

Briefs

Summer reading volunteer opportunities available

RSVP of St. Johns County is looking for community members to assist once a week in the summer reading or algebra programs in the St. Johns County School District. Hours are flexible. If you are traveling this summer, you can help out while you are in town.

Orientation for volunteers will be Thursday, June 16 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Fullerwood Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive in St. Augustine.

"There are students who can greatly benefit from the help of those willing to give just a small amount of their time," said Cheryl Freeman, RSVP director. "Assistance from community volunteers can make all the difference in helping these students succeed."

To make a training reservation or for more information, contact RSVP at (904) 547-3952 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

2022 Point in Time Count shows decrease in county homelessness

Each year a survey is conducted to gauge the amount of homeless individuals within St. Johns County. The Point in Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night. The PIT Count is traditionally held in January, but due to challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year it was held on February 28.

The St. Johns County Continuum of Care, led by Flagler Health+, conducts the PIT Count as a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) for those who seek federal funds. The goal is to have an accurate depiction of all those who are utilizing temporary housing including emergency shelters and transitional, plus persons who are living in places not meant for human habitation including cars, parks, and other similar locations.

This year's PIT Count was a community effort with volunteer staff from Care Connect+ (a program of Flagler Health+), Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, Department of Health & Human Services, Veterans Administration, St. Francis House, Wildflower Clinic, and the SOS Street Outreach Services team. The teams started at 7 a.m. and canvassed all of St. Johns County with a focus on areas identified by street outreach teams where they commonly interact with people experiencing homelessness. Surveys were conducted interview-style on tablets.

The PIT Count results showed that on Feb. 28 there were 349 individuals experiencing homelessness in St. Johns County. Of those, 242 were experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 107 were residing in shelter. This total was a decrease of 17 percent from the 419 individuals who were experiencing homelessness on the day of the 2021 count. Overall the number of homeless decreased year-over-year, but there was a 16 percent increase in the number of those who were chronically homeless.

While the PIT represents a one-day snapshot, the St. Johns County Continuum of Care works year round in an effort to prevent and end homelessness, bringing together resources and partnerships to make homelessness rare, brief and one time.

In 2021, there were 6,682 people who were served by all programs within the Care Connect+ Information Network, a decrease of 20 percent from 2020. Of those, 27 percent of adults reported that they were literally homeless at the time of requesting assistance.

Additionally, it should be noted that homeless school children are counted by the St. Johns County School District using a different homeless definition under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. To date, in 2022, the St. Johns County School District has identified 780 Homeless Children and Youth in our schools. This total changes daily as new students are identified and is an on-going count until the end of the school year.

St. Johns County urges beachgoers to take precautions to protect sea turtle nests

Sea turtle nesting season is officially underway in St. Johns County through Oct. 31. Residents, visitors, and businesses are asked to help protect natural sea turtle habitats by observing all nesting season laws and regulations.

Vehicular beach traffic is only allowed from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. All beachfront properties must reduce their impact by eliminating interior and exterior lights that may disrupt nesting sea turtles. Volleyball court lights at St. Johns County Ocean Pier Park will turn on at sunset and turn off at 9 p.m. during sea turtle nesting season.

Beachgoers can also have a positive impact on nesting sea turtles by taking the following precautions:

- Refrain from using fireworks and open fires.
- Remove ruts and sandcastles.
- Flashlights are strongly discouraged as they can harm sea turtles.
- Avoid entering dunes and conservation zones (15 feet seaward of the dune line).
- Refrain from releasing balloons or sky lanterns, as they can fall into the ocean and harm marine life.
- Never approach sea turtles emerging from or returning to the sea. Nesting sea turtles are vulnerable, timid, and can be easily frightened.
- Leave only your footprints at the beach.

Never push an injured animal back into the ocean. If an injured, sick, or deceased sea turtle is located, call the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch line at (904) 824-8304. For more information, call St. Johns County Habitat Conservation and Beach Management at (904) 209-3740 or visit www.sjcfi.us/hcp.

Elder abuse: It's more than scams

June 15 is National World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Elder abuse affects one in 10 adults over the age of 60, yet only one in 24 cases are reported to authorities. It's estimated that up to five million older Americans are abused every year totaling a loss of at least \$36.6 billion.

ElderSource and six other Florida Area Agencies on Aging are presenting "Elder Abuse: It's More Than Scams," a free virtual workshop on Wednesday, June 15, from

Briefs cont. on pg. 5



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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Moonee!



Breed:
French Bulldog

Favorite Activity:
Monitoring neighborhood activity (aka "Watching the block")

Favorite Treat:
Grandma's chicken

Favorite Friend:
Poppy, the fun little girl who lives downstairs.

How your BFF got their name:
Moonee is named after the main character in the 2017 indie movie, "The Florida Project."

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in St. Augustine NewsLine! Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in St. Augustine NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.

Welcome to your new community newspaper! We hope you will find interesting and informative stories inside.

Let us know if you have any article ideas or if you'd like to advertise your business to our readers!

~ The Team at St. Augustine NewsLine

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St. Augustine NewsLine

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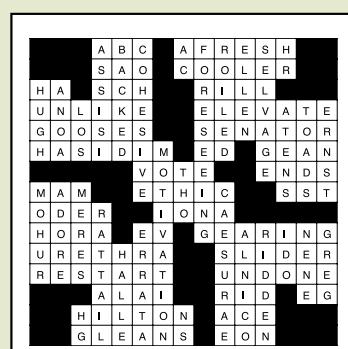
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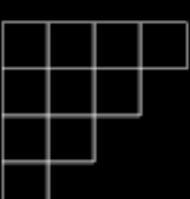
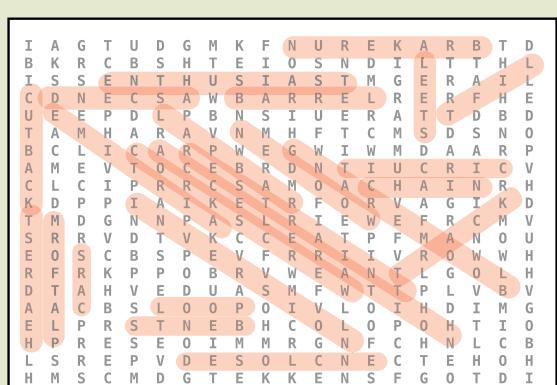
Last month's Mystery Photo was Grace United Methodist Church.



