



# The Creek Line

Serving the St. Johns County Community

NOVEMBER 2020 Volume 20 Issue 11

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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## Lights Out Northeast Florida aims to save migratory birds

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

There is something easy you can do to help migratory birds on their long spring and fall journeys: turn off your lights.

For these birds, undertaking the long migration journey comes with many challenges, but one hurdle has grown significantly over the past several years and has had an impact on bird populations: the increase of artificial light shining into the night sky. In an effort to call attention to this cause, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Duval Audubon Society, and St. Johns County Audubon Society have partnered to launch Lights Out Northeast Florida.



Photos courtesy Connie Long  
Indigo bunting

“Because these birds migrate at night and use the stars and moon as directional cues, the bright lights on our homes and buildings can attract and disorient them on their journey,” said Amy Koch, president of St. Johns County Audubon Society. “The loss of birds during their migration is a problem that people can help mitigate, and that’s why we decided to come together to inform everyone about the issue and to share ideas about what we can do together in our Northeast Florida community to help save birds.”

Lights Out cont. on pg. 15

## High School HHH will soon have a name and mascot

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Construction on new High School HHH in the World Golf Village area is moving along at a steady pace and the time has come to plan for the school’s name, mascot and spirit colors. School principal Jay Willets hosted a virtual community meeting in early October to start the process.

“We had 130 people attend the virtual meeting, which I consider to be a really good turnout,” Willets said. “The most important part of the meeting was to explain the naming and mascot process.”

A PowerPoint presentation included information about the current state of construction, proposed academic programming, the school’s academies and athletics, in addition to historical information about the area surrounding the school to help with ideas for names and mascots.

A survey was sent out in mid-October to all families identified in the High School HHH zone to solicit input. Next, a committee made up of interested students, parents and community members met in late October to whittle down the survey results to the top five to eight choices of each that will be presented to the St. Johns County School Board at its December meeting. The school board is ultimately responsible for naming the school and the mascot, but as usual will consider community input.

According to Willets, High School HHH will open in fall 2021 and will begin with grades nine, 10 and 11. He said it is the first St. Johns County high school built to the specifications of 2,100 students; previously constructed high schools were built to handle 1,500 students. High School HHH will also serve as a hurricane shelter for the community.

High School HHH will offer three academies: the Academy of Innovation in the Built Environment, offering building construction curriculum in a partnership with the University of North Florida; the Academy of Future Health Care Professionals, in conjunction with Flagler Health+; and the Academy of Leadership in Emerging Technologies, with an emphasis on robotics, drones and coding. A sponsor for this academy is to be announced shortly.

Additionally, High School HHH will offer one of only two Collegiate High



Photos courtesy St. Johns County School District  
Site plan for High School HHH

St. Johns County high schools. During the PowerPoint presentation, Willets revealed the color palette for the interior of the school, which will influence the school’s spirit colors.

“It’s a warm palette with shades of orange, black, gray and maroon,” Willets said. “We will select the spirit colors utilizing the color scheme from the school and are leaning towards gunmetal gray, burnt orange and black.”

Mascot suggestions were listed in the PowerPoint presentation, with everything from moccasins to bulls to ospreys; Willets told meeting attendees the main stipulation was that the mascot could not be the same as any other St. Johns County elementary, middle or high school.

“The hope is to try to keep the mascot as regional as possible,” Willets said. “Right now, hurricanes and tornadoes are of interest and if you saw the land before High School HHH was built, bulls and toros would be appropriate because the land was a cow pasture previously.”

The High School HHH website ([www.hhh.stjohns.k12.fl.us/](http://www.hhh.stjohns.k12.fl.us/)) is now live. It will be continually updated with a Frequently Asked Questions section as well as the latest construction photos.

“We’re excited to get this school opened and get kids on campus,” Willets said.



High School HHH under construction.

School programs in the district. College classes will be offered in conjunction with St. Johns River Community College that will begin in ninth grade; students will ultimately have the opportunity to earn their associate’s degree at the same time they earn their high school diploma.

As for athletics, Willets said the school will offer the same battery of varsity and junior varsity programs as other

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## BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

### Meet Bear!



**BREED:**  
Chow

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Riding in golf cart with daddy

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Bully sticks

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Lexi, my cousin

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
Because he looks like a teddy bear

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"Hey dudes! It's here!"  
**Senior Newsline**



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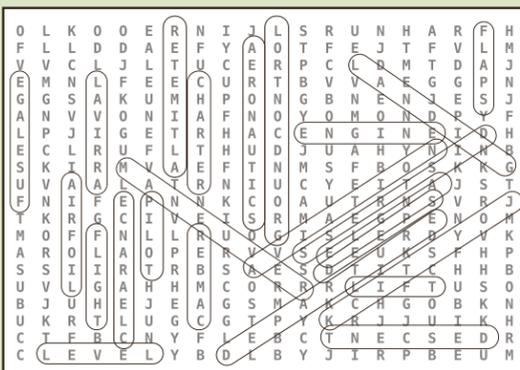


Answers  
to our  
Puzzles  
PG 16

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. flight B. wing C. altitude D. ascent



## MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess where this is?  
Submit your answer to: [mail@FloridaNewsLine.com](mailto:mail@FloridaNewsLine.com)

Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to Heritage Landing.  
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# Cunningham Creek principal begins new chapter

By Heidi Brososky-Weaver  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Edie Jarrell walked through the door of her first classroom 40 years ago, and this month, the Cunningham Creek Elementary School principal is walking out — into a whole new world of possibilities, that is.

One of the newest additions to her world came as a Christmas present last year — her first grandchild, Laken. Although Jarrell still has a lot of passion left for her career, she understands the preciousness of family time.

After much deliberation, Jarrell and husband Dale decided to pack up the dogs and spend more time in Wisconsin to be near their daughter, Kimberly, and help with her growing family.

“It is very bittersweet because I absolutely love being an educator and can’t imagine a life outside of the schoolhouse,” says Jarrell, whose daughter became a teacher after seeing “how happy I was in my job.”

Although her job title will change, some things will not.

“My greatest joy is being a learner,” says Jarrell, who especially loves sitting in on project-based lessons. “That is when I get my jam on,” she laughs, sharing some of the new paths she hopes to explore.

Originally, Jarrell was on the path to becoming a physical therapist at the University of Florida, following her lifelong desire to help children with special needs; however, she was “bitten by the teacher bug” and soon graduated from the University of North Florida with an education degree. She then earned master’s degrees in Educational Leadership and Informational Studies, as well.

“I knew I was going to be helping children my whole life,” says Jarrell, adding that the principles of Franklin Covey

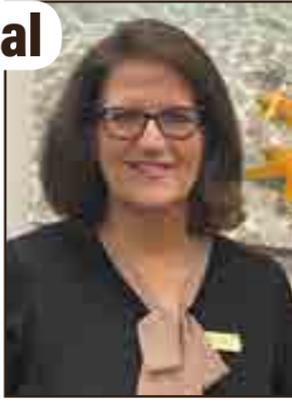
have helped her stay true to her purpose. To her, the classroom is a microcosm of life, and she found that the key to developing lasting relationships with students is simple: “You learn more by listening. The more we talk, the less we hear.”

She enjoyed a 27-year career as a teacher and administrator at Hogan-Spring Glen Elementary in Duval County before joining the St. Johns County Schools administrative team in 2008, with positions at Cunningham Creek Elementary and Wards Creek Elementary.

