



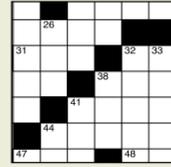
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want to know!



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Kimberly Kalke



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Puzzles



What to do about mosquitoes?

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

It's summer and there has been a lot of rain this year. And according to Molly Clark, Education Specialist for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District, this is the department's busiest time of year — except for after hurricanes. The Anastasia Mosquito Control District is an independently funded district with



Photos courtesy Anastasia Mosquito Control District
Trucks used by Anastasia Mosquito Control District technicians for treating water for larvae and fogging at night.

elected commissioners who oversee financial decisions. The director, Dr. Rui-De Xue, oversees a staff of approximately 25 full time employees, including biologists and mosquito control technicians. Clark said the majority of the employees are the technicians, who spend their time interacting with the public, treating standing water in communities for larvae and fogging for mosquitoes in the evening and night as needed.

The state of Florida oversees all the state's mosquito control districts and directs when they are or are not permitted to spray as well as the types of chemicals used. Clark said the Anastasia Mosquito Control District has no set schedule to spray areas in the county, since the state requires justification, or certain criteria, to be present first. The district

Mosquitoes cont. on pg. 8

Summer tradition benefits First Coast No More Homeless Pets

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

For the past four summers, Florida NewsLine and its family of community newspapers, The CreekLine, Mandarin NewsLine and Ponte Vedra NewsLine, have sponsored a pet supply drive to benefit First Coast No More Homeless Pets. Area businesses sign up to be convenient drop off locations for community members and this year, 20 businesses generously accepted the call. One of the businesses, which also participated last year, is The UPS Store in Murabella at World Golf Village.

"We were happy to participate in the Pet Supply Drive," said store owner



Hannah and Mabel at Forever Vets on Race Track Road with some of the supplies they collected from the community.

Divyan Patel. "Our community loves pets and they are a very giving community. They always come out when we have a donation drive."

This year's pet supply drive netted approximately 400 pounds of dry dog food, 285 pounds of dry cat food, hundreds of cans of cat and dog food, nearly 200 pounds of kitty litter and countless towels, blankets, toys and treats for First Coast No More Homeless Pets.

Founded in 2001 by Rick DuCharme, First Coast No More Homeless Pets began as SpayJax in response to a request by the City of Jacksonville. By 2009, they had opened one of the largest spay/neuter clinics in the country and now average 2,500 spay/neuter surgeries per month, supporting shelters in Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau and 14 other Florida and south Georgia counties. Their goal is to



John McFall and Tanner Ives of First Coast No More Homeless Pets with their truck loaded up with donated supplies at the Florida NewsLine offices that were collected from area businesses.

end the killing of shelter cats and dogs in the community and across the nation.

First Coast No More Homeless Pets also has a Feral Freedom program, which sterilizes feral cats and then releases them back to their territory. The Mega Pet Adoption Events are organized by First Coast No



Tanner Ives of First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Florida NewsLine bookkeeper Emily Whitehead, Florida NewsLine creative director Julie Gerona and John McFall of First Coast No More Homeless Pets after loading the donated pet supplies into the truck.

More Homeless Pets three times annually in an effort to keep Florida counties "no-kill." According to Tanner Ives, Social Media and Communications Manager of First Coast No More Homeless Pets, the most recent event in June featured 19 different shelters and approximately 600 pets found their forever home. Finally, First Coast No More Homeless Pets also maintains the Jacksonville Pet Food Bank, which is where many of the donations from this pet supply drive will go.

"Every six weeks the Pet Food Bank is open to give previously qualified, low income people food for their pets for a month," said Ives. "The Jacksonville Pet Food Bank has distributed more than 1.4 million pounds of food since it was started in 2012."

The Jacksonville Pet Food Bank is located at the Cassat Avenue hospital and Ives said besides food, they also distribute kitty litter, pet supplies, treats, and toys on an as-needed basis. An application for qualification may be found

on the First Coast No More Homeless Pets website.

The towels and blankets collected in the pet supply drive will be used at the two animal hospitals for animals post surgery. According to Ives, there is a place called "the beach," where the towels and blankets are used to keep the animals warm as they come out of anesthesia.

Although the Florida NewsLine Pet Supply Drive is concluded for this year, readers many still donate food, supplies and money to First Coast No More Homeless Pets at any time. Visit www.fcnmhp.org for more information on how to donate or volunteer.



Donated supplies filled up an office at Florida NewsLine.



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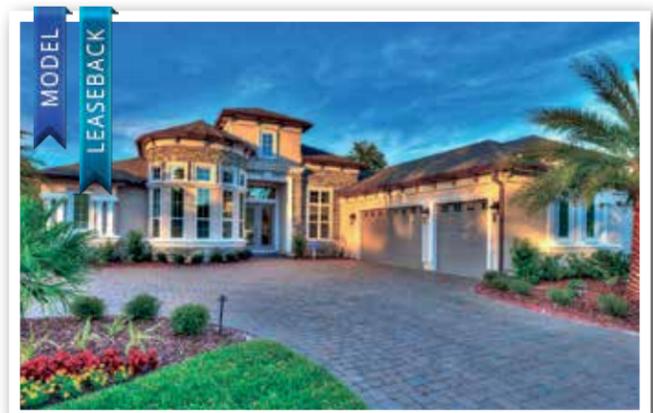
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August
Special Section
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL
Pages
12-15

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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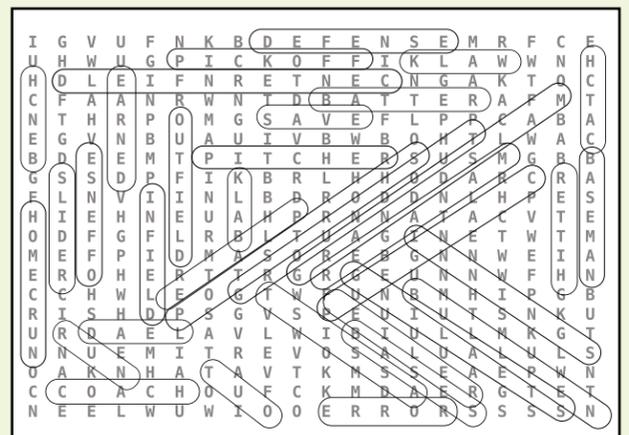
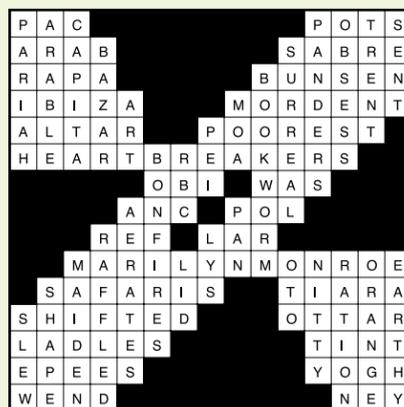
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The CreekLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32259 and selected routes in 32092 and 32095. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2018.

answers to puzzles on page 24



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. base B. score C. umpire D. fly

Answer
to our
Puzzles



Aug

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

around town

save the date!

Sept. 5: Music by the Sea

6 p.m.
St. Johns County Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach
<http://www.sabca.org/8-2/>

Sept. 9: 2018 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nocatee
www.pvautoshow.com

October 6: 14th annual Creekside Festival

10 a.m.
Princess Place Preserve, Flagler County
<http://business.flaglerchamber.org/events/details/14th-annual-creekside-festival-15525>

October 13: 21st annual St. Augustine Greek Festival and Arts & Crafts Fair

11 a.m.
Francis Field, Downtown St. Augustine
www.staugreekfest.com

November 4: 35th annual Caring Chefs hosted by Children's Home Society of Florida

7:30 p.m.
The Avenues Mall
www.chsfl.org/events/35th-annual-caring-chefs/

August 1

LEGO Club for Kids
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

August 2

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
pa@mysafeboating.com

August 2

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

August 3

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

August 4

Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
Doors open 6:45 p.m./Games start 7:15 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to community; (904) 742-8777

August 7

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

August 7

Happy Hookers crochet group
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

August 8

Stress reduction workshop
11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ramada Inn, 3131 Hartley Road
Presented by First Coast Jacksonville Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft
RSVP (916) 662-2263 or mihae.brown@gmail.com

August 9

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

August 9

Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

August 10

Early Bird Special Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
Doors open 6 p.m. / Games start 6:30 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to community; (904) 742-8777

August 11

Friends of the Library Book Sale
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

August 11

St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
www.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrd@comcast.net

August 13

Northwest United for Progress Club meeting
Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.
2777 Race Track Road
nwsjcp@gmail.com

