



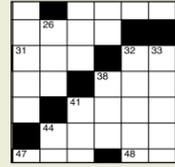
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want to know!
NEW!



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Get to Know...
Karl Kennell



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Puzzles

Dancing with a disability

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

With a passion for inspiring adults and children with physical or emotional challenges, All About Ballroom team members pride themselves on making a difference in the



Photo courtesy Ru McKinley
The Exceptional Abilities Dance Company

lives of many. This special program currently has 26 members with ages ranging from 10 – 25 years. These students carry a wide variety of disabilities including autism and those in wheelchairs.

“We currently have nine really great volunteers for this program and we are always looking for more,” said Ru McKinley, dance instructor and founder of Exceptional Abilities Dance Company. “You don’t need to know how to dance in order to be a volunteer; you will learn in the class. It’s very beneficial to have great examples for these students. There are not a lot of other great opportunities like this to develop proficiency for this part of the population and we would like to expand and offer even more to adults.”

Dancing cont. on pg. 19

Bartram Trail’s Junior Air Force ROTC program celebrates successful year

By Shelley Howard
mail@floridanewslines.com

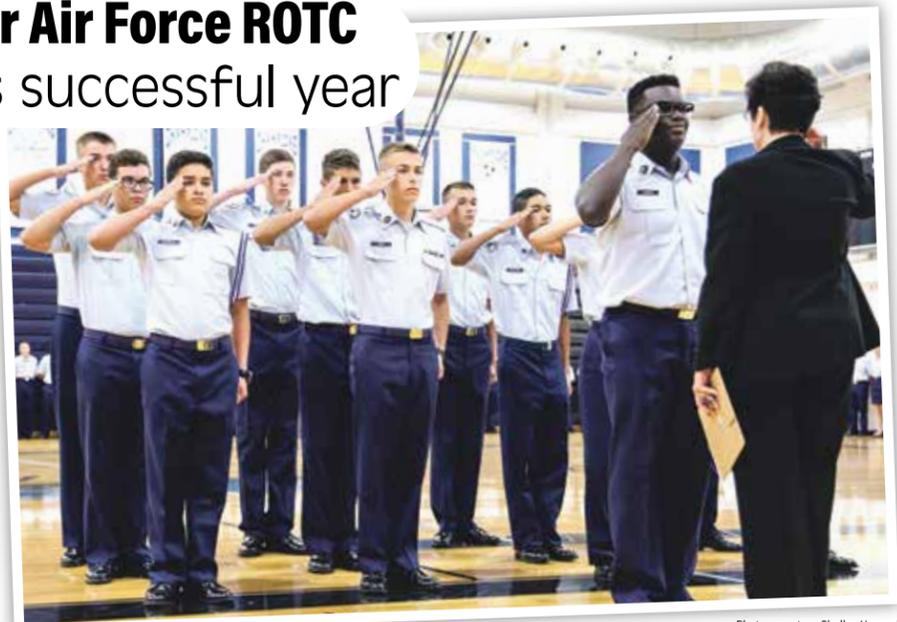
The Bartram Trail High School Junior Air Force ROTC currently has approximately 179 registered cadets with a waiting list already formed for the next school year — and it’s not surprising when considering the exceptional year they have celebrated.

The Drill Team competed across the region, wrapping up with 24 trophies including such areas as first place in Armed Exhibition, Most Impressive Armed Exhibition Commander and Most Impressive Armed Regulation Commander.

Cadets participated in the St. Augustine Veterans Day parade, donated toys to Wolfson Children’s Hospital, laid wreaths at local cemeteries, performed beach clean up and many other service projects. On campus, the program provides manpower for all home football games and band competitions, raises the U.S. flag each day in the courtyard and helps with numerous other tasks that show dedication to the campus.

Cadets have found some down time to enjoy themselves — at their annual Chili Cook-Off dinner as well as by spending a weekend at Camp Blanding working with local Marines on the obstacle challenge course and organizing a formal Military Ball dinner and award night.

The cadets took their accreditation renewal year in stride. Retired Chief Master Sergeant from Maxwell Air Force Base Inspector Vicki Helmed spent an entire day at Bartram Trail High School, touring the facilities with Master Ser-



Photos courtesy Shelley Howard
Cadets march for Chief Master Sergeant Vicki Helmed during accrediting renewal

geant Miles and Colonel LeFevre and speaking with Group Commander Maria Canon, who led an impressive group flight presentation in the gym. Cadets were acknowledged with outstanding performance awards and congratulated on their top status of exceeded standards, which is the highest ranking a Junior Air Force ROTC program can receive.

While Bartram Trail’s AFJROTC program deserves recognition as an impressive group, there have been numerous individual stand outs as well. One of them, Cadet Ethan Griner, maintains a 4.2 GPA and ranks 102nd in his class of 600. He has held the position of Public Affairs Officer, Recruiting Officer,

Drill Commander and Flight Sergeant and recently placed third in a national American Legion high school oratorical scholarship speech contest at Flagler College. During the Military Ball, Griner was honored with Junior Cadet of the Year, received the Sons of the American Revolution Leadership Award and was promoted to Cadet Colonel to begin serving as Group Commander.

Additionally, Griner will soon be representing BTHS on a much higher level after being awarded a \$25,000 Chief of Staff Flight Academy Scholarship. The AFJROTC Flight Academy has recently been launched by Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama to address a national shortage of aircrew within the nation. This summer, 120 selected cadets will attend the accredited aviation program hosted by six universities to train for a private pilot license. The goal of this initiative is to increase diversity in flight training and “get the word out” regarding career opportunities in the aviation community.

Griner’s application was selected based on his physical training scores, academics, a test on aerospace knowledge, math, science and chart reading. Griner competed against 120,000 cadets nationwide for entry into the academy.



Staff cadets having fun at Camp Blanding



Ethan Griner and his date, Isabella Camero, welcomed at Military Ball by the Saber Team

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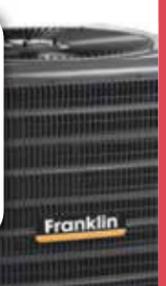
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take 5

Fallen Heroes memorial returns to St. Johns in May

Beginning May 20, Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts

Road, will display the Field of Crosses Fallen Heroes' memorial tribute created by volunteer organization

Helping Hands of St. Johns County. The Field of Crosses honors Florida-born military service men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty in the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. The 375 four-foot white crosses, constructed by Jaxon Kendrick, bear the names, pictures, rank, branch of service, birthplace, age, date and place of death of the fallen heroes. A remembrance ceremony will take place on May 20 at 3 p.m. and the Field of Crosses will remain open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Call the church at (904) 230-2496 for more information.



Photo courtesy Helping Hands of St. Johns County Field of Crosses

Owl and Sunset Symphony to be held at Beluthahatchee

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Stetson Kennedy Foundation for a sunset owl talk, "Owl and Sunset Symphony," on Friday, May 11 from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at Beluthahatchee Park, 1523 State Road 13 in Fruit Cove. Attendees may enjoy the sunset at Beluthahatchee while learning about its unique history and nature's evening symphony. Participants are asked to bring their own lawn chair. For more information about this free program, contact AyoLane Halusky at ahalusky@sjcfl.us or (904) 209-0348.

"A Night on the St. Johns" gala announced

The Diocese of St. Augustine's Morning Star School will host the seventh annual "A Night on the St. Johns" Gala and Auction on May 5, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., at The Haskell Building, 111 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. Proceeds from the gala and auction will be used to fund specialized education programs, state-of-the-art technology, and this year, the establishment of a tuition assistance fund to help families who can't afford a special education for their child. Inspired by the popular Cinco de Mayo celebration, the gala will feature Mexican inspired cocktails, dancing, food and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75/person, and the event is open to the public. Call Maria Johnson at (904) 721-2144 or email development@morningstar-jax.org for more information.

Chicken dinners to raise funds for church

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 5950 State Road 16, will host a Chicken Fry dinner on Friday, May 18, from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. An adult meal will cost \$14 and includes a four-piece half of a chicken served with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cole slaw, roll with butter and dessert. Children aged five – 12 can

buy a meal for \$5 which includes three chicken tender strips, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, roll with butter and dessert. All proceeds go to the continued development of church ministries such as the ever-expanding Food Pantry. Call the church at (904) 824-8688 for more information.

Summer reading and math volunteer opportunities offered

RSVP of St. Johns County is seeking community members to assist once a



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

week in the summer reading or algebra program through the St. Johns County School District. Hours are flexible, out of town travel can be accommodated. "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. Contact RSVP at (904) 547-3945 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.

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May Special Section

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

FISHING CAMP SWIMMING CANOEING

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Mother's Day Gift Shop Page 18

MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was Murray Bros. Caddyshack restaurant in World Golf Village. Our winner was Catherine Justus.

Don't Miss it! IT'S COMING!

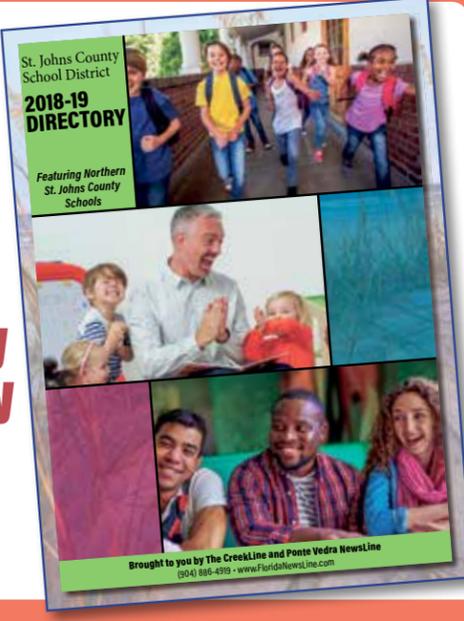
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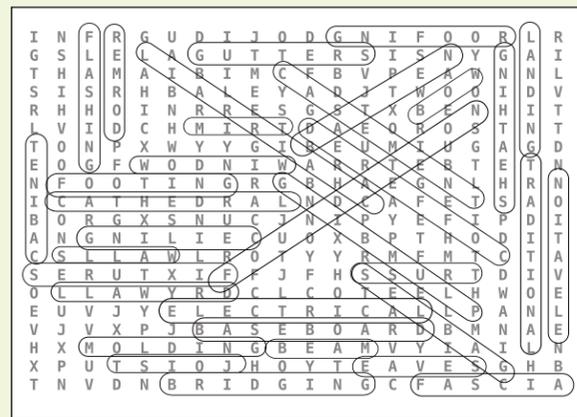
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answers to puzzles on page 24

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



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. roof B. structure C. foundation D. window