Answers to our Puzzles PG 8

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
CRYPTO FUN
Determining the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. drop B. speed C. thrills D. ride



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June

Community Calendar

What's Happening in St. Augustine

3rd: Lightner Local Exhibition, "Martha Ferguson: Beyond the Crowds," opens June 3, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m during the First Friday Art Walk. Inspired by her experiences strolling the streets of St. Augustine and crossing paths with locals along the way, Beyond the Crowds presents Martha Ferguson's intimate vision of the Ancient City. Created to showcase the extraordinary talents of artists who live in the Northeast and Central Florida regions, Lightner Local is supported by the Benjamin and Jean Troemel Arts Foundation.

6th: The North Florida Chapter of the National MS Society and Bike MS cycling team Big Bananas will host the 10th annual Multiple Sclerosis Awareness silent auction on June 6 at Mr. Chubby's Wings, 150 Valley Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach. The event is free to the public and offers more than 250 items from Beaches retailers, restaurants and service providers valued at over \$33,000. There's also a 50-50

drawing. All proceeds benefit the more than 18,000 North Floridians impacted by MS.

9th: Junior LEGO Robotics will meet at the Main Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. on June 9. Kids aged seven through 10 will learn how to build and program cool robots. Classes are free and each class lasts an hour. Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Andy Calvert, (904) 827-6940 or acalvert@sjcfl.us for more information or to sign up.

11th: The Northeast Florida Chapter of Sisters in Crime presents award-winning author Janet Kuchler (aka Janet Cooper) at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. (FOL Room), at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 11. Bring your coffee and bring a friend. The group welcomes misters and sisters to learn more about writing, promoting, and enjoying crime fiction. Visit www.

nefloridasistersincrime.org for more information.

13th: The St. Johns County Civic Roundtable will meet on Monday, June 13 at 12 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting will feature guest speaker St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick. Email info@sjcroundtable.org to register for the meeting or visit www.sjcroundtable.org for more information about the St. Johns County Civic Roundtable.

21st: Family Storytime will be held at the Main Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., from 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Join Mr. Andy and Ms. Marcia in the large meeting room for music and stories. This program is designed for kids aged two to four, but all ages are welcome. RSVP for each child and adult attending at <https://sjcpl.org/branches/main-branch>. Contact Mr. Andy at (904) 827-6940 or at acalvert@sjcfl.us for more information.

25th: GTM Research Reserve will host its monthly Beach Cleanup on Saturday, June 25 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. No registration is required; meet at the Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Visit gtmnerr.org for more information.

30th: Jaws of the Sea, a guided beach walk sponsored by St. Johns County Parks and Rec, is all about sharks and will be held at Mussallem Beachfront Park on June 30 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. During the walk, attendees will learn about shark biology, common sharks in the area and local shark research. Participants will get a chance to look for their own sharks teeth on the beach to take home.

Have an event you'd like included in our community calendar? Email the information to editor@floridanewslines.com. Deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue.

Welcome to the new

St. Augustine NewsLine

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR NEWSPAPER.



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with St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon Patty

Q: Last month we covered your Property Fraud Alert program — how are the signups going? How big of a problem is property fraud in Florida?

A: We doubled the number of subscribers over the last few weeks, so we are getting the word out, thank you! Property fraud is when someone illegally uses your property for financial gain — for instance, someone recording a fraudulent deed, mortgage or lien against your property in the Official Records of the St. Johns County Clerk's Office. Two real-life examples have made news recently in Florida — a South Florida woman sold properties she didn't own in an elaborate scheme that defrauded 45 people across six counties, including Flagler, and an Oviedo man nearly lost his property to an identity thief who used a fraudulent deed to take possession of it. In the second case, it was the county comptroller's office that alerted him to the recording activity.

Our free property fraud alert service provides an early warning system for subscribers to take prompt action if they are notified of recording activity in their name. If you know you didn't record it and recognize it as fraudulent, you know to immediately contact law enforcement.

Our service is free, it's safe, and it's easy to sign up at <https://apps.stjohnsclerk.com/Landmark/FraudAlert>.

Q: You recently announced that St. Johns County received recognition for transparency and financial reporting for 29 consecutive years. Why is this a big deal for St. Johns County?

A: The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the gold

standard for reporting, transparency and disclosure about the county's finances. To produce the required information for the auditor's review is a whole-of-government effort by county government and the five constitutional officers each year. The audit process is not easy or quick — it's kicked off in the first quarter of each fiscal year and requires a heavy lift from all agencies and entities. Nonetheless, the process and resulting report is critical to maintaining the public's trust in our stewardship of their tax dollars.

Q: It's been said that the Clerk and Comptroller's office performs more than a thousand functions and services. How can people learn more about what a clerk and comptroller does?

A: We are soon launching an informational newsletter so residents can learn more about their Clerk and Comptroller's office and the services we offer. Our goal is to be transparent, offer opportunities to access records and information, provide services to St. Johns County residents, and to make sure that we are meeting your needs. Sign up for our first newsletter at communications@stjohnsclerk.com. We do want to emphasize that if you receive the newsletter and aren't interested, know there is an easy opt-out. You can also email us and let us know what Clerk and Comptroller topics would be helpful to you, your family or your business.

