

NEW



The CreekLine

Serving the St. Johns County Community

APRIL 2020 Volume 1 Issue 3

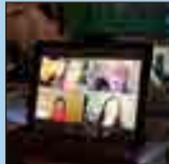
INTERNATIONAL GOLF PARKWAY EDITION

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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BFF Best Furry Friend



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Social distancing and caregiving



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Get To Know ...
Dr. Jacob Vencil



page 12

Puzzles

Websites to keep you entertained

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

While families are spending more time inside as a result of the virus pandemic, there is really no shortage of fun and interesting websites to explore from the comfort of your home. Check out these suggestions — who knows? You might learn something new, or at least be entertained for a little while.

San Diego Zoo webcam: <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Metropolitan Opera free opera streams: <https://www.metopera.org/>

Jacksonville Public Library digital library (must have library card): <https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/digital-library>

St. Johns County Public Library e-content (must have library card): <https://sjcpls.org/econtent/>

Virtual Learning Activities - Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex: The education team at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex will share daily Facebook Live video experiences as well as shorter segments that will each pair with an at-home activity, covering topics such as living in space and on Mars, tours of Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Astronaut Training Experience, Rocketry 101, and more. Hands on activities will involve everyday items that can be found around the house, such as using straws, paper towel tubes, and rubber bands to build and launch a rocket.

Websites cont. on pg. 11

St. Augustine Wild Reserve acquires new jaguar cubs

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Born in November 2019, new jaguar cubs Rio and Diego were presented to the St. Augustine Wild Reserve from a jaguar conservation group. Deborah Warrick, founder and CEO of the St. Augustine Wild Reserve, said she promised to use the two brothers for educational purposes, which is why she was allowed to take possession of these highly threatened cats. There are only about 15,000 jaguars left in the wild.

“Rio is our spotted jaguar, while Diego is our black jaguar, known as the melanistic color phase, which occurs due to a genetic mutation,” Warrick said. “Such a mutation causes the fur and skin to contain large amounts of dark pigments. Black jaguars prefer rainforests, since the dark foliage enables them to blend into the dark shadows of the forest.”

Jaguars are normally found in South America, and also range through Texas and Arizona. Their spots are called rosettes, and appear to be “spots within spots.” They are the largest cat in the

Americas, and are the third largest cat in the world, just under the tiger and lion; they can weigh as much as 250 pounds.

Jaguars love to swim, much like tigers. They fish in rivers and also capture large crocodilians, biting deeply into their skulls, delivering a killing bite. (Other cats kill by biting the necks of their prey.) They even dunk their tails into water sources, luring fish. The name “jaguar” originates from the Native American word “yajuar,” which means “he who kills with one leap.”

Warrick shared the following coronavirus updates from the St. Augustine Wild Reserve:

Now more than ever, we can use the donation of supplies for our animals, including monetary donations. Our tour operation has diminished considerably in the wake of this novel virus that is sweeping not just our nation, but the world. To protect our staff and guests, we sanitize



Photos courtesy Deborah Warrick

Rio the spotted jaguar and Diego the black jaguar

everything, including our guest chairs and our limo cart, used to ferry handicapped individuals around the animal compound on tours. We offer hand sanitizer to our guests upon arrival and departure, and will be offering masks, once our order is shipped to us.

This is an open-air compound and is always breezy, so we are less likely to contract a virus if we practice proper sanitation and social distancing. Guests are encouraged to stay at least six feet away from other guests. We hope that more visitors will book a tour with us through booked.com/tigertours. Our tours are appropriate for children and adults. If you cannot

St. Augustine Wild Reserve cont. on pg. 10

Nease NJROTC is best in northeastern Florida and state of Georgia

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

For six consecutive years, Nease NJROTC travelled to Georgia in search of the Area-12 State Academic, Athletic and Drill Championship. And for the sixth year in a row, the 40-cadet varsity team returned home to Ponte Vedra as the Area-12 champions — the top program of the 60 schools from Atlanta to Jacksonville.

With six straight state championships, Nease established itself as arguably northeast Florida’s most dominating high school championship program.

Nease competed against the top 16 Navy high school JROTC drill teams in Area 12, which includes all of northeastern Florida and the entire state of Georgia. Sixty NJROTC programs competed at local drill meets during the fall and winter with the top 16 advancing to the state championships. Nease earned its berth by winning first place at each of its qualifying competitions at Mandarin, Terry Parker,

and Sprayberry, Ga., high schools earlier.

“This group is the hardest working team we’ve ever put together,” said Captain Scott LaRochelle, senior naval science instructor. “The senior leadership is extraordinary.”

In addition to winning the overall championship, Nease claimed first place in Personnel Inspection, Overall Drill (sweeping all five drill events), Armed Exhibition commanded by Ethan Wissel, Unarmed Exhibition commanded by Genevieve Jacobi, Armed Basic commanded by Forrest Vosburg, Unarmed Basic commanded by Elkhan Bagirov and Color Guard commanded by Lindy Gostage; Overall Athletics, Team Situps, and the 16x100 Relay.

Cadet Emellee Neff earned an individual medal for the top female in sit ups with 317. Cadets Isabella Rivera, Kaitlyn



Photos courtesy Scott LaRochelle

Drill Team Commander Dylan Dosio and Executive Officer Isabella Rivera receive the first place trophy for Personnel Inspection at the Area-12 Drill Championships in Douglas, Ga.

Boggs, Reef Hamilton and Brogan Donnelly also earned medals for top five in female or male sit ups. Cadets Yuan Tian, Abigail and Amber Vidler earned medals for top five in pushups. Cadet Ben Prohofska placed in the top 10 in academics.

“Winning Area-12 was a milestone for us,” said Cadet Ethan Wissel. “Our goal is the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships. “We don’t simply want to go this year; we intend to do damage.”

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Free subscription valid in existing mailed ZIP codes only.

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\$24 (\$2 per month)

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Other _____



Dear Friends:

We hope you enjoy your monthly edition of The CreekLine.

Each month, we do our best to provide our readers with timely, accurate community news, focused on the things that happen in our neighborhoods, including coverage of education, features on engaging community members, and events that touch us here, where we live. We see it as our role to highlight the good things that are happening in our community, and to shine a spotlight on the many wonderful volunteers and organizations that might otherwise go unrecognized.

However, as a family-owned, independent newspaper company, we face many challenges. The cost of paper and postage continue to rise and the local businesses whose advertising makes up more than 95 percent of our revenues are facing an unprecedented challenge as a result of Covid-19.

To help us continue to bring the community a compelling community news product, we are asking for your support.

Please consider for a moment the value you receive: from the news, features, sports, commentaries, and marketing materials each month in your community newspaper. Is that worth \$2 a month to you? Or

\$4? Perhaps more? If so, we are asking you to help support us so that we can continue to provide this community service for many years to come.

Your Basic Subscription to The CreekLine remains free, but if you see the value and have the ability, we are asking you to consider Enhanced Support with a contribution of \$24 (less than 50 cents per week), \$48 (less than \$1 per week), or any other amount you feel is appropriate.

Regardless, we really need your support to keep publishing and delivering this newspaper!

Even if you can't support our efforts financially, by filling out the form below, you may help us qualify for significant discounts from the U.S Postal Service. All we need is some necessary information and your signature stating that you are requesting a three-year free subscription to The CreekLine.

As always, we welcome your feedback. If there's anything we can do to improve your reader experience, please contact me at publisher@floridanewline.com.

Sincerely,

Mark Pettus, Publisher

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Victor!