Answers to your Puzzles



May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

around town

May 1
Fruit Cove Civil Air Patrol Open House
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Fruit Cove Baptist Church Annex Bldg. Room 106
www.facebook.com/fruitcovecap or auy@flwg.us

10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
adsilby@yahoo.com
Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club trip to Jacksonville Zoo
 9 a.m.
 Open to all; jbleacher@comcast.net

May 3
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
pa@mysafeboating.com
Rotary Club of Bartram Trail
 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Westminster Woods, 25 State Road
lancedmalcolm@gmail.com

May 8
Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club garden party
 11 a.m.
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club
 RSVP by May 1, bartramtnc@gmail.com

May 4
Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse
www.rotarystjohns.org

May 8 - 13
THE PLAYERS Championship
 TPC Sawgrass
www.theplayers.com

May 5
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7: About Boating Safely course
 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 NE FL Regional Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way
<http://abs.mysafeboating.com>

May 9
LEGO Club for Kids
 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

May 7
Current Events Discussion Group

May 10
Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St Augustine
www.stjohnsaudubon.com
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)

Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
 Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
 Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

May 12
HAWKE's Dine on the Wild Side
 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 St. Augustine Alligator Farm
 Tickets available April 15; www.hawkewildlife.org
St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
www.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrod@comcast.net
Friends of the Library Book Sale
 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

May 17
Wm. Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Group
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 St. Johns County Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.
 (904) 699-8475; alabbat@comcast.net

May 14
4-H Science Club
 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960

May 19
Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles
 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
 (904) 827-6960
23rd annual Kids Day America – Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness
 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Swiss Cove Christian Church
 (904) 217-4446

May 15
North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
 Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, 25 State Road 13
 Register at www.sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681

May 20
Singers by the Sea Spring Concert
 2:30 p.m.
 Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 3rd St. S., Jax Beach
www.sbts-fl.org
Field of Crosses military tribute
 3 p.m.
 Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road

St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org
Happy Hookers crochet group
 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Bartram Trail Branch Library
 (904) 827-6960
World Golf Village Toastmasters
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Rd 210W
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Americana singer Trevor Compton
 11 a.m.
 Marsh Creek Country Club, 169 Marshside Drive
 RSVP by May 7, sjaird@comcast.net
First Coast Newcomers Club trivia evening/dinner
 6 p.m. dinner/ 7 p.m. trivia
 Contact Lea for name of St. Augustine restaurant and to be added to attendee list
 (904) 829-0643 or (904) 814-9612

May 21
All Star Quilt Guild
 9:45 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

May 25
Helping Hands of St. Johns County
 10 a.m.
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W
jacqphil@aol.com

May 29
First Coast Card Club - adult card players
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
 (904) 829-0643

May 31
AARP Driver Improvement Class
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Council on Aging's River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine
 Call (904) 209-3655 to register

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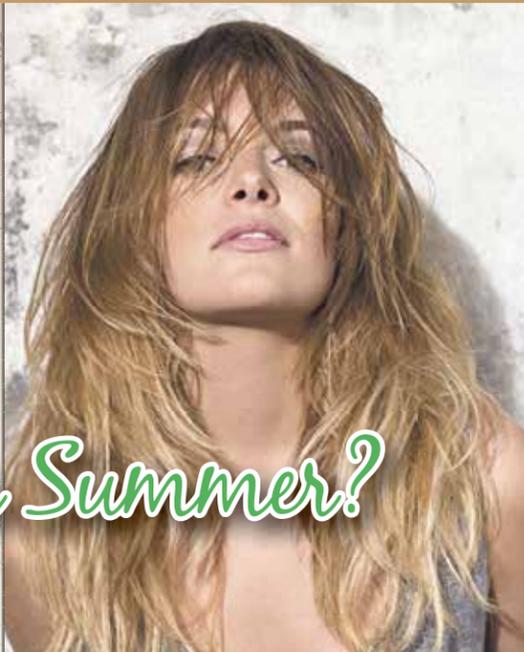
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Cyndi Stevenson, District 17

Q: What provisions were made in the budget for education this year?

A: The per pupil funding increased by an average of \$101.50 for the state of Florida. In St. Johns County, we were fortunate to increase by \$172.10, which gives our School Board a little more funding to work with. Of course, a significant amount of this funding is for school safety and mental health programs in the schools.

Q: What can you tell us about the events leading up to the passage of SB 7026, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act?

A: What happened in Parkland was a terrible tragedy, which cut short the lives of 14 students and three faculty members. Republicans and Democrats banded together to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott in March. The bill set new age limits, to age 21, for the purchase of all firearms; provides for a uniform gun purchase policy that requires a three-day waiting period and background check for all firearm purchases; bans bump stocks; strengthens the Baker Act by allowing law enforcement to seize a person's gun for 24 hours if they pose a threat to others; and says that people who are unable to buy a gun due to mental health issues won't be able to possess one either.

Q: Basically, it sounds like some loopholes were closed?

A: This law closes significant gaps in current law to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. This bill does not prevent law abiding, responsible people from possession of any firearm. Those serving in our military and law enforcement are exempt from the new requirements.

Q: What are some other provisions of the bill?

A: We are going to invest more to protect children at school by funding more School Resource Officers throughout the state. The bill also created a voluntary program called the Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which allows school staff to be armed at school after specific training and mental health assessments. This program is voluntary for both school districts and teachers. All schools are required to perform active shooter and hostage drills and multi-agency communication will be improved. Finally, the mental health component is addressed with increases in mental health services and crisis teams that provide mental health services to youth with serious chronic mental illness.

Q: What are your thoughts on this law?

A: Parents entrust their children to our public schools. We have a duty to make them as safe as possible. Some parents I have spoken to feel that it is an epidemic of violence in our schools. Because of this, I wanted to share some information from a study by James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminology, Law and Public Policy at Northeastern University. He clarifies that, "This is not an epidemic ... Mass school shootings are incredibly rare events, furthermore, the incidents of shooting incidents involving students have been declining since the 1990s." I am grateful that the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott took decisive action to improve school safety. We cannot stop every act of evil, but we can take steps to keep it as far away from our kids as possible.

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

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

Your Vote Counts

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Elections ahead

Curious about what the General Election ballot will look like? Your November ballot is going to be a long one. As of April 1, there are already five constitutional amendments that have made ballot position. They are:

1. Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption
2. Limitations on Property Tax Assessments
3. Voter Control of Gambling in Florida
4. Voter Restoration Amendment
5. Supermajority Vote Require to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees

Amendments 1, 2 and 5 were placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature. Amendments 3 and 4 were placed on the ballot by the citizen initiative petition process. For further information on these amendments visit votesjc.com and look under 2018 Constitutional Amendments — November 6.

The Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC) is also in session reviewing the Florida Constitution considering which sections of our constitution need to be changed. The 2017 – 2018 Constitution Revision Commission is the third of its kind in Florida history. In 1968, Florida voters ratified three separate amendments rewriting significant portions of the Florida Constitution. One of those amendments included a provision requiring a CRC to convene and examine the Florida Constitution once every 20 years for possible changes, beginning in 1977. The first CRC convened in 1977 – 1978 and the second CRC convened in 1997 – 1998. The 1978 CRC placed eight proposed constitutional amend-

ments on the Florida ballot for voter consideration. None of the proposals were passed by Florida voters; however, proposals similar to the Commission's proposed changes were adopted in later years as part of the Florida Constitution or Florida Statutes, either by citizen ballot initiative or by legislative proposal. The 1998 CRC placed nine proposed constitutional amendments on the Florida ballot for voter consideration. Eight were passed by Florida voters. In 1998, CRC proposals required a simple majority to be passed by Florida voters (more than 50 percent).

As of 2006, at least 60 percent of the vote is required to pass a constitutional amendment. How many constitutional amendments the CRC will place on the ballot is unknown. They have an excellent website, www.flcrc.gov, where you can view and track the proposals as they move along in the process. May 10 is the deadline for the CRC to file with the Secretary of State its proposed revisions to the Florida Constitution. When May 10 arrives, we will know how many total constitutional amendments will be on the General Election ballot. Once all of the ballot language is finalized, these new amendments will be added to the website and available for you to research at votesjc.com.

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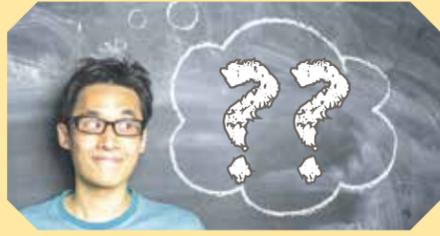
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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in NW St. Johns County or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewslines.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

While we will do our best to answer all the questions we receive, we may not be able to answer all questions received each month. Also, due to publication scheduling, the time it takes to research answers may vary.

Here are answers to questions we received this month:

Q: What stores are going in at the shopping center that's being built by Sleiman Brothers at the corner of County Road 2209 (St. Johns Parkway) and County Road 210W, across from Publix shopping center?

A: Here's what Toney Sleiman, partner of Sleiman Enterprises, said about Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway:

"There's considerable interest in the Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway from several first-class retailers. We expect to share new tenant updates by the end of April. For now, we're in the early stages of leasing and look forward to bringing exciting new retailers to St. Johns County residents. Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway will have 57,905 square feet of retail space, and we expect it will create 500 jobs in the local community."

Q: I was wondering, as popular as the dog parks are around the area, are there any plans for a real dog park here in Julington Creek Plantation? One with a very large run area with an aerated pond/lake and wash station.

A: Here's what Heather Elliott, General Manager of the Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District (CDD), which oversees facilities in the neighborhood, had to say:

"At this time there is no discussion of a dog park. However, there is a dog park at Veterans Park that many residents use." (www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Recreation/Parks/Veterans.aspx)

The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

Proms, parties and alcohol

We are fortunate in St. Johns County to have a wonderful population of young people. You often read of their many accomplishments in this publication. As we approach prom season and graduation I urge parents and all citizens to join with the law enforcement community to do everything we can to help keep our celebrating students safe.

One major concern is underage alcohol use and abuse. In recent years we have seen some promising young people from our high schools killed in crashes where alcohol consumed at parties was a contributing factor. The 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse survey of St. Johns County found 54.2 percent of high school students had used alcohol in their lifetime; this is way down from more than 75 percent of high school students who had used alcohol in their life some 14 years ago. More than 28.3 percent had consumed alcohol in the past month of the survey and 10.5 percent reported binge drinking (five or more drinks for males and four or more drinks for females for the sole purpose of getting drunk) in the past 30 days.

The numbers for our middle school students in the survey is as follows: 19 percent have used alcohol in their lifetime, which is also down from the 2004 survey that revealed more than 40 percent had used alcohol in their lifetime. More than 8.1 percent had consumed alcohol in the past month of the survey and 2.1 percent reported binge drinking in the prior 30 days of the survey. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds is a car crash and 15 percent of teen drivers in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content in excess of .08, the legal limit for drunk driving. That number is way down from just four years ago where one quarter of teen drivers in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content in excess of .08.