August 14

Financial Aid/FAFSA Workshop
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
Free event; (904) 827-6960

August 16

Adult Coloring Club
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

August 18

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

August 20

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

August 21

St. Johns Federated Republican Women Hob Nob
Opportunity to meet state and local Republican candidates

6:30 p.m.
Renaissance Hotel, WGV
sjfedrepublicanwomen@gmail.com

August 21

North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, 25 State Road 13
Register at www.sjccchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681

August 21

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

Aug. 21 - Sept. 25

Free Quit Smoking Now Class
Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

August 28

Primary Election
www.sjcvotes.us

August 31

First Coast Newcomers Club board games and lunch
1 p.m.
Coffee Cafe, St. Augustine
Limited to 10; RSVP (904) 829-0643

August 31

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

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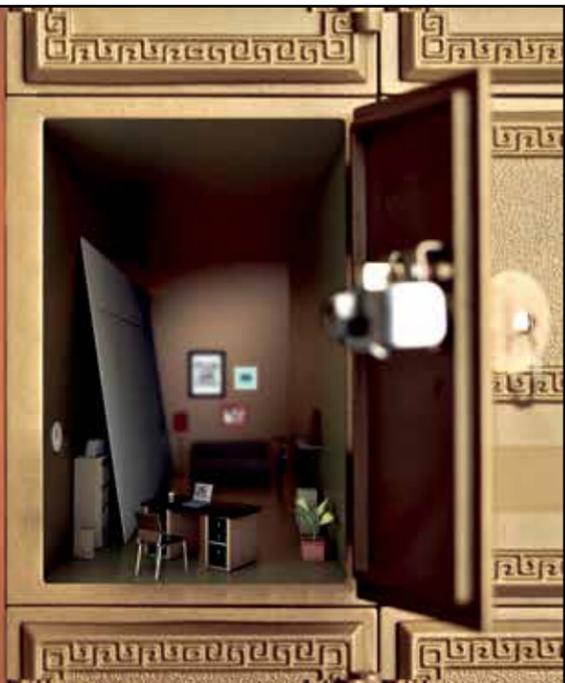


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take 5

Read to Rover at Bartram Trail Branch Library

On Saturday, Aug. 25, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Bartram Trail Branch Library will host Read to Rover. Beginning readers are invited to come to the library and practice reading to certified therapy dogs. No registration is required; readers may drop in at any time. “Pets are very nonjudgmental, and their calming presence distills stressful situations,” said educational therapist Rebecca Barker Bridges. “For children who feel insecure about their capacity to do things like reading, therapy pets bolster their self-confidence, which reduces their anxiety.”

Crime fighter to address local writers

On Saturday, Aug. 18, the Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association and Friends of the Main Library will welcome Jeff Walton, author of “Final Departure: Death is Never on Time.” Walton, a US Navy Vietnam veteran and retired NCIS Special Agent, will share his insights from more than three decades of fighting crime, including catching spies and terrorists around the world. The program takes place at the Main Library, located at 1960 N. Ponce de Leon (US 1) in St.

Augustine. Library doors open at 10 a.m. and the program is free and open to the general public.

Summer education conference for volunteers scheduled

RSVP of St. Johns County and the St. Johns County School District will host a summer education conference for volunteers Thursday, Aug. 2, from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Experts in the areas of mentoring, tutoring, and school readiness will be sharing strategies with volunteers who are currently serving and those who are interested in volunteering. The conference will take place at The Webster School, 420 North Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL, 32084. For more information and to register, contact Cheryl Freeman at Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-3952.

Creeks Softball announces registration

Creeks Softball, part of Creeks Athletic Association, will hold registration for the fall season Saturday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; and Thursday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Registration

on all days will be held at Aberdeen Softball Fields, 1401 Shetland Drive, in the room upstairs above the concession stand.

Evaluations will be held Saturday, Aug. 25 and practices will start the first week of September. Opening Day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29. Visit www.facebook.com/creekssoftball or contact Chris Januchowski at (407) 443-3030 or Chris@roundtablerealty.com for more information.



Photo by MetroCreative

and Cafe, 36 Granada St. in downtown St. Augustine. This will be a staged reading featuring Broadway stage and screen actress Annie Gaybis and First Coast Opera’s Artistic Director Curtis Tucker. Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds benefit the First Coast Opera. Visit www.firstcoastopera.com or call (904) 417-5555 for more information.

“The Owl and the Pussycat” to be staged as benefit show

First Coast Opera announces a Summer Benefit Show, “The Owl and the Pussycat,” on Aug. 3 and Aug. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 5 at 2 p.m. All performances will be at the Corazon Cinema

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Open primaries are coming to Florida in 2020, but only with the community's help. A non-partisan 501c3 organization called Florida Fair and Open Primaries (FFOP) has begun collecting petitions to get this on the ballot in 2020. They tried to get the Constitutional Revision Commission to put it on the ballot this year, but since that is made up of partisans, it got voted down.

More than 760,000 petitions need to be collected before February 2020, but will probably need to be more like one million due to partisan court challenges. Beyond tired of negative and divisive politics? Here is your chance to do something quick and easy to help fix the system!

All you have to do is go to www.floridafairandopenprimaries.org/petitions.html, print out both petitions, fill them out, sign them, and mail them off. And spread the word with all of your friends, families, neighbors, co-workers. Share on social media, email, and text. Even if they aren't in Florida, they might know other people that live in Florida that can do the petitions.

The first petition is for a top two open primary like other states have. The second petition would not allow taxpayer funds or public facilities to be used for primaries if all taxpayers are not allowed to vote in the primaries.

This is a 100 percent volunteer grassroots effort so donations to FFOP and

help collecting petitions in person are also most appreciated if you would like to volunteer.

Perry Waag

Dear Editor,

On Aug. 4, Floridians will march to demand a statewide fracking ban. What is fracking, you ask? Simply put, fracking is the forceful injection of chemicals into underground rock to release trapped oil and gas. It is essentially an extreme form of drilling with serious repercussions for our environment, economy, and public health.

The many risks associated with fracking have never been more clear. Groundwater contamination, oil spills, methane emissions, and toxic chemicals threaten public health and the wellbeing of future generations. Fracking also wastes absurd amounts of freshwater, releases dangerous air pollutants, and increases our reliance on fossil fuels, all while weakening our state's vital tourism industry.

Not surprisingly, a ban has received strong bipartisan support across the state. More than 30 counties have passed ordinances to stop the practice,

Letters to the Editor cont. on pg. 8



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

Q: What's the latest on the School District's efforts to comply with the School Safety Act?

A: We have settled into a plan for next school year where we will begin the school year with the same number of sheriff's deputies as we had last year (11 and four floaters). The remaining 28 schools will be staffed with armed security guards that we have contracted with U.S. Security to provide. They are the only company that we know of that has done a school solution before; they provided school security services to Myrtle Beach, S.C. In the meantime, Sheriff Shoar is working on hiring an additional 14 deputies that we hope will be in place by January, 2019. At their Aug. 7 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners will vote on our request to fund capital items such as cars and equipment for these deputies. We are hopeful that the commissioners will be amenable to our request.

Q: So will these deputies replace the U.S. Security guards?

A: We have a contract with U.S. Security for a year, so as the deputies come on board, the armed security guards will either work in conjunction with them at the same school or be relocated to larger schools.

Q: What other items are being scheduled regarding school safety?

A: The new law also requires us to hold two active shooting drills, one per semester, at each school each year. We will be keeping parents informed as to the progress of these drills.

Q: What about the mental health aspect of the new law?

A: The law requires that we train all school personnel to help identify students with mental health issues and so all personnel will attend an eight-hour mental health training. All schools will also have a Threat Assessment Team, comprised of members of law enforce-

ment, administration, guidance counselors and social workers, that any students identified as potentially having issues will be referred to for assistance. We have had to change our Student Code of Conduct to include referral for mental health counseling in the event that a student makes a bomb threat, for instance.

Q: Have schools undergone any physical security upgrades?

A: This summer, many schools have been hardened. All schools have a single point of entry and everyone who enters must produce identification. Every school will have a buzzer for admittance as well as an emergency button at the front office that can immediately notify law enforcement. All exterior and interior doors will be locked once school starts. We are trying to do everything possible to protect our students.

Q: We are only weeks away now from the first day of school. What is the latest on the new school year?