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

A: A lot of questions can be answered by visiting our website, www.stjohnsclerk.com. People can also call our main office at (904) 819-3600.

Briefs cont. from pg. 2

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The free workshop features several experts providing information and tips on how to report elder abuse, how to protect yourself against cybercrimes and how to uncover the unsuspecting traps of financial scammers.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide older adults with the information they need to make informed decisions to protect themselves and others against elder abuse. While this silent problem can often rob older adults of their dignity and independence, this workshop will help empower them instead.

The workshop is presented in collaboration with Senior Connection Center, Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc., Advantage Aging Solutions, Area Agency on Aging of Broward County Inc., and Area Agency of Pasco-Pinellas Inc.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3rFNSaY> to sign up for the workshop.

"Cinderella" to be presented June 8

"Cinderella," a new, original dance production, will be presented on Wednesday, June 8, at Lewis Auditorium in downtown St. Augustine by Zoika's Dance. Fun for the whole family, this fresh retelling of the classic fairytale combines classical ballet with contemporary dance genres including tap, hip hop, contemporary, jazz, and ballroom dance.



Photo courtesy Julie Abella Photography
Dancers Annabelle Hucke and Jake Karger will perform Cinderella and the Prince.

Director and choreographer, Zoika Garcia, has called upon the talents of professional dancers to join the cast of young dancers. Among the professionals joining the cast are Amaani Grant (hip hop, contemporary, tap); Katherine DeAcutis (hip hop); and Jenne Verme (tap and contemporary), Alex Rubio, and Christie Woodson, members of professional tap ensemble, Noise Complaint.

The role of Cinderella's stepmother will be portrayed by professional ballroom and musical theater dancer and actor Christina Cruz, who will be joined onstage by professional ballroom dancer Clay Mitchell. The King and Queen will be portrayed by St. Augustine performers Tommy Bledsoe and Joy D'Elia. Cinderella and the Prince will be portrayed by local dancers Annabelle Hucke and Jake Karger.

Performances will be presented at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8 at Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada Street in St. Augustine. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.zoikasdance.com](http://zoikasdance.com).



with St. Johns County Commissioner Sarah Arnold, District 2

Q: Do you have an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds update for District 2?

A: We are moving forward with the county's allocation of ARPA funds and had two big wins for District 2. First, we allocated \$5 million towards funding the construction of a much needed medical clinic in West Augustine. This is a historically impoverished area and this need has existed for some time. The medical clinic will be in partnership with Flagler Health+ and the Y.

Secondly, we allocated \$7 million towards bringing the southwest campus of First Coast Technical College (FCTC), a vocational school, to Hastings. We are early in the process, but the hope is to renovate and restore the historic Hastings High School for this purpose rather than build new. I think it's important to preserve this history if possible.

Q: Can you give an update on the budget process [as of interview date of May 16] and what you hope to glean as a new commissioner?

A: The St. Johns County Fiscal Year 2023 Administrator's Budget Workshop will be held May 23 – 25. I expect to have an intensive learning curve and I'm excited to soak it all in. Of particular interest to me is the growth we're experiencing in our county — and how do we keep up with it? Especially in the area of public safety to include our first responders. They need all of the resources to do their job effectively and they need to be

compensated fairly. Public safety also includes our roadways and infrastructure.

For instance, consider the stretch of County Road 210 between Cimarrone and Greenbriar. It seems there is an accident there every day and I think it's one of the most dangerous roadways in the county. I'm working hard to get it fixed. The bid to widen it just came in higher and taking longer to complete than we had originally planned, but I'm working with staff to see if we can expedite it in any way.

Q: As a county commissioner, what would you say are your three budget priorities?

A: I think we've already talked about two of them that concern public safety: first responders and infrastructure. I would next include parks and recreation. Our kids don't have enough field space. We need to add more park space.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 2?

A: With the warmer weather of summer upon us, many residents will be out enjoying our beautiful beaches and waterways. I'd like to encourage parents to be very careful with their children in these settings, as we know that our emergency calls spike during the summer months.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc2sarold@sjcf.us or call me at (904) 325-4182.