Another federal study found that of the nearly 70 percent of high school students who have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, 49 percent purchased it illegally, 30 percent got it from an unrelated person of drinking age and 21 percent were provided alcohol by

their parents or another adult family member. In an effort to reduce these alarming numbers, we continue to partner with the St. Johns County School Board and the PACT Coalition to create educational awareness of the dangers of alcohol for our young people.

We all should be concerned about the potential risky behavior of young people associated with proms, graduation parties and school year end celebrations. Here are seven suggestions for parents to help ensure that their sons and daughters arrive home safely after attending such events.

1. Have a very specific conversation with your teen about alcohol consumption, driving under the influence and resisting peer pressure that often leads to poor judgment before, during and after proms and parties.
2. Find out who will be driving, their address and phone number and a list of names and phone numbers for each teen passenger.
3. Get a planned itinerary and stress that no changes to it be made without approval.
4. Talk with your teen specifically about how he or she will handle difficult situations such as being offered alcohol or drugs or turning down a ride with an intoxicated driver.
5. Make sure your teen has a cell phone or some other means of contacting you throughout the entire evening and perhaps even set up specific check in times.
6. Program the number of a reliable cab company into their cell phone. They may more comfortable calling for a cab in front of their peers than calling home for a ride.
7. Lastly, monitor your student's social media sites.

I hope this information assists you and your family and please pass it onto friends and relatives in an effort to combat underage drinking. You can get additional information from the PACT Coalition of St. Johns County at www.pactprevention.org. Also, contact me anytime at dshoar@sjsso.org.



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

Q: Can you give us an update on the impact fee structure that was recently passed by the County Commission?

A: We approved impact fees to increase for new residential construction by the amount recommended by the author of the impact fee study. We also have to increase the impact fees on non-residential construction. Since we want to attract commercial business, we were able to buy down the non-residential portion of the impact fees by 40 percent of the total, so that non-residential fees will be net "no increase" (some will be up a little and some will be down a little, depending on type of commercial business.)

Q: How were you able to do this?

A: We utilized the county's reserve fund to cover the \$475,000 per year. This is just a small amount of our total reserves. We knew that sales taxes and ad valorem taxes would make up the difference in these impact fees. We tasked staff with determining how long it would take to do this and their analysis showed that the breakeven point should be about five years.

Q: What are your thoughts on the increases in residential impact fees?

A: This will increase the cost of new homes, since it is a pass-through cost by the developers, but it will make existing homes more valuable. New development creates new demand on our infrastructure and this new fee schedule puts the burden where it belongs.

Q: Does the county make money on impact fees?

A: No, this is not a money maker for the county. All we did with this impact fee increase was adjust them to reflect the actual current cost of new infrastructure.

Q: Do you have an update on commercial development in northern St. Johns County?

A: According to the Florida Department of Transportation, State Road 9B is on track to open this summer. The developer of Durbin Park will follow in late summer/early fall with the opening of the big box stores in Phase 1. There has been a lot of conversation about growth in this part of the county and I feel that managing it properly — with types of businesses that people want — is important.

Q: Is there a type of business that people don't seem to want?

A: We have put a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries in our county. They are allowed within the city limits of St. Augustine, but we heard from residents that they didn't want dispensaries in our area. This does not prevent people from acquiring marijuana, but there are too many questions regarding the brick and mortar dispensary businesses that were not answered to our satisfaction.

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

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



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

Q: Do you have any updates to share as to how the St. Johns County School District is addressing the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act?

A: The School District and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office have formed a work group that is looking at all the different plans that could be used to secure our campuses — everything from hardening the campuses to additional law enforcement presence. At our workshop on April 24, school board members will receive an analysis on how much all the options would cost. No vote will be taken at the workshop; most probably any vote will come at the May 8 school board meeting.

Q: What options do you think are being considered?

A: I think the options will include taking advantage of the guardian program of the bill, which would allow for school employees to be specially trained and then permitted to be armed; form our own police force, which would most likely be cost prohibitive; and to partner with the SJSO to provide a School Resource Officer at each school. There is money available in the budget for enhancing school safety and providing School Resource Officers, but probably not enough. So we will have to figure out the funding.

Q: What can you tell us about the active shooter drill that was held at Creekside High School on March 29?

A: This event was very informative. There was a lot of information about first aid and then several scenarios were acted out as to what to do depending on

where a shooting occurred on a school campus. The Sheriff's deputies and first responders were basically practicing their potential roles and I felt encouraged and safe watching them.

Q: What is the latest on Freedom Crossing Academy, the K-8 school under construction in Aberdeen?

A: Construction is proceeding on schedule. I visited the site recently and the school is huge. It's bigger than any of our other schools with the exception of a high school. It has three stories and includes an art lab, music rooms and a larger cafeteria than we typically build. Principal Allen Anderson is hiring teachers and staff and furniture will be delivered shortly. The school's mascot will be the Falcons. When the school opens in August as a K-6 school, it will have approximately 1,000 students. Its capacity is 1,500 students, which I'm sure it will rapidly reach.

Q: Do you have any other items to share?

A: We are still grappling with the budget for next year. The district's finance department is meeting with each school now to determine priorities and allocations. Also, student testing season is in progress and continues basically through the end of the school year. Our students have had a good academic year and we expect them to do well on the tests.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.us)
 Sheriff's Office: (904) 824-8304
 Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org
 Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150
 Property Appraiser: (904) 827-5500
 Eddie Creamer, [sjcpcpa.us](mailto:sjcpa@sjcpcpa.us)
 Supervisor of Elections: (904) 823-2238
 Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com
 Tax Collector: (904) 209-2250
 Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us
 Clerk of Court: (904) 819-3600
 Hunter S. Conrad

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
 District 1: (904) 209-0301
 Jimmy Johns, bcc1jjohns@sjcfl.us
 District 2: (904) 209-0302
 Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us
 District 3: (904) 209-0303
 Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us

District 4: (904) 209-0304
 Jay Morris, bcc4d@sjcfl.us
 District 5: (904) 209-0305
 Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us

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

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

Federal Elected Officials
 U.S. Congress District 4:
 Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501
 U.S. Senate:
 Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
 Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041

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

Q: Can you give us an update on the proposal to add to Florida's homestead exemption?

A: This November, on the ballot will be an opportunity for all Floridians to vote for an additional \$25,000 of homestead exemption. The primary

personal exemption in Florida is the homestead exemption, which is currently a \$50,000 reduction in assessed value that is granted to Florida resident property owners who live in their house as a primary residence as of Jan. 1 of each year and whole file by March 1.

Q: How will the proposed additional exemption work?

A: For assessed property values of \$0 to \$25,000, the exemption applies to all millage rates. For property values of \$25,000 to \$50,000, there currently is and will continue to be no exemption. The next band, for properties valued between \$50,000 – \$75,000, the exemption applies and continues to be applied to all millages except schools. The proposed new exemption will continue as follows: for properties valued between \$75,000 – \$100,000, there is no exemption and then for properties valued between \$100,000 – \$125,000, the third band would apply to all millages except schools. If your home's value falls between any of these bands with exemptions, you'd receive a pro-rata exemption.

Q: How would this affect county revenue?

A: Based on current numbers, this would reduce the county's taxable value by approximately \$1.3 billion, which represents a decrease in taxable revenues of about \$9.3 million. It's important to note that this would not reduce the total revenue to the county, but would reduce the rate of growth of revenues.

Q: What else can you share with us?

A: If passed, the additional homestead would be into effect for the 2019 tax year (that is, on the November 2019 tax bill). If a person already has homestead filed, they do not need to do anything; the additional homestead would automatically be applied. Finally, if an individual property owner would like to see how the proposed increase in homestead exemption would affect their tax bill, they can go to our website, www.sjcpa.us, and click on the "Stay Informed" tab and enter their address. The website's calculator will give the updated amounts.

Q: How many properties in St. Johns County would be affected if voters approve the ballot measure in November?

A: In St. Johns County, there are just over 66,000 parcels with homestead exemption and approximately 56,000 would be affected by the homestead exemption increase. Therefore, about 10,000 parcels would not get a benefit if the measure passed.

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

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



Photo courtesy Patti Machols

BTHS Dance Team places sixth at national competition

The Bartram Trail Dance Team attended NDA High School Nationals, held March 3 – 4, 2018 at Hard Rock Live in Universal Studios in Orlando. The team competed in the Large Varsity Hip Hop Division and earned sixth place in the nation out of 22 teams competing. Bartram Trail Dance Team was one of 15 teams nominated for the Sportsmanship Award out of hundreds of teams that were entered in the competition. Pictured are Kathryn Arnett, Ellie Kenyon, Jacqueline Yousefzadeh, Charlotte Riley, Kelsey Harre, Amy Ivey, Alex Machols, Erica Martin, Britini Hodge, Nicki Haberman, Caroline Balcita, Aidan Mather, Allie Clemons, Sophie Sorenson, and Carolena Arroyo.

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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Shangri-La

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

In September of 1922, a young Army Air Corps lieutenant took off from Jacksonville Beach in an attempt to set a new cross-country flight record. At the time, Jacksonville Beach was called Pablo Beach. He took off in a De Havilland DH-4. Twenty-one hours and 19 minutes later he landed at Rockwell Field in San Diego, after making one refueling stop at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He was the first man to cross the country in an airplane in less than a day. His name was James "Jimmy" Doolittle. After his record breaking flight, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. This was an era where record breaking aviators were celebrated by the public and press.

Doolittle competed in a number of races and in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, he won the Triple Crown of airplane racing, setting a world speed record of 296 miles per hour in the Shell Speed Dash. Having won all there was to win, Doolittle retired from racing.

"I have yet to hear anyone engaged in this work dying of old age," he would say at the time. But Doolittle was no shrinking violet and his most famous flight was still ahead of him.

On April 18, 1942, Doolittle, now a lieutenant colonel, and 15 other crews took off from deck of the aircraft carrier Hornet. They were flying Mitchell B-25 two-engine bombers. Neither the planes nor the carrier were designed for this sort of operation and both required modifications to launch at all. Their plan was to fly to Tokyo and other cities and drop their bombs before proceeding to land in occupied China. It must have seemed like a suicide mission.

Six hours later, Doolittle and his raiders dropped their bombs on Tokyo. They proceeded, low on fuel, toward

the Chinese mainland. Three planes crashed at sea. One landed in Russia and the crew was imprisoned. The remaining planes made crash landings in China.

The raid itself did little damage, but it caused a panic in Japan and euphoria here in the States. Finally, we were striking back! When asked where the planes had launched, President Roosevelt would respond "from Shangri-La," a mythical valley mentioned in a book called "The Lost Horizon" by James Hilton. Afterwards, FDR would rename the presidential retreat we now call Camp David, "Shangri-La."