A: On Aug. 10 we expect to welcome 40,000 students in St. Johns County. There is a lot of activity right now to have all the schools ready. In the last month, I have had lunch individually with all 11 principals in District 1 and they report that everything is moving along and there are no major glitches at any of their schools. We did have one last minute administrative change; Jud Strickland, former principal of Picolata Crossing Elementary has moved on to take an administrative job in Duval County. We were able to replace him with Dr. Ken Goodwin, former assistant principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary School. He has prior principal experience and we expect a smooth transition.

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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Inquiring Minds want to know!
By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in NW St. Johns County or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

While we will do our best to answer all the questions we receive, we may not be able to answer all questions received each month. Also, due to publication scheduling, the time it takes to research answers may vary.

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com



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

Q: Has your office completed property valuations for the year?

A: We just did the first submission of the tax roll for the 2018 – 2019 year, which basically means that all valuations are completed for the year. Total taxable value for all properties in the county was up 8.9 percent. In more detail, residential taxable values were up 9.6 percent and commercial taxable values were up 7.7 percent. Tangible personal property, basically business assets, showed a 7 percent increase. This is generally a good sign that business is picking up.

Q: How many parcels did your office value?

A: We valued 133,484 residential parcels and 8,444 commercial parcels and we processed 3,221 tangible personal property returns. The increases above are inclusive of exemptions and caps. We administered 84,088 exemptions in our office, of which 66,712 were homestead exemptions. So, approximately half of the residential properties in the county are homesteaded. Of note, we added 4,000 newly constructed homes to the tax roll.

Q: Can you explain the new hurricane tax abatement bill?

A: This is a new law passed in the last state legislative session. If your property is homesteaded and you were displaced for 30 days or more as a result of Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew or Irma, you can qualify for a pro rata rebate for your taxes for the year. The application for this appears on our website, www.sjcpa.us and after a homeowner fills it out, we handle it from there.

Q: What's coming up this month?

A: August 17 is the date that TRIM notices will be mailed out. Property owners will have 25 days after this to resolve any disagreement regarding their property taxes or solve any errors on our part — or file a petition with the Value Adjustment Board. I encourage homeowners to visit our website and check at their property's valuation now. I like to say, "Beat the rush from TRIM."

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.

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.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, bccljohns@sjcfl.us
 District 2: (904) 209-0302
 Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us
 District 3: (904) 209-0303
 Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us

District 4: (904) 209-0304
 Jay Morris, bcc4@sjcfl.us
 District 5: (904) 209-0305
 Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.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 (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)
 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

Your Vote Counts | Elections ahead

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

It's almost here! August 28 is our Primary Election; open to all registered voters in St. Johns County.

Many important races appear on your primary ballot such as U.S. Senate, Governor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, County Commission District 4 (Republican ballots only), School Board District 4 (if you live in precincts 401 – 409) and a Circuit Court Judge.

Unsure of your districts or who will be on your ballot? Visit www.votesjc.com and use "My Voter Status" to check your voter record. Once you put in your information and bring up your record, you can choose the list of office holders. All your districts and representatives will be listed. You are also able to view your sample ballot as they are currently available. All voters will receive a sample ballot prior to the elec-

tion, which will be based on your party and precinct.

Florida is a closed primary state, so in the Primary Election on Aug. 28, the law requires you to vote only the party in which you are registered. You may also vote in any of the non-partisan contests available.

July 30 is the last day to register to vote or make party changes for the Primary Election. Don't forget, online voter registration is available, so if you need to make any last minute changes to your voter record, just give it a try.

For more information, visit www.votesjc.com or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238. Visit our website regularly (www.votesjc.com) to see "What's New."

Your vote is your voice! Register and vote in every election!

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor cont. from pg. 6

and all major gubernatorial candidates, both Republican and Democrat, have voiced their opposition to fracking. So, why has the state legislature failed time and time again to pass legislation against it?

On Aug. 4, the St. Augustine March Against Fracking will begin at 11 a.m. on the east side of the Bridge of Lions. Environmental activists, concerned citizens, and community leaders will unite to send a strong message to Tallahassee. We are calling on the state legislature to finally pass a statewide fracking ban in the upcoming session.

If you are concerned about fracking in our state, I urge you to march with us. Join us as we stand up to the fossil fuel industry and fight for Florida's future. It's time to put people over polluters. It's time to ban fracking.

Nick Famularo

Dear Editor,

Everyone in the Northwest knows we're the best school district in the state, but many don't know about our schools' hidden gem: its charitable arm Investing In Kids (INK). For almost 25 years, INK has been helping the less fortunate kids and teachers in the district. Tradi-

tionally this was more in the southern portions of the county, but no more.

INK has far more demand throughout the county for its programs than it has the financial resources to meet. It doesn't get any money from the school district and is entirely reliant on donations and grants. INK has two main programs that help students: Five Learning Years (FLY) and Take Stock In Children (TSIC). FLY tutors youngsters struggling in kindergarten so they don't get left behind, and TSIC provides mentoring for academically promising yet struggling middle schoolers through to graduation. If they graduate they get a Florida Prepaid scholarship from INK.

Teachers can get free school supplies from INK, and INK will also fund small classroom projects for teachers if they apply. In short, INK is trying to do a world of good on the margins of our county.

We are very proud of the fact that 89 percent of all donations go directly to helping the kids and teachers, and anything readers can do, from making a small monthly recurring donation via the website (www.ink-stjohns.org) to sharing with friends and family about INK, it would be deeply appreciated.

David Hartzel
Director of Development, INK (Investing in Kids)

Mosquitoes cont. from pg. 1

relies on service requests from community members, the observation of technicians, and data accumulated by 33 traps set weekly all around the county to detect the presence of mosquitoes before spraying an area.

"One thing to keep in mind is that as long as you see the green and white flashing lights on one of our trucks going through your neighborhood, chemicals are being dispensed," Clark said. "You just won't see the big plume behind the truck because of improvements in the chemicals we use and how they are dispersed."

But the Anastasia Mosquito Control District does more than just fog and spray for existing larvae and mosquitoes. The district sometimes receives grants to fund research projects and student interns. This year, Clark said a grant is funding research for the Autocidal Gravid Oviposition trap (AGO) project, which is a test trap designed by the Puerto Rican branch of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These traps are pesticide and pheromone-free and are also low maintenance. Another research project involves a sterile insect technique used on male mosquitoes. These males are sterile and released. Once released they find and mate with wild females causing all eggs laid by those females to be infertile.

Clark, who has been the Education Specialist for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District for nearly 18 months, knows more about mosquitoes than most. She has a degree in wildlife biology from



Photos courtesy Anastasia Mosquito Control District
Education Specialist Molly Clark releasing SIT (Sterile Insect Technique) mosquitoes.

Purdue University, after which she participated in a surveillance project for West Nile virus. She worked at the Florida Department of Agriculture before coming to the district. She enjoys education and outreach and is available for informational meetings with homeowners associations and school groups.

Her top tip is "Drain and Cover." She said homeowners should keep a watchful eye for any standing water in their yard, to include even inside some types of plants. She recommends that the water be dumped at least once per week to cut down on mosquito breeding. Also, people who are outdoors should apply an EPA-approved insect repellent, avoid being outside around dawn and dusk, and wear loose fitting, light colored clothing.

"Mosquitoes can bite through tight-fitting clothing," Clark said.

Visit www.amcdsjc.org for more information or to schedule an educational community meeting for your group.

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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Going over Niagara Falls in a barrel

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Since 1850, more than 5,000 people have died going over Niagara Falls. Some of those were accidents, some were suicides, and some were stunts gone awry. And, of course, some were murders. The most famous person to die going over the Falls was baseball legend Ed Delahanty. "Big Ed" was one of baseball's first superstars. He and his brothers played for the Philadelphia Phillies at the turn of the last century. In 1903, Delahanty was travelling by train from Detroit to New York. He got thrown off the train by a conductor for being drunk and disorderly and threatening other passengers with a knife. He tried to walk across the International Railway Bridge and either fell, jumped, or was pushed off. They found his mangled body several days later next to the "Maid of the Mist." Some people still think he was murdered.

The first person to survive a trip over the falls was Annie Edson Taylor. The 63-year-old school teacher went over the falls in a barrel she built out of oak and iron and lined with a mattress. The plunge down the rushing curtain of water was her retirement plan. She knew she could not teach forever and had not saved any money. She figured that if she survived she would earn plenty telling her tale and if she did not, she would not need any money. Others would follow her, often with less success.

A young man named Kirk Jones was the first to survive the trip unassisted. In 2003, he swam over the falls. It is unclear whether the effort was a stunt or a suicide attempt. He and his friends

were drunk, and they could not work the video recorder. Either way, he survived. Jones was fined \$2300 and banned from entering Canada for life. Fourteen years later, Jones was back. He tried to go over the falls in a large rubber ball. This time he died.