BREED:

Pitt bull mix

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Sleeping and having people pet me

FAVORITE TREAT:

Chicken

FAVORITE FRIEND:

Finn

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:

When we rescued him this was the name he was given and we kept it.

This month's sponsor:

Palencia Pet Clinic
159 Palencia Village Dr #101
www.palenciapetclinic.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!
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.

MAY's Special Section SUMMER CAMP

Ad Deadline is APRIL 20

Call 904-886-4919 NOW to reserve your advertising space!



MAP OF LOCAL TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY

Visit www.floridanewsline.com to see our convenient map of local establishments providing take-out and delivery services during the coronavirus shutdown.

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to Westminster St. Augustine in World Golf Village. Our winner was Debbie Brinsfield. Congratulations!

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Support your community businesses!

To our readers: Remember all the local small businesses that you've asked for years to donate and sponsor your organizations, sports clubs and school events? Right now, they're in need of your support.

Return the favor.

Answers to puzzles on page 12

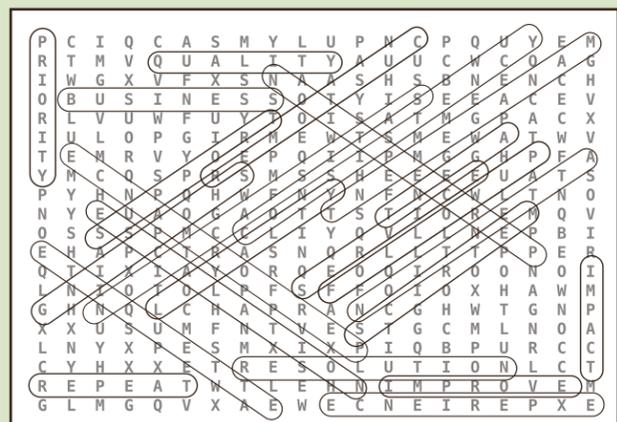
Answers

to our

Puzzles



Answers: A. patron B. retail C. purchase D. client



We are going to plant seeds for...  ...radishes, herbs and flowers.  Kids: color stuff in! 

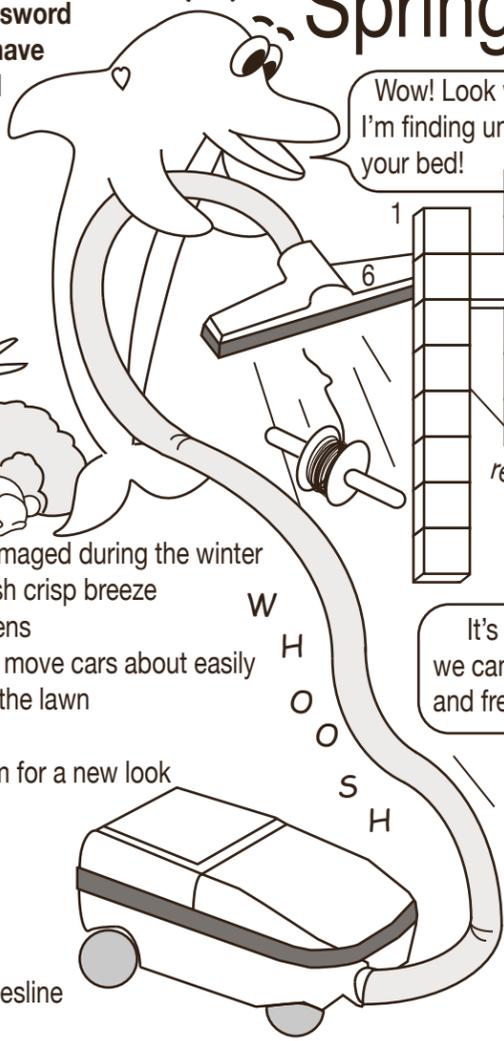
Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com  Annimills LLC © 2020 V16-13 

There are many jobs to be done after a long winter. People in the city, town and country all do spring cleaning and chores based on their needs. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword with chores. How many of these jobs have you seen people doing? How many did you help to do?** (Hint: use a pencil to fill in the clues below first. This is tricky!)

- _____ messy closets
- _____ your warmer weather clothes that have been in storage
- _____ seeds so you can watch things grow 
- _____ flowers to give the house some color 
- _____ sidewalks that have gathered sand and dirt
- _____ fences that have been damaged during the winter
- _____ out your house with a fresh crisp breeze
- _____ storm windows with screens
- _____ driveways so that we can move cars about easily
- _____ the overgrown grass on the lawn
- _____ weeds from the garden
- _____ the furniture in your room for a new look
- _____ the dust out of rugs
- _____ soot from the chimney
- _____ the overgrown bushes
- wash and _____ the car
- _____ clean the dirty carpet
- _____ laundry to dry on a clothesline

It's Time for... Spring Cleaning



Wow! Look what I'm finding under your bed!

It's that time of year when we can open the windows and freshen everything!

A good spring cleaning after winter is almost a pleasure to complete. Then, once our homes are in order, we are ready for sunny, warm summer.

Yikes!

Have you ever heard of "slang"? It is a way of talking that is a little different from the standard English in books. For example, if I say, "Boy, we really cleaned up at the garage sale," I am telling you that we made a lot of money, not that I put away all the things we had for sale.

Can you match these slang expressions to their meanings?

1. clean sweep	<input type="radio"/>	A. to stay out of trouble
2. clean out	<input type="radio"/>	B. to win everything
3. clean hands	<input type="radio"/>	C. innocent, has done nothing wrong
4. come clean	<input type="radio"/>	D. to take everything, empty
5. keep one's nose clean	<input type="radio"/>	E. confess, tell the whole story

Can You Clean Up These Messes?

How many of these DUST KITTIES did I find under your bed? Look around the whole page. Put your answer in the biggest bubble.

What things might you use to clean up? Can you find these items in the scrub brush and circle them?

vacuum cleaner brush ladder rake
 paper towels pail broom mop
 trash barrel soap water hose
 hedge clippers wax rags sponges

SOAP

Busting Dust!

Little, fluffy, grey balls of dust found under the couch or behind the door are called "**dust bunnies**" or "**dust kittens**." We are usually made up of skin cells, hair and tiny pieces of dirt. To people, we can be a nuisance. We sometimes block air filters, get into computers or just gather together under your furniture. We can make people sneeze! **Read each numbered word or phrase below. Next, choose the correct definition by circling the letter "A" or "B."**

1. dust	<input type="radio"/>	A. tiny pieces of dirt, skin, hair	<input type="radio"/>	B. tiny flower seeds
2. dust bunnies	<input type="radio"/>	A. bunnies that clean your house	<input type="radio"/>	B. little clumps of fluffy, grey dust
3. an item is "collecting dust"	<input type="radio"/>	A. isn't being used anymore	<input type="radio"/>	B. putting dust into a bag
4. the flies "bit the dust"	<input type="radio"/>	A. died	<input type="radio"/>	B. ate dust for their lunch
5. the lead runner left the others "in the dust"	<input type="radio"/>	A. was far ahead of the others	<input type="radio"/>	B. knocked other runners into the dirt
6. I'm going to "dust off" my hobby box	<input type="radio"/>	A. put the box into the closet	<input type="radio"/>	B. take it out of storage to use again
7. when she works she "makes the dust fly"	<input type="radio"/>	A. she works with lots of energy	<input type="radio"/>	B. the dust balls jump into little airplanes

or

Eek!



