida State University, the University of Tennessee, Florida A&M University, pastor to Jacksonville's Assumption and Sacred Heart churches and

served as consultant and translator to Latin documents, assisting Archbishop Hurley to Vatican II. After Madden's passing in March 2004, Bishop Victor

Galeone, Bishop John Snyder and priests of the Diocese of Saint Augustine commemorated a library at the Kelly Center, the main office of Marywood. The library includes books collected from the late Madden and generous donors, as well as art and personal stories of miracles and loss in Christian life.

Father Tony Serba, who co-pastored with Msgr. Madden at Sacred Heart, recalls "the man's intelligence, humor could not be matched by his humility...He was such a soul and everyone loved seeing him and being around him...He would be humbled by the journey these books have made from him, to Marywood and the prisons..."

Deacon "Corky" Hecht of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, who travels to four prisons weekly, ministering to prisoners, will oversee the collection's transfer. He visited with wardens from New River, Florida State, Hamilton and Columbia prisons, all of whom are happy to receive the contribution from Marywood. Their teams will work on moving the bookshelves, furniture and art from Marywood back to the prisons.

Hecht said, "I go from cell to cell at each visit. These inmates will look forward to going to a breakout room and visiting the new library. Those on death row have one hour outside before the return their cells.

Marywood library cont. from pg. 27

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Friends of Library offer college test prep classes

The Bartram Trail Branch Library will be holding ACT and SAT prep courses March 13 – April 24 (excluding Spring Break) on Tuesday evenings. The ACT Prep Course will begin at 5 p.m. and the SAT Prep Course will begin at 6:30 p.m. Each class is 75 minutes long and enrollment is limited. The courses are designed for students who have already completed or are enrolled in Algebra II. The cost of each course is \$45, which includes the instructional classes and a practice test. The practice test will be graded and students will receive scores and feedback that will help them prepare for the actual tests. Enrollment packets will be available at the Bartram Trail Public Library Front Desk beginning Feb. 12. These courses are scheduled to be completed as close to the next ACT and SAT test dates as possible; the next ACT test is June 9 and the next SAT test is May 5. Email Kelly at folbtl@gmail.com with questions.

Scholarship available for St. Johns County college students

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of St. Augustine is offering two \$2,000 scholarships to university/college students whose residence is in St. Johns County. Both male and female students who are full-time undergraduates or graduates at an accredited university/college with at least a 3.0 GPA may apply. Visit <https://staugustine-fl.aauw.net/scholarship/> for more specific details and an application form.

Owl and sunset talk at Beluthahatchee

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Stetson Kennedy Foundation for a sunset owl talk, to be held Friday, March 23 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Beluthahatchee Park, 1523 State Road 13 N. in Fruit Cove. Attendees, who should bring their own lawn chair, will enjoy the sunset at Beluthahatchee while learning about its unique history with nature's evening symphony, including local owls. For more information, or to pre-register, contact AyoLane Halusky at ahalusky@sjcfl or (904) 209-0348.

Creekside Theatre presents "The Addams Family"

Students in Creekside High School's theatre department will present a lively production of the musical comedy "The Addams Family" on March 1, 2, and 3 and 7 p.m. and a matinee at 2 p.m. on March 3. The creepy and kooky family hosts daughter Wednesday's "normal" new boyfriend for dinner and comedy ensues. Tickets are sold at the door for \$10 and the community is invited to be entertained and support the arts in schools. Contact Theatre Director Leia Fixel at leia.fixel@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.

Naturalist explains how to live with snakes and gators

UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County is partnering with St. Johns County Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia to present "Living with Snakes and Gators" on March 14, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

at St. Johns County Extension Auditorium, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive. Snakes and alligators are found throughout the state of Florida, and may even be in your backyard. Attendees will learn about the various species of snakes in the area, unique characteristics of both snakes and alligators, as well as how to live with these native neighbors. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required at: <https://snakesandgators.eventbrite.ca>.

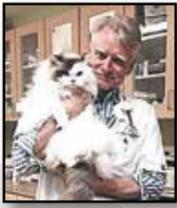
take 5



Photo courtesy MetroCreative



Switzerland Animal Hospital



Dr. Michael Bredehoeft



Dr. Christine Cunningham



Dr. Carla Rodrigues, CCRP



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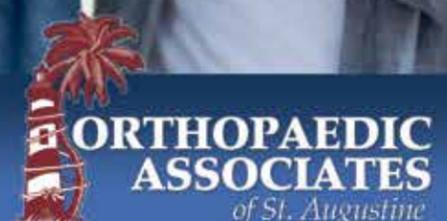
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

around town

save the date!

1st
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
 (904) 460-0243

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

3rd
Fifth annual Run with a Mission 5K, 10K 1-mile fun run benefiting Faithful Servant missions in Costa Rica
 8:30 a.m.
 Nocatee Greenway Trails
 runsignup.com/runwithamission

5th
Sixth annual National MS Awareness Week silent auction
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Bogey Grille, 150 Valley Circle
 Free / open to the public; (904) 285-7686
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
 adsilby@yahoo.com

6th
St. Augustine/Jacksonville Newcomers Club Trivia evening/dinner
 6 p.m.
 Contact Lea for name of St. Augustine restaurant and to be added to attendee list
 (904) 829-0643 or (904) 814-9612
Happy Hookers crochet group
 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960
World Golf Village Toastmasters
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
 Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

8th
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
 Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326
Rotary Club of Bartram Trail
 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Westminster Woods, 25 State Road
 lancedmalcolm@gmail.com
Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St. Augustine
 www.stjohnsaudubon.com

10th
St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild featuring Dan Costello, "How to Give and Receive a Critique"
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
 www.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrod@comcast.net
Friends of the Library Book Sale
 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

12th
The Northwest United for Progress Club meeting featuring Dr. David D. Jaffee, "Neoliberalism, Economic Crisis and Trumpism"
 7 p.m.
 2777 Race Track Road (NE corner of Race Track and Flora Branch)
 nwsjcp@gmail.com
4-H Science Club
 5 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

13th
Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club luncheon featuring First Coast Highlanders Pipe and Drum ensemble
 11 a.m.
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club
 RSVP by March 6, bartramtn@gmail.com

14th
St. Johns CARES Kids meeting
 6:45 p.m.
 Primrose School, 785 Crosswater Pkwy., www.stjohnscares.org
LEGO Club for Kids
 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

15th
Attracting birds to your yard with native plants, presented by Florida Naturalist Gary Whiting
 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Wild Birds Unlimited Store, 450 State Road 13N
 Limited free seating, call (904) 230-3242 to reserve

17th
Vilano Bridge 5K and 10K
 8 a.m.
 North Shores Community Center, Vilano Beach
 www.1stplacesports.com/races/vilano-bridgerun
Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association features Rik Feeny
 10 a.m.
 Main Library, 1960 U.S. Highway 1, St. Augustine
 http://fwaacc.com/

April 14 About Boating Safely course
 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd.
 RSVP to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-4, (904) 955-7077

April 21 Duck Race - Making a Splash for Autism
 9:30 a.m. gate opens/race at 10:30 a.m.
 Adventure Landing, 1944 Beach Blvd.
 https://jaxduckrace.org

April 21 McGala 2018 to benefit Ronald McDonald House
 6 p.m.
 www.RMHCJacksonville.org/events/mcgala

April 21 14th annual Katie Ride, benefiting the Katie Caples Foundation's organ donor education and awareness raising programs
 7:45 a.m.
 Atlantic Recreation Center, Fernandina Beach
 https://katiecaplesfoundation.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=535

April 30 Katelyn's Champions for St. Jude Golf Classic
 10:30 a.m.
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club
 www.stjude.org/get-involved/find-an-event/dinners-and-galas/katelyns-champions.html

Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
 Repeating event on third Saturday of each month (904) 827-6960

17th - 18th Jacksonville Orchid Society show and sale
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday
 The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Drive
 Jaxorchidsociety.org

18th Bartram Trail Newcomers trip to Alhambra, "Little Shop of Horrors"
 2 p.m.
 RSVP Joan Bleacher, jbleacher@comcast.net

19th All Star Quilt Guild
 9:45 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
 www.orgsites.com/fl/allstartquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

20th North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
 Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, 25 State Road 13
 Register at www.sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681
St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
 www.stjohnscares.org

Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Master Gardener Dottie Hudson
 11 a.m.
 Club Continental, 2143 Astor St., Orange Park
 RSVP by March 12, sjaird@comcast.net
First Coast Card Club - adult card players
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
 St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
 (904) 829-0643

22nd National Association of Railway Business Women (NARBW) with guest speaker Alicia Sullivan of Leading Source Property Solutions
 6 p.m.
 Location TBD
 RSVP: (904) 945-0943 or narbiejax14@yahoo.com

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

30th Helping Hands of St. Johns County
 10 a.m.
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
 jacqphil@aol.com

March 31st - April 1st 50th annual Mandarin Art Festival
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
 www.mandarinartfestival.org

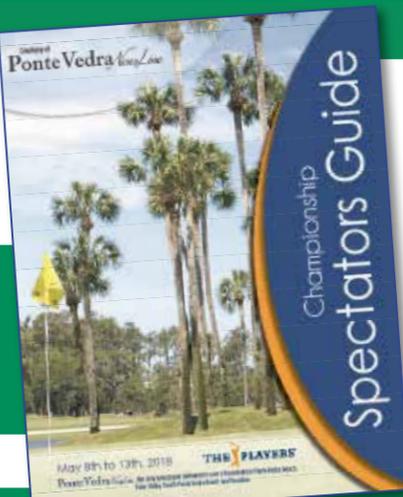
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with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: Short term rentals, especially through services like Airbnb, are becoming more and more popular. Can you let us know if there are any tax or property implications to renting out one's home?