Going over Niagara Falls in a barrel is a bad retirement plan. For one thing, it is dangerous. Even more dangerous than investing in the stock market. And for what it's worth, it did not work for Annie. It turned out that there weren't a lot of people anxious to pay to hear her story. To make matters worse, her manager stole her barrel and took it on tour himself. The barrel was more interesting than its passenger. She spent most of her speaking money on private investigators trying to hunt the rogue down.

Learn from Annie Edson Taylor. Your retirement is too important to leave unplanned until the age of 63. Your retirement is likely to last much longer than you think and cost more also. If you have not done so already, you need to start saving today. And you need to earn a high rate of return. To get where you are going, you need to invest in the stock market. It is the only vehicle that is likely to get you there. Invest early and often — or start working on your barrel.

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

Flagler Health Village at Murabella breaks ground

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Nearly 100 people gathered for the groundbreaking of the Flagler Health Village at Murabella on June 14. The health village, which will include 20,000 square feet dedicated to urgent care, advanced imaging, laboratory services, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, primary care and specialty care is anticipated to open in Summer of 2019. Additionally, plans for the site include a 25,000 square foot healthy lifestyle center with fitness, prevention and education program offerings for all ages.

"As we broaden our reach into new markets, we do so with great enthusiasm. It is important for us to heal people when they are sick and also to

support a healthier, more vibrant community," said Flagler Hospital President and CEO Jason Barret.

Participating in the groundbreaking were Richard Lovelace, Senior Vice President, Stellar; Carlton DeVooght, Chief Administrative Officer, Flagler Hospital; Matt Baker, Flagler Hospital Chairman of the Board; Jason Barrett, Flagler Hospital President and CEO; Ray Matuza, Flagler Healthcare Foundation Chair; Heather Allen, Executive Director of the Flagler Healthcare Foundation, Mike Santarone, President, Stellar; and Greg Voss, Vice President of Operations, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.



Photo courtesy Flagler Hospital
Dignitaries break ground on the new Flagler Health Village at Murabella.

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Briefs

New Bookmobile has hit the road

The St. Johns County Public Library System announces that its new bookmobile is now operating all around St. Johns County. Working closely with Chip Osborne of Nations Bus, the Library System and St. Johns County Finance Department were able to



Photo courtesy St. Johns County Public Library System
The new Bookmobile can now be spotted all over St. Johns County.

identify the right model that fit both the county's budget and the needs of the Library's Extension Services program. This custom designed and built bus was manufactured by TurtleTop in Indiana. The new vehicle was built upon a steel frame that wraps the entire bookmobile in a metal cage. This framework provides lightweight stability along with a maximum amount of protection for both passengers and contents.

This is the second bookmobile the Library System has been able to purchase through Nations Bus. Both can be seen around St. Johns County sporting colorful graphics.

The bookmobile serves a multitude of locations, including eldercare facilities and preschools, while also providing library access throughout parts of St. Johns County that are far away from a branch library.

Visit sjcpls.org or call (904) 827-6944 to find out more about the bookmobile stops and schedule.

Library offers college test preparation courses

The Bartram Trail Public Library will offer ACT and SAT Prep Courses beginning on Aug. 21 and concluding on Oct. 2, timely for students planning to take the SAT test on Oct. 6 or the ACT test on Oct. 27. Each course will meet six times; four classes are instructional, the fifth class is a practice test, and the final class is a review of the completed

tests. The SAT Prep Course will be held from 5 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. and the ACT Prep Course will follow, from 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

The cost of the course is \$45, which includes administration of the practice test and the review of the completed tests. Enrollment packets are available at the Bartram Trail Public Library Front Desk.

The Bartram Trail Branch Library will also offer a Calculator Skills Class on Tuesday, Aug. 14 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. This class teaches students how to get the most from their TI 83+ and TI 84+ graphing calculators and become more familiar with the calculators and their functions. This will make it much easier to get tests completed quickly and accurately — so important both in the classroom and during the ACT and SAT tests. The fee for this class is \$5 and is due Aug. 10.

Email folbtl@gmail.com with questions about the prep courses or the calculator class being held at the Bartram Trail Public Library.

District board votes to reduce tax rate for sixth consecutive year

In July, the St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board approved a tentative budget that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers for a sixth consecutive year while continuing to provide significant funds for programs and projects to ensure sustainable water resources, increase water conservation and protect water quality in springs and other priority water bodies.

The millage rate adopted by the board is approximately 6 percent less than the current year's tax rate.

Under a 0.2562 millage rate — 25.62 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value — the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$38.43 in the coming year in property taxes to the district.

Public hearings will be held at 5:05 p.m. Sept. 11 and 25 and the final budget adoption will occur at the Sept. 25 Governing Board meeting.

Visit www.sjrwmd.com for more information.



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The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

Back to School Safety

I would like to remind all of our citizens as well as visitors that schools will be back in session this month, which means that our children will be going to and from school daily. District-wide, students return to the classroom on Aug. 10.

I would ask all of you to take extra time and be extremely careful in school zones as well as at bus stops. In heavy traffic areas, motorists should plan on longer commutes and follow the speed limit in School Zones. Deputies will be at school zones throughout the county to monitor those zones and to address any violations accordingly. Drivers need to be advised that speeding fines are doubled if they occur in a school zone.

Deputies will also be in unmarked vehicles seeking any motorists who pass stopped school buses while loading or unloading students. Remember all traffic in both directions must come to a complete stop for school buses that are stopped, displaying the "stop" signal. Motorists traveling in the opposite direction are exempt from stopping if the roadway is separated by a median of at least five feet wide. These infractions will be strictly enforced.

Motorists are also reminded to take extra precaution at school bus stops where eager youngsters, many riding the bus for the first time, may dart into the street as the bus arrives.

Here are some safety rules to pass along to children that ride a school bus. Arrive

at your bus stop at least five minutes early and stand at least 10 feet away from the roadway. Be sure to wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the bus driver says it's all right to enter before stepping onto the bus. Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus. Walk in front of the bus, never behind the bus. Remember if you can't see the bus driver, he or she cannot see you. After getting off the school bus, stop at the edge of the bus and look both ways before crossing. If you drop something beside the bus, make sure to you tell the driver before attempting to pick it up.

Students who walk to school should do so on a sidewalk if it is available. If there is no sidewalk, students should walk against the flow of traffic and be sure to cross at marked crosswalks.

Those who ride a bicycle should remember to ride with the flow of traffic and follow all traffic signs and signals. Remember students are required to wear a bicycle helmet.

Visit www.sjso.org for much more information on this and other safety topics. Feel free to email me at dshoar@sjso.org with any questions you may have as well as any topics you would like to see addressed here. You can also download our App by searching for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office in your "App" store.

Keeley Cleland selected to play in 2018 National Lacrosse Academy

Keeley Cleland, daughter of Sean and Lee-Ann Cleland and a ninth grader at Bartram Trail High School, has been named as a 2018 Maverik National Lacrosse All-Star. She represented the State of Florida and competed in the National Lacrosse Academy Classic held July 16 – 19, 2018 in Frederica, Del., at the DE Turf Sportsplex. The Maverik National Lacrosse Academy brings the top youth lacrosse players in the United States and Canada to one venue, where regional teams, coached by NCAA lacrosse coaches, compete to become the 2018 National Champion.



Photo courtesy Sean Cleland

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Julington Creek Cobras repeat as Florida District 2 Champions

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Julington Creek Baseball 11U Division Cobras followed a nearly identical path as 2017 to successfully defend their District 2 Championship in June 2018. The Cobras won their first game before dropping the second – which forced them to navigate the losers bracket all the through the championship game. Head Coach Todd Hall said, "I felt the path was a lot more stressful this year. We didn't have much for expectations last year, so everyone just enjoyed the ride. Expectations were much higher this year, so when we lost that second

game, it was time to get serious. The boys responded with great poise and purpose. It was a lot of fun to watch them step up and play to their potential."

In the end, the Cobras won four of five games on the week, the final three being elimination games. The next step for the team is to play in the Florida State North Championship Tournament in Live Oak, Fla. The Cobras are comprised of Jonathan Stoner, Jackson Carper, Kieran Burke,



Photo courtesy Dave Alberts
The Julington Creek Baseball 11U Division Cobras won the District 2 Championship for the second year in a row.

