Northwest set to gain fire station in new year

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

With population growth comes the need for additional county services and in early 2020, St. Johns County plans to open its newest fire station — Station 19 on Veterans Parkway near the corner of Race Track Road.

“"The construction project has been on-going for about four months,"” Deputy Chief of St. Johns County Fire Rescue Jeremy Robshaw said. “"Our goal for completion is late winter/early spring of 2020.”

Despite a slight delay due to the projected track of Hurricane Dorian, the Bartram Trail Branch Library reopened at 60 Davis Pond Blvd. on Sept. 6. The 14,980 square foot library had been closed for the summer to make needed repairs to the sprinkler system. All fire sprinkler pipes and fixtures throughout the building and library exterior were replaced. Because this project addressed the entire building’s fire suppression system, it was necessary for the branch to remain closed to staff, volunteers, and patrons through its duration.

Librarian Chett Wood explained that the fire suppression system, which uses no water, was updated. The system uses non-flammable and non-conductive nitrogen instead, and basically pulls oxygen from the room and replaces it with the nitrogen, which then smothers the fire.

""Probably the biggest visible change is to the pipes,"” Wood said. “"If you look up at the ceiling, they used to be white. Now they are a gold color and blend in better with the wood."”

Wood said that during the closure, everything in the library was securely wrapped and covered and left in place except for the mobile collection they took to the temporary coverings, updated computers and processed collection materials before re-opening the library to the public.

Many library programs were continued during the summer at temporary locations, but Wood said the regular program schedule will begin again at the library beginning on Oct. 1.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, there is a wide range of programs—from American Sign Language class with Creekside High School students at 10:15 a.m. to Read to Rover with beginning readers practicing reading to certified therapy dogs at 11 a.m. to a new program, Dungeons and Dragons, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Gentle yoga and meditation is offered in the Bartram Room at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 18. A family event, Bingo for Books, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to add a new book to their personal collections. The Crafty Women will meet on Friday, Oct. 25 at 10:30 a.m. to build a library tote bag. Registration for this event will open on Oct. 4, visit the Reference Desk or call (904) 827-6960 to sign up. Programs are sponsored by the Bartram Trail Friends of the Library. Visit www.sjcpfl.org/branches/bartram-trail to check out activities and programs for the entire month.

“We are super excited to have the library reopened and have our programs back in our facility,” Wood said. 

Coast's football builds program with “Work to Win” attitude

By Heidy Brosofsky-Weaver
mail@floridanewsline.com

Creekside football has been reborn with the arrival of head coach, Sean McIntyre.

So, what turned this program around? ""The seniors realized the program's potential, and the team started winning more,"” senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us want to work harder in practice and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us want to work harder in practice and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us want to work harder in practice and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us want to work harder in practice and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. "“Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us understand that we can really be good if everyone plays as a team,"”}

Tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. ""Coach teaches us that as a team, we can work to get what we want,"” the senior admires McIntyre's work ethic and said the team does not want to disappoint him. ""He always wants the best for us, and he sees more potential in us than we see in ourselves,"”

"Coach Mac has taught us to play hard the whole game and not quit,"” said senior quarterback Quinn Seiger. ""He makes us understand that we can really be good if everyone plays as a team,"”

Tight end Shane Calhoun agreed. "“Coach teaches us that as a team, we can work to get what we want,"” the senior admires McIntyre's work ethic and said the team does not want to disappoint him. "“He always wants the best for us, and he sees more potential in us than we see in ourselves."”

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3D mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) is approved by the FDA and is quickly becoming the standard of care for breast cancer screening. Because it’s a newer technology, 3D screening mammography is not available at all screening facilities – but it’s available at Baptist Medical Center South.

3D screening mammography is different from a 2D mammogram:
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- 2D mammograms take one picture across the entire breast, in two directions: top to bottom and side to side. Unclear or suspicious findings from 2D views can increase the need for additional imaging and also lead to more false positives.

3D mammography is designed to overcome these limitations. 3D imaging technology moves in an arc around the breast to take X-ray pictures from many angles in seconds. A computer quickly assembles the pictures to produce clear, highly focused 3D images. This allows the radiologist to view the entire breast, layer by layer, for a more accurate screening — especially important for anyone with dense breast tissue or patients with an increased risk of breast cancer.

Ask your doctor to recommend a facility that offers 3D mammograms. Or simply contact Baptist South, now offering easy-to-schedule appointments for 3D screening mammograms.

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3D mammography is designed to overcome these limitations. 3D imaging technology moves in an arc around the breast to take X-ray pictures from many angles in seconds. A computer quickly assembles the pictures to produce clear, highly focused 3D images. This allows the radiologist to view the entire breast, layer by layer, for a more accurate screening — especially important for anyone with dense breast tissue or patients with an increased risk of breast cancer.