A: Recently, St. Johns County moved up to #11 in the state for revenues with Airbnb, so certainly short term rentals are proving popular. The first thing a homeowner must do before renting out their home is to register with the Tax Collector's office, because all short term rentals, even through Airbnb, are required to collect and pay the county's bed tax. If they don't, the property appraiser is required by Florida statute to lien the property for the amount of taxes not paid plus a substantial penalty and interest.

Q: What about if a property is homesteaded?

A: If your property is homesteaded, you still must pay the bed tax — and you are subject to losing your homestead if you rent out your home for too many days per year. The statute says that in order to maintain homestead, you can rent your home for no more than 30 days each year or 60 days over a two consecutive year period. Furthermore, if you rent for more than six months in a year, your property would be considered

a commercial venture and taxed as a business.

Q: What happens if you lose your homestead?

A: Well, not only do you lose the deduction in assessed value, but you also lose the 3 percent cap by which your property value may increase in a given year, along with the portability provision, which allows a homesteaded owner to move up to \$500,000 of the "Save Our Homes" benefit from one Florida home to the next.

Q: What is your suggestion if people are interested in renting out their home on a short term basis?

A: I recommend that they contact us at the Property Appraiser's office upfront so we make sure they understand what they are getting in to. We want to make sure homeowners understand the ramifications and we can help them navigate around the pitfalls.

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.

Your Vote Counts

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Elections ahead

2018 is already shaping up to be a busy election year. Mark your calendars now: the Primary Election is scheduled for Aug. 28 and the General Election is Nov. 6.

There will be a number of important races on the ballot this year beginning with the federal offices; Senator Bill Nelson and Congressman John Rutherford's terms are both ending. On the state level, Florida voters will elect a new governor and cabinet members. State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson is scheduled for reelection as are a number of judges. Local offices that will appear on the ballot are County Commissioners Seats 2 and 4, and School Board Districts 1, 3 and 4. All of the special districts such as the St. Augustine/St. Johns County Airport Authority, Anastasia Mosquito Control District and St. Johns Soil and Water Conservation Districts and all community development districts have board members up for reelection this year. A detailed listing of those offices can be found on our website, votesjc.com, under the candidate information section.

A number of candidates have already signed up to run for office. They are circulating petitions and have begun raising and spending money to bring about their election to office. Candidates must keep a separate bank account from their personal monies for their campaigns and file monthly reports with our office. These campaign reports are public record and available on our website.

The Division of Elections accepts documents for candidates filing for multi-county and state offices. You can check these list by visiting their website, dos.myflorida.com/elections.

The deadline for candidates to file for federal offices is May 4. State, county and local candidates have a deadline of June 22.

Once the June 22 deadline passes, we will know which candidates will be on the ballot in the Primary, and which candidates will go directly to the General Election.

Visit votesjc.com often to see who is signing up, and how races are shaping up for the fall elections.

FYI Contact Numbers

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

Sheriff's Office: (904) 824-8304
Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org
Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150
Property Appraiser: (904) 827-5500
Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@sjcpa.us
Supervisor of Elections: (904) 823-2238
Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com
Tax Collector: (904) 209-2250
Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us
Clerk of Court: (904) 819-3600
Hunter S. Conrad

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

District 1: (904) 209-0301
Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfll.us
District 2: (904) 209-0302
Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfll.us
District 3: (904) 209-0303
Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfll.us

District 4: (904) 209-0304
Jay Morris, bccd4@sjcfll.us

District 5: (904) 209-0305
Henry Dean, bccd5hdean@sjcfll.us

St. Johns County School Board
(www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

District 1: (904) 547-7510
Beverly Slough, beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us

District 2: (904) 547-7510
Tommy Allen, tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us

State of Florida Elected Officials

State House District 17: (904) 823-2300
Representative Cyndi Stevenson,
Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov,
State Senate District 7: (386) 446-7610
Senator Travis Hutson

Federal Elected Officials

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

U.S. Senate:
Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041



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

Q: The date of this interview (Feb. 12) is actually the date of Family Knight. Can you tell us a bit more about it?

A: This was the brainchild of Creekside High School principal, Steve McCormick. He proposed a night that had all sports, practices and clubs end at 5 p.m.

as well as no homework tonight or tests tomorrow in an effort to give families a chance to eat dinner together, unplug and reconnect. I'm happy that every school in the Creekside feeder pattern bought into the idea and are participating as well. McCormick hopes to make

this a once per semester event going forward.

Q: What is the latest on the School Board's efforts to address the overcrowding at Pacetti Bay Middle School?

A: We are thinking out of the box on this one. We plan to convert Mill Creek Elementary to a K – 8 school with a tiered opening starting next school year when it will be a K – 6 school and then K – 7 and finally K – 8 in the 2020 – 2021 school year. We were going to build a middle school in this area, but could not find any reasonably priced land.

Q: What are the particulars as to timing of construction and other details?

A: We are working on financing and hope to have it fully approved next month at our board meeting. Construction of a middle school academic building, a gym and an expansion to the cafeteria should begin in the summer/early fall, with construction taking place while students are on campus. This is always challenging, but has been done before. We expect completion prior to the start of the 2019 – 2020 school year. Amanda Riedl will remain as the principal. We have rolled out the idea to staff and affected parents as of last week.

Q: Do you have any information as to when or if a new high school will be built soon?

A: We have land already donated for

a high school in the Twin Creeks area near County Road 210 and US Highway 1. We will be retiring some 10-year debt in 2021 and then we will have more bonding capacity. I would imagine that would be the time we would look at building the high school.

Q: Do you have any legislative updates?

A: So far, nothing encouraging. Recall that we had a train bill, HB 7069 last year. Well, unfortunately there is another one this year, HB 7055. It is 200 pages long and contains everything from soup to nuts. Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran has tied passage and adoption of the bill into law to the funding of the education formula for this year. I was pleased, though, that Sen. Travis Hutson reached out and asked us our concerns with the bill's contents. Similarly, Rep. Paul Renner has asked for our input on HB 1, the Hope Scholarship bill whereby students who have been bullied may receive a voucher to transfer to another school, either a public school in the county or a private school. As it stands now, once a student qualifies for this, he or she gets to keep it until graduation, but the bill doesn't provide for any investigation or substantiation of bullying. I feel this doesn't give the school the opportunity to address the root disciplinary problem.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



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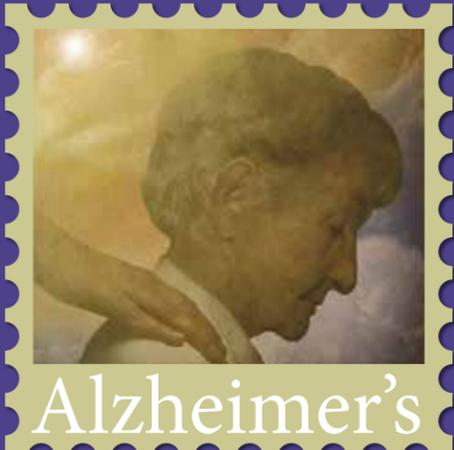
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Q: Can you give us any additional details on the recent approval by the Board of County Commissioners for document transmittal to Tallahassee for the 999-home development known as Grand Oaks (near State Road 16, south of Murabella)?

A: First of all, we didn't approve the construction of these homes, we just allowed the developer to send documents to Tallahassee for review by entities such as the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, which is necessary due to the size of the project. The applicant had contacted us and asked for a meeting on the record to discuss items such as traffic, EMS and parks/recreation with representatives of all these departments present. We asked them to tell us how they were going to address deficiencies in these areas.

Q: What is the next step?

A: The project will be reviewed at the regional level, which should take about three months, and if approved, it will come back to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. If the developers don't address all of our concerns regarding deficiencies, we won't approve the project.

Q: Do you have any updates on the Durbin Park construction?

A: My understanding is the first phase is on track to be open when State Road 9B opens near the end of this year. I'm hearing a lot of positive feedback from the community about looking forward to not having to drive a long way to get to these big box stores.

Q: What is the latest with the beach renourishment issue?

A: This project is complicated because coordination between local, state and federal departments is required since so many pieces of property are owned by different entities and are right next to

each other. Beaches are part of the lifeblood of our community and we need to address the issue of renourishment. We just need to make sure what we do is successful.

Q: So, what are some of the options?

A: What we approved was to allow the TDC (Tourist Development Council) to do more research on what it would take to achieve our goals. We might have a combination of Commissioner Henry Dean's proposal to raise the bed tax by one cent, although it is concerning to me to do so without all the details that point to success, and the MSTU (municipal service taxing unit). We haven't enacted the final steps of the MSTU, because we have been notified by staff that due to the decrease in beachfront property values, we probably wouldn't be able to raise enough money to achieve the goal of matching the federal funds that are available. We will have further discussion at an upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Q: Do you have any other updates?

A: We have directed county staff to determine the cost of services we provide on a per person basis — items such as trash collection, library usage, lifeguards at the beach, the golf course, equestrian center etc., and then with this knowledge could let the public decide if they want the county to continue to provide these services. When people ask for a service, they would know how much it will cost taxpayers and can then decide if it is worth it. This should take a few months for staff to provide and we will hold them accountable for accurate numbers.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc1jjohns@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 615-7437.