While many things have changed over four decades, Jarrell’s goal to help students grow and become the best version of themselves is unwavering. “She is a firm believer in the quote, ‘You create your own weather,’” says second grade teacher, Veronica Fuata. “And she does an amazing job of creating her own sunshine and spreading it.”

Fifth grade teacher, Lauren Olesiak, agrees that Jarrell’s positive, win-win outlook is contagious. “My favorite thing is her spin of ‘you can have your cake and eat it, too.’” Olesiak explains that Jarrell’s version is, “You can have your cake and Edie, too,” and she adds that Jarrell “always makes a way to find a third alternative where we all win.”

It is clear that Jarrell will leave a legacy of living, loving, learning, and leading at Cunningham Creek. And as she closes the school doors for the last time, she will find her granddaughter’s arms open wide for hugs when she walks through the next.



Photos courtesy Edie Jarrell  
Edie Jarrell recently as she concludes her 40-year career in education.



One of Edie Jarrell’s first photos as a teacher.



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

### Q: What are the plans going forward for the potential of continuing school-based distance learning?

A: Recently, we asked parents if they wanted to extend their child’s distance learning for another quarter. This decision is due in mid October. We asked parents to let this be their decision for the full second quarter, rather than going back and forth, as this is hard for teachers. As of today [interview date of Oct. 14], we have 20 percent of our students enrolled as distance learners and 80 percent in brick and mortar schools.

### Q: What about the possibility of school-based distance learning for the second semester?

A: For this, we are awaiting guidance from the governor’s office. Typically, the school district is only funded for brick and mortar students; an exception in the form of an emergency order was made to fund distance learners until Dec. 31. If this exception is not extended, we will have to closely examine our finances to determine if it is feasible to continue distance learning with losing the approximately \$5,300 per student funding. If the governor does extend the emergency order that provides the funding, the school board would have the option to keep distance learning in place without having to worry about losing the per student funding. We would consider this, as well as closely examine how our students are performing academically, to make a determination for the second semester.

### Q: Can you give some insight into the decision to have even earlier releases from school on Wednesdays that began in mid October?

A: The school board was searching for ways to give teachers extra planning time, especially for those teaching on dual platforms. We examined our balance of instructional minutes and found we could afford to give teachers an additional 50 minutes each Wednesday until Dec. 31 and so we did. Another benefit of this is that it gives us an additional block of time for deep cleaning of classrooms.

### Q: What is the latest on the schools under construction?

A: Zoning for High School HHH has been finalized as of late September. As for K-8 School MM in Nocatee, we presented two zoning plans, now on the school district website, and are getting public input at this time. Interested parties can contact any of the school board members or Nicole Cubbedge and we will be happy to consider suggestions prior to finalizing the zoning at the Dec. 8 board meeting.

Also, on Oct. 13, we finalized the bond purchase to build High School III inside the Beachwalk community off of County Road 210. It will look similar to High School HHH and be open in time for the 2022 – 2023 school year. We hope that construction will start the beginning of 2021.

Worth noting is that the St. Johns County School District has never failed to grow; we even grew 4 percent during the recession. During this time of COVID, we are one of only two districts in the state that are growing.

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

A: At our school board meeting on Nov. 10, we will be saying goodbye to veteran school board member Tommy Allen, who has served for 32 years. We are sad to see him go. We will welcome new school board member Tony Coleman at our Nov. 17 meeting, when we reorganize.

### Q: How can our readers contact you?

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





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**with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes**

**Q: As of this interview date (Oct. 15), what is happening at your office in advance of the General Election?**

A: We started opening and counting Vote By Mail ballots on Oct. 9. We sent out 70,000 Vote By Mail ballots, and as of Oct. 14, we have received, opened, and counted approximately 25,000 ballots. This is easily double the number we normally see.

**Q: Can you clarify the use of drop boxes for Vote By Mail ballots?**

A: Drop boxes are only available at Early Voting sites during Early Voting hours, so drop boxes end when Early Voting ends on Oct. 31.

**Q: What should a voter do if they still haven't mailed their Vote By Mail ballot at the end of October?**

A: If you still have your Vote By Mail ballot now, it's too late to mail it in. You have a couple of options: You can bring your ballot to the Supervisor of Elections office in St. Augustine anytime over the weekend prior to Election Day and anytime before 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3. We have a 24-hour drop box at our office only. You can also just vote in person at your precinct on Election Day. You cannot drop off your Vote By Mail ballot at your precinct on Election Day and there are no drop boxes other than the one at our office in St. Augustine that are available after Early Voting ends on Oct. 31.

**Q: Do you have any other information you'd like voters to know?**

A: One big thing — if you have recently moved, please check with the Supervisor of Elections office before voting, so we can send you to the correct precinct on Election Day ... the first time. You can even contact us on Election Day to receive this information and save yourself from waiting in line at the incorrect precinct.

**Q: What can you tell us about voting on Election Day?**

A: We expect Election Day, Nov. 3, to be very busy. Voters need to have a measure of patience as we expect a record turnout. It would be best for voters to be prepared so they can be efficiently checked in to vote — have your picture ID and your sample ballot with you.

Masks are encouraged, but no voter will be turned away if they are not wearing a mask. All precincts will have masks available, as well as ample hand sanitizer and clean pens. Workers will be frequently sanitizing everything.

Finally, please thank your poll workers when you vote. Elections would not happen without them!

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

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



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- St. Johns Convention Center At World Golf Village**  
500 S. Legacy Trl., St. Augustine, FL 32092
- Ponte Vedra Concert Hall**  
1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
- Julington Creek Annex**  
725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns, FL 32259
- Ponte Vedra Branch Library**  
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Your ballot MUST be received in the Election Office NO LATER THAN 7 PM Election day in order for it to count. If it is late, it will not count.

**Vote by mail ballots cannot be turned in at the polls on election day.**

**ELECTION DAY**

- ★ **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**
- ★ **Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM**
- ★ **When voting on Election Day you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence.**
- ★ **Vote by mail ballots cannot be turned in at the polls on election day.**

**KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO**

To locate your polling place visit [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com) or call the Elections Office at 823-2238.

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# November Community Calendar

## What's Going On in St. Johns? A modified calendar of events

**ElderSource** is offering free Medicare counseling for seniors and caregivers during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 16 – Dec. 7). In partnership with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) Program helps seniors understand their Medicare choices and maximize their benefits. Call (888) 242-4464 to schedule an appointment with a SHINE counselor today.

**St. Johns County Park Naturalist AyoLane Halusky** will host a Wild Edibles and Medicinal Plants Guided Walk at Alpine Groves Park on Thursday, Nov. 5. Attendees will learn about wild edibles and medicinal plants found in our parks and should bring questions and journals to record their findings. This program is free and open to all ages. To comply with CDC guidelines and State of Florida executive orders, you must register for these walks. For more information or to register, contact AyoLane Halusky at ahalusky@sjcfl.us or (904) 209-0348.

**The St. Augustine branch of AAUW** welcomes Tara Lynn Masih as its guest speaker at the November meeting on Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Masih is a National Jewish Book Award Finalist and winner of the Julia Ward Howe Award for young readers for her debut novel, "My Real Name is Hanna." For non-members to make a reservation

for this meeting or information about becoming a member of the AAUW St. Augustine Branch, contact Maxine Burns at mmmburns@yahoo.com.

