



Ponte Vedra NewsLine

MAY 2020 Volume 7 Issue 5

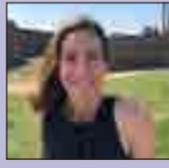
Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley, Nocatee and South Ponte Vedra Beach

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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BFF Best Furry Friend



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Get To Know ...
Laura Moritz



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Puzzles



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Local OPEN businesses!

BEAM experiences increase in requests for assistance; announces Virtual Food Drive

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) staff and volunteers continue to serve the influx of families in Jacksonville's beaches communities who have been hard-hit by the economic impact of COVID-19. The non-profit organization is working to ensure their most at-risk populations have access to emergency services, while adhering to recommendations from the CDC, the Florida Department of Health and local authorities.



Photo courtesy BEAM

A BEAM volunteer hands food to a client in his vehicle.

By mid-April, BEAM had assisted 102 households with Emergency Financial Assistance for April rent payments. In March, BEAM served a total of 69 households seeking assistance with overdue bills. The non-profit organization expects this number to continue to climb. BEAM is actively seeking funds to support this growing financial need.

BEAM cont. on pg. 7

Unique Nocatee company provides water buffalo milk products

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewslines.com

Punita Patel values a really good cup of tea.

Having grown up in India, Patel enjoyed the cuisine so much, and, most especially, the tea; however, something was missing when she tried to recreate that exact cup in the United States.

"I realized that the tea was so good and what made it so special was the milk from water buffalo," said Patel, who moved to Texas when she was 17 years old.

Patel searched for water buffalo milk; she tried to order some from a Vermont farm but it could not be shipped, and she asked local dairy farmers to consider adding one water buffalo to their farms. She hit a dead end. That's when Patel, a nurse by training, knew that she had to open a micro dairy farm.

Patel spent many years researching and visiting water buffalo farms and moved to St. Johns County three years ago looking to find land for what would become Backyard Buffalo. After living in Nocatee for one year, Patel and her family purchased four acres off Canal Boulevard in Palm Valley that included helpful horse farm infrastructure.

Enter Goldie, the Patel's first water buffalo from a New Jersey farm. She arrived in December 2017, and Patel said she was restless the night before before worrying about the animal's size and many other details.

Goldie arrived in a trailer that was too big to fit down Patel's driveway, so Goldie had to walk the distance of the driveway to get to her paddock. Somehow, Goldie knew

what to do.

"It worked out like a dream," said Patel. "It was as if she knew where she needed to go."

Her children, now nine-year-old twins and an

11-year-old, found an instant connection with Goldie, and Patel found them snuggling up to Goldie the next morning. Patel said she has learned so much throughout this journey, and that process will never end.

Goldie had her first calf, Luna, four months after she arrived at the Backyard Buffalo. A second milking buffalo, Lola, arrived in 2019, and Patel soon realized that she needed some assistance. So, she placed an ad on a local site, looking for someone interested in milking water buffalo.

Enter Dan Stone, a retired civil engineer who had worked on a dairy farm and had also owned a beef farm. Stone's wife encouraged him to answer the ad.

"It was life-altering for me to have met him," said Patel.

Not only did Stone volunteer to milk the water buffalo, but he used his engineering background to make life on the farm easier for Patel by

building a milk parlor/milk house, raising a roof to meet regulations, building



Water buffaloes



Photos courtesy Punita Patel

Punita Patel and one of her children with a water buffalo

fences and figuring out drainage issues.

Patel said she also had to learn the best way to share her products with the community. Going to farmer's markets proved to be the best way to grow her business and to learn product preferences even though Patel was at first scared to be a vendor.

"My fears were not realized. They are all trying to help me better my product," she said. "I am guided by all the kindness around me. I have found help at the most unexpected places. If you keep at it, folks will come out to support you."



Backyard Buffalo honey

Patel's products include items such

as Shrikhand, a creamy treat made from cultured milk and often blended with fresh fruits, nuts and/or spices; Raita, a blend of vegetables with a soft yogurt like cheese to be eaten as a dip or condiment; and Ghee, a purified butter made using buffalo cream and local cow cream.