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Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest? Email editor@FloridaNewsLine.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

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Around Town

Oct 10
Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 6655 AIA S., St Augustine
www.stjohnsaudubon.com

Oct 12
Friends of the Library Book Sale
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library
(904) 827-6960
Family seining
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road
(904) 823-4500

Oct 14
Hurricane Dorian make-up day for St. Johns County Schools
School is in session
Northwest United for Progress Club featuring a Get-Out-The-Vote kickoff with Blue Wave Coalition
Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7 p.m.
2777 Race Track Road
nnwjcc@gmail.com
Living with Lung Cancer Support Network
6 p.m.
Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.
RSVP: (904) 860-5522

Oct 15
Happy Hookers crochet group
6:30 p.m. – 9 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

Oct 21
All Star Quilt Guild general meeting
10 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or
(904) 735-1056

Oct 25
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
2019 Branded Breakfast and Awards
8:30 a.m.
Sheraton Jacksonville, 1 World Golf Place
www.sjchamber.com/events/details/branded-2019

Oct 26
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-7:
Boating Safety course
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
NE FL Regional Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way
http://abs.mysafeboating.com

Through Oct. 31
River of Life Pumpkin Patch open
Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
2600 Race Track Road

Oct. 1 - Nov. 5
Free Quit Smoking Now Class
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Flagler Health+Wellness Center
Call Florida AHEC to register
(904) 482-0189

Oct. 2
Jacksonville Camera Club
6:45 p.m.
Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6696 Columbia Park Ct.
www.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

Oct. 3
First Coast Newcomers Club Dinner/Trivia evening
6 p.m.
Julington Creek restaurant
RSVP (904) 829-0643

Oct. 4
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
(904) 827-6960

Oct. 5
World Golf Village Toastmasters
8:30 a.m.
World Golf Village Toastmasters Club
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla
6:30 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals
10:30 a.m.
St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 1221 State Rd. 13
www.stpatrickskepticopa.org
First Coast Card Club – Lunch/cards
1:30 p.m.
Off County Road 210; private room
RSVP: (904) 829-0643

Oct. 6
Current Events Discussion Group
10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
Amelie’s Annex, 625 Market St, Palencia
adsilby@yahoo.com

Oct. 8
Bartram Tuesday Book Discussion: “The Wilf Between Us” by Greer Hendricks
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
(904) 827-6960
Bartram Trail Newcomers’ and Women’s Club luncheon and fashion show
11 a.m.
Maggiano’s Little Italy (Town Center), 10367 Midtown Plaza.
RSVP by Oct. 1: bartramtncc@gmail.com
FAFSA Workshop
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
(904) 827-6960

Oct. 10
Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
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Q: What are some of the exemptions that are available?
A: First is the homestead exemption, which carries a $50,000 reduction in assessed home value. To qualify, you must live in your home as your primary residence on Jan. 1, 2020.

Also available is the Low Income Senior Exemption. If a homeowner is 65 years of age or older, with an adjusted gross income of $30,174 or less, they qualify for a total exemption for the portion of the year in which they are deployed. Additionally, families with a surviving spouse of a veteran who died from an injury related to military service may qualify for a total exemption.

Military veteran, $5,000
Totally and permanently disabled veteran’s homesteads may be totally exempt from taxation.
Homeowners who are 65 years or older and have combat-related injuries may qualify for a total exemption.
Surviving spouse of a veteran who died in combat while on active duty may qualify for a total exemption.
Service members who are deployed during the year may qualify for a total exemption for the portion of the year in which they are deployed.
Totally and permanently disabled fixed responders, if the disability occurred in Florida, may be totally exempt, as would their surviving spouse.

Q: Do you have any tips for navigating whether one qualifies for an exemption or not?
A: As you can see, there are a lot of specific exemptions, more than we can go over here. My best advice is if an individual thinks they may qualify, please call our office. I am constitutionally mandated to make sure citizens receive every exemption to which they are entitled. An additional request is please don’t wait until the last minute.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?
A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Street in St. Augustine. We are 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.

Q: What can you tell us about what the county is doing regarding the recent beach at Summer Haven from Hurricane Dorian?
A: We approved $700,000 to fill the breach in the dunes at Summer Haven. The Florida Inland Navigation District has money from the Army Corps to dredge in the area, but the sand is supposed to go elsewhere. As we have before, we are going to work with them to try to put the sand where we need it at the Summer Haven breach in the area of the Old A1A, which has been deeded to St. Johns County as an access road serving approximately four to six homes. This is the third time we have had to spend money to shore up this area.

I’d like to hear from people: should we be spending money — by legal decree because we have to maintain the public right of way (Old A1A) — for homes that are possibly not now inhabited or are inhabitable due to damage from Hurricane Matthew? I’m trying to find the best use of our funds, not just spend money because we have done so in the past.

Q: Do you have an update on the MSTU that was contemplated for Ponte Vedra Beach residents as a source of local funding for beach renourishment in that area?
A: I would like to hear from the public about this issue as well. Previously, Ponte Vedra Beach residents requested a special taxing unit known as an MSTU to help pay for beach erosion. The Board of County Commissioners approved the establishment of the MSTU and the millage and provided for it to be funded in the next fiscal year; it would have been on the tax rolls for these homes (approximately 300 homes). In September, the board voted 3 – 2 to basically undo the second part and withdrew the millage funding. Therefore, the $700,000 that would have been paid for by the residents and their MSTU was withdrawn instead from the county’s general fund.

Keep in mind that this money is only to identify sources of sand for the beach. I’ve been told that to have a managed beach system similar to Jacksonville Beach would cost, on average, $1.5 million – $2 million per mile of beach. I want to make sure I’m hearing from the majority of our constituents as to how best to use funds that are available to us.

Q: Can you comment on the county’s legislative action plan for this year?
A: It is much the same as last year and transportation is a priority. The First Coast Expressway remains number one on our list. We did receive funding for one leg of the 312 bypass around St. Augustine; this is a huge project and will need to be funded over time.

Q: Are there any other new transportation projects you can share?
A: The new bridge over the St. Johns River to replace the Shands Bridge will begin construction in 2021. Funding is approved and soon we will see 20 – 30 years of conversation turn to active construction.