**Friends of Alpine Park** will host a Yard Sale on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Alpine Groves Park, 2060 State Road 13. All proceeds go to Friends of Alpine Park, Inc., whose mission is to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and history of the park. Email friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com for more information.

**Northeast Florida AHEC** announces the following free Quit Tobacco Class, which includes free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges: Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Wildflower Healthcare Clinic, 268 Herbert St., St. Augustine. Call (904) 482-0189 for more information or to sign up.

**First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Card Club** will host a luncheon and card games at a pizza restaurant in St. Augustine on Nov. 29. Arrival is at 1:15 p.m and card games will be played from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. Masks must be worn while playing cards. Call the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 (no texts) to RSVP or for information about the club. The club is open to both men and women and is a smoke- and drug-free club.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER Eddie Creamer



### 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 Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 8th day of October, 2020, for the Collection of 2020 Taxes Pending Value Adjustment Board Changes.

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For additional information, please visit our website at [www.sjcpa.us](http://www.sjcpa.us) or contact us at (904) 827-5500

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## Briefs

### Bartram Trail Branch Library update

The Bartram Trail Branch Library is open for Grab & Go service; however staff will accommodate patrons who prefer not to come inside. Call (904) 827-6960 for options. The library's new hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. On Thursdays the library is open 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

You can apply for a library card by visiting any of the St. Johns County branch libraries, open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. If you are unable to visit the library, call the library and staff can provide remote application options. If you previously applied for and received a temporary eCard, those cards have now expired and you will need to apply for a permanent library card.

The Bartram Trail Branch Library has shifted all library programming to a virtual format. You can enjoy live story-times, book clubs, resource highlights, crafting ideas, teen programming, and much more on the library's Facebook and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid](http://www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid)) channels. Most programs are also streamed on the Online Program Player on [sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org).

The branch's Friends of the Library are busy holding a passive World War II book sale inside. Donations can be cash or via

the VENMO app. A Pop Up Sale, socially distanced out under the portico is planned for Nov. 16, from 10a.m. – 2 p.m. Donated books are always on display around the catalog computers and in the adult biography section of the branch.

### Bookmobile offering limited service beginning Nov. 4

The St. Johns County Public Library System Bookmobile will begin offering services at four locations in the county on Nov. 4. The bookmobile will offer patrons the ability to pick up requested items, return items, and use free Wi-Fi on Wednesdays and Fridays through December.

The bookmobile will be at the Publix in Nocatee Town Center and the Publix in Palencia Commons on Wednesdays, and the Publix on County Road 210 and the Publix in the Shoppes at Murabella on Fridays, excluding holidays.

Visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) or email [libbe@sjcfl.us](mailto:libbe@sjcfl.us) for more information and to view the full bookmobile schedule.

### St. Johns County's NFIP rating provides insurance discounts for some St. Johns County property owners

St. Johns County has been designated as a CRS Class 5 community based on an assessment of numerous flood mitigation activities the county recently implemented

Briefs cont. on pg. 8

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Briefs cont. from pg. 7

to protect lives and reduce property damage. The rating provides a 25 percent discount to property owners who hold National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood policies in Special Flood Hazard Areas on or after Oct. 1, 2020. Additionally, a 10 percent discount will be applied to all standard-rated NFIP flood insurance policies in X zones. The discount is automatically applied and property owners can locate the discount on their NFIP policy declaration.

The designation places St. Johns County within the top 17 percent of all CRS-participating communities in the state of Florida for 2020. The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) is a program created by FEMA that recognizes local efforts to reduce flood risk within the community and rewards residents and businesses by saving them money on flood insurance premiums. For more information, call (904) 827-6800 (Option 5).

### Newcomers of North St. Johns announces luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will hold its next member luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Columbia Restaurant, 98 St. George Street in St. Augustine. The luncheon features a presentation on estate planning by Amanda Edwards, Esq. and Meghan Edwards, Esq. They will address the importance of estate planning, including various tools that can be utilized in the process and how often one should reevaluate their current estate plan.

Cost for the luncheon and program is \$30 for members and will be held in a private dining room that seats 50. The meeting begins at 11:15 a.m. with luncheon service beginning at 11:30 a.m. All reservations must be received by Nov. 7, 2020 and, because of space limitations, an early reservation response is recommended.

Luncheon includes a choice of entrées: Boliche Criollo featuring roasted eye of round beef stuffed with chorizo and served with gravy, black beans, white rice and platanos; chicken and yellow rice featuring Ybor Quarter baked chicken with yellow rice, green peppers, onions and tomatoes; Roast Pork a la Cubana featuring slices of roast pork with marinade served with black beans, white rice, yuca and platanos; 1905 Salad including iceberg lettuce, julienne baked ham, swiss cheese, tomatoes, olives, romano cheese and garlic dressing; or vegetarian 1905 Salad with no ham. Beverages include choice of iced tea, soda, hot tea or coffee with flan served as dessert.

Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net to obtain a registration form for the luncheon or membership information. Newcomers

of North St. Johns offers a wide variety of activities, including smaller lunch groups, Canasta, Bunco, book club, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips and cultural events.

### Bartram Trail Newcomers group resumes luncheons

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will hold its November meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. Be sure to study up for a Thanksgiving Fun Facts and Trivia game.

Lunch choices include: spring mountain farms chicken breast, brown butter and sage roasted, with acorn squash risotto, sautéed haricot vert and dijon/maple velouté; Atlantic salmon croquettes, pan-seared with basil pesto broiled cherry tomatoes, mashed purple potatoes and lemon zested béarnaise sauce; and grilled vegetable ravioli with fall squash ratatouille and basil gremolata. Dessert is triple chocolate mousse cake with fresh fruit and warm anisette caramel sauce. Beverages included are iced tea, coffee, and soda. Other beverages are available for purchase. The total cost is \$22 per person.

Covid 19 guidelines will be followed. Unless seated at a table, attendees are asked to utilize face coverings.

Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Mary Ann Kriniske, 156 Worthington Parkway, Saint Johns, FL 32259. Be sure to indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line; payment must be received no later than Thursday, Nov. 5. Attendance will be limited to the first 100 members whose checks are received by the deadline.

Visit [www.facebook.com/BTNC1](http://www.facebook.com/BTNC1) for more information. In addition to monthly luncheon meetings, some of the club's activities such as Mah Jongg, Mexican Chicken Train, and golf are returning.

### New specialty license plate supports Florida 4-H

Vouchers for a new specialty license plate bearing the iconic 4-H clover are now available for purchase at all county tax collector offices and license plate agencies in Florida. The license plate will go into production once 3,000 presale vouchers are sold. Florida 4-H has two years to reach this presale goal.

One hundred percent of the \$25 specialty license plate fee will go directly toward statewide leadership programs like 4-H University and 4-H Legislature, the Florida 4-H camping program and 4-H youth competitive teams, said Michael Gutter, associate dean of UF/IFAS Extension and 4-H state program leader. Florida 4-H serves approximately 200,000 youth annually.

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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



### The Election of 1872: The dead candidate

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

The presidential election of 1872 featured two candidates whose names are still familiar to us today. One has his face on the 50 dollar bill, the other is remembered for a phrase he may never have actually uttered. Ulysses S. Grant was running for reelection. He had won the Civil War and was wildly popular in the North. His opponent was Horace Greeley, famous publisher of the “New York Tribune.” He is remembered for the still well-known phrase “Go west, young man and grow up with the country.”

