



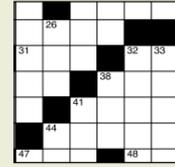
page 3
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 12
Briefs



page 17
Get to Know...
Bryan Jones



page 20
Puzzles

Society of St. Andrew seeks volunteers passionate about stopping hunger

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested. The Society of St. Andrew is a national non-profit founded in 1979 that takes this biblical principle to heart and mobilizes volunteers to dig up or pick the good vegetables or fruit remaining after harvest and then share it with nearby feeding agencies.



Photos courtesy Larry Rood
Students from Ridgeview High School Spanish Honor Society after a successful citrus gleaning in Mandarin.

For the past four years, Larry Rood has been the Society of St. Andrew coordinator for the northeast Florida region, which goes from the Florida state line south to Crescent City and from Gainesville east to the beach. While southern St. Johns County is home to the majority of farms in his region, he said there are two small farms in the Jacksonville area, including one run by the Clara White mission in Ponte Vedra Beach, where volunteers are needed to plant, weed and harvest. Even individuals with citrus trees may contact Rood to schedule a gleaning.

Society of St. Andrew cont. on pg. 17

Way back when the only school in North-west St. Johns County was Julington Creek Elementary and the only business at the wooded corner of Race Track Road and State Road 13 was a saloon, "Miss Janice" Torbett moved to Switzerland with her husband, Wayne, and their two young daughters. The area was so remote that "we didn't even have streetlights," recalled Torbett, who soon discovered there weren't many activities for children either.

Initially, Torbett travelled to Jacksonville's Westside to teach dance. Then, after enrolling 10 – 15 students by word of mouth, she opened Switzerland Dance School in the back room of the Switzerland Volunteer Fire Department in 1975.

Oldest dance studio glides through time in Switzerland and beyond

By Heidy Brososky-Weaver and Kimberly Weaver
mail@floridanewsline.com

"I had to assure the fire chief that parents would not get in the way of firetrucks in an emergency," said Torbett, who later shared the space with a fledgling church, Fruit Cove Baptist. "I would move the dance bars on Friday night, and they would set up the chairs on Sunday morning."

Fast forward 44 years, and the studio is still located by the church, but now both are situated near the heavily-traveled corner of Race Track Road and State Road 13. Although the area has been transformed into a booming suburb, and modern dance classes like hip hop and contemporary have been added to the schedule, the ingredients that made Switzerland Dance School an endearing part of the community haven't changed.

"My mom created a studio that focuses on excellence, character, faith, and service, and these are critical to our continued success," said Stacey Dumdei, Torbett's eldest daughter, who started teaching at the dance school while in college and officially took the helm when her mother retired four years ago.

Switzerland Dance School is truly a family affair around the five-member Dumdei household.

"The studio has been a second home for us," said Dumdei's son, Jonathan, who is a freshman in college. He recalled events such as bunkering down at the studio during a hurricane and being kicked out of dance by his grandmother for being "too rowdy" as a toddler. Although Jonathan and dad, Mark, have spent a lot of time behind the scenes helping with props, he's also been recruited to play everything from a tunic-clad apostle to a tuxedo-wearing groom. And for the past six years, he's also found himself entertaining crowds with his saxophone between dances in Peru, South America, after his mom started a global outreach with the Switzerland Dance School Dance Company.

According to Dumdei, she began her auditioned dance company in 2001 to give students more opportunities to perform outside of the annual recital in an environment that is "wholesome and promotes service in the community." The dance company participates in non-

competitive performances, workshops, and outreaches around Florida, and now they make a positive difference in the lives of many children and families in Peru as well. In addition to sharing hope through their performances, the group has raised money to fund various projects in impoverished villages and dance clinics that encourage self-worth.

Switzerland Dance School instructors Tiffany Lee, Ashton Dumdei, "Miss Janice" Torbett, Stacey Dumdei, Taylor Dumdei, and Sarah Tansey.



Early Miss Janice with Elvis

"Our eyes are opened to the greater needs of the world," said Dumdei. "We see we can make a difference and return grateful for the privilege to live in America."

The dance company also learned to be ready for the unexpected. While travelling from a village on a hot bus last summer, a landslide blocked them from civilization with little food and no cell service for 48 hours.

"We ended up missing performances that we had worked weeks to prepare, but I watched these teens choose joy over complaining," Dumdei said.

Dumdei's daughter, Taylor, has joined every overseas trip and loves how dance reaches across language barriers. After earning a degree in dance education, she shares her skills at Switzerland Dance School.

"I really love being able to work with students of all different ages and enjoy sharing the knowledge I've learned so they can grow in their techniques," said Taylor, a former Bartram High salutatorian. Dumdei's oldest daughter, Ashton, is a licensed clinical social worker who teaches part-time at the studio, as well.

The legacy of family is the foundation of Switzerland Dance School, and the teachers, staff, and volunteers are part of this extended family. In fact, dance instructors Sarah Tansey and Tiffany Lee (who is also a St. Johns County fifth grade teacher) both started dancing with "Miss Janice" as toddlers.

All share "Miss Janice's" desire to let students know they are "loved individually for who God made them to be and that their gifts and talents can be used for a greater good," said Dumdei. After all, unselfish love for people can brighten lives ... even if there are no streetlights.

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Zoey!



BREED:

Siamese (but she was only a few weeks old when she was found on the sidewalk more than 10 years ago).

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Playing with cat or puppy toys and bathing the 55 pound dog, Pepper, whom she is "the boss of."

FAVORITE TREAT:

Almost anything edible

FAVORITE FRIEND:

Olivia (human sister) and Pepper

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:

Zoey means "Life" in Greek

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www.switzerlandanimalhospital.com

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SPECIAL SECTION

Table of Contents

- 4 Around Town
- 5 Take 5
- 6 Q&A with R.J. Larizza
- 9 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 11 Q&A with Vicky Oakes
- 16 BTHS Happenings
- 18 Fishing
- 21 Community Marketplace
- 22 Travel

MYSTERY PHOTO



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Advertisers' Index

A New U Massage.....21	Famous Automotive18	Linda's Home Cleaning.....21	St. Joseph's Catholic Church.....10
Affordable Water.....14	Fighting Chance Fitness14	Mark Spivak Dance Studio19	Starlight Gymnastics.....11
All About Ballroom20	Fine Jewelry & Diamonds.....7	Memorial Emergency Center.....24	Starling Nocatee Individual Living.....13
Allstate-Linda Ventura11	Flagler Cremation7	Nautilus Behavioral Health.....22	State Farm-Jim Register.....20
Baptist Medical Center.....2	Forever Vets.....24	NFL OBGYN-Dr.Chithriki12	Staverman Hearing Centers.....12
Baptist Primary Care Julington Creek6	Fresh Look Lawn Maintenance.....21	Obtain Health15	Strandz Hair Studio.....13
Bishop Kenny High School4	Freyman CPA.....6	Orthopaedic Associates St. Augustine.....5	Sugar Bear Antique Mall.....18
Compass Health11	Goddard School22	Pavers Concrete & More.....21	Switzerland Community Church19
Concrete Works21	Harbor Chase of Mandarin.....6	Predry Law Firm7	The Right Cleaners.....21
Craig Funeral Home.....19	Huntington Learning Center-CR210.....10	Premier Homes Realty.....2	The UPS Store10
Deerwood Academy16	I T Promise Inc.....21	River Garden19	Travel Leaders.....8
Doug Nunnery-Berkshire Hathaway10	Ian MacDonald-Regions Mortgage.....9	River of Life United Methodist Church.....19	UF Health23
Dr Alan M Krantz.....22	James Musacchio-Keller Williams12	San Jose Episcopal Day School.....7	United Way of St. Johns.....11
DR Horton1	Julington Creek Chiropractic16	Silver Creek.....8	Weaver & Stratton17
Dr. Marinela Nemetz.....7	Kitchen Design Cabinets14	Smiles by Glenos.....11	Westminster St. Augustine.....12
Edward Jones-Mitch Wright.....9	Laino & Assoc Financial.....9	St. John's Academy15	Wild Birds Unlimited.....16
Eye Center of St Augustine16	Lane's Lawn Service.....21	St. Johns County Concrete Service.....21	

Mar						
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
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

around town

March 13

Dementia Support for Caregivers

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

March 14

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

Garden Club of Switzerland featuring Master Gardener Dianne Battle, "Support Your Local Butterfly"

10 a.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.