What interests me most about this story was the effect the raid had on the stock market. The market had been plunging since it opened on Monday Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. All the war news was bad. We would have been hard pressed to find investors who were bullish on the market in April of 1942. Yet, 10 days later, the Dow would bottom at \$92.69, before beginning a strong rally that would carry the market up 130 percent over the next four years.

The lesson here is that no matter how bad the news, never bet against the USA or the stock market.

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

Correction

Due to an editing error, the first name reference for General Morgan was omitted in the MarketInsight column entitled, "The right to bear arms" in the April 2018 issue of St. Johns Business Monthly. General Morgan's name was Daniel Morgan. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The importance of record keeping

By Marge Cirillo
mail@floridanewslines.com

The appeal of having your own business is often associated with being your own boss, having financial independence, and working on your own clock. Once the opportunity comes your way and you start your "business dream," there are added responsibilities to account for to ensure that you and your future employees are successful in this venture.

As the owner of a small business, one invests a tremendous amount of time and or energy to ensure that the company is successful. We spend our lives worrying about ROI (Return on Investment figures) and trying to maintain a good financial record.

You need to take the time to ensure that you keep a record of your finances and expenses throughout the lifespan of your business. The unfortunate reality is that most small businesses battle to stay afloat or even make it off the ground ... so you need to give it every chance to succeed.

If your business takes off rapidly, there is a good chance that time devoted to record keeping is minimized, simply to meet demands. Do not fall into this trap! If starting your own business was an "out" to try to escape paperwork, then you will need to hire someone to do your record keeping for you.

Efficient record keeping will not only help to keep everything in order but

could help you analyze your company's financial health in the future too.

Beginning in April, the local Florida Small Business Development Council will hold QuickBooks round tables. It will be a small group where you can come with your specific questions for your business. There will be separate sessions for the desktop version and the online version. Contact me at (904) 209-1295 if you are interested.

Marge Cirillo is the Florida Small Business Development Council consultant for St. Johns County. She can be reached at m.cirillo@unf.edu or (904) 209-1295.

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

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Briefs

Permit issued for second phase of First Coast Expressway

The St. Johns River Water Management District issued an environmental resource permit on March 8 that is related to construction of the new First Coast Expressway. The permit authorizes a stormwater management system for a 31-mile segment of the highway from Blanding Boulevard in Clay County to Interstate 95 in St. Johns County, the second phase of the project.

“This project is important to improve northeast Florida’s transportation system,” said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. “The district’s role is to ensure that the project’s design and construction complies with rules to protect water bodies and wetlands. This is a huge project that will create jobs, benefit the local economy, particularly in Clay County, and will ease the commute for thousands of Floridians, while protecting the environment.”

The First Coast Expressway, often called the Outer Beltway, is a new multi-lane limited access toll facility that will eventually connect Interstate 10 in western Duval County with Interstate 95 in northern St. Johns County. The first segment, approximately 14 miles from Interstate 10 in Duval County to Blanding Boulevard in Clay County, is currently under construction.

The project includes a major bridge

across the St. Johns River and 75 stormwater ponds. The applicant has purchased mitigation credits to offset 504 acres of wetland impacts related to dredge and fill activities for construction of the road and associated stormwater management systems.

Visit the district’s e-permitting webpage, <https://permitting.sjrwmd.com>, for more information.

RiverClub celebrates grand opening

The grand opening of the RiverClub, the new riverfront amenity center at RiverTown, was held Saturday, April 7 at Mattamy Homes’ master-planned community along the St. Johns River. The event featured food trucks, live



Photo courtesy Mattamy Homes
The River Club amenity center at RiverTown.

music, family fun, children’s activities, hourly giveaways and the chance to win a two-person tandem kayak with life vests and paddles included.

The RiverClub is part of RiverTown’s current amenity package reserved for the exclusive use of RiverTown residents. Located directly on the St. Johns River, the RiverClub features a boardwalk along the water with magnificent river views. The clubhouse overlooks a riverfront oasis pool and offers riverfront dining. A new kayak launch makes it easy to get out on the river. Kids of all ages will treasure the pirate ship playground and the amphitheater provides a stage and concert lawn along the river.

The community’s healthy living amenities also include a kid-friendly zero-entry recreational pool with a corkscrew slide, a junior-sized Olympic lap pool, lighted tennis courts, a state-of-the-art fitness center at the RiverHouse, a dog park and more.

Beach driving passes now on sale

It’s officially beach season in St. Johns County and time to purchase on-beach driving passes, which are now available from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily at area toll booths. Daily fees for the 2018 beach season are \$10 for residents and non-residents, and \$5 for handicap and active military. Annual passes are \$50 for residents, \$100 for non-residents, and \$40 for a handicap pass. Lifeguards began limited duty in March, with full lifeguard coverage beginning Memorial Day weekend. Additionally, the SJC Beaches app provides convenient information to help residents spend less time in the car and more time on the beach. Get the Reach the Beach Mobile App on the iTunes app store or Google Play.

Call Beach Services at (904) 209-0331 for more information.

which the group will install officers for the 2018 – 2019 season. Members are encouraged to wear spring floral attire and decorate their garden party hats. Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated garden hats.

To accommodate a photo booth for individual or duo pictures, the doors will open at 10:15 am. The photo booth will remain open until 11:15 am. at which time, singers Harry and Sally will provide musical entertainment.

The menu includes a choice of a florentine chicken roulade, roast pork loin with apple brandy sauce, duo of chicken and shrimp salad in tomato shells or ambrosia salad with mini cream cheese sandwiches. All luncheons include an appetizer of cold canapes (center of table), rolls and butter, non-alcoholic beverages and chef’s homemade dessert; a cash bar for alcoholic beverages is also available. The cost for the luncheon is \$22. Send checks no later than May 1, payable to BTNC, to Hilda Gilpin, 621 Pineland Lane, Saint Johns, FL 32259. Also, please indicate your meal choice on the memo line.

The Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women’s Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at local restaurants for lunch. The club also has a wide variety of interest groups, such as Bridge, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg), golf, recipe exchange, special event outings, book clubs, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and community projects. Contact First Vice President Beth Rosado at bartramtnc@gmail.com for more information.

Briefs cont. on pg. 11



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Ms. Fifer resides in Saint Johns County with her husband and two children. Outside work she enjoys exercising, exploring local beaches, reading, and being with friends and family.

To make an appointment with Ms. Fifer, call 904.287.2794

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Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club to install new officers at Garden Party

On Tuesday, May 8 at 11 a.m., the Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women’s Club will host a garden party at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club during



Photo courtesy Laura Hernandez
Hilda Gilpin, Joan Bleacher, Pat Gavaletz, Sandra Carreker, Maureen Baiocco, and Vicky Winnerling at the March meeting.

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Briefs cont. from pg. 10

Youth orchestra schedules auditions

The First Coast Youth Orchestras, led by artistic director Scott Gregg, announce that auditions for the 2018 – 2019 season will be held in May. The musical organization is entering its second year and serves musicians aged seven – 21 with five levels of string and full orchestras as well as chamber music. The season runs September through May and scholarship programs are available. Visit www.firstcoastyo.com or call (904) 515-5092 for more information or to apply.

Americana singer to entertain Newcomers of North St. Johns at May luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host its May luncheon on Tuesday, May 15, at 11 a.m. at the Marsh Creek Country Club, 169 Marshside Drive in St. Augustine. This will be the last luncheon/meeting until September and will feature the installation of officers for the executive board.

Entertainment will be provided by Trevor Compton, an Americana singer/songwriter currently living and working in St. Augustine. This luncheon will feature a choice of one of the following entrees: Jack Daniel's chicken breast served with wild mushrooms and garlic mashed potatoes; or fire grilled bistro beef tenderloin served with vegetable couscous and roasted shallot bordelaise; or green tea crusted salmon served with sweet potato frites, roasted asparagus

and ginger butter sauce. Entrees are served with Three-Sixty seasonal greens salad, coffee or tea, and chantilly cake for dessert; a cash bar is available. The cost for the May luncheon is \$30 for members and \$32 for guests. All reservations are non-refundable and must be received by May 7. If you are interested in a registration form for this luncheon, NNSJ membership information, or information about other upcoming activities,

Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net to register for this luncheon or for membership information. Newcomers of North Saint Johns offers a wide variety of activities, including lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, Bunco, day trips, and cultural events.

Bird watching and recreational opportunities at Masters Tract

St. Johns County's Masters Tract has emerged as a prime location for hiking, bird watching, photography, and general wildlife viewing in the Hastings area. Located at 7756 Hub Bailey Road and open from dawn to dusk daily, the facility consists of a pond, wetlands, and wildlife habitat near Deep Creek and the St. Johns River. Pedestrians and bicyclists are welcome to explore the area but are asked to stay on the berms. Motorized vehicles, fishing, swimming, boating, and hunting are prohibited. For more information on the Masters Tract, visit www.sjcfll.us/environmental or call (904) 209-0621.

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- September - Back To School Guide
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- November - Senior NewsLine
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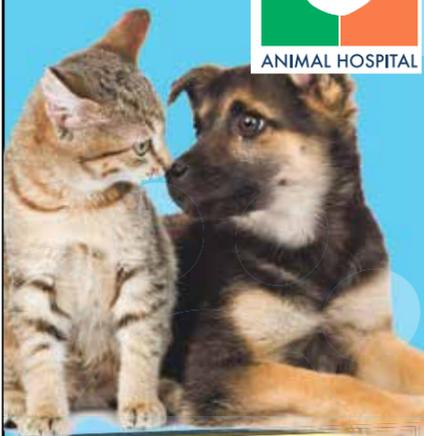
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Relay for Life's success attributed to many community members

By Kim Aslan
mail@floridanewline.com

Relay for Life of North Saint Johns County has seen many committee members, sponsors, teams, and participants come and go through the years – all of whom have contributed to the event's success.

John Crowell of Allstate, has been this Relay's Survivor Sponsor since 2004. Each year his sponsorship allows the survivors to enjoy a day that recognizes their durance and perseverance. He is hands-on and one can see he truly enjoys interacting with the brave and strong survivors. He stays with them each year, mingling with them, speaking to them; he is simply a kind and humble man. Additionally, he lends his voice during the luminaria ceremony, announcing names of loved ones honored or lost.

Recently, Becky Kimball, Tri Lead Team, interviewed John Crowell:

Becky Kimball: How did you get involved with Relay for Life?