Beating Grant seemed an impossibility to opposing Democrats. Not all of the former rebel states had been allowed to vote four years earlier when Grant had become the youngest president in history and the youngest ever elected at age 46. Not all southern votes would count this election either. Grant would remain the youngest elected president for almost a century, until John F Kennedy was elected in 1960 at the age of 43.

The Democrats were in disarray. For that reason, Greeley decided not to run as a Democrat, but to create a new party which he called the Liberal Republicans. The Democrats did not bother to nominate a candidate and chose to endorse the Liberal Republican ticket instead. Greeley had been publishing the highly influential “New York Tribune” since 1841. He and his papers were well respected. Grant’s own Secretary of State referred to the paper as the “Gospel of St. Horace.” Greeley’s chief assistant, Henry Raymond, would found the venerable “New York Times” a decade later. Horace is usually best remembered for saying “Go west, young man.” There is no evidence that Greeley ever wrote those words and no evidence that anyone else did either. It is a mystery.

The election took its predictable course, Grant won in a landslide over the Liberal Republicans. Grant, who is not remembered as a particularly good president, carried 31 out of 37 states, including Florida, and received 286 electoral votes. As in 1868, some of the electoral votes from the South were not counted. This

time Florida’s votes would count. They had been rejected in 1868.

What happened to Greeley’s electoral votes is the real story. Following the general election, but before the Electoral College met in December, Greeley died. After his defeat, there was a movement to remove Greeley from his position at the Tribune. Horace became ill at the thought and declined rapidly. He remains the only major party candidate to die during an election cycle.

No one knew exactly what to do with the 66 electoral votes the Liberal Republicans had won. In many ways, it did not matter. Grant was going to win. In the end, those votes were split amongst five men including Grant himself and Greeley’s running mate, Benjamin Brown. The only ones that went to Greeley were three from Georgia, but those were rejected along with the votes of Louisiana and Arkansas.

Four years later the question of southern electoral votes raised its ugly head again, only this time it mattered. Beset by scandal, U.S. Grant decided not to run for a third term. The Democrats nominated N.Y. governor, Samuel Tilden. The Republicans opted for Ohio governor Rutherford B. Hayes, a former Union general. The election was contentious. Tilden won the popular vote outright with 51 percent and seemingly the electoral vote as well. But the votes of Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida were disputed. Both parties claimed to have won. Allegations of voter fraud were rampant. In South Carolina, an impossible 101 percent of all eligible voters had voted. In the end a compromise was struck in the back rooms of Congress. Rutherford B. Hayes would become president and in return Reconstruction would end, including the removal of all Federal troops from the South. This is known as the Compromise of 1877.

*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@standfast.com](mailto:scottg@standfast.com).*

of war were also murdered by US troops at Chenogne. However, no one was ever prosecuted for these “most heinous war crimes of all times.” Your words.

*Norbert Puschner*

Dear Mr. Puschner,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts. You seem to take issue with two points of the article.

First, you question the timeline of 12 years in prison. Peiper was released from Landsberg Prison in December 1956, having had his sentence reduced to “time served.” He was the last of the Malmedy condemned to be freed. Although the

## Junior Achievement now recruiting volunteers for virtual classes

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

Junior Achievement of North Florida is currently recruiting volunteers to teach virtual classes to students in elementary, middle and high school. Each volunteer will first be given virtual training on the curriculum and best practices for virtual classroom teaching and then can choose from the available classes and times. Volunteers can visit [engage.ja.org](http://engage.ja.org) to see a list of classes available and then sign up for the desired class and time.

“Engage.ja.org makes it very easy to see when and where volunteers are needed and you can choose a class that fits best with your schedule,” said Teresa Smith, vice president of programs for JA of North Florida. “You can decide which school and grade you want to volunteer for and then we will be in touch to get you the information you need to succeed.”

There is currently an urgent need for volunteers for numerous programs including JA It’s My Business, JA It’s My Future, JA Economics for Success, JA Our Community, JA Our Nation, JA Personal Finance and JA Career Speaker Series. Volunteers can also search by grade level, program and delivery time through the advanced search option.

Punica Bhardwaj, an employee at Ernst & Young, is a volunteer with JA of North Florida. The nonprofit asked her to share her thoughts about her experience and the change from being an in-person volunteer to a virtual volunteer: “My experience has been great. I have really enjoyed all the conversations I have had with the students, as well as all the questions they have asked, and all their ideas about their future,” said Bhardwaj. “I have especially enjoyed working with high school students who have bright ideas about their future on what they would like to do and how they would like to achieve their goals.”

Bhardwaj said, “Virtual volunteering turned out to be a blessing in disguise, since, without the commute, we were able to get into more classes, and have more organic conversations with the students than in the class since sometimes students prefer to use the chat feature instead of talking.”

Contact Teresa Smith at [teresa@janfl.org](mailto:teresa@janfl.org) or (904) 398-9944, ext. 227 for more information about the programs and volunteer opportunities.



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### Reader letter and author response regarding “MarketInsight: The Bizarre Story of Joachim Peiper” published in the October issue

Dear Sir,

While your story [“The Bizarre Story of Joachim Peiper”] in the October issue did not shock and anger me, the inaccuracies and unfairness did.

If Colonel Peiper was released in 1956 after 12 years imprisonment, that would put the end of the war into 1944. As an historian, you know that the war ended in September 1945.

In all fairness, you also failed to mention the fact that some 80 German prisoners

war technically ended in September of 1945, as you state, that date marks the official surrender of Japan. The war with Germany ended in May of 1945. Peiper was captured by the Americans on May 22, 1945. He had been ordered to surrender by the German High Command. Instead he attempted to flee. I used 12 years, because Peiper always claimed he had done 12 years. He frequently claimed that he had been sentenced and “punished accordingly” for his crime. It would appear that he actually did 11½ years and not 12.

Second, you take issue with this article mentioning the atrocities committed by Kampf Gruppe Peiper and not mentioning the retribution taken on Waffen-SS

troops by angry Americans after news of the massacre at Malmedy leaked out. This was an article about Peiper and not about the Battle of the Bulge or atrocities on the Western Front. I was aware that American soldiers took retribution against Waffen-SS troops following Malmedy. I think all right-thinking Americans abhor those events even though they were motivated by an angry desire to seek retribution for acts committed by Peiper’s men.

I was not aware of the specifics of the Chenogne massacre. It is a horrific event and a stain on what is mostly a glorious history of US troops in World War II. Thank you for sharing that with me and our community.

*Scott A. Grant*



# SENIOR *NewsLine*

Lifestyle • Buying Power • Community • Travel • Health



## Heartillery Group launches eighth annual Mission Holiday Card Drive

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Heartillery Group, a Jacksonville based non-profit organization for military service members and their families, has launched its eighth annual Mission Holiday Card Drive with continuing focus to reach service members deployed overseas during this holiday season.

This holiday season, Heartillery Group aims to collect and distribute 500,000 cards to active military personnel overseas. All cards and donations go directly to Mission Holiday Drive for service members in all branches of the military, stationed throughout the world — and also to veterans here at home.

“Every year, Heartillery Group aims to go above and beyond our goal sending cards and packages to more active duty service members and veterans than the year before. Not being home for the holidays combined with COVID -19 makes this holiday season even more difficult for our service members and their families,” said Emily Spencer, founder of Heartillery Group. “We want to deliver as much joy and love as possible. As we continue through the pandemic, we remember how essential our service members are to us and the sacrifice they and their families

have made this holiday season.”