Cole Anderson, Sean Johnston, Riley Hofrichter, Michael Schoeborn, Corey Boulware, Easton Alberts, Ryan Gregory, Michael Gregory, and Cooper Hall. The Cobras are coached by Tim Burke, Paul Hofrichter, Doug Grimaldi and the manager is Todd Hall.

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Promote healthy weight starting with school lunch

By NewsLine Staff
 mail@floridanewsline.com

Although there are a variety of theories behind the growing obesity problem plaguing North American adults and children, the most consistent findings point to caloric intake as the culprit. Here's a simple equation to get to the root of the problem:

Calories eaten > calories spent = weight gain.

According to National Health Examination Surveys, adult obesity trends in the United States between 1976 and 2014 indicate the percentage of the adult population classified as obese has roughly doubled to more than 38 percent in the last three decades. Children may be learning eating habits from their parents, potentially contributing to rising obesity rates in children as well. Recent findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate one in five school-aged children and young people in the United States is obese. In Canada, the Public Health Agency says roughly one in seven children is obese.

Teaching children healthy eating habits starts at home and can extend to what students are given to eat while at school. The Center for Science in the Public Interest says schools across the country are working hard to improve school nutrition. Here's how parents and school districts can help make school lunches more nutritious and delicious and lower in calories.

- **Control snack intake.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that more than one-fourth of kids' daily caloric intake comes from snacking. Choosing smarter snacks may help reduce over-eating. Good snacks can include grain products that contain 50 percent or more whole grains by weight; snacks in which the primary ingredient is a fruit, a vegetable, dairy product, or lean protein; snacks that are a combination food that contain at least a 1/4 cup of fruits or vegetables; and foods that contain no more than 200 calories.

Healthy weight cont. on pg. 13

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by GLENOS

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editor@floridanewsline.com



Healthy weight cont. from pg. 12

- Read nutritional information. When selecting foods for school lunches, parents should read the nutritional information to make sure they know exactly what they are feeding their children. Select foods that are low in saturated fats and cholesterol and high in fiber and nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Teaching children healthy eating habits starts at home and can extend to what students are given to eat while at school.

- Introduce new foods. Children can be notoriously picky eaters, but with patience and perseverance, parents can introduce new, healthy foods at lunchtime. Yogurt, hummus and salsa are healthy and can add flavor to vegetables and fruit. When making sandwiches, exchange refined breads for whole-grain varieties. Choose lean protein sources, and go heavy on vegetables and fruits for natural fiber, which will create feelings of satiety.

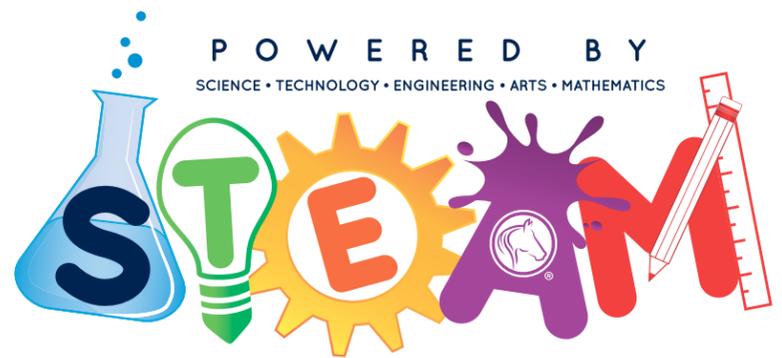
- Go with water. Rethinking beverage choices can help control kids' caloric intake. Many people don't realize just how many calories beverages add to their daily intake. Even a six-ounce, 100-percent apple juice can include as many as 96 calories. Sodas and other soft drinks pack a hefty caloric punch. Water, seltzer and unsweetened iced tea are healthy beverage options. If milk is the go-to beverage, choose a reduced-fat version.

- Read the school menu. Let children indulge in ordering from the school menu when healthy options are featured. Urge them to try something unexpected, rather than sticking to chicken nuggets or pizza days.

2018 - 2019 St. Johns County School Calendar

| AUGUST 2018 | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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



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7 ways to make mornings less hectic

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Feeling rushed in the morning is a recipe for added stress. Rushing through things is a poor way to begin a day, and those feelings of uneasiness can put a damper on the rest of the day ahead.

Making mornings less hectic involves a few different strategies that parents and kids can easily incorporate into their daily routines.

- Wake up slightly earlier. Getting up earlier than normal, even if it's just 15 to 20 minutes before you're accustomed to getting out of bed, can help reduce morning stress. Resist the temptation to hit the snooze

button over and over again. A few extra minutes each morning can make



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Mornings can be tricky when family members are getting ready for school and work at the same time.

you feel more relaxed and make for a smooth, stress-free start to the day.

- Get some work done the night before. Prepare lunches the night before and have them ready in the refrigerator. In addition, lay your clothes for the following day out each night. This saves time and takes a couple more things off your morning to-do list.

- Ease back into a routine. As a new school year dawns or a long vacation comes to an end, begin going to bed earlier and start waking up earlier as well. This can make the transition from carefree mornings to busy mornings go more smoothly.

- Prep backpacks in the evening. Look through folders, sign paperwork, check assignments, and do whatever is you need to do the night before to save your family from having to scramble in the morning. This ensures those permission slips get signed and items make it back into school bags.

- Opt for school lunch a few times. Look ahead on the school lunch menu and speak with children about which meals they enjoy. Let kids purchase school lunch on those days to give yourself a day off from lunch detail.

- Have quick breakfast foods available.

Smoothies, cereal bars, oatmeal, and whole-grain cereals are fast and nutritious ways to start the day.

- Carpool whenever possible. Busy families can save themselves extra work by proposing a neighborhood carpool. Sharing school drop-off detail frees time up for parents once or twice a week, and kids may enjoy traveling to school with their friends.

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Meet your local candidates

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

In advance of the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, Aug. 28, The CreekLine invited each of the candidates that will appear on northern St. Johns County voters' ballots for County Commission District 4 and School Board District 4 to submit a statement for this election section.

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

County Commission District 4 (elected at large)

Erika Alba (Rep.)

I have been a conservative Republican since I registered to vote in 1984. A resident of Palm Valley for over 13 years, my husband and I have two children: a daughter (PVHS '11 graduate) and a son who's a fifth grader at Ocean Palms. An attorney for over 25 years, I began my career as a Deputy DA prosecuting child sexual predator cases. Currently, I am a corporate attorney with a national law firm. I value public service, having served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of

Northeast Florida, Florida TaxWatch, and the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association.

I am running for Commissioner because the status quo is not working. St. Johns is rapidly growing and our infrastructure is not keeping up. We cannot jeopardize our wonderful quality of life due to mismanaged traffic, crowded schools and lack of greenspace. When elected, I will call for a "top-down" forensic audit: the county's true fiscal health must be transparent and our tax dollars must be spent wisely! Also, we must create more high-wage jobs through strategic economic development and prioritize our infrastructure with particular attention to traffic congestion and

our maintenance-starved parks/recreational facilities. I humbly ask for your vote.

Jeremiah Blocker (Rep.)

Hi, my name is Jeremiah Blocker and I am running to be your St. Johns County Commissioner for District 4. I live in Nocatee with my wife, Lauren, and our two beautiful children. We worship at St. John Paul II Catholic Church. I want to continue to make St. Johns County the best place in Florida to live, work, and raise a family. I am running because I am uniquely qualified to serve. I am a U.S. Army combat veteran who served our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, I currently serve as a JAG officer in the U.S. Air Force and am a former prosecutor in our community.

As a small business owner and a conservative Republican, I believe that fiscally conservative principles are the best way to serve. This includes limiting the size and scope of government, reducing taxes, creating a business friendly environment to retain and attract new businesses and promote job growth, and providing the best public safety to protect our citizens. I look forward to meeting you in the community and hope to earn your vote. I encourage you to contact me anytime at Jeremiah@JeremiahBlocker.com.

Nicholas Michael Dudynskay (Rep.)

First-time political candidate. Engineer,

entrepreneur, marketer and consultant. Vision: "Make St. Johns County the best place to live and work in America." Mission: "Plan, Progress, and Promote: The future belongs to those who plan for it." Action: "Attract clean, high-technology firms to diversify the economic base and grow tax revenue." St. Johns County is an ideal location. Concurrently eliminate wasteful spending. More tax revenue = More county services (wants and needs). Unbalanced (irresponsible) growth is leading the county towards fiscal insolvency. Tax base is over-represented by residential property taxes (90 percent). Residents typically consume more public services than tax dollars paid. Larger businesses are grossly underrepresented (10 percent). Functional St. Johns County tax base should be roughly 65 percent residential and 35 percent business. Each new home constructed increases the financial risk, if not counterbalanced by economic growth. Today, St. Johns County's top ten companies employ less than 5 percent of the population. The top three: 1) Public Schools, 2) Flagler Hospital, 3) County itself.