Get the facts

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Dear Readers,

You will notice that this issue of The CreekLine looks different from even last month's issue in many ways. The world has changed in the past few weeks and we, like you, are trying to make sense of it and adapt to whatever "normal" is now.

In this issue, we dispensed with our "Around Town" calendar section as well as the enhanced event listing, "Take Five," two staples of our newspaper that we know are much anticipated by our readers. In their places, we are adding some resource information for you to stay abreast of the rapidly changing landscape brought on by COVID-19. As a monthly publication, it is just not possible for our printed issues to contain up-to-date information in this regard, so as we often do with important matters such as state and local elections, we are providing you with the resources to check out trusted information yourself. See "Get the Facts" on this page.

Additionally, in this issue we have included a few activities for children and adults to do at home. From coloring pages to new recipes to try to directions for sewing masks and gowns for use by our local hospitals, there is something to keep all ages entertained for at least a little while as you social distance and stay home. We've also included tips from a local teacher for homeschooling/distance learning as well as an online resource for caregivers. Be sure to check out our listing of entertaining websites to give you a feel for the outside world while you are inside.

But at our very roots, The CreekLine is a community newspaper — and so we have included a variety of the "good news" community stories that you have come to expect from us. We all need a break from the all-consuming coronavirus news, so check out not only some past events that were sent in by community members for us to share, but also some stories of neighbors helping neighbors in these uncertain times. Feel free to email us with your community news to share in the next issue. Also, be sure to like our Facebook page (Florida NewsLine) and visit our website (www.floridanewline.com) for more content, including a map of local establishments providing takeout and delivery services during the shutdown.

Lastly, now more than ever, we ask that you support your local businesses, especially those who are our valued advertisers. For many of them, like us, this is uncharted territory and they are doing their best to remain open. By purchasing advertising space from us to keep you informed of their hours and possibly new business models, they are providing the revenues for us to publish and mail this issue to you. Please thank them with your patronage.

Remember ... A friendly smile and wave to your neighbor can be done while social distancing and go a long way towards brightening someone's day. We're all in this together.

Martie Thompson
Editor



Children's activity page encourages good reading habits

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

We are pleased to share a new feature in our pages this month: Newspaper Fun, a high-energy, children's activity page that features puzzles, cartoons, games and a cast of off-beat, humorous animal characters. Underlying these entertaining elements is a strong educational framework that encourages reading. The feature explores a variety of themes and buried in its puzzles and challenges are lessons that sharpen essential language arts skills.

"With every page I create, my first priority is to make sure you look at it and say, 'Hey, this looks like fun,' and then pull out a pencil and go to work," said Ann Mills, who writes and illustrates Newspaper Fun each week in her studio in Connecticut.

With both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education, Mills has a diverse background involving education. She worked in several elementary schools, helping to teach and motivate students to read before turning to children's publishing. For 10 years she created a children's activity page in southern

Connecticut, which focused on the challenges of a highly mobile, military-centered community, and which earned two international journalism awards. That page — with the addition of a cast of new characters — formed the basis for Newspaper Fun, which launched in 2004.

"Newspapers play a crucial role in helping people stay connected with what's going on in their communities," Mills said. "By attracting families to their local newspapers through features like Newspaper Fun, we're nurturing future generations of newspaper readers."

Mills's website, ReadingClubFun.com, complements and extends the effect of Newspaper Fun. Each week, she publishes puzzle answers on the site, and offers a range of ideas, tools and puzzles for parents, teachers, librarians and others to use to encourage children to read and learn.

"The idea is to create a flow between traditional and new media, with the common denominator being a focus on good reading habits," Mills said.



ShopLocal

In this age of 24/7 news outlets and social media, it is easy to become overwhelmed with information, especially as it pertains to COVID-19. Following is a list of trusted organizations and contact information to keep yourself up-to-date on the latest facts.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

The CDC remains the No. 1 source for health information about coronavirus in America. Visit coronavirus.gov to access the CDC's coronavirus landing page. For information regarding the national government's ongoing response, visit usa.gov/coronavirus.

Florida Department of Health: The Florida Department of Health has an interactive map and dashboard with the most up-to-date numbers and cases of coronavirus across the state. Visit <https://fdoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/8d0de33f260d444c852a615dc7837c86>. The Department of Health also has a COVID-19 Information Call Center 24/7. Anyone can dial 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov to get answers to their questions.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity: Governor DeSantis has announced that Florida will offer \$50 million in loan programs for small businesses being adversely impacted by coronavirus. The Department of Economic Opportunity is administering the program with the Florida Small Business Development

Center. Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org for more information.

Floridians looking for re-employment assistance can get help online at www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants.

Price Gouging Hotline: The Florida Attorney General's Office hotline is available for anyone to report price gouging of essential commodities during the coronavirus crisis. These include protective masks; sanitizing and disinfecting supplies, such as hand sanitizer, gel, wipes, cleaning supplies for surface cleaning, and all commercial cleaning supplies; and personal protective equipment, including gowns, booties, gloves and other protective gear. To report price gouging to the Florida Attorney General's Office online, visit MyFloridaLegal.com. To call the Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline, dial 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or 1-866-966-7226.

Coronavirus Tax Relief: The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus. Visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus for more information.

St. Johns County COVID-19 Updates: Up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus and its impact on St. Johns County. Visit <http://sjcfl.us/coronavirus> for more information.



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Editorial

Did you set it and forget it?

By Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
mail@floridanewsline.com

During the spring and summer months, many Floridians spend a lot of time outdoors tending to lawns and gardens. The St. Johns River Water Management District's year-long "Water Less" campaign focuses on water-conserving strategies to help curb outdoor water waste while still letting you enjoy a beautiful, vibrant landscape.

During the cooler months, we promoted ways to reduce outdoor irrigation while plants and grass were dormant. As spring approaches, the Water Less campaign emphasizes taking control of your sprinkler system to make it work for you while also saving water.

If you water your lawn and landscape, you can reduce the amount of water you use with a well-designed irrigation system and regular maintenance.

Changing the clocks to Daylight Saving Time is an ideal reminder to inspect your automatic sprinkler system and timer. To make sure you don't just set it and forget it, here are a few quick tips:

Check timing devices regularly to make sure they are operating properly.

Ensure your system is set to follow

watering restrictions, if you need to water at all. (Odd number addresses, those ending with N – Z, or no address should water on Wednesday and Saturday; even number addresses or those ending with A – M should water on Thursday and Sunday; and non-residential addresses should water on Tuesday and Friday.)

Florida law requires that all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1991 have a functioning rain sensor shut-off switch which senses when a preset amount of rain has fallen.

Install the most water efficient spray heads designed for different uses (turf areas, planting beds, etc.).

Fix any broken or misdirected sprinkler heads.

Check that water is only spraying on the landscape.

Look for leaks and clogs.

Visit WaterLessFlorida.com for more outdoor water saving ideas.

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D. is executive director of the St. Johns River Water Management District.



with Florida State Representative
Cyndi Stevenson, District 17

Q: Last month, we discussed some of the bills that you were sponsoring. With the recent end of the 2020 Legislative Session, can you give an update on these bills?

A: My House Bill 577 and HB 1081, concerning coordinated specialty care, were included with some excellent suicide prevention programs and other really good provisions relating to substance abuse and mental health in Senate Bill 7012. Additions included creation of a first responder suicide deterrent task force and an expansion of the statewide office of suicide prevention. This new bill will be sent to the governor.

My physical therapy bill, which updates the practice's statutes and allows them to have a non-narcotic option for soft tissue pain and increased mobility which is allowed in 33 states, is now on its way to the governor's desk.