Here are the requested guidelines to make and mail cards. In order to meet this growing need, and to get cards to the troops quickly, Heartillery Group encourages you to mail in handwritten cards of love and gratitude starting today through Dec. 15, 2020.

- Make as many cards as you wish.
- Cards can be homemade, or store bought — be creative and have fun.
- Write simple and kind notes inside each card along with your signature(s).
- Use a generic salutation such as “Dear Service Member.”
- Put each card or letter in a blank, unsealed envelope.
- Once completed, mail all cards in one package to: Heartillery Group PO Box 2649, Ponte Vedra, FL 32004.

Donating \$20 covers the postage cost of one box which can deliver up to 350 cards. All donations are tax deductible. Visit <https://heartillerygroup.org> for more information about Heartillery Group, current projects, news or to make a financial donation.

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# SENIOR NewsLine

Lifestyle • Buying Power • Community • Travel • Health



## Medicare Open Enrollment is here

By John Risler  
mail@floridanewsline.com

It's check-up time. Before a long road trip, do you check the tire pressure, belts and hoses, coolant? Before leaving the dock, do you assure sufficient life vests, fishing tackle, bait is on board? How about a trip to the beach — towel, cooler, sunblock?

Now is the time to check your Medicare health coverage. The Medicare Open Enrollment Period for Medicare beneficiaries, also known as OEP, began on Oct. 15 and continues through Dec. 7. The sooner you start your review of coverage the better. This allows time for comparison, evaluation, counseling, and changing.

Begin by getting out your insurance cards. This includes your Medicare card, Supplemental Insurance card, Medicare Advantage Plan insurance card, and perhaps your Medicaid card. Next get out your drug plan card, if you have one, and a list of your current medications. Finally dig out your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) or Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) that have arrived in the past several months.

With this information in hand you can better understand what went well during the year, where you had difficulties, and if you wish you had made a different plan selection decision last fall.

You will also want to confirm that your current favorite primary provider and specialist will be accepting the same plans in 2021. Is your pharmacy still the preferred one for your plan? Are your drugs all covered by your plan? This may require changing plans or providers.

Further, you should determine if your financial situation has changed. Are your

current plans still within your budget? Do you need to reduce your costs? Do you qualify for, and need to apply for, premium assistance with Medicare Part B or Part D?

These are just some of the questions that comprise a thorough Medicare coverage check-up. Now is the time to start!

Confused? Overwhelmed? Unsure? There is help available as close as your computer or telephone. Medicare.gov is a user-friendly website with a convenient Plan Finder Tool that can guide you through the options available.

You can also call the ElderSource Program, SHINE (“Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders”) Program. This program offers free, independent and unbiased counseling with the goal of helping people find the best information possible to make important healthcare decisions.

SHINE volunteers are not insurance brokers, but rather specifically trained guides to help enrollees understand the possible changes they can make to their Medicare plans. This year, older adults may need additional guidance on coverage options because of the impacts of the COVID-19.

An ElderSource SHINE volunteer may be reached by calling (888) 242-4464.

*John Risler is an ElderSource SHINE volunteer.*



Photo courtesy ElderSource  
ElderSource SHINE volunteer  
John Risler.

## Volunteer shoppers help seniors

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Since March, three days a week, in coordination with Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida and River Garden Senior Services, community volunteers have helped grocery shop for the members of The Coves at River Garden.

When all community centers, including The Coves at River Garden were closed due to COVID-19 in March, Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) employees began shopping for residents during River Garden's campus lockdown. When the JCA reopened its doors and employees returned to work, the Jewish Federation & Foundation and River Garden Senior Services partnered to keep the ball rolling. They asked for volunteers to grocery shop, and over the past seven months, more than 100 volunteers have fulfilled more than 1,750 grocery lists for more than 80 members.

“I'm so thankful we get to do this for our members,” said Matthew Jackson, transportation specialist for The Coves and point-of-contact for the volunteer grocery shoppers. “They don't have to



Photo courtesy Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida  
Marjie Rogozinski, Regina Chaskin and Leslee Jacoby shopping at Publix for The Coves at River Garden members.

worry about grocery shopping during this difficult time. And, it's been fun and joyful to work with volunteers over these past months.”

“While we await some sense of normalcy to return to River Garden, we are grateful we can continue to fulfill this current need for our Jewish community,” said Faye Hedrick, Young Professionals & Families director for JFF. “What a wonderful mitzvah that so many volunteers have stepped up to help grocery shop for this vulnerable group.”

According to Hedrick, more volunteers  
**Volunteer shoppers** cont. on pg. 12

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Safely tucked away on 40 acres in Mandarin is a special place that many people call home, including June & Steve Meinstein. After 32 years trekking from Upstate NY to Jacksonville each year, these snowbirds traded in their tire chains for bike pumps. Their 30-year history with River Garden has culminated in an active lifestyle at The Coves for nearly four years.



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# SENIOR NewsLine

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## Memory care a component of assisted living

By NewsLine Staff  
 mail@floridanewslines.com

Aging brings about many changes, including some that may compromise seniors’ ability to remain independent. In such instances, many families consider assisted living facilities for their aging relatives.

More than 835,000 Americans currently reside in assisted living communities, according to the National Center for Assisted Living. While communities and homes provide various services, one service in particular may be needed for seniors with Alzheimer’s disease, other dementias or memory problems. Memory care units are separate facilities that cater to people with dementia or other memory issues.

According to the senior residence referral and resource guide A Place for Mom, memory care is a distinct form of long-term skilled nursing. Also called special care units, memory care facilities provide 24-hour supervised care for individuals. This care is often carried out in a separate wing or floor of a residential facility or community.

Memory care facilities aim to provide a safe and secure environment for residents. This means limiting entry or egress to other areas of the facility for those who may have trouble navigating and remembering where they started out. The Alzheimer’s Association notes that six in 10 people with dementia will wander and become disoriented.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
 A goal of memory care is to provide a stress-free, structured lifestyle that has set schedules and routines.

This is dangerous for the individual and others. Memory care units often have alarms and “wander guard” precautions in place to make sure residents cannot roam unsupervised and risk injury.

Another goal of memory care is to provide a stress-free, structured lifestyle that has set schedules and routines. This can help keep distress minimal and make for more comfortable and happy residents.

In addition, memory care units offer programs that help slow the progression of dementias and cultivate cognitive skills. Fitness exercises, games, specialty food programs, activities, and much more may be offered to make residents more comfortable. Memory care facilities include common spaces for socialization, meals and activities.

“Alzheimer’s patients must maintain their activity, walking, interacting with music, and art,” says Lory Bright-Long, MD, CMD, of the American Medical Directors Association. “We have to awaken the senses so that the memory can have a hook. This is accomplished in the memory care setting.”

**Volunteer shoppers** cont. from pg. 11

are needed to grocery shop for The Coves members for as long as the need continues and while River Garden continues to observe strict visiting guidelines. Shopping takes place at Publix, 11250 Old St. Augustine Road on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. If interested, visit [jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org) and look for The Coves Shopping Signup Genius to volunteer, or email [fayeh@jewishjacksonville.org](mailto:fayeh@jewishjacksonville.org).