Under consideration as a new idea is a new east-west corridor linking US Highway 1 near the St. Augustine Airport to Interstate 95, to include an interchange on Interstate 95. This would literally take years to come to fruition, but it’s important to get citizens’ ideas at early stages. We want to focus on areas supported by the community.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 1?
A: Several healthcare facilities are in the works for the Northwest, in the approval and permitting stage, due to the density of homes and quality of the workforce here. This has a couple of benefits: a closer commute for healthcare needs and new, high income jobs for citizens in the area.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?
A: Readers can email me at ACC1JJohns@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 615-7437.

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Q: What is the latest on the new High School HHHT?
A: We are still on track to open in 2021. At our recent (mid-September) work-shop, the school board was presented with the proposed academies. Our focus is for the future — highly skilled, high wage occupations in high demand. The three academies will be Health and Wellness, with a focus on ambulatory care; Emerging Technologies with a focus on artificial intelligence; and Construction Management with a focus on innovation in building environments. During construction we need to plan to provide a learning space that will best enhance these academies.

Q: Have you seen what the school will look like?
A: The architect has presented us with renderings and the school is so beauti-

Q: What can you tell us about the issue of student safety on Longleaf Pine Parkway?
A: Students on the north side of Longleaf Pine Parkway have to be bused into a Memorandum of Understanding for them to cross Longleaf. This affects 5,866 students. We’re going to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the county to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Mahogany Bay Drive/Sheridan Drive at Longleaf Pine. We expect it to be completed before the beginning of next school year.

Q: Can you give us a budget update?
A: We just had a special board meeting to approve the final budget, which will be $792,464,705 this year. This is the total budget, which includes general funds and capital projects. We also approved the millage for next year, which went down .0142 mills to 3.888 mills due to legislative requirements.

Q: Has the school district determined the weather days from Hurricane Dorian?
A: October 14, originally a teacher planning day, will now be a school day and count for one make up day. We provide more instructional time per day than needed and we were able to capture some of the averaging for the ad-

Also, I’d like to make sure people understand that the reason we didn’t open the schools after the hurricane until Friday was because six of our schools were shel-

Q: How can our readers contact you?
A: They can email me at beverly.

They can email me at beverly.

Q: How can you tell us about the area surrounding the new proposed school?
A: It’s on functionality, safety and security. It will be state-of-the-art, especially the auditorium. It will be all new, especially the auditorium.
Q: What are you busy with at the Supervisor of Elections office this fall?
A: We are getting ready for our voter education programs in high schools. Annually, we go to each high school in the county and target the senior class for our presentation. We offer voter education and voter registration on site. Some students can pre-register at 16 years of age and then when they turn 18, they can vote immediately. We offer these programs throughout October and November. We also go to St. Johns River State College and other colleges.

Q: What do you cover?
A: We go over the importance of voting with a focus on the 2020 elections. A lot of our senior students will be voting for the first time in 2020. We like to address two classes at a time in an auditorium, but we also go directly into classrooms with our presentation. We talk to the students and allow them to ask questions and we try to clear up any misunderstandings.

Last year, we went to the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind too. We take our ADA-compliant ExpressVotes election equipment and let the students have a hands-on opportunity to vote and see how easy it is.

Q: Do you hold other voter drives outside of high schools?
A: Yes, we also do community events. We bring awareness of the 2020 elections and get people prepared to vote with our voter registration drives. On Oct. 19, we will be at the Nocatee Farmers Market. We try to visit areas all over the county.

Q: How can people find out where the voter registration drives are?
A: We have them listed on our website. If a civic or neighborhood group wants to schedule our office for a voter registration drive, all they need to do is call or email us. Let us know the date and location of the event and we will be happy to come out.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?
A: Readers can email me at voakes@votecj.com or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, www.votecj.com also has a wealth of information.

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He was born in 1919 outside Knoxville. It is doubtful that the farm boy from Tennessee ever met a Jewish person prior to enlisting in the Army as a private. He enlisted at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., in March 1941, before Pearl Har- bor, before the U.S. entered World War II. He served for the entirety of the war. Along the way he rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and was in France after D-Day when his unit, part of the 106th Infantry Division, was overrun during the Battle of the Bulge. He and many of his brothers in arms were captured by the Germans.

That is how Master Sergeant Roderick “Roddie” Edmonds found himself as the senior non-commissioned prisoner of war in Stalag IX-A. Unlike the mov- ies, officers and enlisted personnel were normally held in separate camps by the Nazis. Stalag IX-A contained nothing but non-commissioned officers. Master Sergeant Edmonds was the ranking non-com in the camp, a camp that held 1275 American soldiers.

In January 1945, the Kommandant of the Camp, an SS officer named Major Siegmann, ordered Edmonds to have all the Jewish prisoners fall out for roll call the following morning. Edmonds realized that if he complied with the odious command, he might well be signing the death warrant for approxi- mately 200 Jewish prisoners, all of them members of the U.S. Army. The next morning it was bitterly cold. Edmonds ordered the whole camp to fall out.

Seeing all the prisoners standing in formation, Major Siegmann approached in a furor and bellowed, “They cannot be Jews!”

In a furor and bellowed, “They cannot be Jews!” in a furor and bellowed, “They cannot be Jews!” in a furor and bellowed, “They cannot be Jews!” in a furor and bellowed, “They cannot be Jews!”