My bill to establish the state Office of Resiliency ran out of time in the legislature. The governor had appointed a State Officer of Resiliency a few months ago and once she began her work, we wanted to make the position permanent and bring in coordination statewide. But the coronavirus and uncertainty of the economy slowed the bill. I don't think the resilience work has stopped, I just think attention has been diverted at this time.

Q: What were some other noteworthy bills that were passed?

A: A bill to allow student athletes to make money off their name and image passed. It requires the athlete to attend financial literacy classes and would be effective July 2021. Hopefully, the NCAA will react with a ruling on this issue of its own by then.

There was also a revision to the peer specialist bill, which will allow more people to serve by revising disqualifying criteria in state statutes.

Q: Can you give us a budget update?

A: This year's budget at \$93 billion is the largest ever passed and it includes

the most reserves — approximately \$4 billion — necessary due to economic uncertainty. Some highlights include 3 percent pay increases for all state employees, including teachers, along with funds for Everglades restoration, water quality and land conservation. Alyssa's Law, which requires panic button alarms be installed in all schools, passed. Additional pay enhancements will be made for the state's child protection team and the department of corrections.

As tax savings measures for Floridians, we approved two sales tax holidays, Aug. 7 – Aug. 9 for back to school items and May 29 – June 4 for disaster supplies. Overall, I think we have a good budget for Floridians with broad consensus.

Q: What effect did the coronavirus have on the budget process?

A: Late in the budget process we had to reevaluate and try to make sure we had Florida covered in light of the economic uncertainty due to the coronavirus. It's important to note that we have real-time budgeting in Florida. The state budget is funded based on the current year's revenues (including sales taxes). For Florida, a hit to tourism could be significant, but there could also be a bright side in that we are largely a driving destination. It's all still unclear at this point.

But importantly, the federal and state governments are focused on the needs of the people. In Florida, we have a combined \$50 billion available between federal and state sources and our governor has broad authority to act at this point. He can tap reserves and he can responsibly act with state and federal agencies and resources.

It's important for us to be kind, patient and thoughtful at this time. We're all in this together.

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

A: Readers can email me at Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov or call my local office at (904) 823-2300.

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

Q: As of the date of this interview (March 25), St. Johns County teachers are preparing for distance learning, which is to commence March 30. Can you give us your thoughts on the preparation?

A: Our teachers have been doing an incredible job preparing themselves first for the implementation of distance learning, in order to provide the best education we can. I am well pleased with everything done to date.

Q: How is the school district ensuring that all students are able to participate in distance learning?

A: I'm proud of the school district, which has found ways to accommodate all students, even those without internet access. We approved \$800,000 for mobile hotspots for these students and are also providing laptops. We are providing for those in need, including food, with lunches served at nearly all the schools in the entire county — including the Northwest. This is a federal feeding program much like we do in the summer and as such, the child must be present to receive lunch. We will continue these efforts until our schools can be reopened, which at this point is April 15. This is subject to change, of course.

Q: What else is keeping the school board busy at this time?

A: We are trying to keep everything moving along. It's budget time and we fully expect the original budget passed in Tallahassee just a few weeks ago will not hold. We expect a special session to adjust it and are planning accordingly by not really counting on anything. However, we have to begin crafting our budget, so we are being very, very conservative in light of this time of uncertainty. We plan to hold remote budget meetings beginning in April.

Q: How is the school board holding meetings in light of the social distancing requirements?

A: For our March 24 school board meeting, we didn't allow more than 10 people in the room. We made accommodations for those who wanted to attend by allowing them to view the proceedings in a different room. The meeting was then posted to the website.

This is our plan for meetings for the foreseeable future.

Q: Can you give us a run down of changes to the end of the school year as you know them now?

A: Everything is still very fluid. We just don't know some things, like what will be done about prom and graduation.

We do know that IB and AICE exams have been canceled. Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be taken online at the student's home. All statewide testing like End of Course exams and FSA are cancelled and will be treated, grade wise, as if they didn't exist. There will be no school grades given for this year, so teachers will be evaluated by their principals without input of exam and school grades.

Q: How are the new schools under construction being affected?

A: We had planned for the zoning process for High School HHH to be completed by the end of the school year, but we have postponed that until fall ... about the same time as we had planned to begin the rezoning process for K – 8 school MM. People can still go online to our website to give comments. While we had to postpone the formal groundbreaking ceremony for High School HHH, construction does continue as usual.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 1?

A: I'd like to encourage early registration of new students, especially kindergartners for next year. This can be done online at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us. When the school buildings open, we will be able to give school tours to new students and process the paper documentation, but it's important to register new students online now.

Also, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please call me directly. Rumors are rampant at this time and most of them are not true.

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.



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

Q: What would you like to share with District 1 as of the date of this interview (March 18)?

A: I'd like to say that St. Johns County is still open for business, despite certain industries closing by choice or otherwise. Let's be honest — this virus is a dramatic event that we will get through. We need to be cautious but not fearful. We certainly need to be respectful of those affected by the virus (which really is all of us) but I think it's important to not exacerbate this situation with fear.

We are doing this by not allowing large crowds, but we are allowing people to conduct business in county offices as they need to.

We had our Board of County Commissioners meeting and practiced social distancing for the commissioners and the public.

We are continuing with the request to the federal government for funds for beach renourishment.

I'd also like to implore people to participate in the Census this month. It can be done online or on the phone. Over the

next 10 years, approximately \$15,000 per person who does not participate is at stake.

Q: So does the budget process for St. Johns County continue?

A: Yes, we are continuing with the budget cycle and still want input from community members, probably best via email or phone, as to what budget items are necessities and which are quality of life.

We still anticipate a budget surplus at this point and have directed staff to include a tax reduction in the first draft. Our Office of Management and Budget will tell us where we can reduce taxes upfront and still support our growing population in St. Johns County.

Fears of the COVID-19 virus are very significantly affecting our economy, so this planned surplus might not materialize by the end of the budget process.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc1johns@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 615-7437.



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FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.us)
Sheriff's Office: Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org, (904) 824-8304
 Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150
Property Appraiser: Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@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: Brandon Patty, (904) 819-3600

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
 District 1: Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301
 District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@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

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

Federal Elected Officials
 U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501
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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



The CoronaVirus

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

There are more people living in the world today than have ever died.

World War I was an exceptionally bloody affair, killing more than 20 million. For four years death haunted the entrenched battlefields of Europe. In September and October of 1918, the final offenses on the Western Front would bring that war to a close. Those offenses were led by American troops at places like St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. During that second battle, Sgt. Alvin York became a hero for capturing 132 German soldiers single-handedly. He took on a machine gun nest with his rifle and when he ran out of ammo, he shot six more with his pistol before the remainder surrendered. "A higher power than man guided and watched over me and told me what to do," he announced at his Medal of Honor ceremony.

At roughly the same time, the City of Philadelphia held a Liberty Bond parade down Broad Street. In Philadelphia, citizens delighted as they watched the long processions of marching bands and floats, interspersed with recent enlistees who would never see combat. What the throngs of spectators did not know was that they were at a greater risk of death than many of the soldiers in Europe.

The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 – 1920 was the worst pandemic of the last 100 years. The Flu, helped along by a lack of understanding of epide-

miology and armies of soldiers returning home from the close quarters of the battlefield, infected a third of the world's population and killed around 40 – 50 million. In the end, the Spanish Flu pandemic would kill more people than died in combat during the War. The death total in the United States was approximately 675,000.