RSVP: www.switzerlandgc.org

American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring Dr. Dorothy Headley Israel

9:30 a.m.
Breakfast buffet at Guy Harvey Resort, 860 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine
RSVP by March 7: (505) 980-7865 or pk-inchen02@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

March 16

Read to Rover (beginning readers practice reading to therapy dogs)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

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

St. Patrick's Day Family Dinner/ Dance

6 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
(904) 742-8777

Pets on Parade

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Faith Community Church, 3450 County Rd 210
Sponsored by Helping Hands; proceeds benefit Canine Companions

Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting featuring Belea Keeney, a road map for writing your memoir

10 a.m.
Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.,

St. Augustine
Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com

March 18

All Star Quilt Guild

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

March 19

St. Johns CARES meeting

7 p.m.
Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org
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

Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon

11 a.m.
Alhambra Theatre and Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd.
RSVP by March 8: sjaird@comcast.net

March 22 - 24

St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
Francis Field, St. Augustine
www.lionsfestival.com

March 29

Helping Hands of St. Johns County, making Easter Baskets for children

10 a.m.
Faith Community Church, 3450 County Rd 210W
jacqphil@aol.com

March 29 - 30

Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society, "Violets in Paradise"

Friday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
San Jose Church of Christ, 6233 San Jose Blvd.
www.jacksonvilleviolets.org

March 30

Azola Creative Songwriters Circle

Julington Creek Plantation area
www.Songwriters.AzolaCreative.com

March 31

Dog Day Afternoon

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Plantation Park, 875 Davis Pond Blvd. in Julington Creek Plantation
Sponsored by St. Johns CARES, www.stjohnscares.org

March 2

Easter Egg Hunt and Party for special needs children

Faith Community Church
Sponsored by Helping Hands
RSVP: liah623@aol.com
Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

March 4

Current Events Discussion Group

10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
New location: Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia
adsilby@yahoo.com

March 5

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 Rd 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

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

March 6

Jacksonville Camera Club

6:45 p.m.
Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.
www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

March 7

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

Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Westminster Woods, 25 State Road 13
lancedmalcolm@gmail.com

March 8

Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting

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

March 9

Friends of the Library Book Sale

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960

March 11

Northwest United for Progress Club featuring Pam Edwards-Roine, "National Popular Vote (Interstate Compact)"

Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.
2777 Race Track Road
nwsjcp@gmail.com

March 12

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's luncheon featuring reggae band Chillakaya

11 a.m.
St. Johns Golf and Country Club
RSVP by March 5, bartramtn@gmail.com

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ACT/SAT prep courses offered

The Friends of the Bartram Trail Public Library will offer its ACT and SAT Prep Courses from March 12 – April 23 (with no class on March 19 due to Spring Break). Two instructors, one for math and one for reading/writing will lead the class and students will learn very important test strategies and test content as well as time management. The courses consist of four instructional meetings, the practice test, and a review of the completed exams. The cost of the courses is \$45 each. The fee to take both the ACT and the SAT course is \$90. There are SAT tests on May 4 and June 1 and an ACT test on June 8. Email folbtl@gmail.com with any questions about the courses or to sign up.

Northwest SJC United for Progress Club announces meeting

The Northwest SJC United for Progress Club will meet on Monday, March 11 at 2777 Race Track Road in St. Johns. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The topic will be the National Popular Vote, presented by featured speaker Pam Edwards-Roine from the League of Women Voters. The National Popular Vote (Interstate Compact) is designed to guarantee that the winner of the presidential election is always the candidate

who receives the greatest number of votes nationwide. It does not require amending the Constitution of the United States; instead it is an agreement among the states that pass the legislation to cast their ballots according to the way the people of the entire country vote. Florida will once again have this legislation introduced into both the Florida Senate and House of Representatives during this year's session. Contact nwsjcp@gmail.com for more information.

Hope Floats to host second annual Shop the Closets

Hope Floats, local fundraising partner of The DONNA Foundation announces the second annual Shop the Closets event, to be held on Sunday, March 31 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the offices of RE/MAX on San Jose Boulevard in Mandarin. Hope Floats is currently accepting donations of new and gently used, brand-name spring and Summer clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry and accessories for women. The donations will be organized by type and size then priced from \$1 – \$20 at the Shop the Closets event. Shoppers will be able to pre-purchase a \$10 VIP "Sip & Shop" pass, which allows access to shop on Saturday, March 30, the day before the public event. Contact HopeFloats-4BreastCancer@gmail.com or call Jody at (215) 534-0071 or text Cathy at

(904) 671-4057 for more information or to make a clothing donation.

26th annual African Violet Show and Sale announced

The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society will present "Violets in Paradise" on Friday, March 29 (12 p.m. – 5 p.m.) and Saturday, March 30 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) at the San Jose Church of Christ, 6233 San Jose Blvd. The club will showcase prized specimen of standard, semi-miniature, and miniature varieties of African violets. In addition to two free seminars per day, club members will be on hand to offer advice and there will also be an extensive selection of supplies, starter plants and leaves for sale. Visit www.jacksonvilleviolets.org for more information.

Writers' workshop scheduled

The Catholic Writers Guild, St. Johns Chapter will have its monthly meeting

on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at St. Paul's Church and School Auditorium at 2609 Park St. Featured speaker Michelle Buckman will discuss "How to show, not tell, in your writing." All poets, fiction and non-fiction writers, screenplay writers, musicians, artists, editors, illustrators and the just plain curious are invited. Contact R. T. Beaman at writterrod@comcast.net or P. Babadi at wordsbypaula@gmail.com for more information.



Photo courtesy Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society

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

Q: Could we discuss the juvenile system?

A: I think education in this area is important for families. First, I'd like parents to know that the juvenile system is focused on rehabilitating kids who may have problems with the law. The punitive portion is very small and reserved for the worst offenders.

Q: What options are available for minors who are get in trouble with the law?

A: We have a robust civil citation program in St. Johns County. This program allows an officer to have some discretion when deciding whether to make an arrest (which would stay on the child's record) or, if certain criteria are met, instead write a civil citation. If the charge is a misdemeanor that is non-violent and non-sexual in nature, and if the family of the child agrees, the officer can write a civil citation. No arrest is ever recorded. The child committing the offense would then have to successfully complete a program, overseen to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, that might include community service, a letter of apology, restitution or maybe a substance abuse evaluation. If the child successfully completes the program, the matter is concluded with no arrest on the child's record. If the child does not successfully complete the program, then the State Attorney's office has the option of coming in and filing the original misdemeanor charge. Minors may get a civil citation

more than once, up to the point that it becomes apparent that more strenuous consequences are needed.

Q: What would be the next level?

A: The State Attorney's office oversees the Diversion Program for offenses above the criteria for a civil citation. Again the child would have to successfully complete a program similar to that of the civil citation. If successfully completed, the difference is that with the Diversion Program, the child would have an arrest on his or her record, but it would show that the charges were dropped.

Q: And if neither of these programs work or are appropriate, what happens?

A: If the Diversion Program is not appropriate, one sentencing option if a child is charged with a crime would be probation. If that is rejected by the court or if the child is high risk, he or she could be committed to a juvenile detention facility. There is one in the Hastings area and one in St. Augustine. It takes a lot for a child to be committed, such as an armed robbery, sexual assault or a serious juvenile record with many second chances given but not taken advantage of. Finally, sometimes a crime is severe enough for what we call a direct file. This is where a minor is charged as an adult. This is worst case and fortunately happens a lot less now than it did several years ago.