Edmonds’ heroic response, “We are ALL Jews here,” still brings goosebumps. The jack-booted Aryan was infuriated. He repeated his command for Edmonds to segregate the Jews under his com- mand. Edmonds refused citing the Geneva Convention. The enraged Nazi then pulled his Lug er pistol and placed the barrel against Edmonds’ forehead and repeated his demand. At that point, Roddie Edmonds of Knoxville, Tennessee performed one of the bravest acts of man ever committed.

“You can shoot me,” he told the frowning Nazi, “But if you do, you are going to have to shoot all of us because we know who you are and you’ll be tried for war crimes when we win this war.”

Major Siegmann, an SS Officer, a man used to terrorizing the weak, holstered his weapon and stormed off with his tail between his legs. The remaining Nazi prisoners, all of them Jewish- Americans, G.I.s were saved from near certain death.

Edmonds’ story was not told for decades. Like many of his generation, he was quiet about his experiences during the war. It was not until long after his death that he was recognized for his bravery by the State of Israel in 2015. Bills seek- ing award of his Medal have stalled in Congress for more than three years.

Roddie Edmonds is a poignant reminder of the fact that we are always stronger when we stand together.

Scott A. Grant is a local author, historian, columnist, and speaker. He is President of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scotty@standfast.com.
Relief agencies are still scrambling to provide aid to victims of Hurricane Dorian, but St. Johns CARES (www.stjohnscares.org) has not lost sight of our own residents who have ongoing needs. For instance, there are disadvantaged female adolescents in our public school system who cannot obtain feminine hygiene products that would allow them to attend school regularly. They also do without toiletries and bras. Impoverished adult women suffer the same privations, and may miss work or important events because they lack these items.

In affiliation with I Support the Girls (www.supportthegirls.org), an international charity providing aid to females in disadvantaged populations, school districts, and disaster relief sites, St. Johns CARES is devoting the month of October to alleviating these needs in homeless or underserved women and adolescents in our county. We are asking individuals and clubs for donations listed below:

- Whole or partial boxes of feminine hygiene products (each item must be individually wrapped)
- One-quarter mile of new or gently used bras laid end to end. All sizes accepted.
- Hotel or sample size toiletries

Donations may be dropped off at businesses, boutiques, and spas that specialize in female clientele and where you see our poster, such as The Pink Nickel in Fruit Cove. Visit www.stjohnscares.org for a complete list of donation host sites. For monetary contributions are welcome and will be used to purchase additional feminine hygiene products:

- Mail a check to St. Johns CARES, Inc. at 450-106 State Road 13N #165, St. Johns, FL 32259. Indicate the donation is for I Support the Girls.
- To pay securely by credit card, click the Donate Now button on our website, www.stjohnscares.org. Earmark the payment for I Support the Girls.
- Donations will be distributed through the ASSIST (Aid and Support for Students in Sudden Transition) program (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/homeless) and through We Support the Girls.

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A former high school wide receiver, McIntyre took the helm at CHS after serving 12 years in coordinator positions at Bay-side, Mandarin, and St. Augustine high schools. During that time, these schools won a combined four district titles and eight playoff games.

McIntyre says his coaching philosophy has evolved through the years, incorporating ideas “from the great people I’ve worked with.” This includes his late father, Coach Tom McIntyre, who has a football stadium named after him at Melbourne High.

Although McIntyre makes no qualms about wanting to win every game, he doesn’t measure success by winning and losing. “We don’t train to beat somebody else, but to be the best version of us,” he said. “If we play to the best of our capabilities, it doesn’t matter what else we can do.”

An American Government teacher and graduate of the University of North Florida, McIntyre stresses five foundations for success: toughness, work ethic, commitment, caring, and attitude. “These are all things that I myself and every kid on our team can control.”

His believes these foundations help players “be successful in every aspect of life.” In turn, they become better teammates, students, sons, and brothers — and eventually better husbands, fathers, employees, and leaders.

Running back Jalen Hines appreciates the way his coach gives us a lot of leaders. “He believes these foundations help players “be successful in every aspect of life.” His says. “If we play to the best of our capabilities, we can control.”

Although McIntyre has coached many players, he is dedicated to making sure “every kid who puts on a helmet is cared about.” He adds that’s how’s to be working with a leadership team, including principal, Steve McCormick, and athletic director, Luke Marahell, who are supportive and genuinely care about students.

Another crucial part of his team is his wife, Maegan, who is the “head coach” of the family and who encourages the players. “She cares about our boys and our success and allows me to be away from our family for many hours throughout the year,” said the father of son Connor (age two) and daughter Paeton (10 months).

Although McIntyre has coached many sports, he said there’s nothing like Friday night football and school spirit. “The band, the cheerleaders, the full student section … the excitement and magnitude of these games can’t be replicated.”

Coach Sean McIntyre with the Creekside team at a game.
Fall Festivals!

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Halloween takes place during a time of year characterized by earthen-colored chrysanthemums, leaf-lined walkways and crisp autumn air. As colorful as the costumes children wear for trick-or-treating may be, nature's beauty is unsurpassed this time of year, and the scores of pumpkins, gourds and squashes on display only add to that colorful melange.

The Cucurbitaceae family may be best known for pumpkins, squash and gourds, but there actually are 800 species that belong to this family. While they share many of the same properties, these fruits each have their own unique attributes.

The main differences between squashes, gourds and pumpkins is their intended purposes — whether they're ornamental or edible.