Back in Philadelphia, the Flu had just arrived. It spread like wildfire through the exuberant crowd. Within a week 4,500 of them would be dead. Hospitals were overflowing. There was an extreme shortage of nurses. The city's director of public health called out for "Nurses, more Nurses, and yet more Nurses," to tend to the sick and dying. A total of 12,000 would die within six weeks — so many deaths that many were buried in mass graves.

At the time, the medical community thought they were combatting a bacterial disease. It was only later that we realized influenza is a virus. But the lessons learned in Philadelphia still guide and haunt us today. The lesson was to keep people apart. It is why our medical leaders are embracing "social distancing."

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 scottg@standfastic.com.

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan activated

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Florida small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) may now apply for short-term, interest-free loans through the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program. The purpose of the loan program, which was activated in mid March by Governor Ron DeSantis, is to help business owners bridge the gap between the time the economic impact occurred and when a business secures other longer-term resources, such as insurance proceeds or federal disaster assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Through the program, qualified small businesses with two to 100 employees affected by COVID-19 can apply for loans up to \$50,000 for one-year terms. To be eligible, a business must be located in Florida, have been established prior to March 9, 2020, and demonstrate economic injury as a result of the virus.

Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org to learn more about how to complete the bridge loan application. The deadline for application is May 8, 2020. The state is also working diligently to make an online application available.

The Florida Small Business Development Council (SBDC) is a principal responder in the state's Emergency Support Function for Business and Industry. Here are some useful contacts to support your small business during this challenging time:

SBDC Offices and Professional Business Consulting Services: Instead of in-person consultations, call (904) 620-2476 to make a confidential, no-cost appointment with one of the SBDC's professionally certified business consultants and choose the mode of virtual communication that is convenient for you.

Business Damage Assessment Survey: The Florida SBDC Network strongly encourages small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to complete the Business Damage Assessment Survey to Determine Need for COVID-19 Federal, State Disaster Assistance. The survey, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), is not an application for disaster assistance, but rather assists state officials in determining the extent of impact and need for federal and state disaster assistance. Complete the survey here: <https://floridadisaster.biz/Business-DamageAssessments>

Here are additional links to resources for your small businesses.

State Resources:

Florida Department of Health: <http://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>
FloridaDisaster.Biz
Florida Chamber: <https://www.flchamber.com/follow-facts-not-fear/>

Federal Resources:

Center for Disease Control Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> (Provides detailed planning considerations and recommended strategies for employers to use.)

U.S. Small Business Administration Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance: <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/manage-your-business/prepare-emergencies>

FEMA.gov News Releases: <https://www.fema.gov/news-releases>

Visit www.floridanewsline.com to see our convenient map of local establishments providing take-out and delivery services during the coronavirus shutdown.

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Message from Baptist Health Foundation: Ways you can help

Right now, COVID-19 is placing incredible and unanticipated pressure on our clinical teams. In the short term, we have the personal protective equipment (PPE) that our teams need. But we need to prepare and look beyond our immediate needs. We've heard from many in the North Florida community that you want to support Baptist Health team members as they continue to provide excellent care through this crisis. You can help with monetary donations or donations of goods.

While all donations of essential PPE, in any amount, are welcomed and encouraged, Baptist Health is exceptionally thankful for donations of unopened and unexpired:

- Clorox bleach wipes (or equivalent)
- Hand sanitizer
- Face shields
- Goggles
- N95s (or any equivalent CDC-approved masks)
- Non-contact thermometers
- Masks (surgical/procedural)
- Isolation gowns
- Disposable coveralls/painter's suits
- Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR)
- Controlled Air Purifying Respirators (CAPR)
- Other approved PPE supplies advised by the CDC

Email Laura Collins at laura.collins@bmcjax.com or Madison Harris at madi-harris@bmcjax.com to donate PPE materials.

Home-Sewn Face Masks: In addition to essential PPE donations, the greatest need for our clinical teams is home-sewn face masks. You can help us meet our goal of 2,000 home-sewn face masks each week. Two sizes of the face masks are needed: Adult 9" x 6" and Child 7.5" x 5.5" Visit <https://baptist-health-foundation.com/2020/03/25/a-b-fabric-mask-template-for-a-nurse-by-a-nurse/> for instructions on sewing face masks.

Home-Sewn Isolation Gowns: The Baptist Health Foundation is also accepting isolation gowns for anticipated needs. Visit <https://baptist-health-foundation.com/isolation-gown-sewing-pattern-and-instructions/> for a pattern and instructions.

Completed hand-sewn gowns and masks may be dropped off with no contact at: Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville (Downtown) Parking Garage P5, located at 1350 Flagler Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207. Drop offs are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-11am. Please contact Jeannie Poon at jeannie.poon@bmcjax.com or Dana Severidt at dana.severidt@bmcjax.com to schedule.

Social distancing and caregiving: COVID-19 widens the divide

By Andrea Spencer
mail@floridanewsline.com

Caring for a loved one often presents daily challenges, but add in current mandated social distancing, caregivers may feel even

more isolated, alone and unsupported. ElderSource, a nonprofit organization that provides information and resources to caregivers and seniors in Northeast Florida, has a new program that helps caregivers connect to others walking the same walk.



Photo courtesy ElderSource
Linda C., who lives in Fernandina, connects with her support group members sitting in her home office and using her iPad.

The Virtual Caregiver Support Group, launched last summer, gives caregivers the opportunity to bridge the social distance gap by using today's technology such as iPads, cell phones, desk or laptop computers. The support group members "meet" face to face in the comfort of their own homes using their device and an easy-to-use video conferencing app.

"This technology has allowed us to connect in a convenient way," said Alina C. a support group participant. "Surprisingly there's an intimacy that comes from being virtually face-to-face without the hassle of trying to attend an in-person meeting. It also allows for continued commitment to participate because you don't have to drive anywhere."

The group consists of 10 to 12 participants who meet once a week for 60 to 90 minutes. The sessions are facilitated by a skilled moderator who guides the participants through their conversations. Caregivers need to have internet access, a computer device and the video conferencing app.

Participants are given instructions on how to download and use the free app.

"In such a short time, we've had terrific success with the Virtual Support Group," said Louise Starmann, group facilitator and licensed clinical social worker. "The individuals who participated in the first group felt less isolated and loved creating these friendships with people who truly understood."

The first support group continues to meet and because the virtual "meeting rooms" are unlimited, ElderSource continues to promote and encourage participation.

"For the caregivers who have participated, they have really taken to it and are benefiting from it," said Linda Levin, CEO of ElderSource. "Our challenge is getting others to commit to participate. We are getting referrals, but some are still feeling that they do not have the time. With today's circumstances this virtual support group can be a critical lifeline."

Any caregiver living in northeast Florida can sign up; however, the group is focused on those who feel they cannot leave their loved one to attend a support group, but would benefit from participating in one. It is also an ideal resource for working caregivers who are pressed on time outside of the workplace.

Email Louise Starmann at louise.starmann@eldersourceinstitute.org or call (904) 391-6699 for more information about the Virtual Caregiver Support Group.

Andrea Spencer is with ElderSource.

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4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
633 Donald Ross Way, 3,280 sq ft.
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St. Augustine Wild Reserve cont. from pg. 1

visit, consider helping through these rough times by sending a tax-deductible donation. The St Augustine Wild Reserve is a 501©3 tax exempt organization. Visit www.sawildreserve.org for more information.