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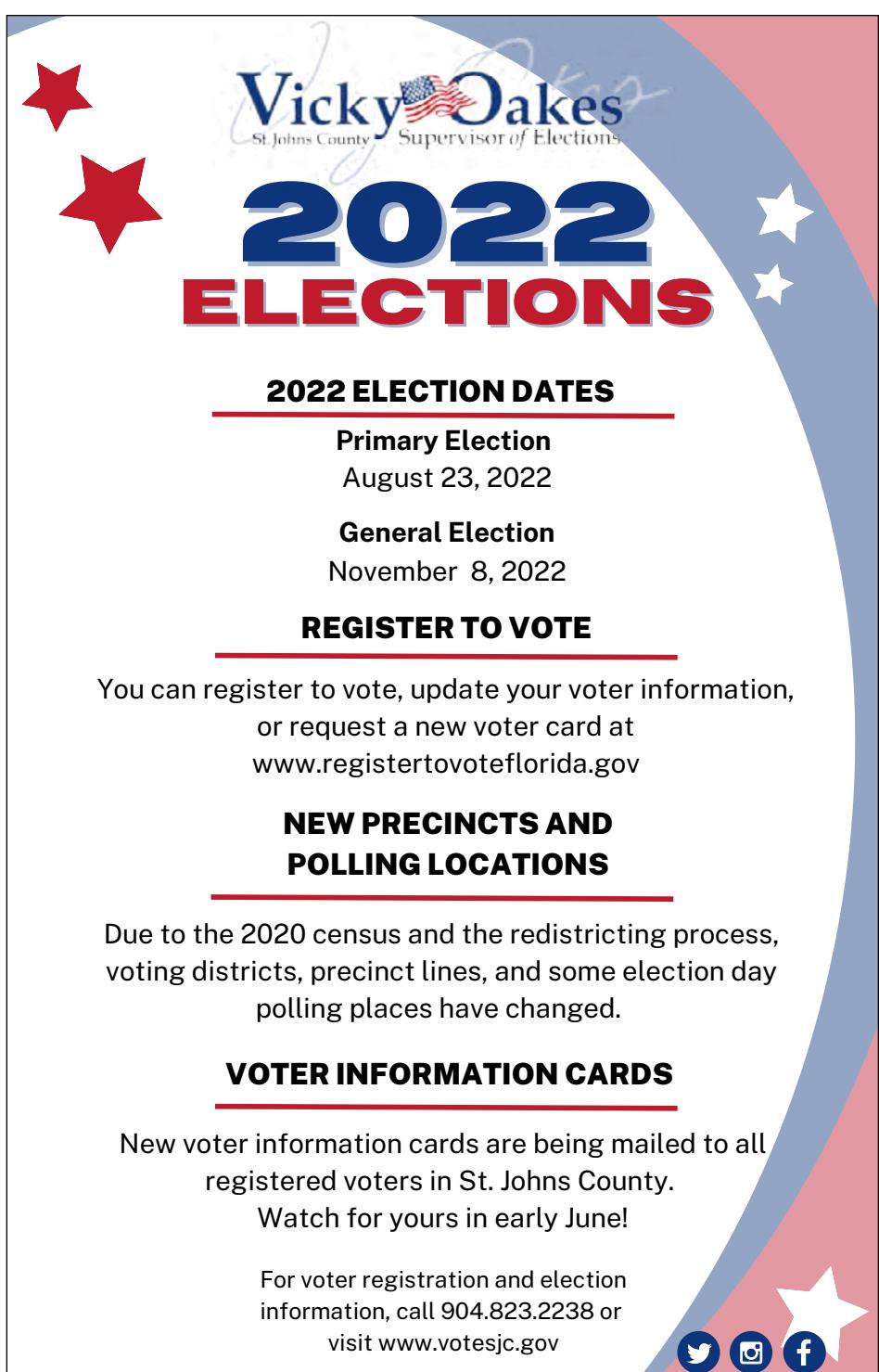
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Vicky Oakes
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

2022 ELECTIONS

2022 ELECTION DATES

Primary Election
August 23, 2022

General Election
November 8, 2022

REGISTER TO VOTE

You can register to vote, update your voter information, or request a new voter card at www.registertovoteflorida.gov

NEW PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS

Due to the 2020 census and the redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some election day polling places have changed.

VOTER INFORMATION CARDS

New voter information cards are being mailed to all registered voters in St. Johns County. Watch for yours in early June!

For voter registration and election information, call 904.823.2238 or visit www.votesjc.gov

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Guest Column

New website and Citizen's Guide to Voting designed to help voters stay informed

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Have you visited www.votesjc.gov lately? We launched a new website in May with a focus on transparency, streamlined navigation, and efficient service delivery. Our new site is designed to assist residents, voters, candidates and elected officials in quickly accessing relevant and timely information regarding a variety of election related topics. It's informative, easy to navigate, and will ensure voters and those running for office have convenient access to the information they need to participate in the democratic process. If you haven't seen it — check it out!

Have you received your 2022 Citizens Guide to Registering and Voting in your mailbox? The guide was mailed to every residential mailbox in St. Johns County at the end of May to help residents prepare for the 2022 elections. The publication is especially important this year as many changes have occurred since the last election in 2020. Due to the 2020 census and the redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some election day polling locations have changed. The 2022 Citizens Guide to Registering and Voting also serves as pre-notification of the new voter information cards that are being mailed to all registered voters in the county in early June. If you missed the guide, its

available on our website at www.votesjc.gov. It's important reading, and worth your time.

Now that the precinct lines and polling places have been finalized for the 2022 elections, new voter information cards will go in the mail the first week of June. Be sure to watch for yours. Your new voter card will replace any other voter cards you have received in the past. When voting in person, you do not need to bring your card. Instead, you must present current and valid photo and signature ID, or you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

The election season is upon us. Candidates running for office this year must file their qualifying documents with our office or the Division of Elections in Tallahassee by noon on June 17. Once the noon deadline passes, the ballot will be set for the primary election and our staff will move forward with programming the election. The first vote-by-mail ballots go in the mail on July 9. Curious as to who is running for office? Visit our website for up-to-date election information on the upcoming Aug. 23 primary election.

Readers can contact me at the office by calling (904) 823-2238 or emailing me at voakes@votesjc.gov. Our website also has a wealth of information, and a signup form for our newsletter.



with St. Johns County School Board Member Patrick Canan, District 5

Q: Can you give some insight [as of interview date of May 17] into the upcoming meeting on May 24 to decide if some books are appropriate for school libraries?

A: At this hearing, we will consider the objections lodged by a few parents regarding some books in our school libraries. We school board members are reading all the books so that we can make a decision regarding whether these books should be in our schools. The books have already been considered at the school level and the district level before they came to the school board.

Q: How will you make a determination?

A: We have been provided case law to review, some of it federal, as well as some state statutes. Florida Statute 1006.28 provides that each district school board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in a classroom or media center, so that's why it ultimately comes to us to decide. Florida Statute 847.012 requires the school board to not provide "harmful" materials to minors. So we need to determine

if the material is "harmful" by the definition in the statute. Some of the books I've read so far related to sexual content and some to white supremacy. Each book will be considered individually.