John Crowell: It was a friend and fellow Allstate agent. He had committed to being the Survivor Sponsor and then realized he wasn't able to be there, so he asked me to help out, which I was more than happy to do. This was in 2004. Once I was there talking to the survivors, helping serve dinner, and seeing they were uplifted and having fun, I felt uplifted and happy and felt this was where God wanted me to help. I made a commitment that I would be the Survivor Sponsor as long as I was in business. (At this time, Crowell didn't have any close touches with anyone with cancer, but unfortunately that has changed. He now has family and friends whom he now celebrates, remembers, and is still helping fight back against cancer.)



Photo courtesy John Crowell

John Crowell is the Survivor Sponsor for Relay for Life of North Saint Johns.

Kimball: What was your favorite thing about Relay?

Crowell: Being able to talk and listen to the survivors.

Kimball: What would you say to those who are not yet involved with Relay?

Crowell: It is a great way to help uplift and have fun with survivors.

Kimball: How do you feel Relay has been evolving?

Crowell: I feel that the event was on top of its game back around 2008, but now that there is more specific cancer fundraising competition, ACS Relay for Life has had a drop. Fortunately, since some of the Relay for Life events have merged, staying with the solid foundation that was started back in 1986 with Dr. Gordy Klatt, it is bouncing back strong. I also feel the American Cancer Society is one of the great nonprofits for helping those with any cancer by helping provide rides to and from treatment, helping with lodging for those who need to travel for treatment (Hope Lodges), the 24/7 information hotline and the list goes on.



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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE





Summer fun events and camp guide

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

Looking for exciting and educational activities to keep the kids active this summer? The CreekLine is helping make your summer planning a little easier. Read on for a list of local attractions, upcoming events and summer camps to check out for a more fun and memorable summer.

Outdoor fun:

- **Marineland Dolphin Adventure**
9600 Oceanshore Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 471-1111 Ext. 103
- **St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park**
999 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 824-3337
- **Tree Hill Nature Center**
www.treehill.org/
7152 Lone Star Road, Jacksonville, FL 32211
(904) 724-4646
- **Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Summer Camp**
http://jacksonvillezoo.org/zoocamps
370 Zoo Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 757-4463
- **St. Augustine Aquarium**
www.saaquarium.com/
2045 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 429-9777

- **The Black Raven Pirate Ship Adventures**
www.blackravenadventures.com/
111 Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 826-0000
- **Jax Surf and Paddle Summer Camp**
https://jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com/pages/kids-camps
222 1st St., Neptune Beach, FL 32233
(904) 435-7873
- **The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve**
505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 823-4500
- **Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary Tours**
www.cattysack.org/
1860 Starratt Road, Jacksonville, FL 32226
(904) 757-3603
- **St. Augustine Wild Reserve Tours**
www.staugustinewildreserve.org/Tours.htm
(904) 940-0664
- **St. Augustine Pier Splash Park**
www.simplystaugustine.com/beaches/st-augustine-beach-pier-splash-park/
350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32080
- **Fort Clinch State Park**
2601 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 277-7274

Events Guide cont. on pg. 14

Summer Tennis Camp 2018

- June 4th through July 26th
- Ages 5 yr to 18 yr
- Creekside High Tennis Courts
- All levels of play beginner to high performance





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9am-2pm*-Ages 4-11

Session 1~ June 18th-29th

Session 2 ~July 9th-July 20th

Session 3 ~July 23rd-Aug. 3rd

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of Crown Point Road

Fruit Cove
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774 N. SR 13
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of Julington Creek Bridge

Julington Creek
(904) 230-7778
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ages 10-13

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Interested dancers need to be accepted through audition. Next auditions will be held at The Florida Ballet Studios, 300 East State Street, Suite E on April 22 and June 9.

Two-week program,
June 18-29, meeting M-F, 9-3.

For information please visit
<https://floridaballet.org/summer-program-auditions/>



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The Northeast Florida Conservatory is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) corporation.



SUMMER CAMP GUIDE





Events Guide cont. from pg. 13

- Washington Oaks Garden State Park
6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd, Palm Coast, FL 32137
- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
www.nps.gov/casa/index.htm
1 South Castillo Drive, Saint Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 829-6506
- Ft. Caroline National Memorial
www.nps.gov/timu/learn/historyculture/foca.htm
12713 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225
- J&S Carousel
Davenport Park
180 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 823-3388

Active fun:

- PGA TOUR Academy Summer Camps
www.pgatourexperiences.com/tour-academies/junior-golf-camps/summer-camps/
(877) 611-1911
- St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Summer Programs
www.sjcf.us/Recreation/Youth/summer.aspx
(904) 209-0377
- University of North Florida Youth Sports and Fitness summer camps
<https://www.unf.edu/recwell/camps/>
(904) 620-2998
- Bolles Ready? Set?! Summer Camp!
www.bolles.org/activities/summer-programs

- Paks Karate Summer Camp
paksponsoredra.com/camps
0440 US 1, North / Suite 115 & 116, St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 829-8087
- Jewish Community Alliance Summer Camps
www.jcajax.org/camp/
8505 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32217
(904) 730-2100
- Happy Acres Ranch Summer Camp
www.happyacresranch.com/summer-camp/
7117 Crane Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 725-1410

- Sweet Pete's Factory Tour
www.sweetpetescandy.com
400 N. Hogan St. Jacksonville, FL
- Adventure Landing Teddy Bear Thursdays
Every Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
www.adventurelanding.com
1944 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
(904) 246-4386
- Barnes and Noble Story Time
St. Johns Town Center
www.barnesandnoble.com
- MOSH \$5 Mondays and Discovery Camps
<http://themosh.org/educate/camps/>
1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 396-7062
- St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum
www.staugustinelighthouse.org/visit/main
81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32080
- St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum
www.thepiratemuseum.com/
12 S. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Rainy day fun:

- Jacksonville Public Library Summer Reading Program
Various locations. Check online for updated events throughout summer.
www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/
- Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens free Tuesday Admission
www.cummermuseum.org/events
829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 356-6857

Events Guide cont. on pg. 15

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Lic.# C07SJ0097

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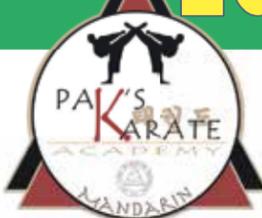
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TOUR GUIDE
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SUMMER 2018

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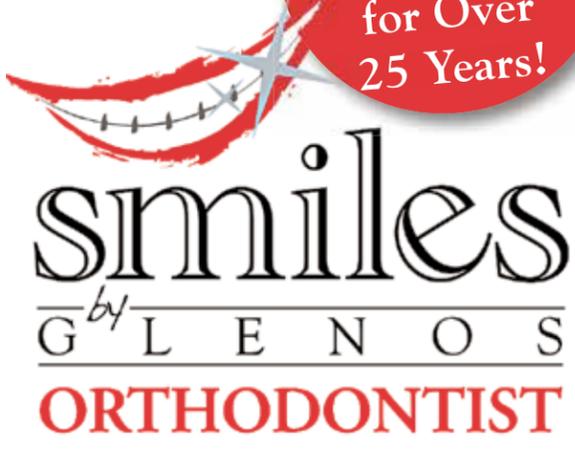
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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE





Events Guide cont. from pg. 14

- Kids Bowl Free
Various Jacksonville locations
www.kidsbowlfree.com

- Ripley's Believe It or Not Odditorium
Check online for discount tickets.
www.ripleys.com/staugustine/
19 San Marco Ave. St Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-1606

Creative fun:

- Creative Me Art Studio Summer Camp
www.creativemeartstudio.com/summer-camp
132 Everest Ln. #3, Jacksonville FL 32259
(904) 770-2222

- MOCA Art Camp
mocajacksonville.unf.edu
333 North Laura St., Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 366-6911

- The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Summer Arts camps
www.ccpvb.org
50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 280-0614

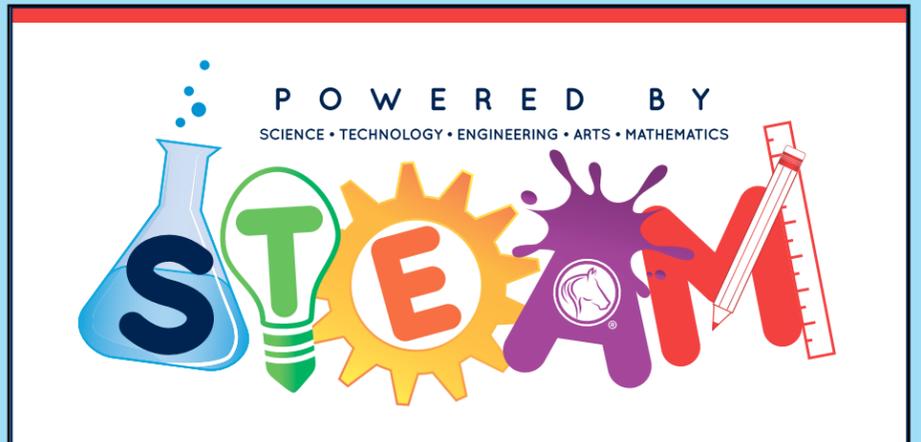
- Doing Dishes Pottery Studio Story Time
Check website for dates / two locations — 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
www.doingdishes.com/story-time
San Jose location, 5619 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville FL 32207
(904) 730-3729

- Home Depot DIY Kids Workshops
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Session 2	6/11 - 6/14	Fairy Tales
Session 3*	6/18 - 6/21	The Zoo
Session 4	6/25 - 6/28	The Olympics
Session 5*	7/9 - 7/12	Camping
Session 6	7/16 - 7/19	Cowboys/Cowgirls

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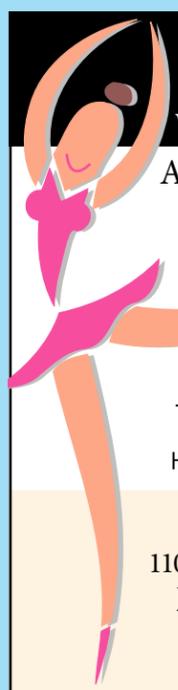
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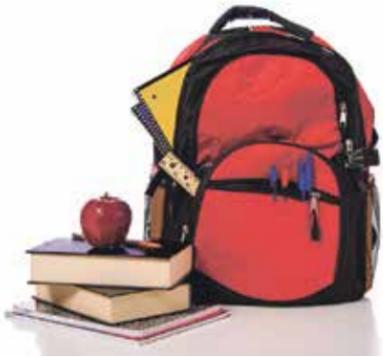
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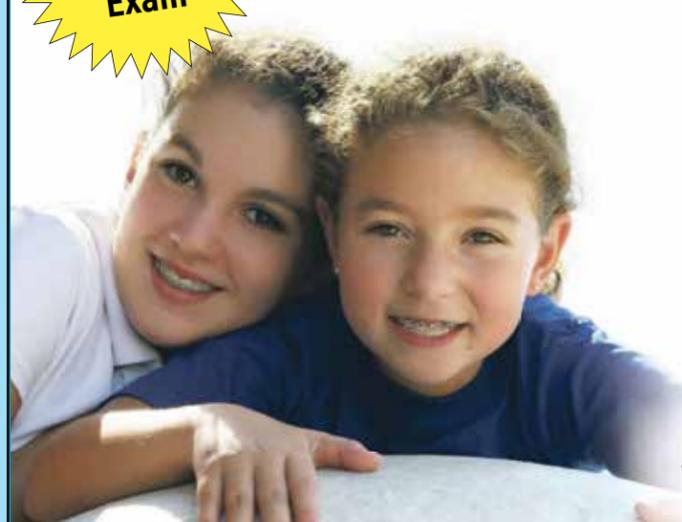
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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE





Bishop John Snyder dedicates new pool for Camp I Am Special

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Swimming is one of the main attractions during the summer at Camp I Am Special, and this year will be extra special with the opening of a new aquatic center. The Rotary Club of Deerwood Abigail's Joy Camp I Am Special Aquatic Center was dedicated by the Camp's founder, Bishop John J. Snyder, on April 11 and has its first event, the Faith and Sharing Retreat, scheduled for May 20 – 24. The six-day summer camps will run from June 10 through August 5.