Photo courtesy ElderSource

## Shop and Drop to help seniors a big success

On Saturday, Sept. 26, ElderSource hosted a Shop and Drop event where people from the community dropped off donated items for seniors in need. The items donated included hundreds of toiletry and hygiene products as well as activity books, word puzzles, crayons and pens. According to Andrea Spencer, vice president of communications at Eldersource, “ElderSource is grateful for the kindness shown to the seniors of the community and appreciates everyone who was able to help a senior during these difficult times. The staff is working diligently to sort through the donated items to get them ready for future delivery to community seniors and plans to make the deliveries closer to the holiday season.”

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## Your dog and bloat

By Jennifer Lockwood, DVM and Liz Bigelow, CVT  
mail@floridanewslines.com

After a huge Thanksgiving feast, inevitably we humans say, “I ate too much, I’m bloated!” This is easy enough to address — pop an antacid, watch some football, and then go for another slice of pumpkin pie; however, bloat is not as innocent or as easy to treat for dogs. Bloat is a dangerous and potentially fatal disease that requires immediate medical attention.

Bloat can manifest in two different ways. The first is where excessive food or gas fills and stretches a dog’s stomach (gastric dilation), and the second is where the stretched stomach twists on itself trapping gas inside (gastric dilation and volvulus). In both cases, the abdomen eventually becomes distended, putting pressure on the diaphragm and making it difficult to breathe. This abdominal distention will slow returning blood flow to the heart and stomach, causing tissue death and potentially shock.

Adult and senior large breed dogs with deep chests, like mastiffs and great danes, are more predisposed to bloat, but that doesn’t mean your chihuahuas are off the hook. Although less likely, bloat has been reported in every breed and can happen at any age. Age and breed are not

the only factors to consider. Dogs that gulp their food, eat only one large meal a day, or are allowed to participate in heavy exercise close to meals tend to be at higher risk. Dogs that have experienced bloat once are more likely to bloat again.

But bloat does not have to be a reactive disease; there is a way to be proactive too! A surgical procedure called a gastropexy can be performed to aid in preventing bloat. With a gastropexy, a veterinarian will suture your dog’s stomach to the chest cavity wall to prevent it from twisting. While it is not a guarantee your dog won’t ever experience bloat, this procedure helps minimize the risk. Gastropexy surgery is often combined with other abdominal surgeries. For example, your veterinarian may recommend a gastropexy at the time of your dog’s spaying if she’s a high risk breed. This offers the extra piece of mind without having two separate anesthetic events.

If you have questions about bloat or if your dog is a candidate for a gastropexy, contact your veterinarian. Treating bloat in dogs is more than just chewing some Tums, but with help from your veterinary team, you can be proactive in combating this disease.

*Jennifer Lockwood, DVM is owner and veterinarian of Crosswinds Veterinary Hospital. Email crosswindsvet@gmail.com for more information.*

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

### Donna Braasch

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

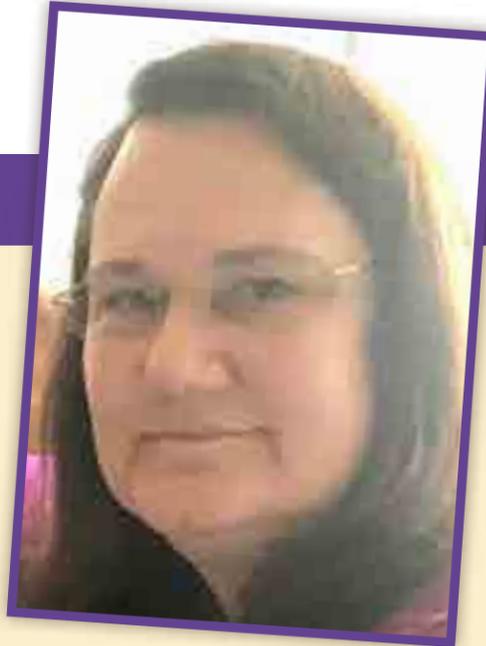


Photo courtesy Donna Braasch  
Donna Braasch

Switzerland resident and Bartram Trail Branch Library reference assistant Donna Braasch said she's a "local girl." She's a member of the Bowden family and grew up in Mandarin. Her parents first home was directly under what is now the Buckman Bridge on Scott Mill Road; the state took the land when she was six years old to build the bridge and the family moved to a home on a dirt road nearby. She said she recalls when JEA installed street lights on San Jose Boulevard (then known as State Road 13, as it still is in St. Johns County). A true bibliophile from an early age, Braasch said her mother used to take her to the Bookmobile outside Winn Dixie (now the site of Big Lots) when she went grocery shopping. She met her husband in high school, but they didn't date until she worked after high school at Winn Dixie, first as a cashier and eventually as a general merchandise manager. She married Ron Braasch in 1983 and that's when they moved to St. Johns County. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

**Q: How long have you had a love for books?**

A: I have always loved reading. In addition to visits to the Bookmobile, I remember my mother and I would ride the bus downtown to the Haydon Burns Library in Jacksonville. My parents couldn't figure me out, since they weren't really readers. The family joke was that I married the first man who would also sit in a room with me and read a book.

**Q: How did you come to work at the Bartram Trail Branch Library?**

A: After Ron and I married, we started our family. For many years, I stayed home, chased babies, and volunteered at the library, schools, and my church. When our youngest child was in high

school, I was bored and knew I needed something to do. So, I saw the library had a part-time position available and applied. Getting the job was not easy; I interviewed for three different positions before I was hired, as I was always up against applicants with degrees in library science. I was finally hired in 2007 as a circulation assistant and now I'm a reference assistant.

**Q: What do you like best about working at the library?**

A: I understand customer service and I'm always on the patron's side. I feel if the library can be a soft place to fall, we should try to make it that way, especially during the last six months. I love getting to meet so many people who are new to the area. I enjoy the young families and the military families and I try to make them all feel welcome. I'm responsible for a lot of the programming and I work with the groups who meet there as a kind of liaison. I also do most of the adult crafts.

I also like that I can collect items for various non-profits at the library. At the Bartram Trail Branch Library, we collect non-perishable food for Hastings, end tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, Box Tops for Education, glasses for the Lion's Club, fabric for Dress Girls Around the World, and yarn for our knitting and crocheting groups.

**Q: What are some of the precautions the library has taken in the time of COVID?**

A: We are limiting the time people spend in the building and ask that family groups stay together when browsing to lessen exposure. We have computers available with time limits. Grab and Go is available for people who don't want to come into the building. We are washing hands frequently and wearing masks.

**Lights Out** cont. from pg. 1

North Florida is the second-largest migration site along the Atlantic Coast. According to the National Audubon Society, 70 percent of North American bird species are migratory, and 80 percent of those species migrate at night — primarily small, colorful songbirds.

"These are the songbirds we see regularly during spring and fall when they stop to rest and refuel on the thousands-of-miles-long journey to their breeding or wintering grounds," said Carol Bailey-White, president of Duval Audubon Society.

The purpose of Lights Out Northeast Florida is to inform, encourage and empower the community on ways they can reduce their impact on migratory birds. The group shares these tips to start implementing now for the Fall Migration, from September through November, and later in the Spring Migration, from February until May:

- Turn off lights during the darkest period of night, between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Direct lights to point downward, instead of upward into the sky.
- Switch floodlights to timed lights or motion sensor lights.
- Encourage businesses to turn off their lights or reduce the amount of time their lights are on at night.