Patel currently sells her products at Beaches Green Market in Neptune Beach (which includes pop up market locations) and The Harvest Basket, the Palm Valley Farmer's Market off Canal Boulevard. Since the COVID-19 crisis began, Patel has switched to online sales with delivery being provided by The Harvest Basket. (To place an order and to see a full prod-

Unique Nocatee Company cont. on pg. 11

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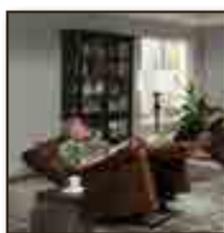
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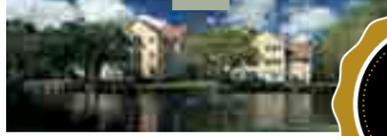


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John Erickson, OD, Nemours pediatric eye expert

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14785 Old St. Augustine Road, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32258

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Zorro!



BREED:
Rescue

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Napping in the sunshine.

FAVORITE TREAT:
Changes on his latest whim

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Lee

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Even though he does not have a cape or a hat or a mask, he is a dashing vigilante; and he has a piercing stare that lets you know that he is in charge.

This month's sponsor:
Palencia Pet Clinic
159 Palencia Village Dr #101
www.palenciapetclinic.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!
Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?
Email editor@floridanewline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

MAP OF LOCAL TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY

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

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JUNE Special Section Real Estate

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to Nocatee's water park.
Our winner was Craig Schwartz. Congratulations!



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Advertisers' Index

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- Congratulate your Senior ads!
- Getting back to business ads!



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Rebecca@FloridaNewsline.com

The Sheriff Reports

Covid 19 Pandemic

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

On behalf of the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, I would like to thank our citizens and visitors for the cooperation you have demonstrated thus far during the current medical/health crisis. I have personally traveled extensively around the county over the past month and have witnessed many acts of kindness, compassion and understanding. These are certainly unprecedented times, and it will continue to require collaboration and patience from us all.

While we continue to coordinate with our health and emergency management partners to release accurate information, some anonymous social media "posts" have also created unnecessary concerns. Several social media posts in outside Florida communities have warned of individuals wearing lab coats and representing themselves as CDC officials. The posts are warning of an offer to test individuals for Covid-19, but intend to victimize you by committing a home invasion robbery. Currently, there have been NO such verified events. Additionally, text messages have also been circulating claiming to be from the United Nations or other authorities,

ordering a shutdown or quarantine of "your" community. These are also fictitious communications.

While there are many legitimate sites you can visit to stay updated, I suggest the following for accurate information within Florida and St. Johns County. The sites that you may find valuable are: Florida Health (www.floridahealth.gov), St. Johns County Government (www.sjcf.us), as well as the Cities of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach websites. Of course, you can always garner Sheriff's Office related information at www.sjso.org or our various social media platforms.

Many of you have grown uneasy about the future under our current circumstances, and understandably, there are questions on how to proceed, what do we say to our children, and when can we get back to normal. Our primary objective during this crisis is to provide assistance to our citizens by being very visible and helping where we can. All of you can be certain the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office will remain on duty and be ready to serve you throughout this healthcare crisis. Take care of yourselves, your families, and to the extent possible, your neighbors.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm Melanie Cain-Stage of HAWKE (Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education) and I have dedicated 40 years of free service to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. There is no state or federal funding, we are not county owned, and we are totally supported by donations for our paid staff, trucks and buildings. We have a wonderful professional facility that has taken 30 years to build and no taxpayers money.

We are in desperate times. There are no funds coming in except for a few new members and monthly donations. We

had to cancel our main fundraiser, Dine on The Wild Side at the Alligator Farm and our open house.

We are the only ones locally that can help you with wildlife rescue. If we have to temporarily shut down, you will have to drive out of the county.

HAWKE is not for profit; please visit www.hawkewildlife.org and donate with a credit card, or by mail: HAWKE PO Box 188 Elkton, FL 32033.

Melanie Cain-Stage



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

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

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

Florida Department of Health:

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

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

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

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

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

Price Gouging Hotline:

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

Coronavirus Tax Relief:

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

St. Johns County COVID-19 Updates:

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

Get or Give Help From Home

Turn to ElderSource for Senior Support and Caregiver Resources

SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEED:



Aging and Disability Resource Center HelpLine

The ElderSource HelpLine is the place to start for help if you are a senior, an adult living with a disability or a caregiver. We are here to listen to your concerns and connect you to important information and resources. Our goal is for you and your loved to live as safely and independently as possible.



Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program

If you're feeling lonely, sign up to receive friendly telephone calls from a volunteer. It helps everyone - we all crave human interaction!

VOLUNTEERS AND CAREGIVERS:



Senior Support Volunteer Opportunities

Boost seniors' spirits through our Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program or begin training from home to help seniors understand their healthcare options through SHINE.



Virtual Caregiver Support Group

Don't go it alone. Our group offers a safe place to connect face-to-face online to share information, ask questions and voice personal feelings.



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myeldersource.org

JULY STAYCATION GUIDE

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AD DEADLINE JUNE 19TH

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From a Teacher: Websites to engage your child

By Lara Pierce, STEM Education
mail@floridanewsline.com

By now you've had several weeks of online learning with your child. Hopefully, there are fewer glitches and you are getting the hang of it. If you are still looking for ways to engage your child in learning that will also be fun, I have some websites for you:

Children of all ages love being read to. At this site, www.storylineonline.net, actors and actresses from the Screen Actors Guild read popular children's books. There are much-loved classic titles and current popular titles. Your child can listen to these talented readers bring the stories to life. It is free to access and no log-in is needed.

Another great source is www.brainpop.com especially if your child likes learning about a variety of subjects. This site is geared for students in grades four and up. The categories include Arts and Music, Engineering and Tech, Science, Math, Social Studies, English and Health. You will need to create a free family account to gain access. Students in grades K-3 have their own junior version at <https://jr.brainpop.com/>. Students will love learning about everything from Jackie Robinson to Ancient Egypt.

Does your child like puzzles? If so, Hooda Math Escape rooms are for them. This is one of my all-time favorite sites: www.hoodamath.com/games/escape.html. The site is loaded with challenging escape rooms where the student must look for clues, work math problems and solve puzzles to escape. There are many categories to choose from. There is an escape room for every state in the US. For a real challenge, try to escape from all 50 states!

For students who love math and games, www.mathplayground.com/ offers all kinds of different math, thinking skills, and strategy games. It is a free site to access and is broken down by grade levels for easy navigation. For all the soccer players, there is a great game called Goalkeeper Challenge.... Look under the sports tab to find it!

In these challenging times learning can still be fun. I hope these websites keep your student engaged and challenged as we continue to explore this new way of learning. Your student's teachers miss them dearly and can't wait to see them again.



with St. Johns County School Board Member,
Kelly Barrera, District 4

Q: Have any decisions been made [as of the date of this interview, April 17] about how the end of this school year will look?

A: We are on pause about whether schools will reopen this school year and it might look different across the state. We are keeping a close eye on feedback and input from the governor and the commissioner of education as to how to move forward but still protect our community. [Editor's note: On April 18, the Florida Department of Education extended distance learning through the end of this school year.]

Q: Do you have an update on how distance learning is going so far?

A: I reached out to principals of Valley Ridge Academy, PVPV Rawlings and Ocean Palms. Each one of them said they were grateful for the awesome teachers and staff and students. There is such an energy of collaboration. Some teachers have even redecorated parts of their houses for their virtual classrooms. Everything is coming together virtually and going well. Dr. Jessy Gates from PVPV Rawlings told me he would particularly like to recognize teachers Mrs. Pujadas, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Garcia and Mrs. Davis, as well as many others,

who took the time to visit homes (while maintaining appropriate social distancing) and encourage students during this new endeavor.

I'd like to give a shout out from a district perspective to our IT Department for all their hard work to make distance learning possible. Their dedication to our students and teachers has been amazing. Also, some of our bus drivers are delivering laptops and hotspots to students. It's truly a team effort.

Q: Has the construction of the new schools been impacted?

A: Construction continues on new K-8 school "MM" and new high school "HHH." We have had no glitches and for that I'm grateful because we know those school sites are much needed. Zoning discussions have been delayed. We are going to reassess the situation in May as to what the new schedule of meetings and public input will be.

Q: What else do you have to share with District 4?