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve offers

tours on an appointment-only basis. Tours are on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 2 p.m. by appointment only. Call (904) 940-0664 for reservations or email WildReserve@aol.com. Visit bookeo.com/tigertours to book a tour online. Donations may be sent to 5190 Farm Creek Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

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Dr. Jacob Vencil

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

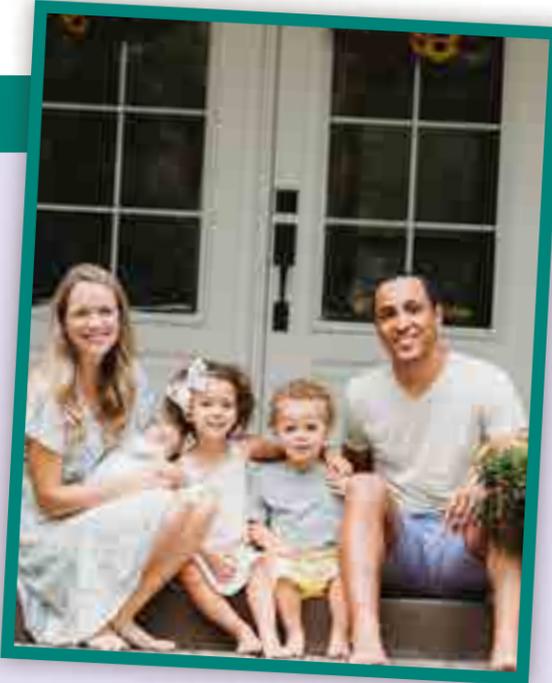


Photo courtesy Jacob Vencil
Jacob Vencil and family

Dr. Jacob Vencil, owner and medical director of Palencia Pet Clinic, said he always knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. He grew up in Jacksonville Beach and earned his undergraduate degree in animal science at the University of Florida before continuing on as a Gator at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. While there, he met his wife, Jennifer, who is also a veterinarian. The family, which includes three children under the age of four as well as two dogs (Maggie and Stitch) and a cat (Reesie) lives in northern St. Johns County.

Q: How did you come to live in northern St. Johns County?

A: Since my family is in Jacksonville Beach and my wife's family is in Ocala, and we decided not to move to either place after vet school but rather split the difference, we landed in St. Augustine/northern St. Johns County. We really enjoy being a part of this community. It takes me a long time to get out of Publix, because I always see people I know, but I love that.

Q: What made you decide to become a veterinarian?

A: That's a classic question I've been asked and I wish I had a good answer,

like a single event that made my decision, but I don't. My parents tell me that since I was three or four years old, I always said I wanted to become a vet. I don't remember not wanting to be one. And then, when I was about 15 years old, I worked in a friend's dad's veterinary clinic. I fed and walked the dogs in the kennel and it solidified in my mind that I could see myself actually becoming a veterinarian.

Q: How did you become the owner of the Palencia Pet Clinic?

A: I started my career at a 24-hour emergency clinic, where I worked for three years. It was a wonderful experience and I learned a lot. But soon Jennifer and I were ready to start our regular life, which included having a family. It worked out well that in 2016, Dr. Veling of Palencia Pet Clinic was ready to slow down and I was ready to rise to the challenge of running a practice. Dr. Veling is still on staff. We've been blessed to grow with the community, which has responded well to our mission of care. We believe in communicating with each pet parent to give the best and most personalized care for their pet. We've developed relationships and we always try to educate the owners.

Q: What general advice would you give pet owners?

A: I guess this goes back to our practice's philosophy. It's always good to

ask questions and be involved with your pet's care. Find a trusted source who knows your pet and your general philosophy. Online information is well intentioned, but not always accurate, so it's important to find a veterinarian that you can connect with.

Q: How have you adapted your practice's care in light of COVID 19?

A: We have changed a few of our policies. We now provide curbside service. The pet owner calls in for an appointment, then the nurse meets them in their car outside and brings the pet inside to see the doctor for treatment, before returning the pet to the car. Consultation and education with the pet owner is then done over the phone. Pet owners have been appreciative of us providing this service.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I try to stay active and I like to be outdoors. When time permits, I love to go out on a boat and go fishing in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Websites cont. from pg.1

Presentations will take place Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. ET for younger children, and 1 p.m. for young adults. There will also be a Q&A portion at the end of each presentation. The interactive presentations can be viewed on Facebook at @KennedySpaceCenterVisitorComplex. The visitor complex also has downloadable activities that can be found at the following link: <https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/camps-and-education/educator-resources>.

Ivy League Colleges offer free courses online: <https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

Stay-at-home Activities from the Cummer Museum: Museum Educators have put together an extensive list of ideas to bring the galleries and exhibitions into your home. Visit www.cummermuseum.org/visit/education#resources-for-families to check it out.

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History virtual tour: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

Hidden Worlds of National Parks: With virtual reality and 360 degree videos, Google allows you to immerse yourself in the scenic U.S. National Parks. Visit <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service> and see some places that most people never see.

Discover Florida from your own home: Check out some Wildlife Adventures or Just for Kids activities: <https://www.discoverfloridachannel.com/>

Georgia Aquarium webcam: <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/ocean-voyager/>

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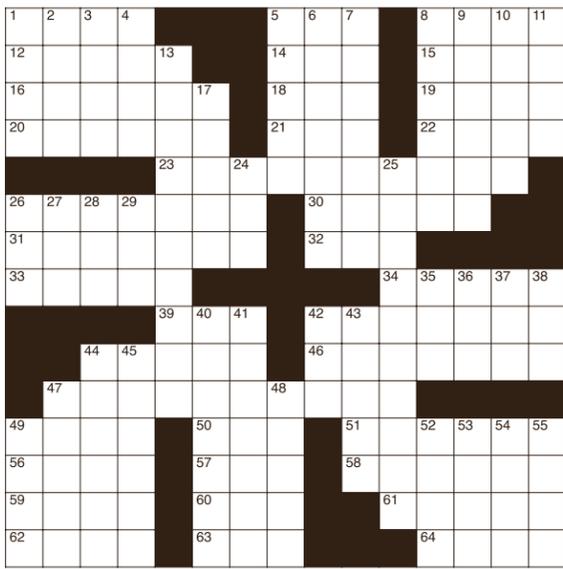
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 3
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bond villain Mikkelsen
- 5. A team's best pitcher
- 8. French river
- 12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
- 14. City of Angels airport
- 15. Military force
- 16. Scrawny
- 18. Value
- 19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 20. Highly seasoned sausage
- 21. Trouble
- 22. Prong
- 23. Showing varying colors
- 26. Cloaked
- 30. Renters sign one
- 31. Acquires
- 32. Type of language (abbr.)
- 33. Partner to pains
- 34. Third portion of the small intestine
- 39. Excessively theatrical actor

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Female parents
- 2. Region
- 3. Transaction
- 4. Heroic tale
- 5. Of algae
- 6. Luminous intensity unit
- 7. Uncovers
- 8. French commune name
- 9. Poisonous gas
- 10. Pearl Jam's bassist
- 11. Horse groom in India
- 13. Destroyed
- 24. Promotional materials
- 25. American state
- 26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 27. "Modern Family" network
- 28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Exercise system __-bo
- 35. Type of bulb
- 36. Opposite of beginning
- 37. Utilize
- 38. Type of student
- 40. Deficiency of moisture
- 41. Areas of the eye
- 42. Select
- 43. Sheets of floating ice
- 44. Priests who act as mediums
- 45. Roof of the mouth
- 47. Unnatural
- 48. Illuminated
- 49. There are three famous ones
- 52. Large, fast Australian birds
- 53. "Dracula" heroine Harker
- 54. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 55. Tax