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Briefs

St. Johns County 2017 Employee of the Year announced

Wendy Hicks, Solid Waste Manager, was selected by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners as the 2017 Employee of the Year. Hicks was recognized for her dedicated service to the residents of St. Johns County.



Photo courtesy St. Johns County
Wendy Hicks, St. Johns County Employee of the year

The award was presented at the annual St. Johns County Employee Service Awards Ceremony celebrating dedicated staff with up to 35 years of service in the county.

United Way to host neighborhood campouts

United Way of St. Johns County is partnering with St. Johns Golf and Country Club and South Hampton neighborhoods to host community campout nights in the month of March. Neighborhood families, CDD members and their guests are invited to pitch a tent and campout under the stars. There will be s'mores, an outdoor movie and tons of fun!

The purpose of this fundraising event, coordinated by United Way SJC and

resident volunteers, is to increase awareness about the housing crisis facing the youth in our community.

Want your neighborhood to be next? Visit bit.ly/uwsjccampout to learn more.

Running of the Knights to be held May 11

The Running of the Knights, the eighth annual fundraising event benefiting the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club, is scheduled for May 11. The event isn't all about running; this community event will also feature socializing with friends, playing games, checking out the vendor booths, and listening to music. Food available this year at the Knight's Feast includes Curly's pulled pork, Eckrich smoked sausage, and Nathan's Famous hot dogs. Every registered runner will receive a free ticket



Photo courtesy Leonard's
A Centipede team crosses the finish line at the 2017 Running of the Knights.

to the Knight's Feast and tickets will be available to purchase for \$5 prior to the event or \$7 the day of the event. Also new this year, every 5K finisher will receive a custom medal in addition to age group awards for the 5K and Fun Run.

Centipede teams can be formed now for a chance to win prizes from seven categories. Visit runningoftheknights.com/registration to register for any of the races. Volunteers are also needed, contact Debbie Nievinski at chsknights-vol@gmail.com to sign up.

Volunteers honored at Chocolate and Beyond

Chocolate and Beyond, a celebration of chocolate, desserts, and other culinary sensations, will be held Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at First Coast Technical College, 2980 Collins Ave. in St. Augustine. Guests will sample chocolate and other delicious creations from some of the area's finest restaurants and specialty shops, while enjoying contests and a silent auction, featuring restaurant gift certificates and tickets to attractions. Guests will also cast their vote for the People's Choice Award winner.

This event, celebrating its 25th year, is hosted by RSVP of St. Johns County. Proceeds assist the program in recruiting, placing and recognizing volunteers 55 years and older as they mentor and tutor students in the St. Johns County School District, and as they assist in preschool reading in the Head Start program and local child care centers. Last year more than 600 students received assistance from volunteers.

Tickets for Chocolate and Beyond are \$20 per person, and can be obtained by online at www.rsvpstjohns.com.

Groundbreaking held for Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus

On Friday, Jan. 26, ground was officially broken on the Stephen R. Chap-

man Family Community Campus in St. Augustine. The 16,550 square foot campus, at 1373 Dixie Highway, will consolidate all Community Hospice & Palliative Care services for area residents outside of the acute-care setting of its Bailey Family Center for Caring inpatient center.

The campus will offer a variety of consumer- and health care provider-focused educational programs, advance care



Photo courtesy Community Hospice & Palliative Care
Community Hospice & Palliative Care President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel; Board Chair Fernando Acosta-Rua; Steve and Christine Chapman; Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation Board Chair Ray Driver; and St. Augustine/St. Johns County Advisory Council Chair Katherine Batenhorst officially broke ground on the Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus on Friday, Jan. 26 in St. Augustine.

planning and community grief counseling and workshops, and community meeting space open to local residents and organizations.

The Chapmans, whose financial commitment has made the campus possible, are co-leading a capital campaign to raise at least \$1.5 million to cover construction costs. For more information or to support the

Campus, visit ChapmanCampus.CommunityHospice.com or call Donna Morrow at (904) 407-6136.



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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Market Insight



Navigating the Mississippi and the stock market

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

The Mississippi River winds a treacherous and ever-shifting path through the heartland of our great country. Only experienced river pilots could navigate this great highway of our past. Samuel Langhorne Clemens grew up working this river. He took his pen name, Mark Twain, from a river pilot's signal for safe passage. A stick would be put in the water to find the bottom of the river and if the water fell between two marks, the measurement would be announced as "Mark Twain."

Twain had a joke about the stock market.

"October," he wrote, "This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August, and February."

It is striking that, even in Twain's time, his audience already knew that October was a dangerous month. The

joke doesn't work unless the audience knows October is dangerous. We know about October because of October 1929, October 1987, and October 2008. Mark Twain died in 1910. There was a big crash in 1907 that also struck in October, but Twain wrote his famous line about crashes in 1894. The 1907 crash, often called the "Knickerbocker Panic," drove stocks down 50 percent in three weeks and led to the formation of the Federal Reserve.

The most famous stock market crash prior to 1894 occurred in September of 1869. It was the original "Black Friday." Jay Gould was attempting to corner the gold market and he had inside help from the Treasury. Everything went awry when the Treasury sold \$5 million of bullion, driving the price down \$25 per ounce and ruining many speculators. Historically, more panics or crashes have occurred in September than in October, yet it is October that often leaves investors quaking with fear. I do not know why.

I would ask Mark Twain, but he has been dead for over a century.

There is a difference between a correction and a crash. Corrections tend to be short, violent events within a bull market. They tend to come out of nowhere and end quickly. They are, in essence, an interruption in a bull market. A Wall Street adage suggests that a bull market is a long escalator ride up and a correction a short elevator ride down. On the other hand, crashes tend to mark the end of a bull market. While they often begin with a sharp decline, there is no immediate return of the bull. The market tends to go down day after day for months or even years as it did in 2008 – 2009, 2000 – 2002, and 1929 – 1931.

We just experienced a sharp decline in the beginning of February. Most experts think it is just a correction within a longer, broader, bull market. I concur. At the time of this writing, it is too early to tell for sure. Well into 1930, President Herbert Hoover kept insisting that prosperity was right around the corner. He was wrong. If the market continues to decline, if the pattern changes to one where the market declines slowly day after day, then we are in a bear market and we need to take actions to protect ourselves. If,

on the other hand, the market begins to move up slowly over time, then this is just a short correction and it presents an opportunity.

Smart investors will not panic. They will, instead, look for opportunities.

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

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St. Johns County Economic Development: PGA TOUR, Inc. announces new global home in St. Johns County

By Melissa S. Glasgow
mail@floridanewsline.com

In January 2018, the PGA TOUR, Inc. formally announced their decision to expand their presence in St. Johns County and build their new global home. This move will consolidate area employees under one roof in Ponte Vedra Beach once construction is complete on the new building in 2020.

The building is designed by London-based architectural firm Foster + Partners, designer of Apple's headquarters among other worldwide projects. With thoughtful intention, the building is a symbolic structure for the organization, as it will be surrounded by a large lake, akin to the iconic Island Green 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass in its own backyard.

As the largest corporate headquarters in St. Johns County, the PGA TOUR has grown from a few employees in the late 1970s to the thriving worldwide organization it is today. The decision to expand the TOUR's presence locally came after a significant amount of planning took place within a relatively short period to bring this project to fruition.

In March 2017, the PGA TOUR, under the code name Project Boilermaker, submitted an application for economic development incentives as they evaluated options, both within St. Johns County

and externally, for their new corporate headquarters operation. The County Commission unanimously supported that request in April as the first step in the process.

In late May, the TOUR submitted applications to modify their Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and Planned Unit Development (PUD), which the Commission unanimously approved in October. These actions paved the way for the TOUR to invest \$86 million and create 300 new high-wage jobs, while maintaining their existing 800 employees. Without these approvals, the TOUR would be unable to relocate their headquarters at the proposed location, and could have looked elsewhere to accomplish this goal.

Somewhat overlooked are the other benefits associated with this innovative public-private project. Enhancements will vastly improve vital infrastructure by replacing an antiquated county facility and upgrading a public safety control tower to withstand Category 5 hurricane winds at no cost to the county. Additionally, these actions will enable relocation of the Ponte Vedra Tax Collector Annex to newer leased offices, improving the resident customer experience and reducing future facility operational costs.

Accomplishing this public-private partnership also generates \$28 million

in tax revenue, reduces county long-term maintenance costs, and retains 800 high-wage TOUR employees, all providing extraordinary long-term benefits and a "win-win" for the TOUR and St. Johns County.

Keeping the TOUR headquarters will also help St. Johns County generate continued worldwide exposure. The media attention derived from their presence, and from THE PLAYERS Championship held each year, provides such a great showcase for the county. The project announcement alone generated 108 media stories in less than two weeks, with coverage in national publications like Architectural Digest

and Golf Week, along with many other outlets.

That exposure definitely helps benefit economic development, and we sincerely thank the PGA TOUR for their continued investment in our community.

Melissa S. Glasgow serves as the Director of Economic Development for St. Johns County. Glasgow coordinates overall economic development efforts in St. Johns County and works closely with other partners to attract new businesses to the county, as well as support existing businesses.

Centrist Project local chapter holds first meeting



Photo courtesy Perry Waag

The Jacksonville/NE Florida chapter of the Centrist Project held its first meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. The Centrist Project is a nationwide non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that aims to get moderate independents elected across the country. The next meeting will be held on March 24. Visit www.centristproject.org or email the local chapter at atcentristprojectjax@gmail.com to learn more.