"We are excited to partner with our two local Audubon Societies. This is an incredible effort that can only be accomplished by working together, using scientific data and sharing that information with an easy and direct way for our communities to make an impact," said Mike Taylor, Curator of Birds, Herps and Others at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. "We are excited to launch this program, growing our community and making sure the colorful songbirds at our feeders continue to pass through without interruption and invite them back season after season."

*About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens: For more than 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the more than 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world and in Northeast Florida. Visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org) for more information.*

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: I like to spend time with my family. I like to be out in nature and spend time walking in our local parks and on the beach. I read a couple of books a week. I also like to travel and no matter where I go, I always visit the local library and buy a tote bag to support its Friends of the Library group. These Friends groups are so important as they work hard to raise funds for their library and we are so grateful.

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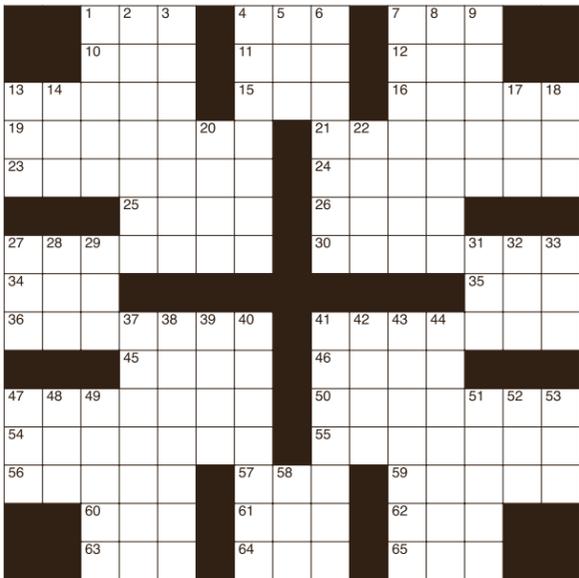
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Autonomic nervous system
4. At or near the stern
7. Adenosine triphosphate
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Chinese revolutionary
12. Green veggie
13. Large group
15. Swiss river
16. Semiaquatic mammal
19. Wrongdoers
21. Home to Disney World
23. Spanish doctors
24. Newborn child
25. Absence of difficulty
26. Large, stocky lizard
27. Earned top billing
30. A long wandering and eventful journey
34. Water (French)

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Speak up
2. More informative
3. Where passengers sit
4. Gathered
5. Supervises flying
6. Home of the Blue Jays
7. Public statement of regret
8. Lockjaw
9. Indian city
13. Patriots' Newton
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Sun up in New York
18. Eggs in female fish
20. Stood up
22. NBA legend Willis
27. Calendar month (abbr.)
28. Exercise regimen \_\_\_-bo
29. The 8th month (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

31. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
32. Tall deciduous tree
33. Affirmative
37. Notified of danger
38. NFL game days
39. Archaic term for "to"
40. Plant pores
41. Canned fish
42. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
43. Connects with
44. Of the skull
47. Time zone (abbr.)
48. When you hope to get there
49. Hindu goddess
51. Land
52. Pitching stat
53. Field force unit
58. Lakers' crosstown rivals



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

**A. 19 18 15 10 16 22**  
*Clue: Soaring through the air*

**B. 23 15 20 10**  
*Clue: Part of an aircraft*

**C. 7 18 22 15 22 13 26 25**  
*Clue: Height of an object*

**D. 7 5 9 25 20 22**  
*Clue: Climb upwards*

## AVIATION WORD SEARCH

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

**WORDS**

- AERONAUTICS
- AIRFOIL
- ALTIMETER
- ANGLE
- ARRIVAL
- AVIATION
- CAMBER
- CHARTER
- CLEARANCE
- DEPARTURE
- DESCENT
- DISTRESS
- ENGINE
- FLAPS
- FLIGHT
- FUSELAGE
- GROUND CONTROL
- JOYSTICK
- LANDING
- LEVEL
- LIFT
- MANEUVER
- PILOT
- SPEED

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

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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

We are reaching the time of year when fishing in the St. Johns can begin to slow. Shorter days and cooler temperatures often trigger the beginning of an exodus for certain species of fish seeking warmer waters for the winter. Only because it is November, we can make this assumption — but in reality, and in recent years, this hasn't always been the case.

With fewer prolonged cold spells and freezes, milder winters are becoming more common. This has helped river temperatures stay at or above 60 degrees for most of our winter season. Warmer river temperatures into the winter months has contributed to better than usual river fishing through most of the winter.

South of the Buckman Bridge, drum and redfish bites have remained consistent all the way through to spring. Areas near Doctor's Lake and the 17 Bridge are particularly good for drum. Docks north of the Buckman all the way to downtown have been good for speckled trout. There has even been enough shrimp hanging around through our winter months to catch enough to have on hand for live bait.

Warmer water temps on the river also means warmer water temps at the beach. Recent mild winters have also contributed to better than usual surf fishing. Whiting have recently been lingering at our beaches as late as January, along with some drum and blues.

Winter, but not necessarily winter weather, will soon be upon us. Do not park



Photo courtesy James Paris

Little Jon Garcia at 50 years old just caught his first red drum in the waters at Guana Lake. This was his very first time fishing and his very first fish ever caught.

that boat or put away the fishing gear just yet. Milder winter weather has plenty of advantages, and one those advantages may just be fishing into the new year.

Fishing Report: Surf fishing for anything that "bites" is a good bet as bait fish continue to migrate south. Speckled trout around downtown bridges (especially at night) should be good through the whole month of November.

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

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



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# Gardening

## Cool season in the garden

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

In October I often find myself a bit behind, mostly because it's hard working in the late summer heat and humidity — but autumn is a good time to improve your vegetable beds for early spring and to plant spring-flowering bulbs. It's also a time to enjoy seasonal changes, including the animals and flowers you might see only at this time of year.

This year our raised vegetable beds are free of weeds, but need additional growing medium. Over time, often quite quickly in our heat, organic matter is broken down and the result is a shallower bed. Traditionally, raised bed soil has been peat-based, with compost for fertility and organic matter, perhaps perlite to keep it light, composted pine fines to keep the mixture loose, and slow release fertilizer, much like a good potting soil. For three, 8 x 4 x 1 foot beds, I originally purchased a total of 96 cubic feet of raised bed soil from a reputable local source. To replenish the beds, I decided to use coconut coir, which can replace peat in many applications. It's a by-product that will keep carbon out of our atmosphere, unlike peat extraction.

It was easy to calculate how much I needed: adding four inches depth for each of the three beds totals 12 inches, the equivalent of one bed's worth of soil, or 32 cubic feet. I found a company offering free shipping — a necessity since the shipping weight was 40 lb — I now have three compressed bales of coconut coir with added nutrients to top up my beds. When it stops raining I'll be out rehydrating that coconut coir, and adding it to the vegetable beds. For more information see <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep472#FIGURE%202>.

Spring-flowering bulbs can be planted through early December. Daffodils can be finicky, but Terry DelValle (Duval County Horticultural Agent Emeritus) has a list of daffodils that can do well here: "Carlton, February Gold, Itzem, Sweetness, Trevithian, Chinese Sacred Lily, Soleil d'Or, Cragford, Erlicheer, Nony, Golden Dawn,

Grand Primo and Silver Chimes. Most paperwhites (*N. papyraceus*) will perform well in our area." Her advice is to plant them soon and be patient, as they take time to establish a strong root system and may not perform their best the first spring. They need good drainage and, judging from my neighbor's successes, do well in light dappled shade. At planting time, use a fertilizer formulated for bulbs to get them off to a good start.