Squash: Squashes come in summer and winter varieties. Winter ones do not actually grow in the winter; in fact, they're harvested in late summer and early fall, but the name references the hard shell casing that protects the tender pulp inside. Zucchini are summer squash because their outer flesh is tender, while butternut, acorn, spaghetti, and hubbard squashes are winter squashes because they feature a tough skin. Even though it takes some effort to crack that shell, the dense, nutrient-rich flesh inside is well worth the workout.

Gourds: Gourds are essentially ornamental squashes; they aren't cultivated for eating. Instead they are bred to look beautiful and unique in autumn centerpieces.

Types of gourds include autumn wing gourd, warted gourds, turban gourds, and bottle gourds. Each gourd is unique in its shape and color.

Pumpkins: Pumpkins come in ornamental and edible varieties. Even though all pumpkins can be consumed, some taste better than others. Small pumpkins tend to be decorative because, according to Nutritious Life, they do not have enough meat inside to make them worthy of cooking; however, sugar pumpkins are best for baking and cooking favorite recipes, states the resource Pumpkin Nook.

October 13, 2019 | Time 11:am to 6:pm
On Oct 11 there is a fall Special Cash bingo! Doors open at 6:15 for bingo. Bingo starts at 7:00 pm at the Cody Center. You must be 18 years to come to bingo. We will have the blood bank at the Fall Festival if you want to donate blood.

For discount tickets sales or for more information call or text Vincent at 904 742 8777 or email vaterlizzi@gmail.com

Sunday, October 13, 2019 | Time 11:am to 6:pm

Great food
Bounce Houses
Lots of new games
Carnival Style Booths
Pony Rides
Door prizes
Attractions
On Oct 11 there is a fall Special Cash bingo! Doors open at 6:15 for bingo. Bingo starts at 7:00 pm at the Cody Center. You must be 18 years to come to bingo. We will have the blood bank at the Fall Festival if you want to donate blood.

Make a Difference in Seniors' Lives

Join the team at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek and help put a smile on someone’s face. Enjoy a competitive salary, great benefits and an awesome work environment at our active senior living community in Jacksonville! We are seeking Certified Nursing Assistants, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses for Assisted Living and the Health Center. Full-time and part-time positions are available with shift differential pay and incentives for staff. Positions in Dining and Housekeeping are also available.

Come to our on-site job fair to learn more:
October 9 from 2 to 5 p.m.
25 State Road 13, Jacksonville, FL 32259
(904) 287-7300

Call or visit us online to learn more:
www.WestminsterCommunitiesFL.org/careers

Westminster Woods on Julington Creek

www.WestminsterWoodsFL.org
25 State Road 13, Jacksonville, FL
Bobbing for apples is a game that has been around for centuries. An autumn tradition often associated with Halloween and other fall festivals, the concept of bobbing for apples is, according to History.com, rooted more in romance than Halloween trickery.

As a British courting ritual, young ladies and their potential suitors would vie for certain apples to land a potential mate. Eventually, the tradition faded into obscurity. But apple bobbing was reinvented in the Americas when immigrants introduced the game to children and adults during Halloween parties.

Recently, apple bobbing has fallen out of favor again, with parents lamenting the unsanitary conditions and potential spread of germs, not to mention the hazard of drowning. Thankfully, there are various alternatives to apple bobbing that can still make for an exciting Halloween game.

Hanging Apples: Rather than putting apples in a barrel full of water to float, tie strings to the stems. Then hang each individual apple to a clothesline. Without using their hands, participants must eat the majority of the apple of their choosing. Apples can be replaced with other treats, such as doughnuts.

Fishing for Apples: Attach a magnet to an end of string tied to a stick to make a fishing rod of sorts. Cut out paper apples and adhere something metallic to the cut-outs, such as paper clips. Kids take chances fishing out their selections. Each cut-out earns a player a prize.

Candy Catch: Participants line up holding a small receptacle, such as a cone-shaped party hat turned upside down or a small plastic pumpkin. While an adult tosses candy into the air, the children try to catch it in their containers.

Apple Toss: As a variation on a beanbag game or ring toss activity, players can aim a plastic apple or pumpkin into a hole or barrel. Red ping pong balls tossed into canning jars or plastic cups can work as well.

Bobbing Twist: Party hosts can still float apples in a bucket of water, having participants bob in a different way. They can try to scoop apples out with a small spoon or two chopsticks. Let imaginations reign supreme while keeping germs out of the apples.

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com
Briefs
Scam phone callers, again
JEA call center representatives are receiving hundreds of reports from customers who say they’ve been contacted by someone threatening disconnection of service unless instant payment is made with a gift card. These scammers have called local residents and businesses, pretending to be JEA employees who will shut off service if the payment isn’t received within 30 minutes. JEA warns customers to recognize the scam:
- The caller will tell customers that their bill is delinquent or that the utility meter needs to be replaced
- The customer is given a short time-frame, usually 30 minutes, to pay the entire bill
- The payment instructions include going to Walmart, Winn Dixie, CVS, Walgreens or a similar store to purchase a “MoneyPak” payment card or gift card for a specific amount, and then calling back with the pin number to prevent their service from being disconnected
- “JEA wants customers to recognize, avoid and report the scam,” said JEA spokeswoman Gina Kyle. “JEA will never demand that you purchase a gift card and give card information to a scammer.”