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Local photographer makes a day of photographing the moon

Master photographer **M**olis Garber, a resident of Mandarin, had a busy day on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 when he traveled to two different Northeast Florida locations to capture the partial lunar eclipse moonset and sunrise in the morning over Jacksonville and then the moonrise that evening in St. Augustine.



Moonrise later that night from St. Augustine.



Photos courtesy Olis Garber, Garber Photography
Partial lunar eclipse moonset Wednesday morning, Jan. 31 over Jacksonville.

Garber said he'd been planning this particular event for six months,

which included researching full moon shooting locations and gaining permission to be onsite at Episcopal School at 4 a.m. for the Jacksonville photo (taken at about 7:15 a.m.) and then permission to be at River House after hours for the St. Augustine photo about 12 hours later. Additionally, he had to spend days testing lenses and cameras (a 70 – 200mm lens with a setting of about

165mm on his Nikon D850 for the moonset/sunrise photo and a 600mm lens on the same camera for the moonrise photo).

"I was lucky with clear winter skies," Garber said. "I had a big vision, I paid attention to details, had a shooting buddy for motivation and safety, and a thermos of hot coffee."



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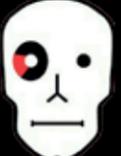
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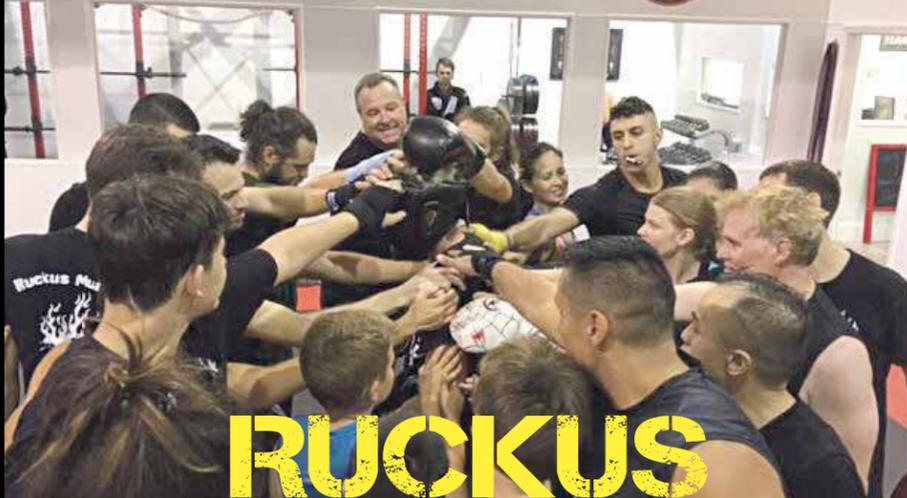
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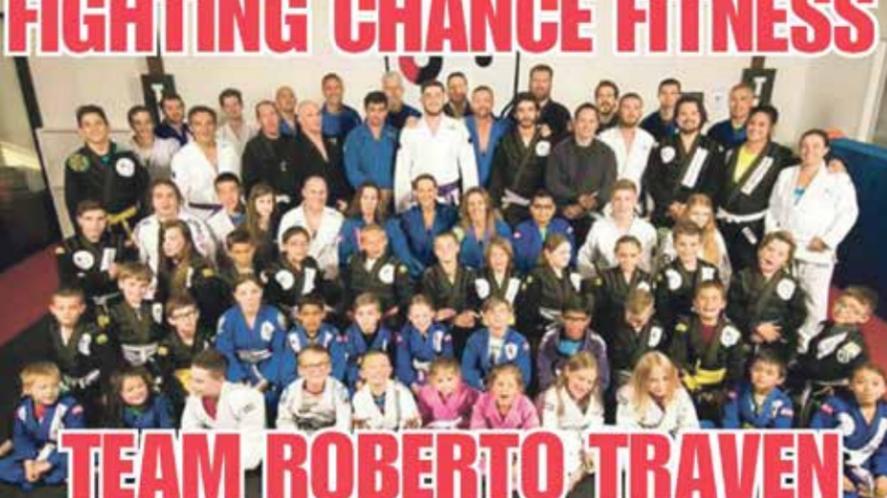
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River of Life announces Easter season events



Photo courtesy River of Life United Methodist Church

River of Life United Methodist Church, located at 2600 Race Track Road, has scheduled Easter events for those looking for fun as well as something more spiritually nourishing. The Easter-Fest Community Celebration will be held on March 25 at church's pumpkin patch field with free food, bounce houses, and an Easter Egg hunt. Holy Week Services include Maundy Thursday service on March 29 at 7 p.m. and Good Friday service on March 30 at 7 p.m. at the church. Easter Sunday services will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. According to Pastor Tony Fotsch, "River of Life has a vision to be a source of the living waters of God's grace flowing into our community and the world. We worship in a relaxed atmosphere with a mix of some traditional elements, like weekly Holy Communion. And we provide many opportunities for people of all ages to grow in relationship with God and each other within our Christ-centered, service-driven family of faith." Visit www.rolumc.com for more information.

"My Fair Lady" debuts in March at Northeast Florida Conservatory

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Northeast Florida Conservatory's first show of 2018 is "My Fair Lady," which opens on March 16. Based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," the show features the witty book and lyrics of Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe.

Andrew Ocean plays Henry Higgins, an arrogant, outspoken phoneticist, who bets that he can change the speech of a Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, so that she can pass as a lady. Alyssa Billings and Ella Kemna share the role of Eliza.

As Eliza progresses in her transition, she acquires a suitor, Freddie Eynsford-Hill, who sings the haunting ballad "On the Street Where You Live." A cast of other unique characters rounds out the production, which is full of humor and favorite melodies.

The show is directed by Richard Dickson, who also conducts the live orchestra, a unique feature in Northeast Florida for every Northeast Florida Conservatory production. Juanelle Marshall, known for her costuming in "Hello, Dolly," is in charge of the lavish

costumes for the production and Jodie Jernigan, who has danced in many Northeast Florida Conservatory productions, is the choreographer.

Northeast Florida Conservatory is a non-profit organization that sponsors Laura's Friends, which provides free music lessons primarily to children, but also to a few adults, who are unable to afford music lessons. As a community arts center, it is also affiliated with the Jacksonville Fine Arts Forum, National Guild for Community Arts Education, American Association of Community Theatre and other associations.

"My Fair Lady" will be on stage March 16 - 25 with Friday and Saturday night show times at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday show times at 2 p.m. All seats at all shows are \$20 and tickets can be purchased online at www.ShowTixNow.com or at the Conservatory, located at 11363 San Jose Blvd. in Bldg. 200 near the Mandarin Road intersection. Special arrangements can be made for wheelchairs, walkers and other special needs. Call (904) 374-8639 for more information.

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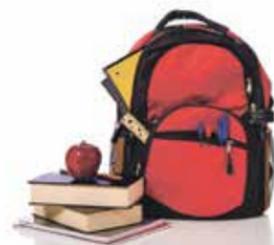
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Newcomers of North St. Johns to learn floral arranging

By Carol Boehler
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Priscilla Cobbs

Becky Lee, Pat Weinberg, Susan Schevitz, Linda Philabaum, Fran Wolk, Arlene April, Pat Johnson at Maggiano's Little Italy for Newcomers of North St. Johns Holiday luncheon.

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host Master Gardener Dottie Hudson at its March luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, March 20 at 11 a.m. at Club Continental, 2143 Astor St. in Orange Park. Hudson is a flower show judge and horticulturist with UF Agricultural Center, and she will demonstrate useful tips for making floral arrangements. Hudson volunteers with the Garden Club of St. Augustine, and was involved in the recent Downton Abbey project at the Lightner Museum. Following her presentation, she will provide two of the floral arrangements for raffles.

The luncheon will feature a choice of lemon baked chicken breast with fresh California spinach and lemon caper

sauce or sautéed tilapia with roasted tomato and fresh basil pesto, house salad and chef's choice dessert. A cash bar is available.

The total cost for the luncheon is \$25 for members and \$27 for guests. All reservations are non-refundable and must be received by March 12. Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net to register for the luncheon or for more information about membership to the club, which is open to all residents of St. Johns County.

The Newcomers of North St. Johns offers a wide variety of activities, including lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, Bunco, day trips, and cultural events.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Complete these home improvements over the weekend

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend. If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

- Create an accent wall. Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

- Install stair runners. Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn't fit with the home's design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual appeal.

- Dress up the entryway. An entryway is a guest's first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in

many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or two.

- Install a new faucet. Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

- Create a gallery on the staircase. Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.

- Install a fresh light fixture. Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. If hanging a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- Add molding. Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

- Update kitchen or bathroom hardware. Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend.

impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs.

Use renovations to create healthier homes

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Home renovation projects are done for several different reasons, whether to update styles, repair damaged or broken items or to achieve more living space. More than ever before, homeowners are choosing improvement projects geared toward making their homes healthier.

Establishing a healthy home means different things to different people. For example, to an environmentalist, a healthy home may incorporate eco-friendly or green products. To those with young children or mobility-impaired seniors, a

healthy home may be one free from potential hazards. Others may view a healthy home as one that alleviates allergies.

The World Health Organizations says inadequate housing conditions, such as poor ventilation, radon, urban pollution, and moisture issues, can contribute to many preventable diseases and injuries — especially respiratory problems, nervous system disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks indoor air quality as a top five environ-

mental risk to public health. EPA studies have found that indoor air pollution levels were roughly two to five times greater than outdoor pollution levels.

People interested in making their homes healthier can embrace these renovations and lifestyle changes.