The new pool is specially designed for people with disabilities, including an ADA compliant, graduated entry ramp so that campers in specially designed water wheelchairs can roll right into the pool instead of being hoisted on a lift. There are also special water features, such as bubblers and deck jets for campers with sensory-related issues. The pool is mostly shallow with support bars and social steps that can be used to enter the pool or sit in the water. Nearby are fully accessible restrooms with showers and a covered pavilion with picnic tables.

“For some of our campers, this is the only time they get to swim because it’s so challenging to get in and out of the pool,” said Lauren Weedon Hopkins, regional director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville.

Though it was popular with the campers, the old swimming pool was leaking, and beyond repair, Hopkins said. So, two years ago Catholic Charities Jacksonville decided to launch a capital campaign, led by volunteer Kathy Devine, which raised more than \$1.1 million. The main sponsors were the Rotary Club of Deerwood, and Ed and Marlene White of Auld & White Constructors LLC, who named it Abigail's Joy in honor of their granddaughter. The Delores Barr Weaver Fund donated the money for the Ability Pool, and the Chartrand Family gave the funding for the shaded pavilion. Others have donated \$100 or \$250 for brick pavers for the Friendship Walk that borders the entry inside the pool complex.

Since 1983, Camp I Am Special has provided a summer camp experience for children and adults with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities,

providing activities that include crafts, talent shows, and swimming. It is made possible through private funding and in-kind donations, as well as an army of volunteers.

The camp can accommodate 32 campers each week. Every camper is assigned a “buddy,” a volunteer high school student, who is responsible for caring for the camper 24/7, which includes making sure they have fun.

Catholic Charities gives every camper a scholarship; the money for scholarships

comes from fundraisers, grants, and donations from parish groups, the Knights of Columbus, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, individuals and foundations. Also, lunches and dinners for all the camps are donated and served by volunteers. Groups provide a meal for 100, which includes campers, buddies, and staff.

Call the Camp I Am Special office at (904) 230-7447 or the Jacksonville Regional Office of Catholic Charities at (904) 899-5500 for more information or to donate or volunteer.



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Photos courtesy Bartram Trail Branch Library

Insect repellent donations for homeless are life changing

By Mary Farr
mail@floridanewline.com

For the past four years, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church has invited the St. Johns community to donate cans of insect repellent for the homeless in St Augustine. Volunteers at Home Again and Wildflower Clinic distribute the insect repellent to the homeless — and change lives.

In 2017, more than 1,500 spray bottles were donated and distributed during the six months or more of mosquito season. This outpouring of care kept people healthy, which can be life changing. The number of people needing medical and even hospital care for staph infections and worst has plummeted in St. Johns County.

In 2013, a survey by Wildflower Clinic outreach program showed in a test sample of 100 homeless people that 11 percent needed emergency room treatment or hospitalization for infections related to mosquito and insect bites. Using the concept of prevention being better than cure, the following year, donated cans of bug spray were offered to the homeless population during the hot summer months. No visits to the ER or

hospital for bug bites were noted during this time for the homeless individuals who received the bug spray on a regular basis.

The insect repellent donations protected so many people from being tormented by mosquitos and yellow flies and the resulting sickness and injury. The 2016 Florida Homeless Census estimates there are at least 838 unsheltered homeless in St. Johns County. Based on Wildflower's test, as many as 90 unsheltered people are exposed to mosquitos. Every inexpensive can of mosquito repellent saves our community the cost of emergency room visits.

Since 2015 people have quietly left their insect repellent donations in St. Patrick's mailbox and on the church's front porch at 1221 State Road 13. Thank you. You are welcome to leave your contributions outside again this year, but we invite you to come in and visit us. We'd like to meet you. It's a good thing to know your friends.

Mary Farr is a St. Patrick's parishioner and Wildflower volunteer.

Comic Con returns for fourth year

The fourth annual Bartram Trail Library Comic Con will be held Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Library. This will be a celebration of all things superhero: Star Wars, Harry Potter, fantasy, and more and will include crafts, coloring, superhero snacks, local graphic novelists, games, photo opportunities, and surprise visits from a few favorite characters. There will also be various photo ops set up throughout the library. This program is for all ages and costumes are encouraged but not required. Last year's event brought more than 600 patrons to the library in two hours. There will be a PSA on hand to help direct traffic. Visit www.sjcpls.org or call (904) 827-6960 for more information.

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

*Karl Kennell*

By Angela Higginbotham  
angela@floridanewslines.com

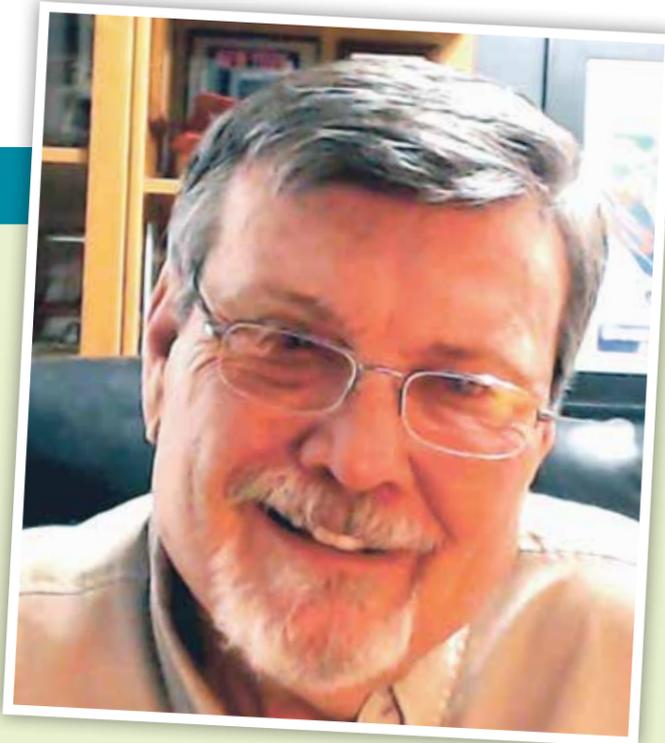


Photo courtesy Karl Kennell  
Karl Kennell

Always passionate about people and mesmerized by the adventures and life tales that others have to share, Karl Kennell has many inspiring stories of his own. He grew up in Sarasota, Fla. and in the 1970s he moved to Los Angeles primarily to pursue his passion of theatre work, while also continuing his career working in building and development. He later retired into travel marketing.

He and his wife, Becky, met as kids while at a Sadie Hawkins dance. The two have been married for 38 years. They have lived in NW St. Johns County for many years and have three children. Kennell suffered a stroke in 2005 that left him partially paralyzed. With the encouragement of his wife to focus on something new, he took the advice that many had given him over the years and he completed his first book in a four-part series, Scuttlebutt from Scuppernong Cove.

“Everyone’s life is made up of tales,” Kennell said. “Some are sad, but most are of misadventures and fun. Why not share them?”

His love for others also resonates in the many years of volunteer work. Among others, Kennell devotes his time to the St. Francis House youth center in St. Augustine.

### 1) What do you enjoy most about living in St. Johns County?

St. Johns County has a nice flair. It’s a great place to live and raise a family.

### 2) Do you have a plan to write more books in the future and how often do you write?

I write every day because I love doing it. Yes, I have a plan to write more books. There will be three more books in the Scuttlebutt from Scuppernong Cove series. I’m thankful that the first book, “Christening Leena Too,” is easily accessible online for the community to hopefully enjoy the lives, laughs, worries and dreams of the characters I write about.

### 3) What do you enjoy doing outside of writing your books?

I’m always writing something. I volunteer. I’m working on a podcast and working hard to build up my readership and outreach, mostly through Facebook and YouTube. It’s not about selling books, it’s about sharing the story and building a readership. The money I make goes right back into more writing and activities to support that.

### 4) How do you encourage the youth at St. Francis House?

I just want to make myself available to them. I want them to know they can talk to me and I’ll listen. I give out composition books and encourage them to write their stories in them. I’ve told them that if they write, I’ll put them all together and then I’ll have a book published with all of their stories.

### 5) What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment thus far?

I don’t know yet. I had a life threatening stroke and I believe I was stroked by God. I feel like I may have something very important yet to do. I always say, “I want to do all I can and as much as I can, for as long as I can.” I’m very blessed to be alive.

[Editor’s Note: Longtime readers of The CreekLine may recognize Karl Kennell’s name from feature story bylines a few years back. We were privileged to have Karl write articles for us for several years and share his unique insight and flair in the stories he penned.]

## Get to Know . . .

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editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

## Dancing cont. from pg. 1

The classes, centered around those with a disability, use the healing power of music and counting to increase mobility, work on behavior and to help compensate for their differences. The younger students enjoy learning the repetitive motion of the line dances in particular and then they feel more confident at school dances and proms. Many other dances, including the waltz, salsa, foxtrot and cha-cha are also used to help aid in social success and to promote confidence among students. Dances are held often so that students can show off their new skills.

“We practice extensive stretching in our warm-ups to help with mobility and balancing. Learning dances also helps with their memory,” McKinley said.



The Exceptional Abilities Dance Company

More information on special-ed dance classes can be found by contacting All About Ballroom and Exceptional Abilities Dance Company at (904) 679-5697. The first class is free of charge and scholarship aid is available to those needing assistance with membership. Those interested in becoming a volunteer are also encouraged to join in on the fun. McKinley said a one-to-one ratio of volunteer and student would be beneficial to the success of the program.