Q: Is the school board the final decision maker?

A: The courts have long recognized that the school boards have wide discretion to make these types of determinations. The meeting on May 24 will have time for public comment.

Q: What is the latest on the county's newest school under construction, Beachside High School?

A: My understanding is all work is on schedule and the school will be ready to open on time in the fall at the start of the 2022 – 23 school year.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 5?

A: I'd like to congratulate the Class of 2022 and wish everyone a safe and fun summer.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at patrick.canan@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call me at (904) 547-7510.

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Get to Know ...

Susan Fichte

Susan Fichte began working on the family cotton and sugar beet farm when she was 10 years old alongside her parents and brother in Bakersfield, California. The 80-acre farm would eventually grow to include cattle with 300 calves that needed to be bottle-fed. "That was our job. We helped to bottle feed, clean stalls and really whatever needed to be done," said Fichte, whose mother also worked for the Welfare Department. The family then moved to Caldwell, Idaho, where they ran a dairy farm. "Dad built it up from six or seven milking cows to 100," said Fichte. Now a teenager, Fichte was working part-time as a waitress, attending school, and working on the farm. "You really learn to buckle down and work." Also, Fichte said, her friends became the animals. Not surprisingly, Fichte developed a strong work ethic and a desire to become a veterinarian. Fichte earned a degree in zoology in 1973, but soon realized that she did not have enough money to become a veterinarian after putting herself through school. Instead, she joined the United States Navy. Five years later, she considered getting out of the Navy to again pursue her dream, only to realize that she would have to retake most of her course work because too much time had passed since college. This wasn't feasible for Fichte, so she made the decision to stay in the Navy, elevating in rank along the way, meeting her husband and traveling the world. She retired as a Captain in 2000 after 27 years of service. Fichte moved to Florida with her husband and later began volunteering at the St. Augustine Humane Society, finding her



Photo courtesy Hannah Shearer
Susan Fichte

way back to her first love — caring for animals, her friends.

Q: Share your military journey.

A: My first job was in Bermuda as an unrestricted line officer for two years listening for submarines during the Cold War. From there, I went to Norfolk, Virginia, and then San Diego, California, to train new sailors. I was stationed at the Naval Training Center there when I met my husband who was also in the Navy (he decided to retire since he had 24 years in the Navy and followed me). We spent three-and-a-half years in Italy before heading to the Pentagon. I became the Director of Operations with Navy Recruiting. Lots of moves would follow: Buffalo, D.C., Detroit, back to D.C. and finally Memphis, Tennessee.

Q: What did you find rewarding about leading recruiters and being in command?

A: I met so many neat people in recruiting. It is nice to see young

folks find a place in life. I liked to see everyone reach their potential and to think about all the possibilities. The potential is there, and they have the ability. I would always remind the recruiters of this and to infuse each other with motivation.

Q: How did you first get involved with the Humane Society?

A: I had a kitty cat that was feral, and I used the spay and neuter program at the Humane Society. I filled out all the paperwork and later got an email about the clinic starting a volunteer program. I started a month later, volunteering one day a week. I enjoyed it so much. It is a good fit for me. Now I am there up to four days a week working in surgery, recovery, and wellness. I have been volunteering for 10 years.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have two cats: Dawn (the once feral cat) who is 11 and Sophie who is 17.

Q: What do you like about volunteering at the Humane Society?

A: I love animals, and I love getting the word out about everything we offer here. We all want to do everything we can to keep owners and pets together by offering affordable services and much more. A lot of folks are counting pennies, and I get a lot of satisfaction out of being able to help others keep their animals healthy and at home. I also enjoy working alongside other volunteers who come from all different walks of life. We have designers, bakers, pediatric dentists, police officers and active-duty military members. We all have one thing in common: our love of animals.

Flagler College cont. from pg. 1

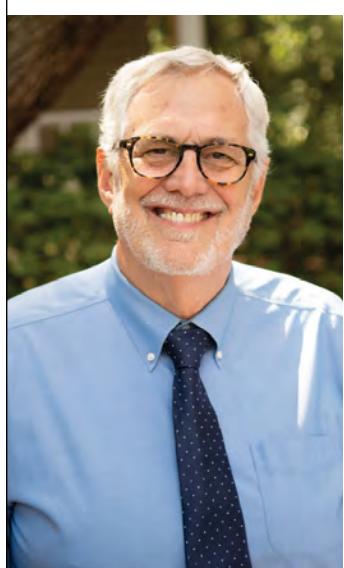
de Leon.

Seven million dollars of the gift will be directed to addressing areas of improvement to the Ponce, to include upgraded climate control, updated corridors, the creation of study lounges, community spaces for larger groups of students, and enhancements to the historical elegance of the National Historic Landmark building. In addition, \$500,000 will be used to create classrooms and studio space for the music program that the Kenan Trust helped establish at Flagler in 2018.

Capital dollars included in the gift will also allow the college to maintain its national standing as a leading regional liberal arts and pre-professional institution, by making technological infrastructure improvements, including a new Enterprise Resource Planning and Student Information System (ERP), which will streamline student registration, optimize students' schedules, and generate financial statements and budgets, all with a modern interface to meet students where they live electronically — on their mobile devices.

Two million dollars of the Kenan Trust's gift will serve as a match to other donors in establishing up to 85 new endowed scholarships for students with financial need, as well as minority and first-generation college students. One million dollars is also available to match donors interested in providing enhancements to the Flagler Sophomore High Impact Program (known as FlagSHIP), which aims to deliver educational experiences that benefit the entire student population.

The remaining \$1.5 million of the Kenan Trust's gift will be used to provide matching funds for annual support from alumni, parents, organizations, foundations, and friends to the college's Flagler Fund.