A: In the midst of all this, we are already looking forward to the next school year. Kindergarten registration is available online and even if parents don't yet have all the required documentation, I would encourage them to get the process started so we can begin to determine staffing for next year. Also, master schedules are being worked on at the schools for next year. So, it's been very busy.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Congratulations Class of 2020!

#DONE

Best Wishes

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

Q: Can you shed some insight on the portability portion of the homestead exemption?

A: As we know, homestead exemption reduces the assessed value of a residence by \$50,000. It also puts a cap on the amount the assessed value can increase of 3 percent per year. Values in St. Johns County have increased by greater than 9 percent for the last three years, so that difference between the 3 percent cap and the 9 percent actual is the “portability.”

Q: What is the benefit?

A: Portability is very important because first, you don't pay taxes on that amount and in many cases over time it can add up to more than the original \$50,000. Also, if you move and homestead a new property anywhere in the state of Florida within two years, you take your portability with you, up to \$500,000.

Q: What else would you like people to know about portability?

A: While it's my responsibility as property appraiser to ensure that everyone gets the exemptions they are entitled to, I also have to make sure that values and portability are correct. My job is to

ensure property values are fair, accurate and equitable.

I would like to encourage all who have homesteaded property, especially if you are getting ready to sell your home, to go on our website (www.sjcpa.us) and look at your property values and portability. If they are not where you think they should be, contact our office and I'll have an appraiser look at it immediately.

Q: Why is it so important for people to check their portability prior to selling their home?

A: The reason is, once you sell your home, you can't appeal the portability amount. Courts have held that the homeowner has no standing to appeal what we report, so check it out and let's discuss any possible discrepancies prior to a sale. Also, this is something you can do yourself. Visit the website, check your values and call us if you have any questions. You don't need to pay a third party to do this for you.

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

A: Readers can email me at Eddie@sjcpa.us or call me at (904) 827-5500.

BEAM cont. from pg. 1

BEAM initiated a Virtual Food Drive due to the outpouring of inquiries from the community asking for ways to help families in need as well as a decrease in the amount of food donated by grocery store partners. They are asking for no food donations, but instead monetary donations. This allows BEAM to buy food in bulk for their clients at a reduced cost, and minimizes person-to-person contact.

More information on the Virtual Food Drive can be found on BEAM's website: <https://www.jaxbeam.org/covid19-donations>

Between April 6 – April 13, BEAM:

- Distributed more than 13 tons of food to BEAM food pantries and local partners in need

- Assisted hundreds of BEAM food pantry clients and transported groceries to seniors for home delivery

- Aided military families by providing baby food to the Jacksonville USO

- Provided Finegan Elementary School families goods including Cinotti's bread and Atlantic Beach Urban Farms lettuce

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) helps provide emergency assistance and a path to economic stability to low income families and individuals in the Jacksonville beaches area. Founded in 1985, BEAM's services include rent and utility assistance, two food pantries, the BEAM Food Bank, and a garden that provides thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits annually to our clients. Visit www.jaxbeam.org for more information.

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcl.us)

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org, (904) 824-8304
Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

Property Appraiser: Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@sjcpa.us; (904) 827-5500

Supervisor of Elections: Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com, (904) 823-2238

Tax Collector: Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us, (904) 209-2250

Clerk of Court: Brandon Patty, (904) 819-3600

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

District 1: Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301
District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0302
District 3: Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0303
District 4: Jeremiah Blocker,

bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304
District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

St. Johns County School Board (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)
District 4: Kelly Barrera, kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510

State of Florida Elected Officials
Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov, (904) 823-2300

State Senate District 7: Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610

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

U.S. Senate:
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041
Senator Rick Scott, (202) 224-5274



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

Q: How has the coronavirus impacted work at the Supervisor of Elections office?

A: My office is taking the COVID-19 public health emergency very seriously. While I hope our nation will return to normal by this fall, there is a possibility that the opportunities for in-person voting will be limited. That is why we want you to consider Vote by Mail in this fall's elections.

Q: Can you explain how Vote by Mail works?

A: Voting by mail allows voters to cast their ballots from the safety and comfort of their own homes, minimizes interactions with other people, and helps to maintain social distancing. We all need to do our part to keep our nation healthy, and voting by mail is an important part of that process.