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

Q: Can you let us know how the new website for the St. Johns County Property Appraiser's office came about?

A: When my team came aboard two years ago, we undertook a project to completely redesign the office's website (www.sjcpa.us). We wanted to make it more user friendly and informational. The website is ADA compliant and there is a lot of data on the website — everything from ownership information, aerial photos, maps like flood maps and school zone maps, and information about exemptions and property sales. There is also an online application process for exemptions. Property owners can file for exemptions online, at home. When we first started offering this ability, about 18 percent of exemptions were filed online; now, more than 50 percent are filed online. We have 150,000 unique visitors each month, which represents a significant time and cost savings for our office staff.

Q: Can you give us an example of the information available on the website?

A: Everything we use to determine the value of a property is available to the public. One can enter a property ID, or address or owner's name and the "Property Card" will come up. This shows items like the property's neighborhood, the section, township and range of the property, the taxing district, the millage rate, the lot size and any exemptions on the property or accumulated portability. There are also nine years of history of valuation. The type of construction, including interior materials, square footage of the structure and a sketch of the home from the building plans are included. At the bottom are all legal

documents filed against the property, such as deeds, and there is a button for recent sales in the area that we would use in our valuation process. We also show a photo of the house, to include aerial photography, which we will be updating annually going forward.

Q: What maps are available?

A: If one clicks on the map of the parcel, a color coded map of sales around the parcel by year is visible. Also, there is a flood zone overlay and a special taxing district overlay (such as Community Development District or Municipal Special Taxing Unit). Every piece of information that we have on this piece of property is available on the website. For folks who are interested, it's cool to play around with.

Q: What else is available on the website?

A: There are many forms that can be filled out online and a link to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. And because I believe in full transparency of government, we have added the Property Appraiser's budget and financial statements. We post our complete budget as approved by the Department of Revenue. I believe that if government is honest and transparent, it gives constituents the opportunity to ask questions and form their own opinion.

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

A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Speedway Ste. 203, (904) 827-5500. It is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Also, readers can email me at Eddie@sjcpa.us or call me at (904) 827-5500.



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 Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150
Property Appraiser: Eddie Creamer, sjcpcpa@sjcpa.us; (904) 827-5500
Supervisor of Elections: Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com, (904) 823-2238
Tax Collector: Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us, (904) 209-2250
Clerk of Court: Hunter S. Conrad, (904) 819-3600
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
 District 1: Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301
 District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2smith@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0302
 District 3: Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0303
 District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304
 District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

St. Johns County School Board (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)
 District 1: Beverly Slough, beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510
 District 2: Tommy Allen, tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510

State of Florida Elected Officials
 Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146
 State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov, (904) 823-2300
 State Senate District 7: Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610

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**with St. Johns County Commissioner Jimmy Johns,
(District 1)**

Q: Can you give us an update on the Board of County Commissioners' discussion on short term vacation rentals from the meeting in early February?

A: This meeting was county staff's request for direction on this issue from the commissioners. At issue is short term vacation rentals where complaints exist that more people are living in a house than it was designed for, leading to too many cars or the perception that the house may not be well maintained. Although we haven't heard great concerns about this from the Northwest, it has become a bit of an issue along the coastal part of the county and in St. Augustine.

Q: What can the Board of County Commissioners do?

A: We are looking at this from a quality of life perspective rather than from the commerce perspective, which I believe is more controlled by the state. At the local level, we have the ability to control things like setbacks and the maximum coverage of a residential lot by a home.

Q: What was the outcome of the discussion?

A: We are taking this issue very seriously and we are looking at other counties' regulations. Some counties have been sued by owners of non-owner occupied residences and lost. So we are trying to draft an ordinance and we want feedback and input from all property owners, those who might rent out their houses and those who don't. When the new ordinance comes out in draft form, probably in four weeks or so, it will be posted on the county website. I encourage everyone to read it and participate in the process as this will be a county-wide ordinance.

Q: What can you tell us about the latest community meeting that you hosted in late January?

A: We had fantastic attendance by representatives of organizations county wide. Again, at these meetings, we are attempting to get everyone in a room to discuss needs and connect the dots as to how to solve them. This particular meeting had a focus on housing, to include low income housing and the homeless population. We ended up forming a sub group of participants focused on housing needs for the wide demographic in our county. We will have another of these meetings in the spring and everyone is invited to share in open dialog. I invite people to come to the meeting with their organization's needs and potential solutions.

Q: Do you have any other updates for District 1?

A: There has been a noticeable movement lately toward age-restricted developments (the 55 and over developments) that seems to be favorable to our residents. These are not nursing home or retirement homes, but rather homes for active adults who participate in the community. I attended the groundbreaking recently of WaterSong, in the RiverTown area. There is also the potential for a 55 and over community to include a golf course along Longleaf Pine Parkway to the west and south of Creekside High School (and to the east of the to-be-built extension of Veterans Parkway). This would be a gated community with public/private membership of the golf course. At our Board of County Commissioners meeting, we focused on traffic and first responder availability. This potential development is still in the preliminary stages.

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

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

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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



The Customer's Man

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

I have long been fascinated by the 1942 Nazi Submarine attack off Jacksonville Beach. The attack occurred at 9:30 on a Friday night, just four miles off the coast. Thousands stood on the shore and watched in horror as the German submarine shelled the stricken oil-tanker, "SS Gulfamerica." One of the people on the boardwalk that night was Phil May, who passed away recently.

I went to interview Phil at his home two years ago and heard his stories. He was a World War II veteran. He served in the 1st Division (the Big Red One) and was severely injured at the Battle of the Bulge. He spent years recovering from the injuries he suffered in Europe. Eventually, he recovered to a normal life. He graduated from Princeton University and became a local stockbroker

Phil May was 17 and on the boardwalk the night of the attack. He and some friends were riding the merry-go-round as the German torpedo slammed into the stern of "Gulfamerica," causing a massive explosion. They rode round and round and again and again they were treated to the sight of the ocean on fire. One of those friends was the daughter of J. Turner Butler, a long-time state senator from Duval. They named a pretty big road after him, J. Turner Butler Boulevard. Cecil Butler had a curfew and no teenage boy wants to upset the daughter of a state senator, so they all piled into an old Ford sedan and headed back to Jacksonville. They assumed, as did almost everyone on the beach that night, that the explosion off the coast was some sort of accident.

A short while later as they cruised north along the beach, the Germans began to shell the burning tanker and they stopped to watch. It was quite a show: the commander took his submarine around the sinking oil tanker and placed it between the shore and the burning wreck so that everyone on the beach could see the outline of his sub and the flash of his guns. Cecil Butler, who was described in her yearbook as "the heartthrob of femininity," got home late. I have no idea what her father had to say, but she certainly had one of the best excuses ever.

Years later, Phil May, Jr. was president of the Meninak Club when the commander of that submarine came to Jacksonville. Phil arranged to have him speak to the club. Not everyone was happy, and Phil got some angry calls from people who thought it inappropriate to host the former "Nazi."

One of the things that popped out about Phil May was his profession: stockbroker. Back when Phil first went to work, it was common to refer to stockbrokers as "customer's men." The idea being that the broker was there to help the customer. Somewhere along the line, that concept was lost. Investments were increasingly sold to people by someone trying, sometimes desperately, to earn a commission. Your financial future is too important to be someone else's commission.

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

Hospital announces major expansion

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

This spring, Baptist Health will begin construction of a new seven-story building, featuring a five-floor Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower.

When completed in early 2021, the new building will serve as the new front entrance to both Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, which provide the region with highly specialized tertiary and quaternary services, including pediatric trauma care.

The building is designed to make it easy for patients and visitors to find their way anywhere in the medical center, as well as to increase visibility and accessibility from Interstate 95. To enhance convenience and safety, it will be linked directly to the medical center's new multi-level parking deck by a skybridge over Palm Avenue.