Star flower (*Ipheion uniflorum*) is a pretty little groundcover bulb. The flowers in shades of blue or white are about one inch across, atop six to eight inch stems; the foliage is almost grass-like and has a slightly garlicky smell when crushed. It is delightful but isn't often seen locally, despite being suited here to well-drained locations.

A variety of insects have been enjoying a late summer feast of pollen and nectar from a bed of dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) and a patch of beggar's ticks (*Bidens alba*). Small native bees which nest in sandy soil are busy laying in supplies for their broods. Assassin bugs have been busy too; for the first time I found one stuck (literally!) into its prey — an unfortunate little sweat bee, which is one of the good guys!

Migrant birds have been passing through, but many of them are hard to identify when they've lost their characteristic breeding colors. Others are arriving to spend the winter here. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website can help: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mqkkgq>. I may even have spotted an uncommon Bicknell's thrush.

Also seen: a huge yellow garden spider, *Argiope aurantia*, wrapping a gulf fritillary butterfly for its larder, and the skinny tail of a black snake, possibly a black racer, mostly hidden in some shell ginger.

Check out the New Leaf here: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/lawns-gardens-and-trees/new-leaf-newsletter/>. Enjoy the cooler weather, and your gardens and wildlife: the small pleasures can really add up!

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# Travel

## Alaskan Adventures

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewline.com

For a Floridian, a trip to Alaska requires a minimum of two long flights—but the “Last Frontier” brings many rewards as its range of topography and wildlife present astounding differences. You’ll see massive mountain ranges sloping down into turquoise-colored lakes, crystalline blue glaciers calving icebergs, humpback, orca, and beluga whales breaching out of the water, and bears roaming free.

My first Alaskan trip began in Juneau, where I joined an active cruise on a small ship (fewer than 100 passengers). Daily opportunities provided glacier exploration, whale watching, hiking, kayaking, and skirting around in an inflatable boat (skiff). The sheer beauty of the Inner Passage and Glacier Bay glistened otherworldly and humbled me.

I returned to Alaska in 2020 because I’d missed so much. I longed to visit Denali National Park, see the Aurora Borealis, and, most of all, watch and photograph bears.

This time I flew to Fairbanks, farther north than Juneau, but not as far as the Arctic Circle. I saw the Transatlantic Pipeline, went panning for gold, and

soaked in the Chena Hot Springs that was honestly too hot for 50-degree daytime temperatures. I’m sure the natural pool would be ideal in the winter. Sadly, I was just a bit too early for an aurora sighting.

I traveled by train to Denali in one of those domed cars with wrap-around windows. The vast wilderness and dramatic scenery surrounded until it began to rain. Unfortunately, I didn’t see the top of Denali, the highest peak in North America. Still, I got a look at some of the picturesque, colorful mountains and valleys.

Then I headed to Anchorage, the state’s biggest city, and the starting point for the Iditarod Dogsled Race. Anchorage is home to the most extensive seaplane base in the world, used by many bush pilots. I explored Turnagain Arm and the Seward Highway running along the rugged coast, where tidal changes reveal mud flats twice a day. I visited remote Prince William Sound, the now recovered site of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Somewhere, I developed a fascination with bears, an animal that appears to

many in dreams, visions, dance, music, and folklore. They are thought to have a spirit. My main desire was to visit the island home of the Kodiak bears, and photograph the brown coastal bears in Katmai National Park and Preserve.

I flew to Kodiak, and on my first morning, those large bears proved elusive. Fortunately, the afternoon produced a remarkable sighting of a frolicking male fishing for salmon in the Buskin River.

The next day I took a float-plane to Katmai. I hit the jackpot: perfect weather, a chiasmatic, knowledgeable guide, and between 13 and 15 bears. Most exciting was the chance to get close, made possible because the bears must fatten up before going into hibernation. They were following their instincts and focusing on salmon. The brown bears may have noticed my small group, but they didn’t seem to care. They were concentrating on catching and eating fish. A delightful surprise was cubs tagging along with the females.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Bear with fish.



Cubs. of the picturesque, colorful mountains



Front facing bear.

My guide knew the habits of the Katmai bears and led us to prime viewing spots. To take advantage of this experience, you must go during the late summer/early fall. I was blessed with incredible pictures of their forceful pouncing on fish and tearing it apart with their long claws. I watched three little cubs play near the river while their mama fished and brought them food. I will never forget their childlike sibling rivalry and freedom. Thank you, Alaska, for making dreams come true.

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

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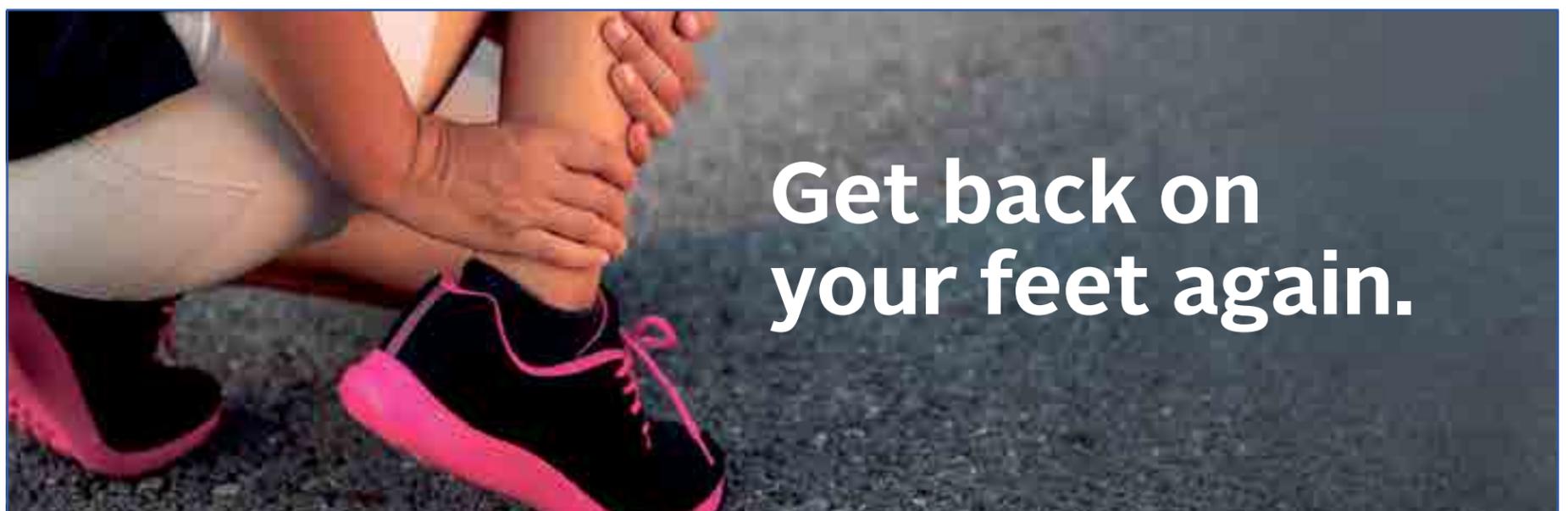
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