- Be aware of furniture materials. Toxic PBDEs, which are chemicals used as flame retardants on furniture fabrics produced prior to 2006, can send toxins into the air. Some manufacturers may still

Renovations cont. on pg. 15

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HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Renovations cont. from pg. 14

use these flame retardants in new forms, but with similar risks. Before purchasing furniture, ask if a product is treated, and select naturally fire-resistant materials like wool and cotton.

- Lighten up. Lighting is often underappreciated but can have a dramatic impact on whether a home feels inviting, warm and/or uplifting. Experiment with different types of bulbs and lighting fixtures to turn drab and dreary environments into brighter places. Lighting may improve mood and productivity.

- Let the sun shine in. Modify window treatments to let more sunlight into the house. There is evidence that the sun, particularly UV light, is a potent bactericide. The Sunlight Institute advises that there's no harm in letting natural sunlight do its work, as bacteria within eight feet of low-intensity UV light can be killed in 10 minutes.

- Inspect and service wood-burning appliances. A study published in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology has found regular inhalation of wood smoke limits immune activity and function, and anyone who burns wood indoors should be aware of these potential health risks. Ensuring proper ventilation of smoke and routinely cleaning the chimney can help cut down on particulate matter.

- Turn to non toxic cleaning products, pesticides and insecticides. Always opt for nontoxic, natural products when cleaning in and around the house.

- Declutter the home. A cluttered, hectic space can affect emotions and mental state, never mind attracting dust and making a home harder to clean. Spending time in spaces that do not elicit stressful feelings is healthier and can help residents to rest and recharge.

Gardening

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com

Spring is in the air

As January came to a close, the weather was fairly seasonal, but we had two really cold spells. With luck and some protection many of your plants will have survived — even if their tops are looking bedraggled — so don't give up on them and don't prune them before they begin to flush out in spring. Clean up dead foliage of bulbs and ginger lilies if you like, but leave any material that comes from below ground or from the neck of bulbs; we need to prevent water getting down into those bulbs and rhizomes, which would promote rot.

Now, in early February, I am thinking about a summer garden. (Unfortunately Hurricane Irma foiled my chances of a cool season garden, as we had no water for several months.) I'm looking forward to establishing some transplants in our raised beds and using my drip system again. As always, I'll refer to the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>), and our county newsletter A New Leaf (<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfyli-fasufledu/duval/horticulture/homownerhort-pdfx27s/January---February-2018.pdf>). Seed catalogs are a good source of information about new varieties, but take care to make sure they are suited to our region.

Since the last week in January, I've been seeing flocks of robins around town, and have had intriguing glimpses of winter visitors — those hard to identify pretty little warblers in particular. And I'm pretty sure my yard had a visit from either an immature or a female Baltimore oriole. In among the robins there may be some elegant cedar waxwings. Both species like fruit, and the (unfortunately rather weedy) Carolina cherry laurel is a favorite, as well as the loquat or Japanese plum. Loquat

(*Rhododendron austrinum*) are deciduous, and those with fragrant flowers make a particularly delightful contribution to the spring garden.

Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) have begun blooming, and the maples too, which are both good food sources for bees. The winter flowering tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*) is another potential food source, but I love it for the perfume alone. One grows near the corner of my house, and I intend to find something equally as scented for other areas of my yard. Possible contenders include the old fashioned banana shrub, Michelia (or Magnolia) figo, wild olive or devilwood, *Osmanthus americanus*, and sweetshrub, *Calycanthus floridus* (apparently "Michael Lindsey" is wonderfully fragrant and has beautiful, shiny leaves, see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp095>). Scented perennials include butterfly ginger, dianthus, phlox, and moonflowers (*Datura spp.*). Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow (*Brunfelsia grandiflora*) is a deciduous shrub to about six to eight feet. It is easy to grow and has attractive mid-green foliage, but the pretty lavender-fading-to-white flowers are powerfully scented, and, to me, it can be overpowering.

Our average last frost date is around March 20, but that can depend on your own microclimate. Stay watchful, read the next March/April edition of A New Leaf (<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/new-leaf-newsletter/>) for those timely tips and information on upcoming Extension programs, and have a happy spring.

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Get to Know . . .

Amy Grimm

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Julington Creek Elementary School first grade teacher Amy Grimm has been named the 2017 – 2018 St. Johns County Teacher of the Year. She had been named the Teacher of the Year for Julington Creek Elementary once before, in 2002 – 2003, and said she was surprised to be nominated at the school level again since she had previously won. This year, however, she learned that she was one of four finalists for the entire county via a surprise classroom visit and celebration by district administration just before Winter Break.

The next step was an unannounced observation visit to her classroom by the panel of district judges. Before attending the annual Teacher of the Year Banquet on Jan. 24, Grimm said each finalist was asked to bring a student or former student to introduce their teacher. Grimm loved this idea and was pleased to invite former student and current fourth grader, Sarah Rose, to accompany her.

“My job as a teacher is about the kids,” Grimm said.

Beaver Toyota gifts a car to the Teacher of the Year, and Grimm said she is grateful for this.

“Our older Camry was starting to leak a little oil over the holidays, so we will definitely take advantage of this generous gift,” she said.

Grimm will now advance to the state level Teacher of the Year competition, with the winner announced sometime in July.

Grimm, who grew up in Cumberland, Md., received her bachelor’s degree in early childhood and elementary educa-

tion from Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md. She then moved to Florida with her parents and accepted her first teaching position as a first grade teacher at Ketterlinus Elementary School in St. Augustine in 1995. She married her high school sweetheart, Jason Grimm, in 1997 and they have two children: Ethan, a ninth grader at Creekside High School and Natalie, who attends the dance magnet program at Murray Middle School.

1) What do you like most about teaching first grade?

The wonder and the joy that the students experience. They are so excited about learning and there is so much growth in this year, especially as they become readers. They come in to my classroom dependent and blossom into confident learners by the end of the year. I always say first grade is a magical year.

2) What is your favorite subject to teach?

I like science, especially the exploratory and investigative nature of it. But I like to pair it with reading and math and social studies, with all subjects integrated. That’s where kids learn the most.

3) What is the most challenging part of your job?

The last day of school! Everyone is so sad to leave. We all bond so much. A lot of teachers might say testing is the most challenging part, but I don’t get wrapped up in that. I feel like we have to focus on what we can control — and that is the



Photo courtesy Kelly Benson Photography
Amy Grimm

love of learning. This love of learning is a big reason why I try to support the students’ extracurricular passions as well. I try to attend one activity per student in my class each year.

4) Where do you see yourself in five or even 10 years?

Still in the classroom. I love being with the kids and I feel like this is my gift. I have no desire to go into administration. I do feel like I have a calling to advocate for other teachers as well. So I do some mentoring and have leadership roles within the school, such as serving on the SAC committee.

5) If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three things (not people) would you take with you and why?

I’d take a camera, so I could document my experience and also a book or maybe a journal to write in. I’d also take a bathing suit so I could take a swim. It’s a beautiful warm island, right?

Get to Know . . .

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Email Martie Thompson at
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Julington Creek cont. from pg. 1



Teacher Cara Beth Downs with student Marcel Sanchez and the Tower Garden.

Club which commemorated Arbor Day. Downs said that with little time during the day, the students agreed to come to school early to help write the grant, which would help secure funding for flowering trees around the school campus. The students were able to see the grant writing process from start to finish

Downs said the students even took it upon themselves to identify three favorable sites for the potential flowering trees and then ask permission from school administration to plant them.

On Feb. 6, members of the St. Augustine Garden Club visited Julington Creek Elementary and were so impressed with the students’ preparation and enthusiasm that they made the decision to donate even more flowering trees to the school’s campus.

“The students were so professional; it made me extremely happy to see how much they have grown with this process,” said Downs. “It’s such an amazing experience to foster their love for the environment. And this was a great effort between the children and the Garden Club. Truly, it could not have been done without our community partners.”

As for the hydroponic garden tower that started it all, the students are awaiting their first harvest and will be ready to eat their produce and have now begun to germinate their next crop.

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Lions and tigers and turkeys – oh wow!

By C.B. Swartz
mail@floridanewslines.com

They are heard like a beautiful natural chorus of chuffs, howls, giggles, grunts, and clicks. It inflames the imagination with the scene of a tent near a campfire in a deep jungle setting in the wilds of an exotic location in Africa. Yes, it could well be just as we imagine, but this choir can sometimes be heard by residents of an average St. Augustine neighborhood if they listen carefully. Its members are lions, tigers, bears, wolves, hyenas, servals, lynx, ligers, porcupine and even turkeys. They all live happy, carefree lives at the St. Augustine Wild Reserve, located near World Golf Village.

It is a cold, wet, and gloomy day, uncharacteristic for St. Augustine even in an afternoon in December, but the spirits of the volunteers are not dampened as they prepare for the tour. They are loading up the golf cart they use to get around the Reserve with food and equipment, preparing the various diets and meals for the animals and cleaning enclosures. All the volunteers take on a plethora of tasks and chores, including cleaning, diet, meal prep, tour guiding, and training. It is clear from their actions that the mutual effort comes from the heart. Volunteer tour guide Karen has been at the Reserve for approximately 12 years and it is obviously a labor of love for her. She is conducting the tour today while the other volunteers follow along with the golf cart.

The tour members drive over a few winding roads to the entrance of the Reserve. There is no signage, but no one has a problem finding it. The Reserve, entrenched between an abundance of venerable oaks, pines, and palms, is nestled next to a spring filled lake. Some lush vegeta-

tion lost to recent hurricanes is coming back. Other than the loss of one of the large enclosures due to a tree falling on it, there was no other significant damage.