"This new building will be our new 'front door,' essentially reorienting our entire campus," said Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Hospital President Michael Mayo. "We intend to create an extraordinary patient and family experience for all who enter."

Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael D. Aubin said that the new Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower will include a high-level 75-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Center as well as a 26-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The Neonatal Intensive Care Center will be comprised of three separate units, replacing the current 56-bed Level II and Level III Newborn ICUs at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The new Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower will integrate with Baptist Jacksonville's high-risk obstetrics and neonatal delivery center for seamless continuity of care, and will feature:



Rendering courtesy Baptist Health
Artist's rendering shows the new expansion and front entry of Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

Private patient/family NICU suites with space to comfortably sleep two parents, full showers and bathrooms, separate parent wardrobes, and a unique room on each floor for the joint care of mothers who require post-delivery stay.

State-of-the-art equipment and technology that support advanced workflows and provide all of the needed resources for physicians and clinical teams, with minimal infant disruption.

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

Q: Governor DeSantis has been making news lately with several proposed changes to education in Florida. What can you tell us about how these will affect St. Johns County?

A: First, we have to keep in mind that he will have to work together with the legislature to accomplish these goals. But I am more than delighted that he wants to get rid of the ACT/SAT requirement for the Best and Brightest bonus program for teachers. This program awards a monetary bonus to highly effective teachers, but it is currently partially based on their own ACT/SAT scores from years ago. He has also proposed to raise the bonus amount.

Q: What about his plan to get rid of Common Core?

A: With this, the governor will need to work with the Department of Education and then the legislature. He has charged Secretary of Education Richard Corcoran to come up with new standards by the next legislative session. This is not a simple process, but I applaud the fact that they said they are going to include teachers in the process of coming up with the new standards. My only caveat is that the new standards must be rigorous.

Q: Do you have an announcement yet on the site for a new high school?

A: We are still in the process of looking for a high school site. We thought we had a site lined up, but as sometimes happens, it didn't materialize. We hope to identify another site in the next few months.

Q: What can you tell us about the new St. Johns County Teacher of the Year, named recently?

A: Danny Erb, from Pedro Menendez High School is an awesome math teacher, especially in the area of relating to the kids. He captures his students' interests and makes them want to stay in school. He is a great choice for Teacher of the Year.

Q: Can you tell us about your recent trip to Washington, D.C.?

A: I recently went with the National School Boards Association to advocate

for appropriate funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This was written and passed initially in 1975 and looked at again in 2004 and it hasn't been reexamined since then — and it has never been funded fully. How does this relate to St. Johns County? Well, we are charged by law and by our conscience to educate all of our special needs children. And this year, we are taking \$2.7 million out of our general fund to do so. We need to get IDEA fully funded so that general fund money can be used for all students. I'm working hard on the federal level and will be sharing on the state level as well.

Q: Speaking of the state level, do you have any updates with session coming up?

A: I recently joined with Sen. Travis Hutson in support of his bill, SB 770, which provides a different pathway for high school graduation. It emphasizes career and technical education and requires fewer credits. It helps some kids to stay in school and be successful and ultimately to contribute to society. Because at the end of the day, we want all of our children to be successful.

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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with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: 2018 was a busy election year. Can you let us know how things went in St. Johns County?

A: Everything went very well in St. Johns County. We participated in the recount for three of the races. This was a historical event; the last statewide recount was in 2000.

Q: Can you describe how the recount process works?

A: First we did a machine recount. This requires the ballot readers to be reprogrammed to only count the three races in question. We do not recount the other races. During this process, the machines “outstack” or separate any ballots that are under-voted or over-voted. This process is very open and transparent and we had a lot of observers, including attorneys and representatives of the candidates. We confirmed our totals and then certified them to the state. This process took about a day and a half. Then the state ordered a manual recount of two of the races, the U.S. Senate race and the Agriculture Commissioner.

Q: What happens in a manual recount?

A: It’s not really like it sounds. When we performed the machine recount, the outstacks (under- and over-votes) were put in a container, sealed, and then locked in our vault. For a manual recount, we take the outstacks for just the two races in question and review each ballot to see if there were obvious and legitimate votes as compared to a statewide standard called the “Voter

Intent Rule.” All counties apply the same standard. Everybody can look at each ballot, but only my employees may touch the ballots. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the three-member canvassing board (made up of myself, a county court judge and a member of the board of county commissioners, or in his/her absence, a “qualified elector”) to make the final determination in any dispute after hearing from both sides.

Q: Approximately how many outstacks were there for each of the two races and how many votes did each candidate gain as a result of the manual recount?

A: Approximately 140,000 votes were cast in the General Election in St. Johns County. For the U.S. Senate race, there were about 750 outstacks. Bill Nelson increased his vote tally by 26 and Rick Scott increased his vote tally by seven. For the Agriculture Commissioner race, there were about 4,000 outstacks. In this race, each of the two candidates increased their vote tally by fewer than 10 votes.

Q: When do you count the Vote by Mail ballots? After all the other votes are tallied?

A: This is a myth I’d like to put to rest. The law allows us to open and count mail in ballots 15 days prior to Election Day and we do. In fact, by the time we leave the office on the Monday afternoon prior to the Tuesday election, all Early Voting and Vote by Mail ballots have been counted. We go into Elec-

tion Day all caught up with everything counted except for votes cast on Election Day or received in the mail on Election Day. We had approximately 30,000 mail in votes this past election.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with our readers?

A: At this time, no elections are scheduled in 2019 in St. Johns County; however, Duval County is having their municipal elections this month, which is why you are seeing commercials. St. Johns County’s next schedule is the 2020 elections: March 17, Presidential Preference Election; Aug. 25, Primary Election;



The manual recount.



Photos courtesy Vicky Oakes

The machine recount.

and Nov. 3, General Election.

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

A: Readers can email me at voakes@votesjc.com or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, www.votesjc.com also has a wealth of information.

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Briefs

New age-restricted community announced for RiverTown

On Feb. 6, Mattamy Homes broke ground on WaterSong at RiverTown, located along the St. Johns River.



Photo courtesy Mattamy Homes
A ceremonial groundbreaking for WaterSong was held on Feb. 6.

St. Johns County Commissioner James Johns, Vice President of the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Greg Voss and other industry and community leaders joined the Mattamy team for a ceremonial groundbreaking with paddles to symbolize the proximity to the St. Johns River. Model-home construction is scheduled to begin this summer and sales will start in fall 2019. At completion, WaterSong will be located on 260 acres, feature more than 800 villas and single-family homes, a designated clubhouse and access to all of the amenities at RiverTown.

"Our team is delighted to be celebrating this tremendous Mattamy milestone along with community leaders and partners here

in Jacksonville," said Cliff Nelson, Jacksonville division president for Mattamy Homes. "We look forward to delivering the same exceptional customer experience to the thriving active adult market with WaterSong and know our loyal homeowners are thrilled to have us entering the age-restricted space."

Visit RiverTownFlorida.com for more information.

Veterans honored with patriotic show

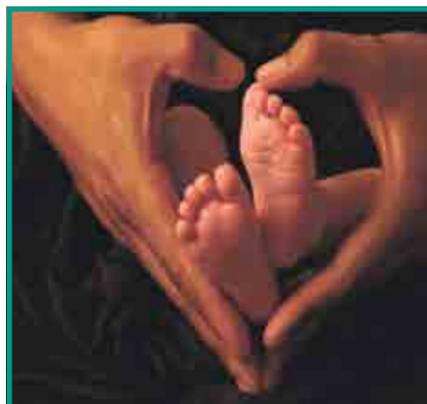
Music and dance trio Letters From Home performed for more than 85 St. Augustineans of all ages at Silver Creek Senior Living Community on Jan. 24. The USO-style show, which honors the sacrifices of veterans and the generations that supported them, featured dancing and music from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Letters From Home travels the country honoring veterans, active military heroes, and their families with the goal of reviving patriotism through music.