Married, spouse Christine holds degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She is a Daughter of the American Revolution. Son, Max attends Palmer Catholic Academy and baseball fanatic. Believe in faith, not fate.

Meet your local candidates cont. on pg. 18

ERIKA ALBA - Conservative Leadership For Our Future



Lifelong Republican



Conservative Leadership For Our Future

As your Commissioner, my priorities will be to:

- ✓ Call for the County to conduct a "Top-Down" forensic audit so that both Commissioners and citizens will know the true health of the County's fiscal situation. Our tax dollars must be spent wisely.
- ✓ Demand that a St. Johns County Beach Nourishment Program be established as well as a thorough review of our waterways, creeks, and culverts.
- ✓ Increase the availability of well-paying jobs through economic development. The current residential to commercial split is 87-13% which is unsustainable. A healthy and balanced economy requires a split of 65-35% which must be our goal.
- ✓ Ensure that our community, and especially our schools, remain safe. As a former prosecutor and mom, I will work closely with the school board and law enforcement to make sure that each has the tools necessary to keep us safe.
- ✓ Focus on the transportation and infrastructure needs in all parts of the County with particular attention to traffic and congestion as well as the lack of maintenance of our parks and recreational facilities.
- ✓ Preserve the 2nd Amendment rights of law abiding citizens.
- ✓ Promote transparency in government to help build our citizens' trust in their leaders.

PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 28, 2018

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

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| Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | Julington Creek Annex St. Johns Co. Service Ctr. 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259 | W.E. Harris Community Center 400 E. Harris St. Hastings, FL 32145 |

ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 28, 2018
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

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



Meet your local candidates cont. from pg. 16

John C. (Jack) Gorman (NPA)

When I arrived by boat to St. Augustine in 1972, the City and environs were almost a magical place. Very unique in atmosphere and architecture. Now the area is expanding more rapidly than anywhere else in the entire country. Careful planning is critical now — there are some areas that are already falling into the cement jungle, urban sprawl that pervades much of south Florida. Let's not let this happen!

My political experience includes eight years on the Board of Directors at the St. Augustine St Johns County Airport, now renamed the North Florida Regional Airport, (name change engineered to attract more commercial air traffic). During my tenure on the Airport Board, we took the airport off the St. Johns County tax rolls completely. Also the airport won a national award for environmental design (I must brag a bit about spearheading this idea, then the Airport Board ran with it). Commercial airline traffic also began during those eight years. We were proud of our accomplishments. I hope by being elected as St. Johns County Commissioner, District 4, to work to try to maintain the area's special atmosphere. We must try to work on a non-partisan basis for a positive future.

Daniel Heiser (WRI)

Did not submit a statement.

Dick Williams (Rep.)

School safety is an issue that is important to all of us. I am honored to have received the endorsement of our Sheriff David Shoar and look forward to working with him and our law enforcement professionals to continue to identify solutions to ensure we are all safe including our children.

Like most families relocating with school age children, my wife, Linda, and I chose to live in St Johns County for its "A" rated public schools, low crime rate and the quality of life. As a conservative, I am committed to bringing my decades of private sector business experience to the county to ensure we can maintain the excellent quality of life that we all enjoy while protecting our hard-earned tax dollars and ensuring that we manage future growth.

I will ask that we implement zero-based budgeting to ensure that we are spending tax dollars wisely to provide the necessary services. I will also ask for an independent audit so we can know exactly where our government is spending your hard-earned

taxpayer dollars. Being retired will allow me the time to dedicate my full attention to serving St. Johns County.

School Board District 4 (if you live in District 4)

Kelly Barrera

Kelly Barrera brings more than 25 years of experience in education and business management to the St. Johns County School Board. As the board's vice chair, she plays a strategic role in guiding the top-rated school district in Florida, overseeing nearly 40,000 students and a \$315 million budget. During her tenure, Barrera has addressed concerns about school overcrowding, overseeing the opening of two new K-8 schools, one new elementary school and two soon-to-open K-8 schools, along with the expansion of Crookshank, Mill Creek and Nease. If re-elected, she pledges to lead the fight for a new high school to ease overcrowding. Barrera advocated for a testing task force to reduce testing, increased Exceptional Student Education and guidance programs, and played a leading role in plans to strengthen school security.

Barrera's experience and dedication have earned her the support of numerous parents and educators. "There is no question in my mind that the re-election of Kelly Barrera is essential to the continued success of the St. Johns County School District," says former Superintendent Joseph Joyner, president of Flagler College. "I have worked with many board members in my 40 years in public education and (she) is one of the finest."

Denver Cook

As a USAF veteran, general contractor, former law enforcement and father of two students, my vision for St. Johns County starts with creating rich curriculum that begins beyond the minimum FSA standards. This will do more than improve District FSA scores and graduation rates, it will inspire each student to achieve their full potential, high-achieving and special needs, alike. We need a fresh approach for career-technical education, in partnership with businesses and universities, to develop diverse electives and vocational

courses matched to future job opportunities. To address the challenges of growth, I will promote fiscally responsible solutions to create reliable funding and free the District of debt. Securing our schools does not end with an armed guard, it begins with SJSO Youth Resource Officers in every school, and this must be the goal for our board.

Together, we can significantly raise the quality of education and solve our fiscal challenges. Beyond having open School Board meetings, I will proactively solicit the opinions of parents, teachers and community in making board decisions, and make the board more responsive to community needs. I would be honored to earn your vote and to be your voice on the board.

Abigail Levrini

Dr. Abigail Levrini is a licensed psychologist, Ponte Vedra business owner, bestselling author and mom to two St. Johns County public school students. She earned her doctorate in Counseling and School Psychology from the Florida State University College of Education in 2008. Dr. Levrini has published numerous scientific articles in the field of school psychology and presents on school interventions in professional settings throughout the country. She can be found throughout the media on WebMD, The Washington Post, NAMI, APA, PsychCentral, and many other popular means of press. In 2014, she opened a Florida branch of her highly acclaimed educational and psychological practice, Psych Ed Connections.

Dr. Levrini hopes to bring her vast experience in the field of educational psychology to the St. Johns County School Board, emphasizing the importance of our children's social and emotional health in addition to their academic prowess. She plans to take St. Johns from a top tier Florida county to a top performing county within the United States. As an educator, psychologist, business leader, philanthropist, and mom, Dr. Levrini possesses the knowledge and skills to continue to improve schools in our rapidly growing community, work closely with parents, and keep our students safe.

DICK WILLIAMS

For County Commissioner ★ District 4

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Life

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Get to Know . . .

Kimberly Kalke

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com



Photo courtesy Kimberly Kalke
Kimberly Kalke with daughter Kara.

With a long family history in the Atlanta area, Kimberly Kalke and her family waited until retirement to move to St. Augustine only one year ago. Kalke admired the atmosphere and beaches of St. Johns County for many years of vacationing before the move south. A lifelong community advocate, Kalke is passionate about serving her community and making a difference. She was an active volunteer in a Georgia sexual assault center and decided to complete the St. Johns County Sheriff's Civilian Law Enforcement Academy, which continues to open other doors for contributing to the community. Kalke has organized a successful neighborhood watch program with 233 members and eight block captains in St. Johns Golf and Country Club.

"The community is like a family," Kalke said. "We can fight over things we disagree on but in the end, we all have each other's back. I'm proud of the program and the community."

Kalke thrives on being a civilian voice of the people and a liaison between law enforcement and the communities around the County Road 210 corridor. She and her husband of 20 years, Jay, have a daughter, Kara, a senior at Bartram Trail High School.

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

It's so laid back and an easy, breezy lifestyle. We are enjoying life in the slow lane. The people are great. We moved right as Hurricane Irma was coming through and the neighbors came to help us with our furniture and ease our concerns. Everyone has welcomed us with open arms. It's a melting pot of people and I've met neighbors that are also from the Atlanta area.

2. What inspires you to stay so active in your community?

I just love people and making a difference. I have 20 plus years of experience in human resources and I believe that helps me tremendously in my everyday community activism.

3. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment thus far?

There is nothing better than being a mom. The weight of that responsibility and then seeing how great they turn out is amazing. Also, I'm proud of the legacy that I'm working to leave behind. I've been cognizant of the roles I've held in my past and I've lobbied for change on several levels to benefit our children.

4. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I'm so immersed in my community that my volunteering takes most all of my

time. Just staying engaged and working in the community is my passion. My daughter is looking at colleges right now, so I'm also busy doing college tours.

5. What is something that most people don't know about you?

I run a blog titled Beach Blogess. I compare my 20 years of marriage to I Love Lucy episodes and the blog is wildly popular in Norway. I have no idea why Norway, but it's so much fun. I say that my husband speaks seven languages and none of them is "Wife." It makes for some hilarious stories.

Get to Know . . .

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

Church welcomes new pastor

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

River of Life has welcomed a new pastor, Jim Walker. His first official sermon was on Sunday, July 1, 2018.



Photo courtesy River of Life United Methodist Church
Jim and Kathy Walker

Walker and his wife Kathy began their ministry sharing God's love to university students on five different university campuses over a 10-year period. The last campus on which they worked was in Johannesburg, South Africa. As a result, they became pastors of a local church and a K-12 school in the outskirts of Johannesburg, reaching out to the uneducated and forgotten masses due to the South African Apartheid system.

After five years in Africa, the Walkers returned to the United States and became a part of The United Methodist Church in Brandon, Fla. There, Jim Walker served as a pastor and Kathy Walker served as head of Children's Ministry for more than seven years. Walker obtained a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando and, in June of 2001, he and his wife moved back to their hometown of St. Augustine to start a new United Methodist Church. This church was eventually merged with Grace United Methodist Church and Walker served as an associate pastor in downtown St. Augustine with the aim of discipleship making and life changing activities,

New pastor cont. on pg. 21

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Troop 280 travels to North Carolina

By Kenny King Jr.
mail@floridanewsline.com

For many Boy Scouts, summer camp is the highlight of the scouting year. This year is no different as Troop 280 traveled to Camp Daniel Boone, which offered a wide variety of experiences and learning opportunities in the beautiful setting of the Pisgah National Forest, near Canton, N.C.

The 19 Scouts were split into three groups. One group that stayed in base camp was divided into two Patrols giving opportunities for leadership to a Senior Patrol Leader and a patrol leader for each group in camp. The base camp scouts earned many merit badges ranging from Rock Climbing, Canoeing, First Aid, Cooking, to Space Exploration. Scouts also participated in many fun events and activities including fishing, Gaga Ball, shooting, archery, tug of war, and campfire programs. Participating in many of these events earned the troop the Long Rifle Award, which recognizes troops with Great Spirit and enthusiasm and participation throughout the week by both scouts and scoutmasters.



Troop 280 enjoyed white water rafting at camp in North Carolina.



Photos courtesy Kenny King Jr.
A scout rock climbing in North Carolina.

different High Adventure experiences. One group of four spent the week backpacking and camping in the wilderness away from the camp. Along with a guide and assistant scoutmaster, they carried all of their food and supplies as they hiked and camped at altitudes that were often above 6000 feet. The second group's adventure was called "Zip and Splash." They spent the week learning how to white-water raft in class 3 and 4 rapids. As a result of several days of heavy rain, the rivers had swelled and the scouts' skills were truly put to the test. They also spent several days zip lining at several high altitude facilities offering exhilarating rides across deep canyons.

If you are a youth under the age of 18 and think this sounds fun, Troop 280 invites you to attend a meeting and hear more about what scouting has to offer you. Troop 280 meets at 7 p.m. Monday nights at River of Life United Methodist Church on Race Track Road.

Eight of the scouts participated in two

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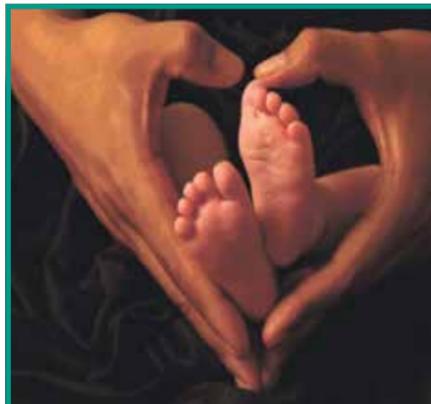
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Titans claim state championship; move on to regionals

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The 12u Julington Creek Titans continued their improbable season by winning the 12U Cal Ripken State Championship title on Monday, July 9, by defeating the Fleming Island Storm 5 – 4 in an eight-inning battle.

The Titans went into the sixth down 4 – 2, but clutch base hits by Matthew Mitchell, Adam Harvey and Bryce Boccio tied the score, and clutch defense took the game into extra innings. In the eighth, a two out mega-bomb by Dylan Mcleod put the Titans on top for good.

The Titans faced the three-time state champion, Fort Caroline Thunder, in the semi-final game on Sunday to get to the championship. Fort Caroline had beaten the Titans twice before by a combined score of 21-0, but when the game counted, the Titans showed the mettle that led them to be state champs. The Thunder hitters were no match for the excellent pitching of Bryce Boccio and Dylan Mcleod. Both pitchers



Photo courtesy Bob Mitchell

benefited from error-free Titan defense led by catcher Tommy Jordan.

The Titans will move on to the regional tournament in Live Oak, where they will face the best teams from the Southeast.

The Titans are coached by Brandon “CC” Bascelli, Ryan McDonald, David Vaughn, Rick Kane and Bob Mitchell. Titans players are Ritchie Berrios, Matthew Mitchell, Jackson Kane, Roman Bascelli, Ronan McDonald, Dylan Mcleod, Ben Studer, Adam Harvey, Brady Patterson, Dawson Vaughn, Bryce Boccio, and Tommy Jordan.

New pastor cont. from pg. 19

focused on reaching a younger age and family-oriented base of members by offering a contemporary worship service. Walker most recently served at First United Methodist Church of Lake City.

Walker said he is very excited to be back in St. Johns County and at River of Life

United Methodist Church. The community is invited to greet Pastor Walker and attend worship at River of Life at its Sunday service.

River of Life United Methodist Church holds worship service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning at 2600 Race Track Road.



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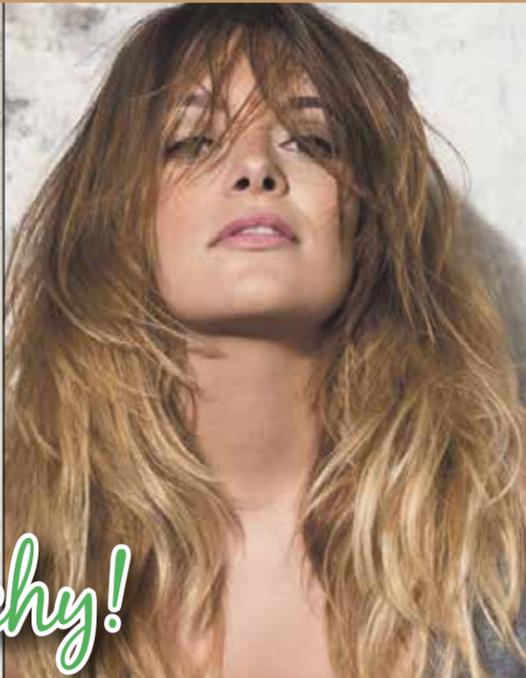
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Photo courtesy Chris Thompson

Slammers win T-ball Florida State Championship

The 6A Julington Creek Slammers went 6 – 0 in 2018 Florida State Championships in Oviedo, Fla., during weekend of June 29 to win the T-ball Florida State Championship. This is the third T-ball 6A State Championship for Julington Creek Baseball in the last decade. They outscored their opponent 115 – 35 during the weekend. The team finished summer 36 – 2 by also winning the Julington Creek, Argyle, Clay Pay and the first every Tball District and city Championships at Mandarin Athletic Association. The six-year-olds pictured are: Owen Chapman, Tyler North, Walker Hall, Brody Wolfe, Jaxson Sotomayor, Tyson Jordan, Shane Frederick, Mark Thompson, Brock Bone, Parker Karvonen, Isaiah Dunn, and Kace Myers. The Slammers are coached by Jon Sotomayor, David Jall, and Billy Bone. Chris Thompson serves as manager and ball girl is Lilly Bone.



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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com

Every year at this time, white and brown shrimp larvae that have been inhabiting creeks and estuaries of the St. Johns River begin their annual journey in search of ocean waters. Now as juvenile shrimp, they leave the fresh and brackish water nursery grounds of the river behind them as they seek warm ocean waters to spawn as adults. In a matter of weeks during their journey the size of these young shrimp will increase immensely. Once the ocean spawn has taken place, a new round of shrimp larvae will find their way to the very same fresh and brackish waters for yet another new life cycle of brown and white shrimp.