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## School Briefs

### Pacetti Bay Middle School students compete academically

At the beginning of the semester, two Pacetti Bay Middle School students placed at the top of the St. Johns County Science Fair. Adams Popovich earned second place and Brodie Mongon earned third place for their efforts in the Junior Engineering/Intelligent Machine/Mathematics division.



Photo courtesy Sharon Adams  
Pacetti Bay's Mathcounts team.

Mathematics excellence continued with several of students participating for the first time in the Mathcounts competition series. The school's team traveled from Daytona to Washington D.C., participated in several categories, and ended up being one of only five teams attending the state competition. The Wildcat team won and placed in several categories.

Pacetti Bay students also shared their love of reading by collecting 123 used books during the school's Book Drive to share with students at Crookshank Elementary. For the Paw IT Forward Humane Society Drive, students collected dozens of bags, cans, blankets, and treats that resulted in a van full of donations for furry friends in St. Johns County.

Lastly, the school had a very successful Ready Set Glow event for our local schools including Wards Creek Elementary, Pacetti Bay Middle, Mill Creek Elementary, and Piccolata Elementary. Held again at Ring Power, Pacetti Bay hosted hundreds of runners and walkers, and had tremendous support from local businesses.

Visit the PTSO's Facebook page or email the PTSO through the school's website (<http://www-pbm.stjohns.k12.fl.us>) for more information or to volunteer.

### Palencia Elementary to acquire anchor as legacy gift

This year Palencia Elementary School will graduate its first class to have attended the school for their entire elementary career; the fifth graders this year were the school's very first kindergarteners.

It is with all of this in mind that a few dedicated parents recognized the importance of leaving a legacy gift for the school. After some brainstorming the idea of an anchor, which reflected the school's mascot of a Pirate, took hold. The search for an anchor began. Many phone calls and visits to shipyards came to a dead end until a chance encounter while on a fifth grade field trip led to the anchor find of a lifetime.

An anchor from the 1800s had recently been found six miles off the coast of St.

Augustine when a tugboat was towing a ship back to Jacksonville. Some broken cables on the ship snagged the anchor up from the sea floor and pulled it back into port. Archeologists, along with the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum worked with the tugboat company to rescue the anchor and send it to the State of Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research to conserve it. That process keeps the anchor from rusting away, so it is able to be displayed.

The perfect anchor had been found. Laurel Madson, a fifth grade parent and the first Palencia Elementary School PTO president, took the lead in pursuing the state to allow the school to be the display location for this local piece of history.

The anchor is currently being restored in Gainesville and should be ready early next fall. When it is completed it will come to its new home under the flagpole at Palencia Elementary School.

### School board executive secretary named School-Related Employee of the Year

Miriam Testasecca, the executive secretary for the School Board of the St. Johns County School District, has been named the district's 2018 School-Related Employee of the Year. Her selection was announced by Superintendent Tim Forson at a reception held March 15 at the World Golf Hall of Fame Museum. Testasecca was selected from 44 nominees for her exemplary job performance, dedication, interpersonal skills, leader-

ship ability, training and contributions to the school district and the community.

Testasecca has been employed as the School Board's executive secretary for six years and has 17 years overall with the school district. She is a dedicated and efficient professional who serves all five board members with varied requirements and expectations. Her excellent organizational skills enable her to handle multiple tasks of differing levels of complexity. Her welcoming demeanor and service attitude are characteristic of her encounters with the general public. She is also the bookkeeper for 19 internal district accounts and prides herself on the attention to detail to avoid deficiencies and errors. She has never had a deficiency noted in an audit of those accounts.

In addition, she has been mentoring two students for the past four years and also is the district office Wellness Coordinator. She has volunteered her time to run exercise and weight loss programs for district employees and is active with fundraising projects for the district's ASSIST program and The Shriner's Hospital for Children.

Testasecca's name and information packet has been forwarded to the Florida Department of Education as St. Johns County School District's representative and for consideration as the School-Related Employee of the Year representative at the state level.

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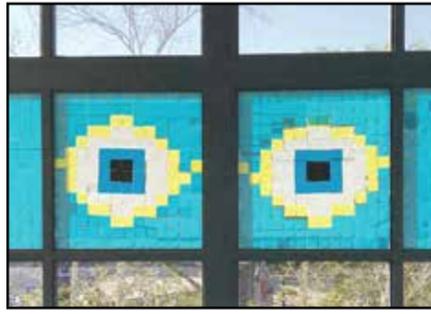
## Small Post-Its take on a bigger meaning

By Delaney Cantrell  
mail@floridanewsline.com

A new project was taken on by the Architectural Academy at Bartram Trail High School and students can't get through the day without seeing at least one Post-it note display. Junior Neehal Amin personally created one of the displays and explained the meaning behind this project.

Amin explained that Post-it Wars originally started as "a competition between neighboring office buildings in an urban landscape. It really took off in lower Manhattan around 2015 – 2016. Occupants of their respective office spaces created designs on windows for all to see; however, the challenge is in projecting complicated artwork with sticky notes as your only medium. It truly is a friendly clash of creativity, inspiration, and fun."

Any junior in the Architecture Academy was allowed to participate in Bartram's version of Post-it Wars and each participant was given the freedom to work in groups or alone. Approximately 10



Photos courtesy Neehal Amin  
Neehal Amin's Post it note display based on the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg.

"The Starry Night." Amin based his display on the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg from F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." He said that most of the junior class is reading the novel and thought many would appreciate his design. The only guidelines to this competition were that it must fit in a window and it had to be school-friendly.

Bartram Trail Architectural Academy teacher Joy Dorst established this competition as a way to create a team-building activity and to help stimulate the creativity that is necessary in the architectural field. There was no winner to this competition, but Amin said it created a light-hearted escape from the other stressful activities of daily life as a high schooler.

This is the first year the academy has hosted a competition like this, but hopes to do it again in the future due to the overall positive response.

When asked if Amin is interested in going into the drafting field, he said, "Architecture is one of my serious options when it comes to college. Preferably I'd like to go to a college that specializes in liberal arts. I really like design and other social sciences."

The Architecture Academy serves an impactful influence on its students and helps them decide on their future.

Amin said, "If you are interested in art or other hands-on subjects, I highly recommend looking into our academy!"



Post it Wars at Bartram Trail High School

displays were created, including a stoic image of the Star Wars figure, Yoda, and an impressive rendition of Van Gogh's



Photo courtesy Alicia Strang

## Local troop celebrates 106th birthday of Girl Scouts

Members of Girl Scout Troop 2220 and Dr. Joy Reichenberg, principal of Hickory Creek Elementary School. This troop celebrated the 106th birthday of the Girl Scouts on March 12, 2018, by raising funds and making birthday bags for children in need. The girls also presented to their parents a brief history of the Girl Scouts, and their founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Troop 2220 meets monthly at Hickory Creek Elementary.



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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

In just a few short weeks the kids will be home for summer break. From kindergarten to college, they will all be back in the house with little to entertain them other than some type of electronic device. There was a time when kids spent the majority of their free time outdoors participating in a number of activities, but it seems that nowadays for some kids, an outdoor activity is nothing more than a quick run to the car or bus. Other than organized sport activities, how do we get our kids outside enjoying the great outdoors around them?

We can start by teaching a kid how to fish. Fishing in Florida is practically a year round activity that the whole family can partake in and enjoy. Access to fishing starts in many of our own neighborhoods, with nearby ponds and creeks just a short walk or bike ride away. Additional accesses to a variety of different fishing locations (all without a boat) are the St. Johns River, Intracoastal Waterway, nearby inlets, piers, lakes, springs, creeks, rivers, and the beach — all are just a short car ride away. Online searches for fishing locations, or searching state, county, and federal parks, can be a great help providing you with the necessary information to get you started with the planning of your next fishing trip.

Learning the basics of how to fish should not be very difficult. Hook, line, sinker, float, weight, rod and reel complete the list of tools to get you started. Having a friend to teach you can be a great help. For self learners, YouTube videos are seemingly endless with guidance and

instructions of how to fish and catch various species. Most any tackle or bait store you care to visit will usually be more than happy to help get you started and pointed in the right direction.

Camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, boating, going to the beach, and even vacation travel can all be outdoor activities that can be done with fishing in mind. Learning to enjoy the outdoors and all that it has to offer can often start with a single fishing pole. The dividends of teaching a kid to fish are many and well worth a try.

Fishing Report: Bream fishing in area ponds and creeks should be pretty good. Live worms or crickets are the better bait choice, but bread ball will work fine for neighborhood ponds. Pompano and whiting still in the surf. Early smaller croaker bite in the St. Johns.

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

### Editor's Note:

The CreekLine will now include a Catch of the Month photo with Capt. David's Fishing Report each month. Please email a photo of yourself or your child with the fish caught to [catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com](mailto:catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com). Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication. Good luck!



Photo courtesy Denise Jones  
Volunteers helped plant 30 trees at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek.

## Joint project results in new trees for retirement community

By Denise Jones  
mail@floridanewslines.com

After two recent hurricanes, the community of Westminster Woods on Julington Creek lost many majestic and beautiful trees that enhanced the lives of residents with shade and gathering areas along the river.

As part of Rotary International and Bartram Trail's Sustainability Project, a collaborative partnership was formed with JEA and Greenscape to plant 30 trees on behalf of each active member to support long-term solutions within our environment and community.

Bartram Trail President Scott Burgess, Westminster Woods Executive Director Amanda Birch, JEA Forester Joe Anderson and JR Sykes of HD Turf were instrumental in seeing this project to completion.

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# Gardening

## Summer is coming

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Taking a look at the Climate Prediction Center on the NOAA website (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>), it seems we may escape drought conditions, at least for the next couple of months. Unfortunately, also according to NOAA, we are likely to experience higher than normal temperatures.

For gardeners, the ramifications are that we need to pay particular attention to our yards' and gardens' water needs, since our usually sandy soils allow for quick drainage, and higher temperatures cause faster evaporation. If you haven't yet done so, check out your system, whether you have in-ground sprinklers, soaker hoses, drip irrigation, or a gravity-fed water barrel, to ensure that your yard is getting adequate water. If you have recently installed new beds they may not be getting the optimum amount of water if you are relying on a system that was set up to irrigate grass.

Converting sprinkler systems in plant beds to soaker or drip systems saves water by delivering it more directly to the roots of plants. Check out <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/irrigation/> for various irrigation methods and applications. Since almost 50 percent of potable water used in Florida is used in the landscape, it's particularly important to determine if you are applying the right amount of water to your lawn — and aren't applying too much to plant beds.