"Silver Creek was proud to host such a heart-warming event that celebrated



Photo courtesy Silver Creek
Veterans at Silver Creek Senior Living Community enjoyed entertainment by Letters From Home on Jan. 24.

Briefs cont. on pg. 13



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Briefs cont. from pg. 12

history and music and brought the St. Augustine community together for great entertainment, food and fun,” said Jill Hecker, director of sales and marketing at Silver Creek. “The community enjoyed Letters From Home so much, we’re already planning to invite the show back.”

Bartram Trail Newcomers’ and Women’s Club to meet

The Bartram Trail Newcomers’ and Women’s Club will meet March 12 for



Photo courtesy Laura Hernandez

Bartram Trail Newcomers’ and Women’s Club members Shirley Bodziak, Carla Hernandez, Rose Banham, and Zizi Healy.

a luncheon at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. The reggae band Chillakaya will perform a combination of island style music and upbeat dancehall music. In keeping with the Caribbean theme, floral attire is encouraged.

Lunch choices include shrimp scampi over creamy polenta or southern avocado tuna salad with ranch and balsamic dressing or a vegetarian option of spinach and artichoke enchiladas. Also included is the chef’s choice of appetizers, rolls, dessert as well as iced tea, coffee or soda. A cash bar is also available. The cost is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Hilda Gilpin, 621 Pineland Lane, Saint Johns, FL 32259; indicate entrée choice on the check memo line. Payment must be received by March 5.

On March 22, Bartram Trail Newcomers’

and Women’s Club will take a day trip to the Wine and Seafood Festival at Lake Ridge Winery in Clermont. In addition to the complimentary wine tour, there are other food venues, along with fun and games, live music and a wide variety of craft vendors.

Bartram Trail Newcomers’ and Women’s Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at local restaurants for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups. There are various game groups (Bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg), golf, recipe exchange, monthly special events, book clubs, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and community projects. For club information, contact First Vice President Beth Rosado at bartramtnc@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for more information or to download a membership form.

Oldest performing arts organization in St. Augustine turns 70

A milestone has arrived in the performing arts in St. Augustine, with the St. Augustine Community Chorus celebrating its 70th year/season and hosting a gala benefit and two concerts to honor it in March.

“We are delighted to be at this great age as an organization and continuing to provide relevant, joyful musical entertainment for this city that so embraces music in all forms,” said Lynn Abjornson, president of the St. Augustine Community Chorus. “We love that there are so many talented musicians turning 70 this year including Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Billy Joel, and Lionel Richie — great music is enduring, and singing is a lifelong plea-



Photo courtesy St. Augustine Community Chorus

The St. Augustine Community Chorus is celebrating 70 years.

sure,” she added.

The public can attend one of three events to be part of the festivities: a gala dinner, dancing and silent auction event on March 8 at Riverview Club in St. Augustine Shores; or two concerts on March 16 or March 17 at Lewis Auditorium, all with the St. Augustine Orchestra for this unique shared program.

“I Hear America Singing” is the name

of the concerts which will be jointly conducted by Maestros Mike Sanfilippo and Scott Gregg. The program includes music by iconic American composers such as Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, and Berlin, as well as folk tunes and recently composed pieces. “This program was conceived as a celebration of Americana,” said Mike Sanfilippo, who has been conducting the Chorus since 2015. “I Hear America Singing is also a great theme for our concert, as choral singing continues to be the most popular form of participation in the performing arts in the US, with approximately 12,000 professional and community choruses in the country.” Visit <https://saosaccevents.ticketleap.com/> to buy tickets for the gala and concerts. Visit www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org for more information.

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Gardening

Spring is for pollinators ... and vegetables

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com

Spring has been in the air, but surely temperatures will fluctuate considerably between now and our last potential frost date, around March 20. According to the University of Florida, a mix of cool and warm season vegetables may be planted in February, but early March is safer for warm season crops, although they may still need protection if a frost or freeze is forecast: <https://tinyurl.com/y5z2lyoq>.

By early March we can be confident that honey bees have been working their hives

since early in the year. They have had easy access to our native trees like the pretty eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*), both of which begin to flower in January. When little else is in bloom, flowering trees are vital for honey bees to get their year off to a healthy start; however, if they are well sheltered, some perennials may bloom through the winter.

Native bees are a varied bunch, nesting in the ground, in hollow stems and fallen wood, in leaf or mud nests they construct themselves. They often are solitary, although they may nest near each other. The exceptions are the bumble bees, which live in small colonies with a single queen. This article goes into more detail: <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc6gms>. Different species show up in our yards at different times of the year, and visit different flowering plants, and many of their favorite food sources are native. Some have long tongues, some short, and it's these variations that determine what flower structures they can exploit. For great pictures of some of our native bees, as well as flowers and ready-made nest structures we can add to our yards to attract them, check out this presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/y4y42bhq>.

In early spring, my native spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) attracts honey bees, lazily cruising from bloom to bloom. They produce ample seed, so they can spread too easily, but mulch them in a garden bed

and they can be kept in check, making tidy clumps which can be controlled.

I love dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), which provides a veritable banquet for a huge variety of pollinators, including tiny beneficial wasps and flies. Cut it back as the flowers set seed to avoid lots of volunteers. As the horsemint fades, my blue mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) takes over. This has stunning fuzzy mid-blue to lavender flowers which appeal mightily to butterflies as well as bees: I've seen up to a dozen skippers, Gulf fritillary, and monarchs flitting around a four by six foot patch. It will spread, a bit like mint, so keep it confined within edging.

Many of our vegetables and fruits are pollinated by honey bees, but native bees play a big role too. The blueberry bee is one. Some plants like tomatoes are wind pollinated, but the larger bumblebees can produce a strong, quite loud buzzing sound — a process called sonication — that similarly dislodges pollen. If you grow any food plant that produces fruits, you will benefit from increased production by providing these little wonders with sustenance, water, and shelter.

Check out this publication from the Xerces Society: <https://tinyurl.com/y4yml3xe>. It lists native Florida plants by flowering season: they all support our native beneficial insect populations.

I really have to stress that native bees aren't aggressive and don't sting unless we harass them or accidentally hurt them, and their value as pollinators can't be underestimated.

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Eagle Quills Creative Writing Awards presented

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The second edition of the Eagle Quills Creative Writing Contest, hosted by Timberlin Creek Elementary and sponsored by Zellner Insurance Agency, gave students in third, fourth, and fifth grades the opportunity to let their imaginations fly and compose pieces about subjects of their choice in fiction and non-fiction categories.

The themes of the stories were captivating — including secret agent missions, cast-away adventures, and the value of friendship and kindness. On Jan. 31, the awards were presented by Linda Edel, principal at Timberlin Creek, Michelle Traylor, SAC chair, and Xiomara Spadafora, vice president Zellner Insurance Agency.

Selected winners per grade level were:

Third Grade

- 1st Place: "The Ice Skating Championship" by Ella Vilhelm
- 2nd Place: "Overlord" by Jeffrey Mu
- 3rd Place: "Land of Fairies" by Daisy Torres

Fourth Grade

- 1st Place: "Super Agent vs. the Hypno Soldier" by Srishay Miryala
- 2nd Place: "Wisp's Search for Happiness" by Emily Fitzsimon
- 3rd Place: "The Talent" by Rebecca Tattrie

Fifth Grade

- 1st Place: "Stranded by Selfie" by Sophie Lankarani
- 2nd Place: "Home Is Where the Llamas Roam" by Sophia Hinkle
- 3rd Place: "Connected" by Carissa Reimer



Photo courtesy Xiomara Spadafora
Timberlin Creek Elementary School winners of the Eagle Quills Creative Writing Awards.