Voting by mail is safe and secure. There are tools available on our website to track your ballot; when and where it is mailed, and when we receive your voted ballot back. Secure drop boxes are provided around the county at early voting locations so you can return your ballot if you prefer not to mail it. A 24-hour drop box is also available in front of the Elections Office for your convenience. Opening and counting of the ballots is open to the public, so come see our processes for making sure every vote is counted.

Q: With regards to the upcoming elections, what are some important dates?

A: Candidate qualifying for federal offices as well as circuit judges, state

attorneys and public defenders, ended at noon on April 24. For county offices, municipalities, state legislatures, and community development districts, we will start accepting candidate paperwork on May 25. The qualification week is June 8 – June 12, with the deadline for qualifying at noon on Friday, June 12. Then, Vote by Mail ballots go in the mail on July 3.

Q: Do you have anything else to share?

A: The greatest part about our system is voters have a choice; voting by mail or voting in person. Limitations for in person voting is a direct result of loss of many of our poll workers due to COVID 19. We are unable to open in person voting locations without adequate staffing. We are in serious need of workers who are willing to work the fall elections, Aug. 18 and Nov. 3. If you are interested in becoming a poll worker please contact Tina Rodriquez at the Elections Office.

Visit our website www.votesjc.com to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot or to be a poll worker.

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

A: Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office by email at elections@votesjc.com or by phone at (904) 823-2238, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Our website, www.votesjc.com also has a wealth of information.

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Online resources promote learning about Florida's aquifer

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Staying home is staying safe, and many parents of school-aged kids are looking for ways to keep those busy young minds engaged in learning. The St. Johns River Water Management District is bolstering its online water education resources to help both teachers and parent-teachers meet that challenge while at home.

"As many shelter at home to stop the spread of Covid-19, I am proud that our district staff are able to further support our region's educators — along with the many parents who now find themselves in the role of teacher — and keep students learning about our precious water resources," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle.

Among the district's online resources is a new video lesson about Florida's aquifer system, led by district communications coordinator Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, using jars, sand and pebbles to create a hands-on aquifer that demonstrates where our water comes from.

New videos enhance current educational resources on the district's website, www.sjrwmd.com/education, including hands-on activities, educational videos with self-grading quizzes, coloring sheets, vocabulary words, stories to read and interactive cartoon adventures in the world of water.

The district's website also features:

The Great Water Odyssey, an interactive look at the water cycle and states of matter for elementary school-aged children, and includes online quizzes: www.sjrwmd.com/education/odyssey

An introduction to district mascot Raleigh Otter, a tour of the St. Johns River and overview of water management in Florida: www.sjrwmd.com/education/raleighs-den



Photo courtesy St. Johns River Water Management District
In the district's latest educational video, Dr. Jennifer Mitchell uses materials from around her home to create a hands-on aquifer and demonstrate where water comes from.

Tour the Indian River Lagoon from the perspective of lagoon natives Sebastian and Lucie Snook, with information on seagrasses, mangroves and other unique lagoon tidbits: www.sjrwmd.com/education/snooks-cove

Learn about the different kinds of aquatic macroinvertebrates and how they are indicators of water quality: www.sjrwmd.com/education/macroinvertebrates

A collection of activity and coloring sheets to download, reading comprehension activities and lesson plans with videos: www.sjrwmd.com/education/teacher

Videos on the district's YouTube channel feature otters, manatees, the journey of a water sample, highlights of district public lands and much more: www.youtube.com/user/floridaswater

District staff will continue to add videos and materials to the website and social media platforms. Teachers and parent-teachers are invited to reach out to Mitchell at jmitchell@sjrwmd.com with questions or to schedule a Skype lesson. Join the conversation on social media: #safeathome #sjrwmd #athomelearning #thegreatwaterodyssey

The St. Johns River Water Management District is one of five districts in Florida managing groundwater and surface water supplies in the state. The district encompasses all or part of 18 northeast and east-central Florida counties. Visit www.sjrwmd.com for more information.

Thanks to Our Community's
FOOD SERVICE WORKERS

Newcomers of Beaches look forward to restarting activities

By Andrea Smith
mail@floridanewslines.com

During these trying and unprecedented times, we are acutely aware of the challenges facing all of us. Newcomers of the Beaches is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all our members and will adhere to the strictest guidelines until further notice; all activities have been suspended until May 12, 2020. We look forward to picking up where we left off, hopefully with a renewed sense of what is most important — good health, family and good friendships.