Karen is at the gate to receive the tour members and they walk down a short, coquina sand path to a table with benches under a large weathered arbor. The arbor is just outside the approximately 12 feet tall chain link fence, which encloses the entire Reserve. Waiting by the table is, as Karen introduces them, Linda, Marty, Kathy and Fred, four other volunteers.

The group of 12 tourists gathers at the entrance to the main enclosure. Karen says in the summer months the numbers jump to 90 – 100 people on the tour. There is a mixed demographic of people from elementary children to great-grandparents.

All eyes focus on a gorgeous bright colored Macaw inside the enclosure in its own cage. The volunteers call her O'Hara and she is just as attention-grabbing as her namesake. Whatever she is trying to say, as she dances around in her blazing feathered costume, she is adamant about it. In a large cage next to her is a relatively calm, bright green, blue and red Military Macaw named Max, trying not very successfully to get a word in. Military macaws have recently been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Volunteer Linda opens the gate to the main enclosure and directs the group to tour guide Karen who is standing next to an enclosure just inside the gate. To some, it looks like a cute baby deer inside, but Karen corrects them: it is a small white-tail deer, called Amira, which they found as a baby. Amira scrutinizes the group with



Onyx with Reserve founder Deborah Warrick



Photos courtesy C.B. Swartz
Crested Polish Chickens

endearing large brown eyes.

Gathering in and around the group, as if they are members,

are a great number of Crested Polish Chickens and Royal Palm Turkeys. There are also some vultures who show up, wanted or not. The Crested Polish Chicken is an ancient breed, originating in England in 1565, at about the same time St. Augustine was founded. Considered an ornamental breed, the hens lay beautiful white eggs that are smaller than other chicken eggs.

The Royal Palm Turkeys are ornamental birds weighing up to 22 pounds and are not selected for the meat industry. There is one following Karen and vocalizing as if to take over the tour. The turkey's name is Lucky because Reserve founder Deborah Warrick saved her egg. She found an abandoned nest and picked the egg apart to see how developed the chick was. To her surprise, there was a healthy, very much alive turkey chick inside. She extracted it from the shell, kept it on a heating pad and raised it into the adult hen we see today. Lucky soon becomes a favorite of the group. As the tour continues Lucky

talks to the big cats and the cats seem to like talking back.

One of the group asks if the animals surrendered to the Reserve by Michael Jackson are still here. Karen explains that those five Arctic Wolves and an African Lion passed away some time ago. This is the most well-known acquisition of animals by the Reserve, but they have rescued unwanted exotic animals from many sources, from individuals who get an exotic pet only to realize that the animal's wild nature doesn't fit into their life (or their household) as they expected, to two wolves rescued when their owner had a fatal auto accident. Many of the animals are confiscated by wildlife agencies from individuals who held these animals without proper state permits, or who starved their animals, keeping them in inferior conditions. The Reserve also takes in unwanted exotic animals as an alternative to euthanasia. There are almost as many stories behind the acquisitions as there are animals.

The tour group is standing before an enclosure where Savuti and Cynzer, African Servals, live.

Karen says, "Servals are the only cats with both stripes and spots and have the longest legs in proportion to their bodies of any cat family member. They can jump 10 feet

Lions and tigers cont. on pg. 22

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Troop 280 stays busy in New Year

By Kenny King, Jr.
mail@floridanewsline.com

Boy Scout Troop 280 has been very active in the New Year with several camping trips and service activities. The troop finished up 2017 with a survival camping trip to the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area. Most of the scouts who attended are working on the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge that requires backpacking five miles to the camping area and carrying all supplies including food and water.

The scouts are not permitted to take a tent and must create a shelter that they spend the night in. Many interesting designs were used including lean-tos, A-frames, and improvised hammocks. The scouts learned skills including obtaining potable water, backpack cooking, and how to make fire without matches.

In the New Year several scouts participated in a service project assisting at the New You Health Expo held at the University of North Florida. In addition to directing attendees and helping exhibitors, they also met former Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell.

The troop also held an overnight campout and hosted Webelos from area Cub Scout packs working on their Arrow of Light Award. The younger scouts learned basic

skills from the Boy Scouts, including knot tying, fire building, and outdoor cooking. The Arrow of Light patch is the only emblem from Cub Scouts that is worn on the Boy Scout uniform throughout their entire scouting career and is the highest achievement for a Cub Scout.

Troop 280 meets on Monday nights at The River of Life United Methodist Church. Visit www.julingtoncreekscouts.com for more information.



Photo courtesy Kenny King, Sr.
Troop 280 scouts at Black Creek.



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Creekside sophomore takes Hollywood journey

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

While most of us were eating turkey and mashed potatoes over the Thanksgiving holiday, Creekside High School sophomore Lauren Sonnier was in Hollywood representing St. Johns, Florida. In the December issue of *The CreekLine*, you may recall Miss Saint Johns 2017 – 2018, Lauren Sonnier, was invited to Hollywood to compete at the national level.

Sonnier earned her spot in Florida's royal court for her dedication to serving others through her volunteerism within Girls Scouts, Camp Chippewa and Horse Sense and Sensitivity. Although the crown and sash were an added bonus, competing at the local and national level was a personal growth opportunity to expand her public speaking skills. Public speaking causes trepidation in most adults and this sopho-

more was no different.

It was a grueling week-long national competition that included nine corporate style interviews, a presentation on volunteerism and a personal introduction on stage in her prettiest gown. More than 126 young ladies competed in her age division and Sonnier placed fourth runner up in the National American Miss competition in the division of Academics and Service.

Although she did not take the crown or win the convertible Ford Mustang, she learned more that week about herself and her abilities than many of us learn in a lifetime.



Photo courtesy Andrea Seymour-Sonnier
Miss Saint Johns 2017 – 2018,
Lauren Sonnier

Gifted students may excel in different areas

By Mandy Intraiva
mail@floridanewslines.com

What does it mean to be gifted? There's often a misconception about the label. By definition, gifted does not mean "easy to teach." Students who are gifted may struggle in certain areas of school and excel in others. They might not even be "A" students. It does mean that a student has an advanced capacity to learn and apply knowledge in a particular area, whether it's academic, artistic, athletic or social.

"We encourage our students to pursue their passions," explains Caitlin O'Keefe, Director of Education and Curriculum at San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS).

As Head of School, Lori Menger began a professional development initiative to provide faculty with hands-on training in differentiated instruction. For three years, SJEDS faculty worked with Dr. Christine Weber, Associate Professor of Childhood at the University of North Florida, an expert in differentiation and gifted instruction. The faculty has continued their gifted education professional development through The Schultz Center, completing five courses on their own time, as a cost-effective way of providing high-quality training.

Kindergarten teacher Kathy Balek, who received her gifted endorsement in 2014, points out an example of how differentiated learning has benefitted her students.

"I had a student who, during the first few weeks of school, demonstrated that he had already mastered kindergarten math skills," she said. "Because I have the autonomy to tailor instruction in my classroom for each individual student, we



Photo courtesy San Jose Episcopal Day School.
Creativity abounds in Kathy Balek's kindergarten classroom.

spent his kindergarten year successfully working through the first grade math curriculum."

The training also provided insight into the importance of creativity. Creative giftedness, which can often be overlooked, is just as powerful academic giftedness. Creativity can manifest itself in talent such as performing or fine arts or in creative thought such as humor.

"There are comedians in our society making millions of dollars. Look at Jimmy Fallon," said Menger. "People with that kind of gift might not have been the best math student or had the best science fair project, but there's value in what they do."

Creativity is an important tool for teachers as well.

"As teachers, we can't let it go by the wayside. The more creativity we use in class, the more the students will get out of it," said sixth grade language arts teacher Shannon Nunley.

"As a teacher, it is fulfilling to empower kids and help light that lifelong spark," Menger said. "All that we're doing, through differentiation and Think Tank, our school-wide enrichment program, provides real, authentic learning experiences. And that sticks with kids better than multiple choice tests."

Mandy Intraiva is with San Jose Episcopal Day School.

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Bartram Trail Football coach receives honorable nomination

By Delaney Cantrell
mail@floridanewline.com

Bartram Trail High School football coach Darrell Sutherland won big this season. Although Sutherland has a history of coaching successful teams, he and his team beat his best year by one game this season. Sutherland coached his team to the state semifinals for the fourth time, but this was the first year to win the game.



Photo courtesy Delaney Cantrell
Bartram Trail High School head football coach Darrell Sutherland

When asked for the key to this year's successful season, Sutherland said, "The team was cooperative and bought into the process."

As a result, Sutherland was nominated for the Jacksonville Jaguars Don Shula Coach of the Year Award. This process started with each NFL team nominating one local high school coach for a total of 32 nominees. All 32 nominees had the chance to go to the Pro Bowl, where the winner was announced. Although he did not win, Sutherland said he was extremely humbled to be nominated.