Eat, Drink, Shop *Locally*

School Briefs

Timberlin Creek celebrates Literacy Week

Timberlin Creek Elementary kicked off 2019 Literacy Week with a bang. Superintendent of St. Johns County Schools Tim Forson began the week with a visit to the school. He revved up students by reading the first two chapters of Judy Blume's "Freckle Juice."



Photos courtesy Crystal Kelley
Timberlin Creek students with St. Johns County Superintendent of Schools, Tim Forson

Back in the classrooms, students and teachers "popped" open a good book and enjoyed popcorn and "freckle" juice. That same night, Timberlin Creek hosted a Literacy Night. Families enjoyed activities that included talented storyteller Kaye Byrnes, art and engineering projects and character counts skits by Timberlin Creek's BETA Club. Students were inspired to actively engage in learning through literacy.

Liberty Pines Academy update

The Spring Carnival is fast approaching. It will be held at the school on April 5 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and will include bounce houses, food trucks, entertainment and a bake sale. Tickets and wristbands will be available for presale on March 5 and will also be available at the gate. All of the school's community neighbors are invited to attend. Proceeds will go towards improving in-class technology and the purchase of new playground equipment.

Liberty Pines Academy has a very active drama program. On April 25 – 27, the department will present "Mary Poppins, Jr." Many talented students have worked long hours after school to make these characters come to life on stage and behind the scenes. Everyone is invited to come out to support these gifted students.

The Book Fair has been rescheduled from February to March. Keep an eye out for

the exact dates and consider volunteering for this event. Also, Spring Break is right around the corner (March 15 – 24), and then the last day of school before summer will be May 24.

Palencia Elementary plans nautical night for its spring social

It's anchors aweigh for Palencia Elementary on April 12 at the Palencia Club, as the school's PTO presents the Spring Social and Silent Auction. The event, being held for the fifth consecutive year, will have a nautical theme, and is expected to be another sellout and huge fundraiser for the school.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for early bidding to begin, followed by dinner, and a live auction. A live DJ will be on hand to provide entertainment, and guests are certain to enjoy the photo booth, complete with nautical themed props.

As in years past, there will be a variety of items up for bid, at a variety of price points. Typically offerings have included spa and fitness packages, retail and restaurant gift cards, golf packages, tickets to the theater and other cultural and sporting events, as well as gift baskets for everyone in the family from parents to kids to pets. In addition, attendees have the opportunity to bid on exclusive Palencia Elementary experiences, such as the chance for their student to serve as principal for a day, and the private parking space right in front of the school. While most of the bidding will take place during the silent auction, there will be a live auction for some of the higher end items and experiences.

All proceeds from this year's auction will be used to purchase a new play structure and play equipment to expand the existing school playground. The hope is to complete the playground expansion by the start of the 2019 – 2020 school year. Additionally, the school district is paying to add a swing set and build a kindergarten and first grade playground to serve Palencia's youngest students.

In an effort to increase student safety, the end goal is for all playgrounds utilized by students to be on Palencia Elementary

School property and enclosed within locked gates. The students of Palencia Elementary School would no longer utilize the St. Johns County Pirate Ship Park, which is located adjacent to the school, on a daily basis. Usage of the county park and fields would be limited to pre-scheduled special events.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com and space is limited to 100 guests. Email pes.ptosachair@gmail.com if you are a merchant interested in donating items or a business interested in table sponsorship.



Photo courtesy Neeti Gregg
Harper Jacobson, Tre David, Ashlee Dorich, Ansley Jenkins, Jenna Griffin, Ricky Holman and Noah Zimmer celebrated the 100th day of school.

Freedom Crossing Academy students mark 100th day of school

The students in Neeti Gregg's first grade class at Freedom Crossing Academy celebrated their 100th day of school on Jan. 18.

Flyers cheerleaders awarded Grand Champions trophy at state competition

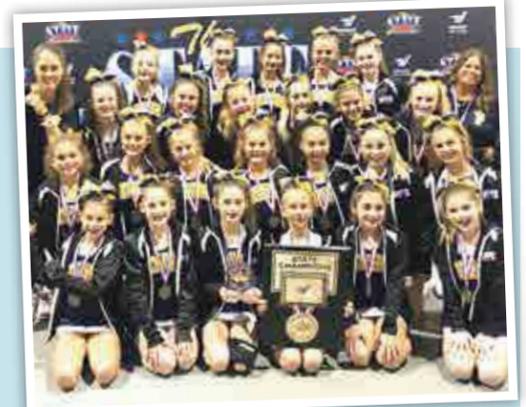


Photo courtesy April Gault

The Flyers cheerleaders, from Fruit Cove Middle School, were awarded first place for the Middle School Large division at the State Cheer and Dance Competition held in Daytona Beach on Jan. 18 – 19. The team also brought home the prestigious Judges' Choice Grand Champions trophy by achieving the highest overall score out of all the school teams competing. "I am very proud of the girls," said Flyers head cheerleading coach Melissa Rousseau. "They worked so hard and put in many hours to achieve this goal. They truly deserve it."

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BTHS Happenings

High school student uses learned skills to save a life

By Delaney Cantrell
mail@floridanewslines.com

Bartram Trail High School student Herbie Steigelman recently found himself in the public eye for his extraordinary courage shown on Dec. 1. Steigelman was in Tampa with his soccer team for a United States Soccer Development Academy Showcase, where teams showcased themselves in front of college coaches and team scouts from all over the nation. Upon returning to the hotel from breakfast one morning, Steigelman and two teammates walked into a frightening situation: a woman was lying on the ground unresponsive, presumably having a heart attack. Steigelman immediately felt the need to help. He began performing CPR on the woman and directed others to get things she may need while he was doing compressions. This went on for about 10 – 15 minutes until the paramedics arrived and took the woman to the hospital.



Photo courtesy Herbie Steigelman
Herbie Steigelman

Extremely nervous, Steigelman was eager to hear how the woman was doing. He received an update later in the day on her status. She was in a medically induced coma, but was stable thanks to Steigelman's help. A week after the event, he called the hotel to receive another update and was pleased to hear that she was awake and recovering.

When asked if he was able to stay calm during the situation, Steigelman said, "Yes, much more calm than I thought I would have been. Although it was an overly stressful situation, I did my best to keep my cool and do everything I possibly could to help."

Steigelman will attend the University of North Florida in the fall to study business management and musical technology and production. He will play soccer for their Division 1 program.

"This event was absolutely life-changing to say the least," said Steigelman. "To see the value of another human's life in your hands and being able to help someone who is as special as her. A mother, a daughter, and a friend to many. I was just happy to be in the right place at the right time. And I want to thank the unsuspecting CPR trainer who has no idea what impact he had on someone's life, and that his work does not go unnoticed."

To many of the spectators in the hotel lobby, the sight of a teenager resuscitating an unconscious woman may have come as a shock. Steigelman became CPR certified in the summer of 2017 while training to become a lifeguard at a local community pool.

"If you asked me the day before this happened, I would maybe be able to vaguely tell you how to do CPR, but when my adrenaline kicked in, all the information came flooding back to me in an instant," said Steigelman.

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Bryan Jones

By Martie Thompson
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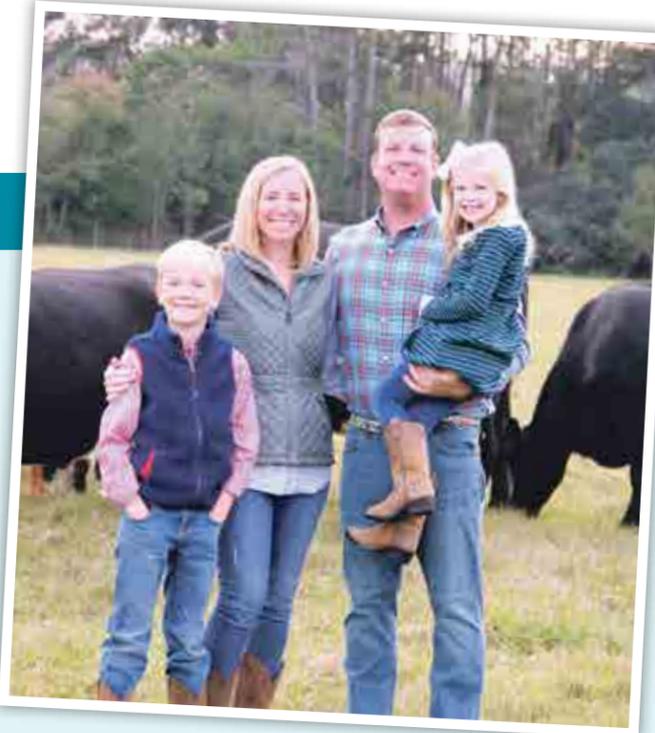


Photo courtesy Bryan Jones
Bryan Jones and family.