Current Events group reaches milestone
In the first week of November, Current Events will celebrate its fifth year bringing people together each week from throughout the State of Augustine and Jacksonville community to discuss news items that are in the news. Since it began in fall 2014, Current Events has attracted neighbors who share an interest in discussing the news and enjoy sharing their opinions and interpreting those events.

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“What makes Current Events unique is the atmosphere of congeniality and civility that pervades and enables people to discuss news items without being judged. Without that congeniality and civility, there is no room for ‘voice and argument’ in the News Information Cycle.”

Mr. G. R. F. Fleming, president of JEA Utility Management Services, will be the featured speaker on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, and Hall of Fame wide receiver and three-time Super Bowl champion Jerry Rice will speak on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. The series will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Florida Forum Series speakers announced

Presented by The Women’s Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children’s Hospital, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric healthcare regardless of ability to pay. Serving as 2019 – 2020 co-chairs of the Speaker Series are Heather Moseley, Anna Neal and Dearing Thoburn. Visit www.thefloridaforum.org or call (904) 202-2886 for tickets or additional information.

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The Creek October 2019
Page 14

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New Store Opening
Sunday Oct 6th
12 – 4pm
It’s really no surprise that AyoLane Halusky is a St. Johns County Naturalist; his parents were both people in the natural world. His father, Joe Halusky, was a Marine Extension Agent for IFAS/UF and his mother, Marilyn, was a Duval County Extension Agent for 4-H. The family was always out in nature. Halusky grew up in Fruit Cove and attended Julington Creek Elementary for kindergarten through sixth grade and then Nease for seventh through 12th grade. He graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a bachelor of fine arts degree specializing in metal-smithing. He said his personal mission is to build kinship with the Earth, which motivates deep connection with the local environment, sensitizing people to take on an active role in creating positive life journeys and communities. He is single and lives in Elkton.

Q: What did you do after you graduated from college?
A: I travelled all around the United States working with kids in trouble with the law as part of a reality therapy program that involved taking the kids out into the wilderness for 31 days. It was not behavior modification, but rather helping kids find and redirect themselves and set their own goals. I did this for seven or eight years as far north as Pennsylvania and as far west as Colorado. Eventually I moved back to Florida to work for the University of North Florida, where I moved back to Florida to work for the University of North Florida, where I

Q: How did you come to be a St. Johns County Naturalist?
A: Our family friend, Beverly Fleming, told me about the county naturalist position and since she knew me since I was very young, she was sure I would be a good fit. She recommended me for the position. I interviewed and got the job in 2013.

Q: What do you like best about being a naturalist?
A: I feel like my duty is to reconnect people to the outside world. My “secret agenda” is to provide the opportunity for people to have emotionally charged, positive experiences in nature so they have a heart anchor for the experience that connects them to nature. I lean towards “kinship” versus “stewardship” when talking about the natural environment and I feel like we need to be in a relationship with our natural world.

Q: Is there a St. Johns County Parks and Rec program that is of particular interest to you?
A: I’ve started a new multi-part program called “904 Naturalist” for the department, which balances the left and right brain as it pertains to nature. When you think about it, most of nature and what is taught in naturalist classes is memorization and science (right brain). I think the arts need to be added (left brain.) For instance, famed naturalist William Bartram was emotionally connected to the environment. He was an artist and a poet. Attendees in the 904 Naturalist program will keep a handwritten journal and go out in nature and sit and watch and listen and experience. The purpose is to be outside. Participants will have work to do on their own, too — both experimentally and research.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?
A: It’s hard for me to separate my mission on this earth and my life. I enjoy building kinship with the earth and helping others wake up their senses. So that’s what I do all the time. I just get paid for it 40 hours a week and don’t get paid for the rest.

Get to Know . . .

AyoLane Halusky

Marinela M. Nemetz, D.D.S. Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Robert J. Nemetz, D.D.S., M.S. Adult Dentistry | Periodontics | Prosthodontics

We are in-network providers with Metlife, Delta, Cigna, United Healthcare and most other PPO Plans.

Marinela M. Nemetz, D.D.S.
One of Bartram Trail’s stellar academic students not only spends his time with his studies, but he also has a heart for helping animals. Senior Michael Guyot has volunteered with the St. Johns County Pet Adoption Center for more than a year and has now decided to spread the cause to the grounds of Bartram.

Guyot has spent the last four years devoted to his academics, which has paid off with him being at the top of his class. He is involved in many clubs such as National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Medical Club and is president of the National Hispanic Honor Society. Guyot, however, decided to take his impressive resume one step further this year.

“I started volunteering at the St. Johns County Pet Adoption Center last spring with a friend,” Guyot said.

They would go almost every weekend and visit with stray dogs and cats. This summer, he continued to volunteer but wanted to do more.

“I thought of how I could involve other people in this aspect of my life. I decided to start a school club in order to connect other students to the local humane societies and give them opportunities to spend their time giving attention to strays that really need it,” he said.

The BTHS Humane Society Club’s first year at Bartram will be led by Guyot and will be available for animal lovers to join. While the planning is still in progress, Guyot said that he hopes to be able to bring students to the shelter and see what it is like to volunteer there first hand. He also plans to host donation drives for items needed by local humane societies.

When asked his biggest goal for the year, Guyot said, “I hope to involve more people in our local humane societies. These shelters depend on volunteers for entertaining the animals and I hope that people will see that their time will go a long way for these animals.”

He also hopes that those who are apprehensive about shelter dogs will find that not all are overly aggressive like they are often portrayed. He hopes that by the end of the year, more people will choose to adopt rather than buy from a breeder.