The Extension Master Gardener phone service (904-255-7450) has recently been getting enquiries from homeowners about a leafspot they are seeing on Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*). It is most likely a species of *Cercospora* fungus, and can be treated with suitable fungicides. This article describes the appearance of the leafspot, and suggests treatments: <https://tinyurl.com/ydhm3e>. For any leafspot problem it helps to rake up and dispose of fallen leaves to reduce the fungus spores spreading.

As summer progresses, increasing humidity is usually followed by increases in disease and insect problems, but it is

important to make sure to identify what is wrong before applying a remedy. In the case of lawns, treating for "fungus" when the specific disease hasn't been identified is both pointless and harmful — the problem will only get worse. And even if the diagnosis is clear, the timing and mode of application of fungicides can be tricky to get right, and a reputable lawn and yard service may be better able to tackle it (see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp154>). If you wish to deal with it yourself, but are unsure of the diagnosis, take a bagged sample of the diseased plant material, including all parts that show signs of disease, not just the leaves, to the Extension service at 1010 N. McDuff. If it's something difficult to diagnose, the University of Florida has a service to identify plant diseases (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/sr007>).

Insects should also be correctly identified, since so many are actually beneficial predators of the insects which eat our plants. (More than 90 percent of the insects in our landscapes are good guys: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in120>). The larvae of lady beetles (ladybugs) are one example, as they look nothing like the adults, but both life stages eat pesky aphids (see <https://tinyurl.com/bqroxn7>). Unfortunately the larvae of one species of lady beetle can be mistaken for mealybugs, which could make them a target for the insecticide spray, to the real detriment of the garden.

If you enjoy learning about different aspect of gardening, you may appreciate a BBC podcast (from the UK) called Gardeners' Question Time. It has been broadcast weekly since 1947, from different towns, cities, and inspiring gardens across the British Isles. The format is simple: a panel of experts answers questions from the audience. If it sounds a little dry, I can assure you that's not the case, although British humor can be a little different...

Closer to home, for a little lighter reading, including a whole host of timely tips, check out the May-June issue of A New Leaf: <https://tinyurl.com/y9yfxd89>, available in early May. Stay cool and happy gardening.

## Obituary

Linnie Paul Kittrell, 73 years old, died Sunday, April 1, 2018 with his family at his side.

He was born Feb 26, 1945 in Chipley, Fla., the son of Andrew and Alma Kittrell. He married MaryAnn on August 10, 1963 in Green Cove Springs.

Paul joyfully served as one of Jehovah's Witnesses along with his wife in many congregations throughout Florida. He dedicated his life to Jehovah God at the age of 27 and served as an elder in the Macclenny Congregation until his death. He found great joy in glorifying Jehovah and teaching people about everlasting life.

He was a hard worker and stayed very busy. He worked at Ortega Industrial Contractors in Jacksonville for more than 40 years.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, MaryAnn; two daughters: Cindy Powell and Natalee Harriet; two grandchildren: Gabrielle and Grant Powell; three brothers: James, Phil and Ronnie; three sisters: Andrea, Linda and Diane. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Billy and Larry; two sisters: Vickie and Jackie.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the support they received from family and friends.

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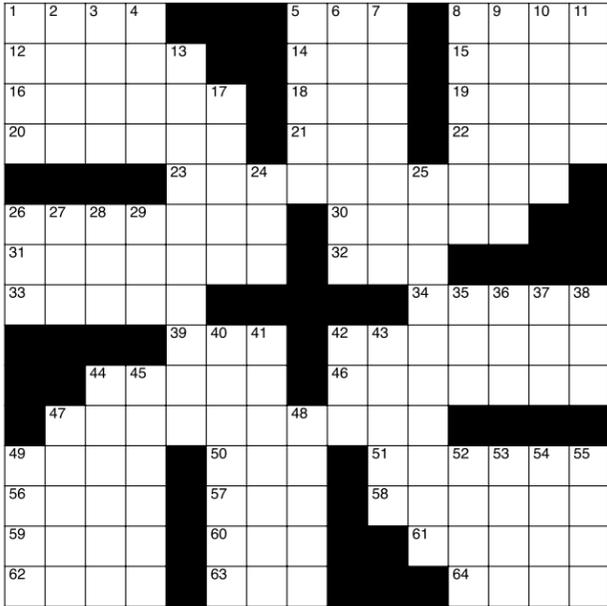
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 2  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. In bed
- 5. Project portfolio management
- 8. \_\_\_ Bator: Mongolian capital
- 12. Roamed
- 14. Notre Dame legend Parseghian
- 15. Nothing (Spanish)
- 16. Not level
- 18. Self-contained aircraft unit
- 19. Baseball broadcaster Caray
- 20. \_\_\_ Tomei, actress
- 21. "The Raven" writer
- 22. Bathrooms
- 23. Skilled inventors
- 26. Forcefully silence
- 30. Remove
- 31. The arrival of daylight
- 32. Split lentils
- 33. "Walking Dead" actress
- 34. A lazy person
- 39. Doctors' group
- 42. Crooks

- 44. Fragrant essential oil
- 46. Conjured
- 47. One who predicts
- 49. Scarlett's home
- 50. Television network
- 51. Something comparable to another
- 56. What a thespian does
- 57. Word element meaning life
- 58. Italian island
- 59. "King of Queens" actress Remini
- 60. Jogged
- 61. Norse gods
- 62. Lazily
- 63. Midway between northeast and east
- 64. Hindu queen

- 5. Tufts of hairs on plant seeds
- 6. Edited
- 7. Portuguese archipelago
- 8. Your parents' brothers
- 9. Pakistani city
- 10. Farewell
- 11. Short sleep sessions
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Drug officers
- 24. One and only
- 25. The Golden State
- 26. Fabric baby carrier (abbr.)
- 27. Quid pro \_\_\_
- 28. New England research university
- 29. Baseball pitcher's stat
- 35. Western India island
- 36. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 37. Midway between east and southeast
- 38. British singer Stewart
- 40. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 41. Riding horse

- 42. Where wrestlers work
- 43. Regions
- 44. Of a main artery
- 45. Not classy
- 47. Competed against
- 48. Biscuit-like cake
- 49. Large ankle bones
- 52. Computer company
- 53. "Friends" actress Kudrow
- 54. "Chocolat" actress Lena
- 55. Brain folds

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Top Rank boxing promoter
- 2. \_\_\_ fide (Latin)
- 3. At all times
- 4. Hindu female deity

## CONSTRUCTION WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- BASEBOARD
- BATTEN
- BEAM
- BOW
- BRIDGING
- CABINET
- CASEMENT
- CATHEDRAL
- CEILING
- CHAIR RAIL
- COFFERED
- DORMER
- DRYWALL
- EAVES
- ELECTRICAL
- ELEVATION
- FASCIA
- FIXTURES
- FLASHING
- FOOTING
- FOUNDATION
- GABLES
- GUTTERS
- JOIST
- LANDING
- MOLDING
- PLUMBING
- ROOFING
- SHEATHING
- TRADITIONAL
- TRIM
- TRUSS
- WALLS
- WINDOW

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to home sweet home.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 10 = o)

**A. 5 10 10 22**

Clue: Covers house

**B. 24 23 5 12 3 23 12 5 17**

Clue: Building

**C. 22 10 12 9 21 6 23 1 10 9**

Clue: Bottom of home

**D. 26 1 9 21 10 26**

Clue: Lets light in



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Scouts build helmet cubbies for Durbin Park

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

The St. Johns County baseball fields at Durbin Park, behind Patriot Oaks Academy, were in need of dugout improvements and it was Mandarin Boy Scout Troop 321 to the rescue.

During practices and games, many Julington Creek Baseball (JCB)

players leave their helmets and gloves on the dugout floor — making it resemble a typical 11-year old's bedroom. Players looking for their gloves or hats had to explore the minefield of equipment within the disorganized dugouts.



Photos courtesy Dave Alberts
Building the cubbies

their hats, gloves and water bottles.

Mark Harvey, JCB president, said, "Julington Creek Baseball is grateful for the extensive amount of time and effort of our local Mandarin Boy Scout Troop 321 and the many JCB parents who embraced the completion of this valuable project at Durbin Park."

Boy Scout Troop 321 is sponsored by Mandarin Presbyterian Church. Others responsible for the success of this project include Chad

Carper of Home Built Woodworking of St. Johns, Bryan Strazinsky of Three J's Painting, Dave Alberts and parents of the JCB 11U Cobras, and several other volunteers.



After the cubbies were installed in the dugout

To help JCB players manage their equipment during games and practices, scouts from Troop 321 coordinated the design of the helmet cubbies, developed the list of building materials, and assisted with construction. Led by Doug Grimaldi of Troop 321 and JCB coach, the project took more than 250 volunteer hours to complete. Each of the eight dugouts at Durbin Park now has a 12-helmet cubbie for players to store



Photo courtesy Bob Mitchell

Titans win Nations Pot of Gold tournament

The Julington Creek Titans took top honors at the Nations Pot of Gold tournament in New Smyrna Beach on March 18. The Titans team batted .467 over the seven game span led by Ben Studer, who batted .900 for the tournament. The Titans team is Ben Studer, Roman Bascelli, Ronan MacDonald, Dawson Vaughn, Matthew Mitchell, Dylan Mcleod, Bryce Boccio, Richie Berrios, Adam Harvey, Jackson Kane, Brady Patterson, Tommy Jordan and Kayden Worthington (not pictured).



Photo courtesy Jill Benavides

Fruit Cove cross country team wins again

The Fruit Cove Flyers cross country team won the district finals again this year at the Bartram High School Invitational Meet. This marks the third consecutive time that the Flyers have been victorious at this end of the season meet. Approximately 130 runners have been on the team over the past five years, and many of these talented athletes have gone on to area high schools prepared for the next step in their running careers. Many have also gone further, entering college with running scholarships.

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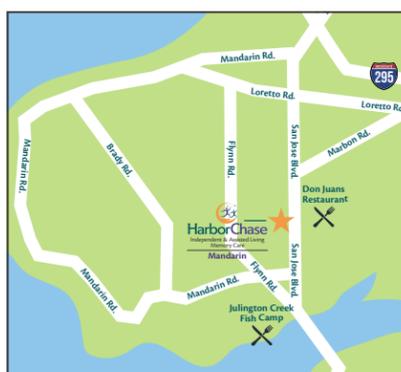
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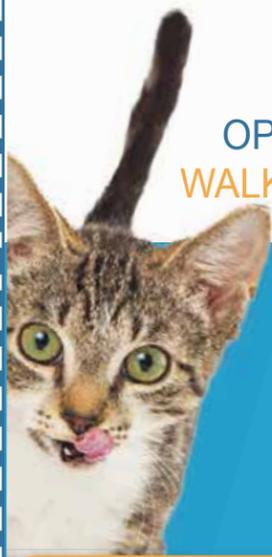
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