Bryan Jones is a seventh generation Floridian who was born in the old Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine. He grew up in the area and attended Episcopal High School in Jacksonville, where he met his now-wife, Burton. They live in St. Johns Golf and Country Club and have two young children who attend Liberty Pines Academy. Jones is a third generation farmer and current president of the Putnam/St. Johns County Farm Bureau.

Q: How did your family get started in farming?

A: My grandfather, David, began farming in Mandarin in the 1950s and moved to St. Johns County in the 1960s. Over the years, he and then my father amassed the approximately 1,000 acres in the County Road 214/ County Road 13 area that we farm today.

Q: What crop do you grow and can you tell us about your farming schedule?

A: We have approximately 1,000 acres of potatoes, the bulk of which goes to Frito Lay. We take about a month to plant in the January time frame and then start harvesting the last week of April, through May, until about the first week of June. In the summer, we grow a cover crop, sorghum, to soak up the nutrients and then we cut it up to break the nutrients back down into the soil. In the fall, we plant approximately 100 acres of green beans.

Q: What do you like about living in St. Johns Golf and Country Club and why don't you live on the farm?

A: I get this question all the time. We love living where we do. When I come home from the farm, I call our neighborhood "Pleasantville." The (County Road) 210 Bubble is a wonderful place to be. We have fantastic neighbors and our two children have so many options for play. I love being around people and being a part of a community.

Q: What can you tell us about the Florida Farm Bureau and your role with the organization?

A: I am currently the president of the Putnam/St. Johns County Farm Bureau and I serve on the Fruit and Vegetable Board and the Oversight Committee for the state organization as well. Locally, the Farm Bureau is all about agriculture education in the community. I'd like to have a garden in every school in St. Johns County and then expand into Putnam County. We need kids to understand that food doesn't just come from the grocery store. My children help on the farm on the weekends and understand that in order to eat, we have to work. I am grateful for the Farm Bureau for the advocacy and the education they bring to the community, state and nation.

Society of St. Andrew cont. from pg. 1

"We always need volunteers," Rood said.

In addition to citrus gleaning, which requires volunteers to pick fruit from trees, bag it and then take it to a distribution center, volunteers are also called upon to harvest cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Rood said these crops are more labor intensive and require volunteers to bend while cutting the produce, and then throw the produce into a wagon. He estimates that most gleanings take between 90 minutes and three hours and the peak time is December through the end of May.

"In addition to small individual farms, we also partner with the UF test field," Rood said. "We have a large cabbage gleaning scheduled there soon. All of the food gleaned is fit to eat and we take it to either the Mandarin Food Bank, Mandarin Presbyterian Church, St. Francis House in St. Augustine or Dining with Dignity in St. Augustine, among others."

Rood said the work is very fulfilling, but can be physically demanding and he is appreciative of all the volunteers. Some are individuals who feel called to help out, while others are church and high school groups in search of a noble group activity and community service hours.

"Here are some staggering numbers that often, people don't know: As a country, there are 55 million people who do not get three meals daily and a lot of these are children. There are 144 billion pounds of food a year that gets thrown away. We try to get as much of the food that is going to waste to the people who need it. That's why the Society of St. Andrew and the volunteers exist," Rood said.

Rood said that volunteers can sign up in a couple of different ways for gleanings at times convenient for them: visit the Society of St. Andrew website, www.endhunger.org, and sign up online, or call Larry Rood directly at (904) 738-1190. Volunteers must sign a liability waiver and gleaning locations are not publicized so that random people don't show up at a farmer's field outside of scheduled gleaning times.

"I have a passion for this," Rood said, "and I am always looking for others who do, too."

Q: What would you like people to know about farming?

A: Most people don't know that there are 50,000 – 70,000 acres of agriculture right in their backyard in St. Johns County. The overall economic impact of agriculture to our county is about \$190 million. There is a wide range of people who feed us, but nationwide, only 1 percent of our population are farmers. I'd also like for people to know that farmers are truly stewards of our environment.

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewsline.com

We have made it to spring, and the time of year that fishing everywhere begins to take off. Creeks, lakes, ponds, the river, the Intracoastal Waterway, the jetties, and the beach will all almost simultaneously start firing up with some red hot fishing in celebration to the end of winter.

The largemouth fishing folks love spring as that is when bass fishing will be at its finest. After a winter of lethargic and dormant behavior, largemouths greet the returning warm weather hungry and ready to eat. Every body of freshwater around, from neighborhood ponds to the St. Johns River, will be offering up the some best and easiest bass fishing of year. Spring "bassin" not only provides a better chance for the trophy bass you've always hoped for, but it's also the best time of the year for the kids to catch their first bass off an artificial bait.

While freshwater fishing is beginning to heat up nicely, you can expect much of the same for saltwater. Arguably some of the best surf fishing of the year arrives with the advent of spring. Once those surf temperatures begin to reach 60 degrees and above we can soon expect our annual onslaught of whiting to invade our beaches. Tasty, and easy to catch, fishing for whiting is something the whole family can do. Also running with the whiting, bluefish will be fun to catch — followed by pompano (a local favorite) a little later in the spring.

If you've got a boat don't forget the spring run of giant black drum at the lower end of the St. Johns River and parts of the Intracoastal Waterway stretching all the way to St. Augustine. This yearly event offers huge black drum that can easily exceed 50 pounds in weight. Clams, crabs, and shrimp are



Photo courtesy Kaytie Hanson
Duane and Michelle Hanson (pictured) caught some nice Red Fish on live shrimp on the Intracoastal Waterway south of Palm Valley on Jan 2.

Fishing cont. on pg. 19

Answers to puzzles on page 20

Answers

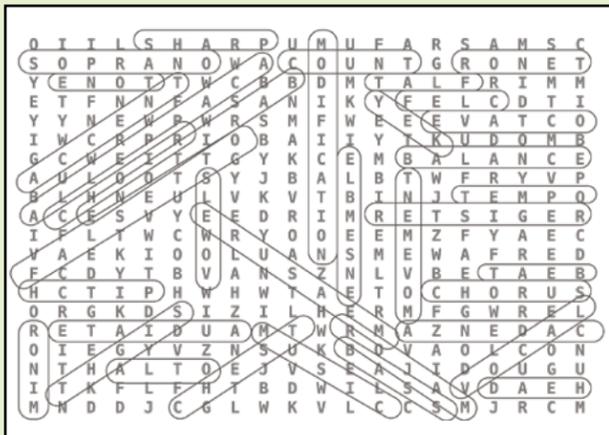
to our Puzzles



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. dribble B. hoop C. guard D. points



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Fishing cont. from pg. 18

most commonly used for bait. Fishing deep holes and troughs is where you will usually find these monsters with the best bite occurring at night. Often these drum can be located by anglers by listening for the drumming noise they are known to make.

Just outside the jetties or fishing from the Jacksonville Beach Pier, our near shore ocean waters will also participate in spring time activities with a Spanish mackerel run. Shortly following this run will be the much anticipated cobia run. Cobia, looking much like sharks when seen in the water, commonly run 20 to 50 pounds, are terrific fighters, and taste great cooked any number of ways.