For those interested in volunteering at the St. Johns County Pet Adoption Center, their main duties will be to play with the animals.

“If they are feeling brave, they could also give one of the animals a bath,” said Guyot.

Guyot hopes to continue volunteering at local shelters after graduating from high school. If there is not a humane society club at the college he chooses, he hopes to start one there as well. He plans to attend the University of Florida to major in biomedical engineering with minors in both Spanish and social disparities in medicine.

Guyot’s main wish is for people to understand the needs of these animals.

“Even though volunteering for the humane society is emotionally draining at points (wanting to take all of the dogs home to a better place), it has been one of the most rewarding things that I have done throughout my high school experience,” he said.
School Briefs

FASFA Workshop scheduled

The Bartram Trail Branch Library is hosting a free FASFA/Aid Workshop on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. at the library, located at 60 Davis Pond Blvd. The FASFA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and every student who applies to college must file the FASFA. Colleges use this document to determine your child’s financial aid and scholarship packages. If you have a teen who will be entering college in the next couple of years, this is a great opportunity to learn about financial aid. Suzanne M. Evans, Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs from St. Johns River State College, will give a presentation on financial aid and the FASFA process, as well as provide information about grants and different types of student loans. Don’t wait until your student is a senior to familiarize yourself with the FASFA and why you have to fill it out. Call the library at (904) 827-6960 for more information.

Creekside High School PTSO seeks members

Creekside High School’s PTSO has been granting for a fantastic year. On Aug. 5, the group hosted a welcome back breakfast for teachers and on Aug. 16, the senior class was celebrated with a kick-off breakfast. As this edition of The CreekLine goes to press, the Sept. 20 Homecoming Carnival is on the horizon. In addition to planning fun and informative activities, the PTSO helps advance initiatives such as “Be The Best You,” a personal success program designed to inspire and educate students to make good decisions and cultivate the six Pillars of Character. The PTSO also helps fund capital projects and has purchased 3D printers, water filtration systems, bike racks, books and supplies for special programs. This year, the group plans to fund a sun shade over the outdoor amphitheater.

Creekside families who join the PTSO provide much of the support for these activities; membership fees and the employer matching gift program are the largest fundraisers of the year. Anyone can join and easy online enrollment via the Creekside PTSo website at www.chsptso.org. There are incentives to join at each of the levels and anyone who joins by Oct. 3 is entered in a drawing to win special prizes.

Business owners are encouraged to become sponsors or participate in one of the upcoming events. Meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the professional library conference room, just off the main library. Visit www.chsptso.org for more information and upcoming events or email Juliana Keaton, vice president of membership, at Keaton.Moritz@comcast.net.

Palencia Elementary School welcomes new staff

As Palencia Elementary School grows, there is often need to add new educators and staff to the Pirate Family. Among the new educators and staff this year are four individuals who will serve all of Palencia Elementary’s 875 students.

Audrey Holz is stepping up to the helm of the 4th Grade as an instructional assistant principal. She joins Palencia Elementary from Valley Ridge Academy, where she most recently served as the instructional literacy coach. Prior to that position she taught fourth grade at Dubbin Creek Elementary School. Holz graduated from Flagler College in 2008 with her bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

Audrey Holz was a senior to familiarize yourself with the process, as well as provide information on financial aid and the FAFSA. Suzanne M. Evans, Director of financial aid and scholarship packages. If you have a teen who will be entering college in the next couple of years, this is a great opportunity to learn about financial aid. Suzanne M. Evans, Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs from St. Johns River State College, will give a presentation on financial aid and the FASFA process, as well as provide information about grants and different types of student loans. Don’t wait until your student is a senior to familiarize yourself with the FASFA and why you have to fill it out. Call the library at (904) 827-6960 for more information.

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Florida Elite U-14 girls win Presidents Cup

The 2005 Girls NPL from Florida Elite Soccer Academy won the Southern Presidents Cup in Round Rock, Tex. this summer. Their record was 5-0 for all games played, scoring 14 goals and allowing only four throughout the tournament. They played teams from Alabama, Oklahoma, Tennessee and North Carolina before playing against Texas in the final game. Juanita Ramirez scored eight goals and won the golden boot for the U14 girls age group. Pictured are Emma Leary, Juanna Ramirez, Riley Phillips, Taunya Villacorta-Baur, Evian Berg, Emily Anderson, Danielle Netem, Sofia Tintel, Coach Mark Forrester, Olivia Bori, Chloe Illiff, Jesse Dodd, Lily Clarke, Taylor Worbington, and Whitney Wheeler.

Nautilus Behavioral Health

We offer therapy and assessments for children and families ages 3-24

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It’s been a few years since we’ve had a decent shrimping season. With a decent shrimping season comes some prime time fall fishing. Reds, trout, flounder, and sheepshead become the biggest targets of local anglers, with a nice variety of other species out there to still add to the cooler.

Salinity levels in the St. Johns River are one of the main contributing factors that help determine the quality and length of the annual shrimp run. Usually too much rain caused by an overactive rainy season, or too much rain dumped all at once from a passing tropical system can reduce the river’s salinity levels to a point where shrimp and their predators leave our area waters for those a little salter.

Weather conditions this summer (and now officially fall), have been very cooperative. Hurricane Dorian spared us from heavy rains, and the cooler.