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St. Augustine City Commission Seat 5

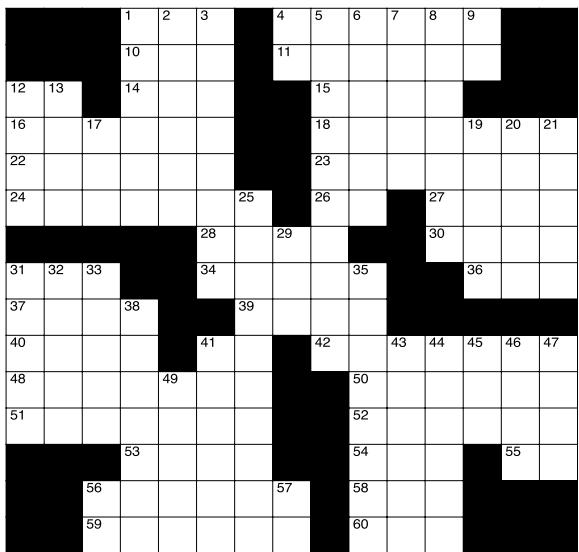
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- Basics
- In a new way
- Paulo, city
- Jailhouse
- Expresses surprise
- Trigraph
- A small stream
- Dissimilar
- Promote
- Gives a boost
- Lawmaker
- Orthodox Jews
- Actor Harris
- Wild cherry
- Participate in democracy
- Opposite of begins
- A Brit's mother
- Set of moral principles
- Very fast airplane
- Czech river
- Private school in New York
- Israeli dance
- Electron volt
- Adjusting
- Duct by the bladder
- Small burger
- Begin again
- Unstuck
- Jai ___, sport
- Get free of
- For instance
- Hotel chain
- A team's best pitcher
- Extracts from various sources
- Indefinite period of time

CLUES DOWN

- St. Francis of __
- Supported
- United in working
- It cools your home
- Predicting
- Irritated
- Popular talk show host
- Fabric edge
- A resource for employees
- Broadway's Jackman
- Small water buffalo
- City of Angels: __ Angeles
- Asteroids
- Tailless amphibians
- German expressionist painter
- What drives you
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Gold coin used in British India
- Have deep affection for
- Ponds
- Breaks between words
- Hairstyle
- Print errors
- Family of iron alloys
- Sidelined in bed
- Many couples say it
- Brazilian hoopster
- Allman Brothers late frontman
- German city
- One hundred grams (abbr.)
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)

ROLLER COASTER WORD SEARCH



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

WORDS

- ACCELERATION
AIRTIME
ASCEND
BARREL
BENTS
BOOMERSHOOT
BRAKE RUN
CARS
CHAIN
CIRCUIT
CORKSCREW
CUTBACK
ENCLOSED
ENTHUSIAST
HEADREST
INVERSION
LAPBAR
LIFT
LOOP
PLATFORM
RESTRANT
STEEL
TRACK
WOODEN



Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 12 = D)

A. 12 6 1 16

Clue: Fall vertically

B. 9 16 14 14 12

Clue: Velocity

C. 17 10 6 25 19 19 9

Clue: Exciting experiences

D. 6 25 12 14

Clue: Amusement structure



Q&A with St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick

Q: Can you give an update on this year's activities for National Police Week, observed May 11 – 17?

A: This has been a big week and my wife and I just returned from Washington, DC, where we joined others to memorialize our warriors across the nation who died in the line of duty. The highlight event is the engraving of the names of those officers we have lost this year on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on the National Mall.

This year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which sponsors the events, identified COVID deaths as in the line of duty deaths, since we police officers continued to protect and serve throughout the pandemic.

Q: Were there any local law enforcement officers who had their name added to the wall this year?

A: Yes, this year we lost Deputy Jody Hull, Jr., who was a Youth Resource Deputy at St. Augustine High School, to COVID and his name was added to the wall in Washington DC. This was my first in the line of duty death as sheriff or as police chief and it was very humbling. Many families have been affected, including not only the Hull family, but also the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office family and the St. Augustine High

School family as well as the community at large. The outpouring of love and support from the community upon his death was overwhelming.

Since it was founded in 1821, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has had 10 in the line of duty deputy deaths and one canine.

Q: How many names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year?

A: This year, 619 names were added, of which 472 died in 2021 and 319 of those were COVID-related. (Remainder were deaths added prior to this year.) Typically, the average of names added annually is between 100 and 150.

Q: What type of support is available to families left behind by these law enforcement officers?

A: One non-profit called C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors) really steps up and helps families when they lose a loved one in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. programs for survivors include the National Police Survivors' Conference held each May during National Police Week, scholarships, peer-support at the national, state, and local levels, the "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp, special retreats for spouses, parents, siblings, adult children, extended family, and co-workers, trial and parole support, and

other assistance programs.

Q: What is done locally to recognize officers who die in the line of duty?

A: Every year, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office holds our own memorial service to recognize any officer, regardless of agency, killed in the line of duty within St. Johns County. We have a memorial wall outside our office on Lewis Speedway.

Additionally, I am establishing a "Gold Star Family" status, borrowing from the military's idea. We will include even families of deputies who died from health issues or by suicide and don't qualify at the national level in addition to those who died in the line of duty. I think it's important to maintain community with all these families and they will be honorary lifetime members of the SJSO family and invited to attend all of our events, like swearing-ins or picnics.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you with any questions or suggestions about this article?

A: They can email me at sheriff@sjsos.org or call me at (904) 824-8304. Also, our website, www.sjsos.org has a wealth of resources, from alarm registration to Crime Stoppers to our Neighbors app.