For many years we have come to expect this life cycle of shrimp on the St. Johns. In our particular area of the river we just know it as shrimping season, which comes highly anticipated each year in hopes of great bounty of fantastic tasting shrimp. In North Florida we catch shrimp differently than other parts of the state. While many areas of the state will use dip nets at night, we use cast nets for both daytime and nighttime shrimping.

Once the most popular way to shrimp around here was nighttime shrimping, which has now taken a back seat to daytime shrimping. In most cases, daytime shrimping only requires a platform to throw your net (usually from a boat), and deeper water to shrimp in (usually 15 to 25 feet). A store bought webbed net or duct taped cast net is the best way to catch shrimp when throwing in deeper waters as the webbing helps hold the net open on its way to the bottom.

Some of the more popular locations to look for shrimp in the river are Doctors Lake Bridge, Mandarin Point, Switzerland Point, Shands Bridge, and the mouth of Bulls Bay (Julington Creek). Locations to daytime shrimp without a boat include numerous area seawalls, such as the North Bank downtown Jacksonville, Old Shands Bridge in Orangedale, and city docks and seawalls in downtown Palatka.

Most nighttime shrimping is done from docks these days, although a boat will work just fine. The biggest difference from daytime shrimping (besides being dark) is that you shrimp in shallow water depths of three to six feet. Also lighting and baiting the area will be needed to attract shrimp. A combination of fish meal or cat food mixed with flour are the ingredients required for making dough balls for chumming.

Fishing Report: Time to shrimp. Try different tides and depths. Freshwater bite and croaker bite should be strong. Marker 18 at Green Cove is still a best bet.

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

We now include a Catch of the Month photo with Capt. David's Fishing Report each month. Please email a photo of yourself or your child with the fish caught to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.



Photo courtesy Austin Woolf
This month's Catch of the Month photo is of Austin Woolf, who caught this kingfish off Jacksonville Beach in July 2018.

Leyton Payne selected to play in 2018 National Lacrosse Academy

Leyton Payne, a rising freshman who will attend Bartram Trail High School this fall, has been named as a 2018 Maverik National Lacrosse All-Star. She represented the State of Florida and competed in the National Lacrosse Academy Classic held July 16 – 19, 2018 in Frederica, Del., at the DE Turf Sportsplex. Payne, daughter of Kristi and Dan Payne, attended a regional try out in Orlando as part of the selection process where top collegiate coaches chose the teams by graduation year. Leyton is a current member of the Lax Maniax Black 2022 team, which is a respected college developmental program based in Florida, and also plays on a regional Grizzlies team with current and future classmates from the St. Johns area. The Maverik National Lacrosse Academy brings the top youth lacrosse players in the United States and Canada to one venue, where regional teams, coached by NCAA lacrosse coaches, compete to become the 2018 National Champion.



Photo courtesy Kristi Payne

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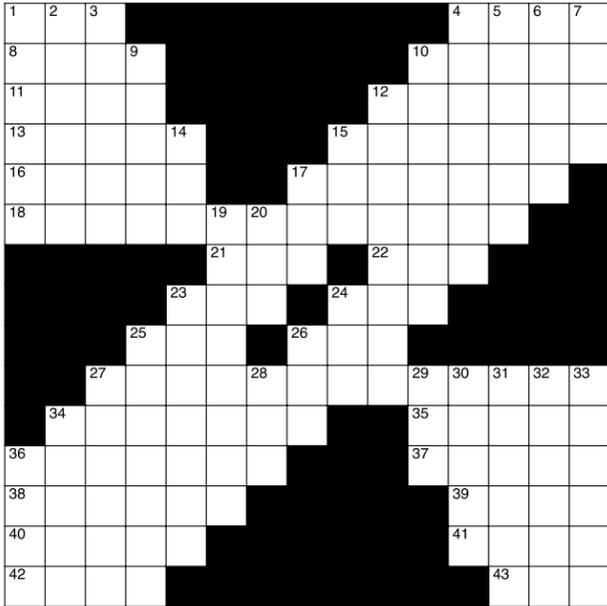
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. Where sauces cook
- 8. Type of horse
- 10. Heavy sword (Brit.)
- 11. ___ Nui, Easter Island
- 12. A type of burner
- 13. Spanish island
- 15. Rapid alteration of a musical note
- 16. Where priests work
- 17. Most impoverished
- 18. Tom Petty's band
- 21. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- 22. No longer is
- 23. Mandela's party
- 24. Legislator (abbr.)
- 25. A type of "zebra"
- 26. The common gibbon

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who is rejected
- 2. Suitable for crops
- 3. Per __, each
- 4. Indulges
- 5. Preoccupy
- 6. NIN frontman Reznor
- 7. Posted
- 9. Infamous Ukraine village
- 10. Bizarre
- 12. One who loves to read
- 14. The products of human creativity
- 15. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 17. Famed Chinese American architect
- 19. These can be used to burn trash
- 20. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. Peter's last name
- 25. Offered as a prize
- 26. French river
- 27. Young woman
- 28. A pot has one
- 29. Of the ears
- 30. Full of parasites

- 31. Dole out incrementally
- 32. Citrus fruit
- 33. Hearty
- 34. External form
- 36. Turn violently



Solve the code to discover words related to baseball.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = e)

A. 13 25 12 22
Clue: Safe place

B. 12 23 1 10 22
Clue: Tally

C. 20 18 24 6 10 22
Clue: Official

D. 26 11 14
Clue: High hit

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Travel

The Terracotta Warriors Unearthed

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

In 1974, two peasant farmers digging a well in their field discovered one of the top ten archeological sites of all time. The remarkable story has fascinated me for over 40 years, and I recently went to Xi'an, China to see the Army of Terracotta Warriors for myself.

The Terracotta Army is a collection of life-sized clay sculptures depicting the soldiers of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. No two look alike and researchers believe the contingent to be 8,000 strong with accompanying horses and chariots. The army was buried with the emperor in 210 BC, to protect him in his afterlife. Recent studies using ground-penetrating radar suggest the army is just part of an extraordinary necropolis, approximately 38 square miles, of which only a small portion has been uncovered.



Close-up of soldiers & horses in Pit 1.

The tombs lie about an hour's drive from Xi'an, in Shaanxi Province, China's central region. Many hotels and tour groups arrange visits to the UNESCO World Heritage site.

After arriving, I first explored the Mausoleum Museum. Its treasures include two intricate bronze chariots, each with four horses and charioteer found near the terracotta soldiers' underground pits. The bronzes are half life-sized and clearly detail the clothing, mechanics, and horsemanship of the ancient world. The museum also gives visitors a 360-degree close-up view of various ranking terracotta soldiers and their bronze weapons.

I was anxious and fidgety, however, as I'd come thousands of miles to view the army of soldiers. "Not so fast," said

my guide. He headed us toward Pit 3, site of ongoing excavations and saved the best for last — the immense Pit 1. He was right! Staring into Pit 3, I looked down into deep earthen rows containing broken fragments. Unfortunately, time, water and land shifts caused the sculptures to topple and break. The complexity of brushing away layers of dirt, carefully extracting pieces, and finally reconstructing the soldiers is painfully slow. International teams of researchers have come to assist.

Pit 2, although small, displays all the types of terracotta warriors found so far, including infantries, cavalries, chariot warriors, and archers arranged in formations.

Pit 1 simply takes your breath away. The size of the Quonset hut-like building itself overwhelms; the behemoth enclosure could fit two of the largest jumbo jets. The warriors stand tall, each five to six feet tall weighing between 300 and 400 pounds. Legs and feet form a solid base, but the rest of each figure is hollow. Torsos, arms, hands, and heads were molded separately then attached, with final details added later. Apparently, each warrior has its artist's name etched into its foot to make sure the work met standards.

Squadrons of soldiers, divided by solid partitions, stand ready to march or mount their nearby horses, also made of clay. The assemblage feels both creepy



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Facing the Terracotta Army in Pit 1.

and awe-inspiringly magnificent. The realistic faces, especially their eyes, project piercing looks. Glance away, and the army might start advancing at any moment.

Originally each figure was painted, but once the terracotta fragments are exposed to oxygen, the paint begins to decompose and flake off. For this reason, future work has stalled.

Intrigued by this massive project, I learned that more than 700,000 people were enslaved for the 36 – 38 years it took to build the Emperor's self-indulgent tomb. Even worse, upon his death, the grave was covered over, and the workers killed to keep anyone from revealing the location. Some, including numerous concubines, were buried alive. All was left undisturbed for centuries while the warriors silently kept guard for the Emperor in his afterlife.

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