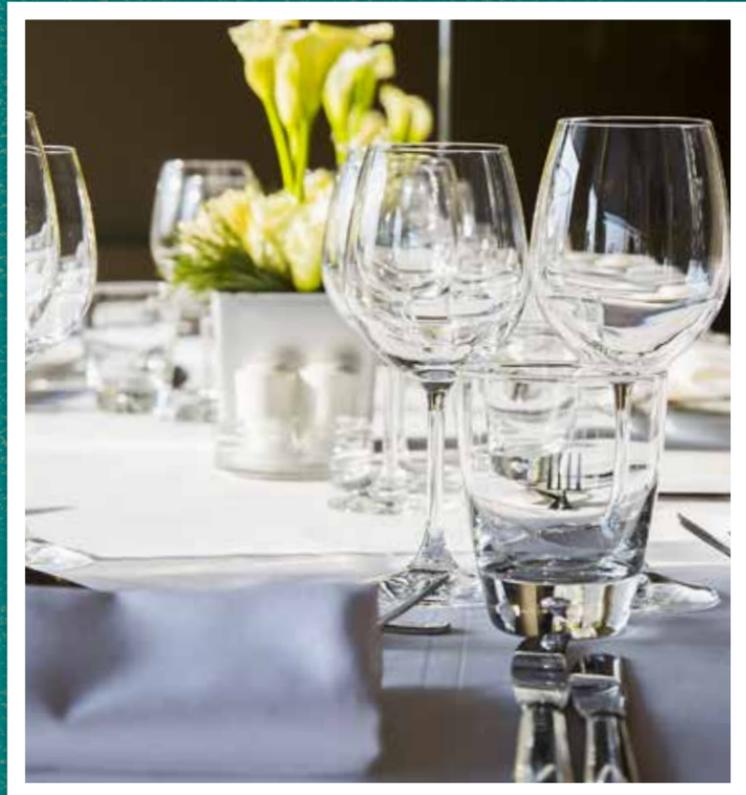
Sutherland emphasized that this year's success was the result of a group effort. He said, "This award should be titled the 'Staff of the Year' award. The nomination is really a representative award."

Sutherland teaches more than just football plays while on the field with his players.

"One lesson I would like my players to gain is that it is more important to be a great man than a great football player," said Sutherland.

Sutherland, along with his wife of 25 years, Mary, decided on St. Johns being their home after the birth of their first child, Caleb. Sutherland is originally from Washington D.C. and began coaching in Virginia. The couple decided that moving to a more family friendly environment would better suit them. They went on to have their daughter, Emmanuelle (Elle), and son, Elijah (Eli). Caleb and Elle are both students at Bartram Trail, while Eli is in eighth grade.

Sutherland has been a coach with Bartram for 18 years.



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School Briefs

NW St. Johns County students earn Spelling Bee honors

Carly Miller, an eighth-grade student at Swiss Point Middle School, won the 2018 St. Johns County School District Spelling Bee held in January at First Coast Technical College. She won by spelling the word “piccolo” correctly. Carly is the daughter of Carrie and Jeramie Miller.

Jackson Willis, an eighth-grade student at Liberty Pines Academy, is the runner up. He is the son of Monica and Benjamin Willis.

Both students will advance to the JAXSPORTS Council Regional Spelling Bee on Friday, March 9 at the Florida Theatre in Jacksonville.

Thirty-four elementary and middle school students from 29 public and five private schools competed for the honor of representing St. Johns County. It took 26 rounds for the winner to be determined.

The participants were congratulated by Deputy Superintendent for Academic and Student Services Brennan Asplen. Also in attendance to support the students were School Board Chair Bill Mignon and School Board Vice Chair Kelly Barrera. Rebecca England, school district program specialist for Elementary Language Arts, served as the spelling bee coordinator and the pronouncer was Linda Villadoniga, retired St. Johns County School District teacher. Judges for the event were Jay DiMartino, district Language Arts and World Languages program specialist;

Cheryl Freeman, district volunteer coordinator; and Sandy Waldeis, community representative.

Palencia Elementary announces 2018 silent auction dinner

On Friday, April 20, the Palencia Club will be transformed into a magical night of Mardi Gras fun for Palencia Elementary School’s Spring Social and Silent



Photo courtesy Emily Turner
Last year’s Spring Social and Silent Auction Dinner raised more than \$28,000.

Auction Dinner. The school’s PTO plans to deck out the night in gold, green and purple for a colorful evening of dinner, music and auctions with all the Cajun touches — including beads, food and lots of fun.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to provide ample time to preview the silent auction items. A ticket purchase includes a three-course dinner with Cajun flair, drinks, DJ provided entertainment and exclusive live and silent auction items. A photo booth will be stocked with Mardi Gras themed props.

The live auction, presided by an auctioneer, will feature some exceptional family entertainment and dining experiences, including gift cards to local spas,

sporting event tickets and opportunities such as Serenata Beach Club membership and Disney theme park tickets. Attendees can also bid on a private Palencia Elementary parking spot and exclusive school experiences. The special Mother’s Day table will be back this year where guests can bid on items specifically curated for mom.

Last year’s Spring Social and Silent Auction Dinner proved to be a huge success, with more than \$28,000 raised that went toward erecting a sunshade over the school’s PE court. The funds raised this year will go to adding a sunshade over the school’s playground. Last year the state of Florida mandated that schools add 20 more minutes of unstructured play time for students. This has resulted in the kids getting more recess and playground time, but with no shade and the unrelenting Florida sun, the students and teachers would greatly benefit from a sunshade.

Space is limited to 100 guests. Visit www.palenciementarypto.weebly.com to purchase tickets online. Contact Meridith Strout, event chair, at Mtaylorstrout1@gmail.com to find out how your business may participate in the silent auction.

Liberty Pines Academy announces spring events

It is a busy spring at Liberty Pines Academy. Take note of some important upcoming dates:

Freshman night at Bartram Trail High School will be on March 5, from 6:30

p.m. – 8 p.m. The information discussed this evening will be invaluable for eighth graders.

The teachers have a planning day on March 16, so all students have the day off; report cards will be issued on March 23..

The Wolf Pack Singers, the school’s chorus, will be performing at Westminster Woods at 1 p.m. on March 24.

St. Johns County’s Spring Break is March 26 – 30.

Save the date for the school’s Spring Carnival, which will be held on April 8 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. The event will feature rides, games, bounce houses and food. The community is invited to this school fundraiser.

Lions and tigers cont. from pg.18

straight up into a flock of birds.” Warrick brought them with her from California, where she did Disney shows with them.

Warrick has worked with exotic animals all her life, having received extensive training at the Los Angeles Zoo. She has received her bachelor’s degree in Holistic Nutrition to better care for the animals’ nutritional needs. She earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 2011, graduating magna cum laude. The Reserve is her labor of love and she has an ongoing relationship with each animal at the Reserve....

[Editor’s Note: Be sure to check out the April issue of The CreekLine to read the conclusion of local author C.B. Swartz’s story about her visit to the St. Augustine Wild Reserve.]

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Relay for Life: The Road to Success

By Atharva Palande
mail@floridanewslines.com

The road to success is always under construction. Every time a goal is met, another goal is set and one must move towards it — and Relay for Life of North St. Johns County and the American Cancer Society are likewise moving forward with new and challenging fundraising goals in 2018.

Over the years, the American Cancer Society has donated an amount more than \$2.8 billion to cancer research.

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County has contributed to the fundraising of that \$2.8 billion, with millions raised over the years. Relay for Life of North St. Johns County will be held on April 14 at Bartram Trail High School from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m.

In line with this year's theme of gaming, it's "game on" time for the Relay for Life leadership team this year. During the official Reboot (kick-off) meeting, Relay for Life brought a Game Truck, donated by the local franchisee, to the meeting at Allen D. Nease High School.

During the meeting, representatives from local schools came and presented ideas on fundraising and creating teams. While there are 25 teams so far, the amount is expected to grow due to a huge outreach program that is tasked with generating interest among other groups and corporations.

For example, the local CITI Group created a team named "Shine On" and donated \$1,000 to the American Cancer Society.

However, Relay for Life cannot only depend on major corporations for continued support — there is a reliance on individual supporters as well. One such example

is Becky Kimball, who is a part of the leadership team of Relay for Life of North St. Johns County and has raised a total of \$3,350. Many other members are following in a close second, with leaders such as Petra Van Linden and Kim Aslan.

Conveniently, the Relay for Life App on the IOS Store or the Google Store allows people to register and create teams and join teams.

To reach out and see how you can support the cause, contact the American Cancer Society office at (904) 398-0537. To join and/or create your own Relay Team, download the Relay for Life app on either



Photo courtesy Atharva Palande
Atharva Palande with Laurie Allen, the Community Development Manager of CITI.

the IOS store or the Google Store, and follow the instructions. Email rfl.bartramtrail@gmail.com for additional local information or visit http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=86383&pg=entry to make a donation.

Bartram Trail High School girls' soccer seniors announce college decisions



Maddie DeFranco and parents, Columbus State University

On Feb. 7, 2018, Bartram Trail High School hosted a signing event for the girls' soccer team players that have formally committed to play at the college level upon graduation in the spring. Teammates, families and friends gathered together to enjoy refreshments as they celebrated the girls' accomplishments.