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Pantry Raiders**Dad's Day dining he's bound to love**

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com

Father's Day is an opportunity to shower Dad with extra love and attention. Special outings and heartfelt gifts typically are part of the celebration. Some children may want to go above and beyond by whipping up a meal that Dad is sure to enjoy — particularly a father who spends his fair share of time by the stove or in front of the grill. Individuals may be quick to think steaks or chicken when considering grilled fare, and these foods certainly can be delicious offerings; however, juicy and flavorful lamb also tastes great when cooked on the grill. This recipe for "Lamb Chop Lollipops with Jalapeño Mustard" from "Jon Bonnell's Texas Favorites" (Gibbs Smith) can be eaten by hand right off the bone when tailgating with Dad or served more traditionally at home with the family.

Lamb Chop Lollipops with Jalapeño Mustard

Serves 6-8

2 frenched* racks of lamb (8 bones each)
1 sprig fresh rosemary
2 tbsp. Chinese hot mustard
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp. olive oil

Jalapeño Mustard

1 sprig fresh rosemary
8 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 fresh jalapeño, seeded and diced
Juice of 1 lemon
* Frenched refers to meat cut away to expose part of the bone.



Photo courtesy St. Johns County Clerk of Court

New Memorial Garden honors victims and survivors of violence

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com

Members of the community joined local elected officials, judges and law enforcement in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late April for the new St. Johns County Memorial Garden, a tranquil courtyard garden at the St. Johns County Judicial Center dedicated to victims and survivors of violence.

"The new St. Johns County Memorial Garden is the centerpiece of the judicial complex courtyard and a place for courthouse visitors and staff to pause and reflect," St. Johns County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Brandon J. Patty said. "With this garden, we remember those in our community who have suffered at the hands of others and offer families and friends a safe, serene place to find comfort and healing."

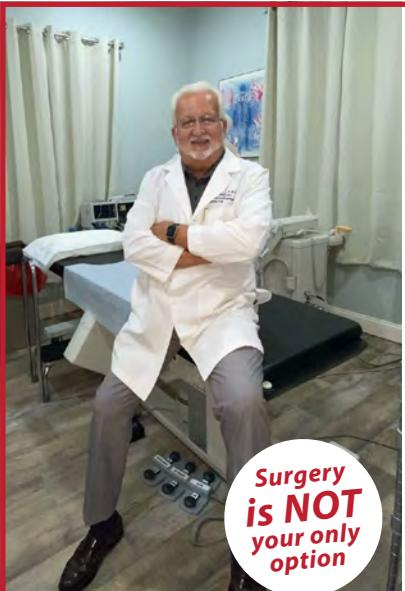
The memorial garden project has been a year-long collaborative initiative between the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, the Seventh Judicial Circuit, St. Johns County and the

Sheriff's Office, State Attorney's Office, St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach police departments and the Betty Griffin Center.

For a decade, a small garden and monument dedicated to the memory of two members of the St. Johns County community, Stephanie "Theresa" Singleton-Gilliam and Laura Messina, was located outside the courthouse's south entrance. Over the years, the garden had begun to deteriorate, and its location made maintenance difficult, Clerk Patty said.

In addition to moving the garden inside the courthouse walls, the project added a memorial plaque, benches and new landscaping to the courtyard.

Every year, about 10 million people become victims of domestic violence, which equates to around 20 people every minute. Last year, 279 domestic violence injunctions were filed in St. Johns County, and nearly 72,000 were processed statewide. Many of these resulted in temporary and permanent injunctions.



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School Briefs

Ketterlinus Elementary

Field Day: A great way to end the year

Field Day is an all-time favorite event for students at Ketterlinus Elementary. Field Day is a fun-filled, springtime event that presents students the chance to celebrate the school year, show some class pride, spend a day being active, and most importantly, have a blast!

All students at Ketterlinus joined in on the fun and were ready and eager to participate in this incredible day. Ketterlinus Coach Pamela Allen is the mastermind behind planning Field Day. Staff and parent volunteers then step in and make sure everything runs efficiently and smoothly.



Photos courtesy Donna Ott



Sebastian Middle School

STEAM students build bridges, roller coasters and rockets

STEAM students at Sebastian Middle School are full STEAM ahead with projects. After a special guest speaker

visit by Tyler Conklin (civil engineering designer with the Matthews Design Group), sixth graders began a digital bridge design competition. Megan Johns' third period class won the competition. Sixth graders are now working on projects such as marble roller coasters, architectural designs, and circuit board coding. Seventh graders are hard at work building, modifying, and competing with their VEX robots. Eighth graders are working to design and build rockets. They will be using a CAD software program to design a rocket and do launch simulations in order to alter and fine tune their design. Once the design is finalized, the students will build a rocket model based on their CAD design.



Photo courtesy Sebastian Middle School
STEAM students busy building.

Media Center hosts Teachers vs. Students Battle of the Books

On May 4, the Sebastian Middle School Media Center held its annual Reading Celebration. Students who were invited either read the Sunshine State Young Readers Award books or competed in an iReady contest. During this celebration, the students watched the Teachers vs. Students Battle of the Books. The teacher's team consisted of Margaret Cody, Susan DeAcutis, Kristina Harvey, Jaclyn Humienny, and Lisa Wedge. They did a great job, but lost to the students with a score of 29 – 23.



Photos courtesy Sebastian Middle School
The teachers' team at Battle of the Books.



The students' team at Battle of the Books.

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Travel

Finding Florida's Forgotten Coast

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

I'm always excited to discover new destinations, especially in my home state. Florida's Forgotten Coast remains a relatively quiet, under-developed region on the southern tip of the Panhandle, below Panama City and Mexico Beaches. "Forgotten" because travelers bypassed the area due to the smelly paper mill. In 1999, the St. Joe mill curtailed operations, the smell disappeared, and the town reinvented itself.