Solve the code to discover words related to customers.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = e)

- A. 25 20 21 9 26 4**
Clue: Gives financial support
- B. 9 6 21 20 22 8**
Clue: Sale of goods
- C. 25 18 9 5 11 20 24 6**
Clue: Buy something
- D. 5 8 22 6 4 21**
Clue: Person using services of another

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AGENT
- ATTENTION
- BUSINESS
- CONSISTENCY
- CUSTOMER
- ESCALATION
- ETIQUETTE
- EXPERIENCE
- FOLLOW-UP
- IMPACT
- IMPROVE
- LOYALTY
- MANAGEMENT
- METRICS
- PERCEPTION
- PERFORMANCE
- PRIORITY
- QUALITY
- REPEAT
- RESOLUTION
- SATISFACTION
- SERVICE
- SHOPPING
- SUPPORT

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

Gardening

Signs of Spring

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

It's early March and, as I often find, I'm running behind on garden tasks. I hope you're feeling more in control! I'm enjoying seeing what my local big box store is bringing in for spring planting — all that color — and trying not to buy on impulse, which is something many gardeners find difficult. The trick is to have a plan — not one that is cast in stone, but which allows you to understand what you really need for that particular spot in your yard, be it dry and shady or moist and in sun. This allows you freedom to choose that beautiful new plant, once you have checked the label to ensure that it will be "the right plant in the right place."

Late winter has been warmer than it should be, with hardly any cold snaps, and deciduous trees and shrubs are increasingly showing their beautiful fresh spring-green colors. Relying on my rain gauge, there has been a reasonable amount of rain in my area of town, and I have been able to save water as my vegetable garden has been doing fine without irrigation. Generally our weather is kinder to us than in many parts of the country. Our next challenges will be the dry spring fire season and, as of June 1, the hurricane season.

While thinking further about the year ahead, I've been looking at the University of Florida website "Gardening Solutions," which has evolved in recent years from "Solutions for Your Life." It has been up-

dated with articles that introduce material to general readers, with readily accessible links to more in-depth articles that get right to the heart of our gardening issues. The home page has what you need to get started: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>. You will find it a very accessible resource and I encourage you to check it out, whether you simply need reminding of best practices for lawn care, are troubled by a wretched insect that's beginning to feel like a plague, or are feeling inspired to do your bit for our pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

Our local resource, A New Leaf newsletter, is available at <https://tinyurl.com/uk3zf9v>. Summer vegetables are on many gardeners' lists, and you will find tips from Beth Marlowe for planting out tomatoes and their pepper and eggplant relatives. Summer heat brings more pests and fire ants can be among the worst; see Chris Kerr's article on dealing with them and how you may be able to do so without using chemicals. Now is the time we begin to see the city arborists inspecting trees that could potentially cause power outages during summer storms. As homeowners we can make sure that any trees we plant won't grow up and into power lines by choosing our tree species wisely. Larry Figart has details on some lovely options if you are considering a new tree or two.

Gardening cont. on pg. 14

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Answers to puzzle on page 4

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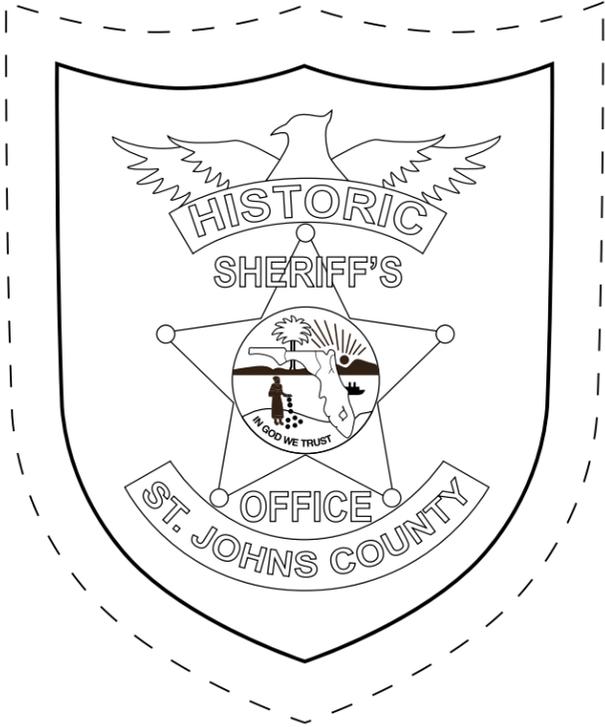
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From a Teacher: Tips for home learning

By Lara Pierce, STEM Education
mail@floridanewsline.com

Your kids are home from school for at least a month and you have been tasked to oversee their learning. Don't panic! You can do it! As a veteran teacher of 27 years, I am going to help you with some of the tricks of the trade.

How to begin: It is important to find a clean organized area for your child to work. The kitchen or dining room table is great because you can spread out. The kitchen counter will work too. Just make sure they are in an open area where you can supervise them and keep them on task. Teachers spend the first two weeks of school developing routines so that everything runs smoothly. You will need some ground rules. Have your child gather all their supplies in one place. Have them fill up their water bottle so they aren't getting up every five minutes to get a drink. Together, write up a schedule. Most likely your child can tell you what their schedule was like at school. Try to duplicate this at home. The length of your homeschool day should depend on your child and their learning pace. Focus on quality not quantity.

A great online site that compiles many of the best learning websites in one place is: www.kidfriendlysearch.com This site was created by a St. Johns County technology teacher and is an amazing resource. The site is organized by subject area. There is even a section to practice typing skills.

Another recommended website is www.abcya.com. This site is organized by grade level (PreK through sixth grade). There are sections within each grade level for letters, numbers, strategies, and skills.

You can practice most basic skills using this site.

If you want your child to practice their learning with paper and pencil, there is a site for that too. Teachers can't create everything they do in their classroom. They often turn to other teachers for help. There are some really talented teachers who are willing to create units or themed activities and sell them. You do not have to be a teacher to access this site. There is an option to search for free items too. Visit www.teacherspayteachers.com and search by grade level and subjects. Just download, print and go. This is a great resource for younger students who still need to work on skills that require paper and pencil.

The last resource I want to share with you is by far my favorite. Using your St. Johns County library card, you can download apps that allow you to instantly borrow digital movies, music, ebooks, magazines and more. When you visit the site <https://sjcpls.org/> look under the eLibrary tab at the top for the directions to access it all. This is a safe way for your child to access all the books they could possibly want to read. The best part it's free! If your child is not a big reader, start with a magazine or anything that captures their interests or imagination.

Remember parents, we are in this together. The teachers are missing your child and look forward to the day they are back together in the classroom. If you need help, reach out to your child's teacher; I know they would be happy to assist.

Good luck! You got this!

Gardening cont. from pg. 12

We had been planning to hold our Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale on May 2, but this is now not certain. All Master Gardener Volunteer activities have been postponed until further notice and the Extension Office will be closed through

the end of March; however, Extension Agents and staff will be working remotely and can be reached at duval.ifas.ufl.edu or through the City of Jacksonville call center at 255-CITY. Agents will be answering questions in place of our volunteers.

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Three creative recipes using pantry ingredients

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Stuck inside and looking for something to make for dinner out of provisions you likely already have on hand? Read on for a few recipe ideas that are tasty!