Nicole Wynn, Middle Tennessee State University



Photos by Shelley Howard
Jade Sparks, University of West Florida

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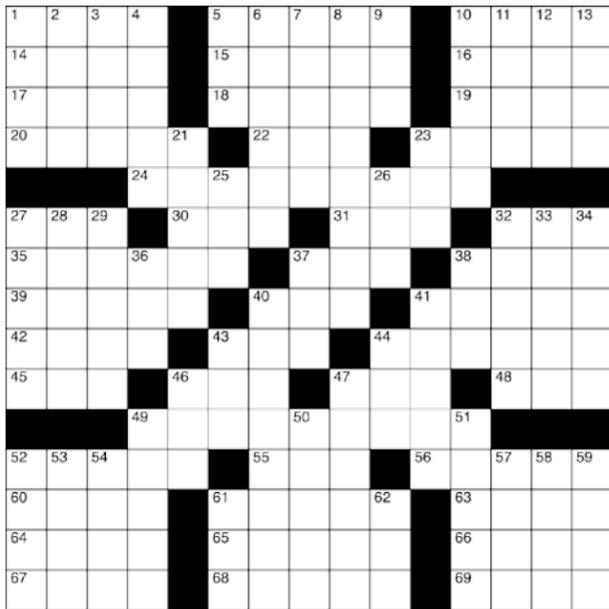
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- 5. Hebrew name for Babylon
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- 14. Leaf angle
- 15. Dravidian language
- 16. Ridge on nematodes
- 17. Monetary unit
- 18. Determined the tare
- 19. Unfreeze
- 20. Merits
- 22. World's oldest broadcasting organization
- 23. Vacation spot
- 24. December 25
- 27. Ottoman military command
- 30. Resin-like substance secreted by insects
- 31. A.C. Comics female supervillain
- 32. Insect linked to honey
- 35. Opinion
- 37. In the middle of
- 38. Basketballer Yao
- 39. Remove lid
- 40. Pressure wound therapy
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Witnessed
- 43. Defunct European economic organization
- 44. "Hotel California" rockers
- 45. When you expect to arrive
- 46. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
- 47. Danish airline
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Type of seal
- 55. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 56. Cavalry sword
- 60. Ottoman title
- 61. Gurus
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Predatory reptile (abbr.)
- 65. New Jersey is one
- 66. Divulge a secret
- 67. Finely chopped mixture
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Dark Knight" actor
- 2. S. African plants
- 3. Castle in County Offaly, Ireland
- 4. White (French)
- 5. Morsel
- 6. Semitic language
- 7. Areas outside cities
- 8. Crackling
- 9. Cub
- 10. Landmark house in Los Angeles
- 11. Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
- 12. Mineral
- 13. Late night host Myers
- 21. Pull along
- 23. Not good
- 25. British Air Aces
- 26. Upset
- 27. Maltreatment
- 28. Nocturnal, cat-like animal
- 29. Hollyhocks
- 32. Shelter
- 33. Finished
- 34. Discharge
- 36. "X-Men" actor McKellen
- 37. Beloved dish ___ and cheese
- 38. Holds coffee
- 40. Languish
- 41. Quenches
- 43. Electric fish
- 44. Consume
- 46. Type of school
- 47. Erase
- 49. Educate
- 50. "Transformers" actress Fox
- 51. Spiritual leader
- 52. Every one
- 53. Site of the Taj Mahal
- 54. Welsh village
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Geological times
- 59. S. Asian crops
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to frozen foods. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = r)

A. 16 3 23 23 12 23 3
Clue: Chilly place

B. 16 3 26 21 1
Clue: Ice crystals

C. 25 26 11 7
Clue: Frigid

D. 16 11 10 9 26 3
Clue: Taste

EMERALD ISLE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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



If you have any of these symptoms, you could be making your hip or knee worse by waiting:

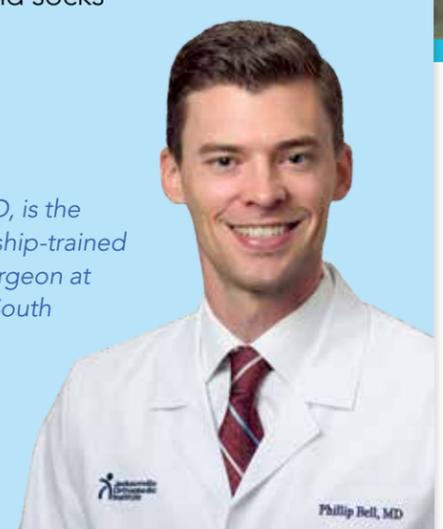
- 1 Unable to maintain an active lifestyle
- 2 Pain that gets worse at night and interferes with sleep
- 3 Catching, popping or locking
- 4 Difficulty putting on shoes and socks
- 5 Swelling

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Travel

A visit to the 9/11 Memorials and Museum

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Visiting the September 11 Museum in New York City is worth the mental and emotional preparation required to relive the horrific events of that day. The visit offers compelling stories of the nearly 3,000 who died and those whose heroism saved others.

The National September 11 Memorials and Museum honors victims of terror attacks at the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the plane crash near Shanksville, Pa., and the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six.

The approach brings you past twin reflecting pools called "Reflecting Absence." Spanning nearly an acre each, they feature North America's largest manmade waterfalls. The borders of the pools mark the Towers' footprints, and each victim's name is engraved on the border. Cascading water drops from street level, vanishing down holes in the center — no bottom visible. The effect overwhelms. Is it the absence of the towers or the waterfalls recalling the whole country's tears?

Visitors enter the museum through a ground-level glass building with security screening. An original steel beam from the once-sky-scraping Towers dominates the descent to today's underground architectural wonder. Robert De Niro narrates an informative audio tour, with guided group tours and an app also available.

The museum's three exhibition sections tell stories of the days before, of, and after 9/11.

A memorial area commemorates the lives of the perished. The floor-to-ceiling photos, one for each victim, lining a large room make the experience deeply personal. The faces alone compel, typing in a name at a console brings heart-wrenching information from the victim's family.

The center of this space holds a smaller room lined with benches. A transparent glass floor shows the original ground beneath. This haunting room remains dark, adding to the impact of hearing each victim's name read aloud and projected onto the wall.

A theater offers a multi-screen film experience, aptly titled "Rebirth at

Ground Zero." Time-lapse footage follows the transformation and renewal of the World Trade



Slurry Wall and the Last Column, which was the last one removed from Ground Zero and was signed by many of the workers.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Survivors Staircase

Center site. The painful beginning pictures flag-draped coffins be-

ing removed from Ground Zero rubble as workers stand by with quiet reverence. The following transition, showing steadily advancing work on the new structures, evoke the indomitable will of a great city, and the ultimate triumph of a whole nation's spirit over the catastrophe.

Leaving this area brings one past "Survivor's Staircase," placed in the museum

at their request. This concrete stairway once sat outside, offering a lifesaver for thousands exiting before the collapse.

Another room offers an extended 9/11 timeline. A well-placed warning outside tells visitors of the poignant, graphic videos and rescued mementos inside. Disturbing but profoundly connecting, live footage and answering-machine messages speak the pain of friends and family on and after from that terrible day. The many barely recognizable dust-covered fragments of office items, artwork, and personal possessions offer a shroud over what ended for so many that day.

An area not open to visitors holds the unidentifiable remains of 9/11 dead — making it the only graveyard many have for lost loved-ones.

The museum shop, a must at historic sites, seemed out of place here. Books about the event appealed, but sweat-shirts?

The 9/11 Museum generates controversy, but large numbers of visitors show how strong the need for those who watched shocked and mesmerized as those towers fell on national TV is to connect with the place and in some way, the victims, and the heroes.

If you go: The cost for adults is \$24, but a CityPASS package saves money when touring other sites in NYC. The audio guide was an additional \$7.

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewslines.com

We are finally into March and the fear of any more winter weather is beginning to fade. In recent years we have been a little spoiled with mild winters with little rain. These patterns have helped contribute to the longer and more bountiful fishing seasons that we have recently experienced; however, due to this year's colder and wetter winter weather, we can probably expect a more traditional fishing season similar to seasons past.

If you fish freshwater, then you know that March is traditionally the month you can count on most for largemouth bass fishing in our area of the state. Give or take a couple weeks on either side of March, bass fishing is at its best. During this time, bass are in a feeding frenzy coming out of their winter doldrums and entering into pre-spawn, spawn and post spawn activities. This is usually the easiest time of year for anyone to catch the sometimes tricky largemouth with artificial and live baits.

Following a colder winter, March is the month you can expect warmer temperatures to become more consistent. In saltwater, especially at the beach, some of the best surf fishing of the year is brought on by warmer ocean temperatures as a variety of fish begin their spring migrations. Bluefish and whiting are the most prominent of species early on, followed by pompano and others as the water continues to warm. As always, shrimp, sand

flea, and cut bait should be your baits of choice in the surf.

If you ever wanted to catch the really big black drum, then once again, March is the month to count on when following a traditional fishing season. Fishing the deeper holes in the Intracoastal or the northern end of the St. Johns River, drum exceeding 30 or 40 pounds are not uncommon. Blue crabs, clams, and cut fish make the best baits.

In our local area of the river, March is the month we can usually expect the return of many saltwater fish that had left for the winter. Smaller, but tastier croaker should appear first, with reds and speckled trout following shortly behind. Following a colder winter, these and other fish may be easier to locate early on by fishing waters north of the Buckman and closer to town. Cut fish and dead shrimp for bait will usually let you know what's biting pretty quick.

Fishing Report: Largemouth bass is easily the best bet for freshwater at this time year. Whiting bite should be strong at the beach and easily worth a try while working on the early stages for that new sun tan for 2018.

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

Marywood library cont. from pg. 1

My visit may be the only other contact with another person. The men have meals in their cells and have no visitors. Their only contact are letters, books, guards and my visits. Books are the only companion to many inmates. Some have learned to read Hebrew and Greek just to understand more truth and knowledge."

The Marywood Inn and Retreat Center has been a cornerstone of the Catholic community and Shawn Jamerson, the

front desk receptionist, has assisted guests with their visits.

"The Marywood guest dives into his or her itinerary: attending talks, enjoying the grounds, meals and fellow guests," she said.

According to Jamerson, Matt Achorn is always on the grounds and is eager to talk to guests about anything that may interest them at Marywood. He can also be reached at (904) 287-2525.

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