Today, you'll find 244 miles of coastal shores, nearly empty powdery-soft beaches, and many water activities in Gulf County. While the drive from Jacksonville takes about five hours, it's worth the effort. Gulf County makes an ideal place to relax and unwind.

Cape San Blas, located on St. Joseph Peninsula, rests on a 750-acre narrow stretch of land. It extends out from Port St. Joe and curves around St. Joseph Bay. The nine-mile-long state park offers some of the most dramatic sand dunes I've seen — towering about 15-feet high. Follow the path through the dunes on soft, sugar sand to reach the rolling waves of the Gulf of Mexico. The shimmering bay lies on the opposite side of this skinny land strip. Cabins and an RV park are currently being remodeled after the hard-hitting Hurricane Michael in 2018. Surf fishing is another popular option, as are the park's hiking and nature trails.

I stayed in a rental property named The Grove on Indian Pass, eight miles beyond Port St. Joe. The location allowed both sunrise and sunset views and an easy walk to the beach. The "Old Florida" feel of the place provided a refreshing stay with all the comforts imaginable. The complex made me wish my extended family could join me.

Any beginner kayaker or child will feel safe on the shallow waters of St. Joseph Bay. The bottom is clearly visible, and I spied scallops, whelks, starfish, and a ray among the seagrass. Also, off-road biking trails stretch along the bayfront.

Those interested in horseback riding can trot along the beach during a sunset ride. The horses don't go into the water, but the experience is undoubtedly



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Cape San Blas Lighthouse in Port St. Joe.

memorable.

Roasting marshmallows over an open fire ranks as tradition on many family vacations. As the sun sets, enjoy a beach bonfire without doing any work. Light Up Your Night crew will set up, light the fire, and return for clean-up. S'mores ingredients included!

The 1884 Cape San Blas Lighthouse was moved to Port St. Joe in 2014 due to its precarious position on the peninsula. Climb the 85-foot high metal structure to get some birds-eye views of the coast. While in Port St. Joe, try some fantastic restaurants famous for their local oysters and fresh-caught fish.

I made a short drive to Wewahitchka, a small town with a Seminole name, and took a pontoon boat ride on the Dead Lakes. Thousands of stumps were left in the water when the cypress trees were cut for the paper mill. Naturally, new trees grew around them, resulting in a haunting, mystical scene. Many trees reminded me of overgrown bonsai with artistically arranged branches supporting delicate foliage.

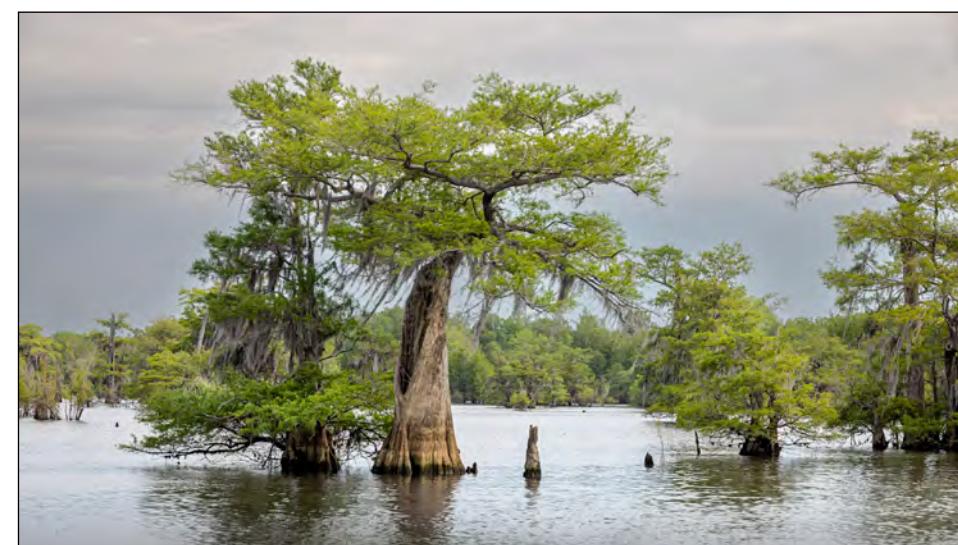
Also in Wewa, as the locals call it, you'll find local tupelo honey. The white



The dunes.



Nature trail.



Dead Lakes.

tupelo tree's blooms produce the most pleasing taste, and many of those trees grow in the Dead Lakes. Visit an apiary, talk to a beekeeper or watch the liquid gold bottled.

Water is the theme of Gulf County, and it's

always close. If you're looking for a beach, fishing, or boating vacation, your desires

will be fulfilled.

For info: VisitGulf.com

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

Emergency Food and Shelter Program available to help seniors

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

When older adults experience difficulty paying their bills, they are in danger of losing housing, as well as home heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, and other crucial, life-sustaining services. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program, or EFSP has funds to help qualified St. Johns County seniors with their bills. This program can assist older adults with up to \$500 on their current or past due utility bills and rent/mortgage.

To qualify for EFSP, you must be a resident of St. Johns County who is age 60 or older, and currently earning less than \$25,520 per year for a single individual or \$34,480 per year for a household of two (add \$8,960 for each addi-

tional household member).

"We want to get the word out and make sure seniors in St. Johns County know about the EFSP program," said Michael Large, who coordinates the program through the Care Connection division of Council on Aging (COA). "If they find themselves in this emergency situation, they should contact us."

If you or someone you know is in need of this type of assistance, contact COA's Michael Large at (904) 209-3649, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. or via email at mlarge@coasjc.org. Visit www.coasjc.org or call (904) 209-3700 for more information on COA's wide range of services for seniors and caregivers.

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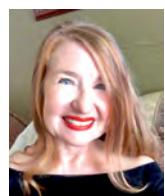
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