Easy Minestrone Soup

1 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for serving
8-oz. can corn kernels, strained
2 tbsp. tomato paste
½ tsp. dried Italian seasoning
¼ tsp. dried oregano
1 quart chicken broth
1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes
¾ cup small-cut pasta, like elbows or small shells
1 14-oz. can cannellini or other white beans, strained
Salt and pepper to taste
1 14-oz. can cut green beans, strained

Heat oil in a medium soup pot over medium-high heat. Add the corn and cook until it starts to brown slightly, about 3 minutes. Add the tomato paste, and spices and cook, stirring constantly, until the tomato paste begins to darken in color, about 1 minute. Slowly whisk in the chicken broth until the paste is smooth and then incorporated into the liquid. Add the whole can of diced tomatoes (including the liquid), and bring the mixture to a boil. Stir in the pasta and the white beans. Season with salt and pepper. Cook the pasta until al dente, 7 to 8 minutes, stirring in the green beans during the last 2 minutes. Serve in individual bowls with a little oil drizzled on top.

Yummy Applesauce Waffles

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
¾ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 ½ cups evaporated milk
½ cup applesauce
⅓ cup brown sugar
3 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tsp. vanilla
Powdered sugar, ground cinnamon and maple syrup, for serving

Preheat the waffle iron. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt

together in a medium bowl. Whisk the evaporated milk, applesauce, brown sugar, oil, vanilla and ¾ cup water in a large bowl. Fold the dry ingredients into the wet, and stir until just combined. Allow the batter to rest at room temperature for 5 minutes.

Ladle enough batter into the waffle iron to fill it to the edges, and cook until crispy and brown, 6 to 7 minutes. (You can tell the waffles are ready when very little steam comes out of the waffle iron.) Continue in batches until all the batter is used. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cinnamon, and serve with maple syrup.

Corn and Black Bean Quesadillas

1 tsp. olive oil
1 clove garlic, minced
¼ small onion, chopped
¼ bell pepper (red, orange, or yellow), chopped
15-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 ½ cups canned or thawed frozen corn
½ tsp. cumin
1 tsp. chili powder
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
4 large flour tortillas

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add the onion and bell pepper and saute for 1-2 minutes. Add garlic and saute for 30 seconds. Add black beans, corn, salsa, cumin and chili powder and stir to combine.

Reduce heat. Melt a teaspoon of butter in another large skillet. Place one tortilla in the skillet. Add a sprinkle of cheese, followed by a heaping scoop of corn and bean mixture and spread into an even layer. Top with another sprinkle of cheese. Add a tortilla on top and cook until the cheese is almost melted and the bottom tortilla is golden.

Use a large spatula to carefully flip the tortilla to the other side. Cook until cheese is melted and bottom tortilla is golden brown.

Serve with salsa and sour cream.

Travel

Discover Abingdon, Virginia and the Crooked Road

By Debi Lander mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Barter Theater

“Virginia is for Lovers” ranks as one of the most successful tourism campaigns of all time. The Old Dominion, however, entices more than romantics, from its seashores to its mountains, for its colonial and Civil War sites, its presidential mansions, and aerospace museums, not to mention many popular culinary and musical festivals.

Visiting Southwest Virginia last year, I discovered a small city with a fascinating history, architectural gems, and yet very modern activities. Abingdon kept me hopping over three days — not long enough to see and do it all.

Abingdon’s best known for the Barter Theater, Virginia’s State Theater. The professional residential repertoire company, one of the few in the U.S., presents multiple stages, letting visitors see more than one performance over the weekend. The Barter began in the Great Depression, taking vegetables locals couldn’t sell in exchange for laughs. Milk, eggs, and livestock turned ham to Hamlet (vice versa for the equally struggling cast). It’s cash or credit cards today, but folks still leave in fine spirits.

After a Barter performance, walk across the street to stay at, or at least visit, the Martha Washington Inn and Spa. The historic hotel, originally built as a residence for a large family, became a school and in 1935, a hotel. Renovated and updated, it maintains a colonial atmosphere and fine antiques blended with modern amenities. You’ll want to spend time at the Martha, not just sleep there. The parlor begs with an afternoon tea setting and the library calls others to curl up and read. The manicured grounds make for a relaxing stroll.

Where do you eat? Join those who’ve been doing so since 1779 at The Tavern. One of the oldest surviving restaurants, it also served as a Civil War hospital. If you are into ghosts ask the owner to give you a peek in the attic. The initials carved into the wall are real, but are the ghosts? Abingdon’s Haint Mistress offers ghost tours of the city and claims there are many scattered about town.

Not far from the Tavern lies a scenic rails to trails path, the Virginia Creeper Trail, great for biking, hiking, walking or horseback riding. You can rent a cycle and ride over to the Abingdon Vineyards to quench your thirst. Don’t miss the small Visitor Center next to the train. Inside you’ll find some O. Winston Link’s black and white photographs; he’s considered the Ansel Adams of train photography. Hear stories about the lengthy endeavors he took to set up a shot- before the days of strobe lights and digital cameras.

For a real treat, drive over to the Southwestern Cultural Heritage Center for a free bluegrass concert. But hang on to your wallet — this place will make you want to redecorate your house. From bedroom sets, to tables, chairs, clocks and quilts, beautiful artisan crafts are displayed. I challenge you to leave without buying at least a small gift for someone. The variety and quality are outstanding, and there’s also local Virginia specialties like smoked hams, peanuts, jams, pickles and wine. I honestly have never been to a visitor center as spectacular as this one.

Abingdon and the SW Cultural Center sit on The Crooked Road, a 300-mile trail dedicated to musical heritage within the state. Nearby Bristol offers the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. You can also visit the Carter Family Fold for programs of Old Time and bluegrass music on weekends.

I bet you’ll fall in love with Abingdon, Virginia. (<http://visitabingdonvirginia.com>)

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

Visit www.floridanewsline.com to see our convenient map of local establishments providing take-out and delivery services during the coronavirus shutdown.

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NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL
Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Re-Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 12th day of March, 2020, for the Collection of 2019 Taxes, to reflect all changes made by the Value Adjustment Board.

EDDIE CREAMER
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For additional information, please visit our website at www.sjcpa.us or contact us at (904) 827-5500

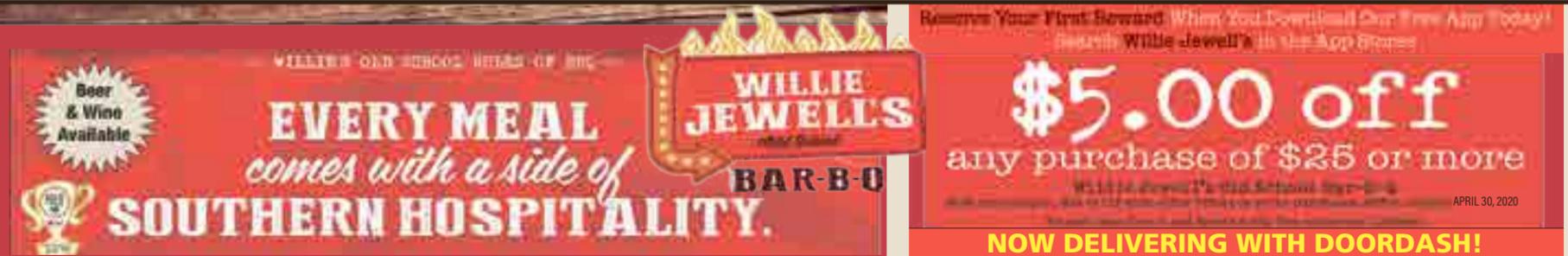


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