Check your tackle, dust your gear, 'cause fishing time is really near.

Fishing Report: Best bet is springtime bass and surf side whiting or both.

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

Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.

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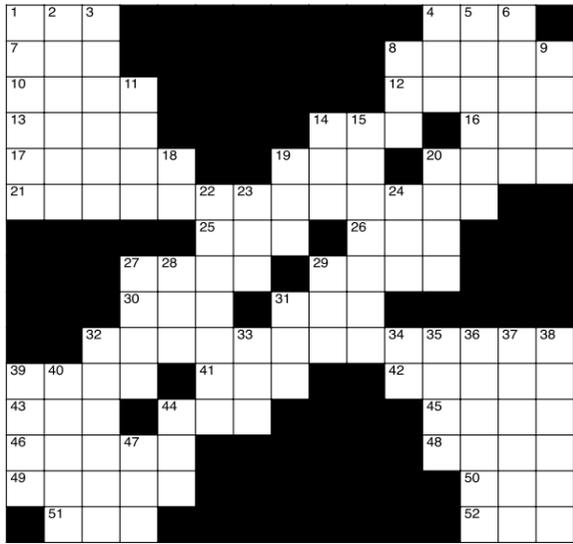
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Puzzles

Answers on page 18
Provided by MetroCreative



- 1. Employ
- 4. Not a starter
- 7. Matchstick game
- 8. One who receives a gift
- 10. One shows highlights
- 12. Open sore
- 13. Within
- 14. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 16. Investment account
- 17. A negatively charged ion
- 19. Immoral act
- 20. Cheek
- 21. Lacking in vigor or vitality
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Ink
- 27. "Mad Men" actor
- 29. A taunt
- 30. Single
- 31. A very large body of water

- 32. A configuration of stars as seen from the earth
- 39. Herringlike fish
- 41. No (Scottish)
- 42. White-breasted N. American auk
- 43. American time
- 44. Adult female
- 45. Singer Horne
- 46. Pronouncements
- 48. From a distance
- 49. Indian term of respect
- 50. One from Utah
- 51. Never sleeps
- 52. Type of bulb

- 4. Fifth note of a major scale
- 5. Written in a majuscule script
- 6. Brews
- 8. Misfire
- 9. Amounts of time
- 11. The act of perceiving something visually
- 14. Female sibling
- 15. First
- 18. Sodium
- 19. Brother or sister
- 20. Satisfy
- 22. The lands of an estate
- 23. Antiballistic missile
- 24. Taxi
- 27. Covers the engine
- 28. Commentator Coulter
- 29. Mousse
- 31. Witness

- 32. Unlikely to be forgotten
- 33. Bar bill
- 34. Morning
- 35. City south of Moscow
- 36. Highly incensed
- 37. Intricately decorated
- 38. Drew closer to
- 39. Beers
- 40. Central China city
- 44. Touch lightly
- 47. Habitual twitching

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hard to believe
- 2. Used as a pigment in painting
- 3. Induces vomiting



Solve the code to discover words related to basketball.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 17 = e)

A. 14 19 20 23 23 24 17

Clue: Bounce ball

B. 8 6 6 5

Clue: Net

C. 18 21 16 19 14

Clue: Block or protect

D. 5 6 20 1 15 11

Clue: Score

CHORUS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- A CAPPELLA
- ACCENT
- ALTO
- AUDIATE
- BALANCE
- BARITONE
- BASS
- BEAT
- CADENZA
- CHEST
- CHOIR
- CHORUS
- CLEF
- COUNT
- ENSEMBLE
- FALSETTO
- FLAT
- HEAD
- KEY
- MAJOR
- MEASURE
- MINOR
- MODIFICATION
- MOVEMENT
- MUSIC
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Second annual Givers Gala celebrates philanthropy

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

In a ballroom overflowing with 250 donors, advocates, and volunteers, United Way of St. Johns County staged a celebration of generosity, leadership and philanthropy that resulted in nearly \$150,000 being raised. Opening the evening with the message that "together, we can do so much more," United Way Chair Bobby Crum presided over the second annual Givers Gala on Jan. 25 at the new Embassy Suites in St. Augustine Beach.



Photo courtesy United Way of St. Johns County

"Like you, I am passionate about the causes I support, whether it is through our churches, our children or through United Way of St. Johns County. Tonight, we salute you because each of us here in this very room knows the impact of the giving spirit of our community," said Vice-Chair Beverly Slough to the assembled guests.

Slough then rallied the crowd to raise \$75,000. Instead the supportive group responded by nearly doubling her goal.

Florida State Senator Aaron Bean, acting as the celebrity auctioneer, drew the crowd in during the live auction, which featured unique auction items that ranged from a personalized beer brewing experience to a trip to Cuba. When he asked the crowd to raise their auction

paddles to signify a donation to United Way, the crowd was surprised to see not one or two, but three \$5,000 contributions start the giving.

Just as the program was ending and the band broke into the perennial favorite "Celebrate," Crum and Slough shared the success of the evening.

"Many people in the room made tonight possible, and so much of the work that we do at United Way, possible," said Crum. "On behalf of our board of directors, I would like to celebrate each and every one of you. Together, we can do so much more!"

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| MARCH 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| M          | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|            |    |    |    | 1  |
| 4          | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

- 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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**Explore Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewline.com

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, sounded like one of those classic resort towns that a travel writer, like me, ought to know. So, I hopped a flight and began to explore. I came home with plenty of reasons to encourage others to visit, and I'm seriously considering a personal return next summer. It's my kind of place.

Lake Geneva's grand waterfront awed me and felt so relaxing, yet the place initially was called "Maunk-suck" (Big Foot) for a Potawatomi chief, and then later named Geneva after the quiet town of Geneva, New York. The destination was eventually identified as Lake Geneva to avoid confusion with the nearby Geneva, Illinois.

Attracted by the fresh air, clear lake and scenic vistas, the community prospered and grew. Chicago's wealthy businessmen started going there to hunt and fish. The Midwest's great moguls, like Wrigley, Kellogg, Maytag and beer baron Conrad Seipp, liked it so much, they built opulent summer homes. A rail line opened in 1871 bringing more people to the area and it gained the nickname "The Newport of the West."

Then, in October 1871, Chicago suffered its Great Fire, an event that oddly benefited Lake Geneva. Numerous families escaped the burning city on the train and stayed through the winter waiting for city homes to be rebuilt. While life in the big city slowly resumed, the Chicagoans cherished memories of summering in Lake Geneva and kept returning. Even today, about 80 percent of the summer residents have roots in Chicago.

You'll find Lake Geneva's old-fashioned main street about 80 minutes from Chicago, and 45 minutes from Milwaukee.

Boutique shops, non-chain restaurants, coffee shops and bars do a brisk business. Fall foliage, Oktoberfest, a winter ice sculpture extravaganza, and of course, ice fishing keep the pace going year-round.

No trip to the region is complete without a guided cruise showcasing the spectacular lakefront mansions. The script from the cruise line sounds like it was lifted from the show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." You need only look at the yachts and boathouses to see the owners' rank among the country's highest tax brackets.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander

Black Point Estate family until 2005, much unchanged, until it was gifted to the state. (Group tours via ferry boat or motor coach only.)

If returning, I'd choose to stay in either the Baker House or Maxwell Mansion, two historic downtown properties. They are ideal for couples or a girls' getaway. The boutique hotels with gardens feel magical, flaunting their Gilded Age glamour. The homes include fire-lit parlors, period dining spaces and enticing bars. The Maxwell House even sports a basement Speakeasy Lounge. Should you stay elsewhere, make reservations for champagne brunch, high tea or dinner at one of these inns.

If you are headed toward Wisconsin, don't miss dipping your toes in glorious Lake Geneva. For more information: [visitlakegeneva.com](http://visitlakegeneva.com)

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



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