Whether you just moved to the beaches area or experienced a change in your life, be ready to enjoy the many opportunities coming your way. The club's monthly luncheons have exciting speakers or special events. Activities are the heart of the club — they are varied and provide a way to socialize and make friends.

The Newcomers of the Beaches invites new members to attend its luncheon the second Wednesday of each month. This month's luncheon is scheduled for May 13, 2020 beginning at 11 a.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy.

This social club consists of a fun and diverse group of women who have recently moved to the beaches and/or have undergone a major life changing event. If you are looking to make new friends and participate in interesting activities, visit our website (www.newcomersofthebeaches.com) for more information and to make a reservation for the luncheon.



Photo courtesy Jim Guarnera

Eighth grader named to All-Florida team

Jake Guarnera, an eighth grade student-athlete at Alice B. Landrum Middle School, has been selected to the 2020 Future Stars Game Florida state football team. Team Florida consists of top football talent from across the state and is scheduled to play in a four-team tournament in June against state teams from Georgia, South Carolina and Louisiana. Director of Team Florida Rickie Simon said Guarnera is very technical and his talent is outstanding. Guarnera is a three-sport starting athlete at Landrum: an offensive tackle in football, center in basketball and pitcher/first baseman in baseball. He is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a 3.7 GPA and is scheduled to attend all honors and AP courses at Ponte Vedra High School this fall. Guarnera is the son of Jim and Cheryl Guarnera of Ponte Vedra Beach.

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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



When EF Hutton talks, people listen

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

The Hutton brothers, Edward Francis Hutton and Franklyn Laws Hutton made their money the truly old-fashioned way: they married it.

Franklyn, the younger of the two, married Edna Woolworth, the daughter of Frank Winfield Woolworth of F.W. Woolworth fame, America's first giant retailer. At its peak, Woolworths was the biggest retailer in the country — so prosperous that they built the world's tallest building in downtown Manhattan. The Woolworth building remained the tallest building until it was surpassed by the Chrysler building in 1930. They had one daughter, Barbara Woolworth Hutton.

Edward, the older brother, divorced his first wife and married Marjorie Merriweather Post, the daughter of C.W. Post, heiress to the Post Cereal fortune. Post was founded in 1895 in Battle Creek, Michigan and the company was an early leader in the burgeoning cereal business. Their big competitor was cross town rival Kellogg's. They had one daughter, Nedenia Hutton. Before they divorced in 1935, Edward Francis Hutton and Marjorie Merriweather Post built an opulent vacation home and club in Palm Beach called Mar-A-Lago.

Neither Edward nor Franklyn Hutton were particularly good husbands or fathers, but they both did an exceptional job of managing the assets of their new brides. Franklyn managed his daughter's trusts. At the time of her \$60,000 coming out party in 1930, Barbara Woolworth Hutton was one of the richest women in the world, worth \$50 million.

Edward Francis Hutton began an aggressive campaign of acquisitions at Post. He bought Jell-O, Minute Rice, Log Cabin Syrup, Hellmann's Mayonnaise, Sanka

and finally Birdseye. He renamed the whole thing General Foods. In 1985, Philip Morris bought General Foods for almost \$6 billion.

The press was scathing towards Barbara Woolworth Hutton following her lavish coming out party at the height of the Great Depression. They called Babs "Poor Little Rich Girl" for the rest of her tumultuous life. She was married seven times to three princes, a count, a baron, a race car driver and the actor Cary Grant. By all accounts, Cary was the only one who did not take her money. Over the course of her life, Barbara Hutton squandered one of the great fortunes of the 20th Century. She died nearly penniless in 1979.

Nedenia Hutton was a pretty girl. She modeled. She wanted to become an actress on Broadway. Her father, EF Hutton, forbade it. According to the legend he told her she was not allowed to besmirch the family name. Nedenia was headstrong and seemingly a bit spiteful; she took the stage name Dina Merrill. Charlie Merrill of Merrill Lynch was her father's biggest competitor. She went on to appear in more than 30 feature films.