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Travelers head to Florida for sunshine and world-class beaches. We local enjoy the nearby Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra beaches, but TripAdvisor’s list of Top Beaches for 2019, 2018 and 2016 gives Clearwater Beach on the Gulf Coast the number one ranking. Here’s why you should consider making the four-hour drive, especially off-season.

Sink your toes into sugar white sand that’s as soft as powdered sugar and doesn’t burn your feet. The Gulf Coast owes much to the Appalachian Mountains for the steady flow of quartz crystals they send downstream and to the rivers that replenish the smooth, soft white beaches all along the Gulf Coast.

Applauded named, Clearwater boasts clean, turquoise water, warm even in winter at temperatures that’s as soft as powdered sugar and doesn’t burn your feet. The Gulf Coast owes much to the Appalachian Mountains for the steady flow of quartz crystals they send downstream and to the rivers that replenish the smooth, soft white beaches all along the Gulf Coast.

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A wide-open beach and the Beach Lifeguard Station offers especially-built beach wheelchairs.

Although the main draw remains the inviting, family-friendly beach, visitors find plenty to do, with water activities and fun adult water toys abound- ing. Spend a morning or afternoon on rental jet skis, stand-up paddleboards or kiteboards, available at the main marina or at hotels. Look into the variety of boat-

Clearwater Aquarium dolphins.

ing and fishing charters. 

Save time for a stop at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the set for the 2011 movie “Dolphin Tale,” starring Harry Connick, Jr., Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman. 

Another actor, however, stole that show. The film tells the story of Winter, a bottlenose dolphin who lost her tail, but was saved by researchers who created her a prosthetic one. Winter’s story of survival spawned a 2014 sequel, “Dolphin Tale 2.”

This Winter added to the many visitors the other winter already brought, providing funding for a massive expansion due for completion in 2020. The Aquarium showcases other rescued animals, a petting tank, and educational shows — but don’t be surprised to spot Winter swimming without her tail. Apparently, it tires her out — she can’t wear it all day long.

Catch a dolphin cruise for up-close views of dolphins and manatees in the wild. Choose from a variety of vessels — a family-friendly daytime cruise (with booze), a boat looking like a giant shark with open jaws, or a pirate ship. The Aquarium’s Sea Life Safari includes a naturalist who describes sea creatures from a net pull, then releases them.

Kids and adults love to search for more than 200 six-foot dolphin sculptures painted and displayed around the city on the Clearwater Dolphin Trail.

Capture sunset at the Pier 60 Daily Festival (milder than the one in Key West) — she can’t wear it all day long.

Great getaways include great food, and Clearwater Beach offers a variety of locally owned, non-chain restaurants. Don’t miss tasting some grouper while in the “Grouper Capital of the World.”

My favorites included breakfast at Crabby’s, lunch at Badfish’s, Coote’s or Pearly’s, and for a fancier night out, The Beachcomber.

Visit Clearwater Beach and see why it was named Top Beach.

Visit www.bylandersea.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander’s stories and travel tips.

Clearwater Beach is a great place for a stroll.

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- Sports/school physicals
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We are excited to announce the arrival of,
Raquel Perez APRN,
in Mid-September
Hope Floats is gearing up for the 2019 – 2020 fundraising season to benefit THE DONNA Foundation. Hope Floats and its members have raised more than $65,000 in support of THE DONNA Foundation. Through the Donna CareLine, this investment becomes more than $325,000 of debt relief and services to families living with breast cancer.

Hope Floats will hold three events this year:

Oct. 5 – 7: Ultra-marathoner Marc Burget, husband of Hope Floats vice president and survivor Christina Burget, will attempt to run the distance of the trench that goes around the Death Star — 312 miles to stomp out breast cancer. The community is invited to join in the festivities; runners, walkers and pod racers are all welcome. This event will be headquartered in a Mandarin neighborhood located at 11537 North Ride Circle East. Marc Burget holds many records; he won the 26.2 marathon in 2018 and 2019. He holds the record to win the Donna 110 ultra marathon in 2016 and he later went on to set his personal record last year. For the fastest Donna 110 and actually broke his personal record last year. The event will be rain or shine and will be an afternoon filled with family fun, food and friendship, featuring live music, signature pink cocktails, beer, all you can eat barbecue, face painting, balloon art, and a silent auction. The cost of the event is $12 in advance or $20 at the door. Adult beverage tickets are just $5 or $1 for water and soda.

The last event of the season will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2020. This is the third annual Shop Our Closets at Remax, located in Mandarin at 12646 San Jose Blvd. This event is a fashionista’s dream come true and begins with an optional two-hour VIP Sip & Shop. Attendees may shop the hottest trends and classic women’s gently pre-owned fashions during the VIP Pre-sale ($10 charge in advance/$20 at the door), while nibbling on some light bites and sipping mimosas or sangria. The sale is open to the public from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. No item is priced more than $20.

For more information, visit Hope Floats Jax on Facebook, email hopefloats-breastcancer@gmail.com or call (904) 657-9376.

Hope Floats announces upcoming fundraisers

By Kerri Henderson
mail@floridanewsline.com

North Business Council welcomes Linda Stoughton

At the Sept. 17 meeting of the North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber, attendees heard speaker Linda Stoughton of the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center, who covered how the country prepared for Hurricane Dorian, including a discussion of evacuation zones, emergency disaster kits and general hurricane preparedness for citizens. The North Business Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Visit www.sjcchamber.com for more information. Pictured are Holly Guyton, Linda Stoughton, and Donna Lueders, North Business Council vice chair.

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