When Marjorie Merriweather Post died in 1973, she gave Mar-A-Lago to the US government in her will, hoping it would be used as a Winter White House. The property was expensive to maintain and in 1981, the government gave it back. The property fell further into disrepair. Dina and her two half-sisters eventually sold it to Donald Trump in 1985 where it ironically serves as the summer White House again.

Scott A. Grant is a local author, historian, columnist, and speaker. He is president of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfastic.com.

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

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Are you interested in promoting your business in St. Johns Business Monthly, a feature section included in both The CreekLine and Ponte Vedra NewsLine? Call Linda 904-607-5062

Viewpoint

By Isabelle Renault, President/CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Isabelle Renault

"It was an emotional day for me," said one of my staff members at St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "I was not ready for hearing the fear in their voices." She was referring to the calls she made to our members and many local business owners facing COVID-19 circumstances. "Not ready" is how many of the business owners felt and how we all agreed at the time. How could we have been prepared for this? There is no roadmap. Even the business planners who had their emergency plans perfectly organized realized those scenarios were not relevant.

I appreciate the unprecedented difficulty our business members are facing. The entire Chamber board and staff members understand the sudden abrupt stop that was put on business activity without any warning while companies were thriving and entering a promising tourism and spring season. Whether you poured all your life savings into a business start-up or you've been running an established operation for years, the shock is there.

During a crisis, some businesses find themselves in a hotbed of innovation, and others have to temporarily or permanently close due to social distancing guidelines. Millions of Americans are applying for unemployment; and the CARES Act has increased benefits to the newly unemployed. The state and federal government has created a plethora of loans and grants to help small businesses and individuals. You can find details and guidance on the Chamber's website and additional helpful tips and videos. We are offering these tools to the public at our website, www.sjchamber.com/.

And finally, here is the main reason that motivated me to move to this country from France more than 20 years ago — The Spirit of Entrepreneurship. This is the one thing that I believe will always prevail in America. You can beat it up, slam it with — you name it, hurricanes, pandemics, cyber-attacks — it will still find a way to sprout, pollinate and grow at a faster rate in places where government removes barriers and encourages it to prosper.

Local governments' role in accelerating entrepreneurship and encouraging a diversified economy will be critical for a fast and lasting economic rebound. Entrepreneurs will need to make their financial resiliency a priority as they are developing products or services. Workplaces and online platforms fostering and accelerating the connection between entrepreneurs, connecting minds, ideas, skills and resources will be more critical than ever before. Let's remember that products and services created are the life form of the minds of our dreamers and innovators, and people are the ultimate difference makers.

So, we welcome all to join us at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to help create a business environment and quality of life where people and businesses have the opportunity to prosper, and new businesses will find it attractive to locate in St. Johns County. Be safe and well.



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Briefs

Citizens requested to answer sidewalk strategy survey

The North Florida TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) is assisting St. Johns County in developing a Sidewalk Asset Strategy to identify sidewalk gaps along the county's major and minor roadways. Citizens who live, work or attend school full-time in St. Johns County are asked to take a few minutes to complete this online survey: <https://www.publicinput.com/N062>.

According to Marci Larson, Public Affairs Manager, North Florida TPO, "We appreciate that this is a difficult time and people may not be focused on transportation planning issues, yet citizens are walking more under stay-at-home directives, so sidewalk planning is even more timely in addressing community needs."

Orthodontic practice announces new partner

Dr. Jimmy Glenos and Dr. Craig Hadgis recently announced their new partnership, Smiles by Glenos & Hadgis Orthodontists.

Dr. Hadgis earned his DDS degree along with a certificate in advanced residency for general dentistry at the University of Detroit Mercy. He has been practicing as an orthodontist for 10 years, after graduating from Jacksonville University School of Orthodontics. Dr. Hadgis has been on the forefront of digital orthodontic treatment using oral scanning technology when it was first introduced. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Michigan.



Photo courtesy Smiles by Glenos and Hadgis. Dr. Craig Hadgis and Dr. Jimmy Glenos.

Dr. Glenos and Dr. Hadgis first met at an annual Florida Association of Orthodontists conference in Tampa Bay. Dr. Hadgis and his wife Anne are active members of the St. Augustine Downtown Rotary Club and the St. Augustine Junior Service League, respectively. Dr. Hadgis has a long family history in Northeast Florida. His great uncle was the only doctor in Flagler County for many years and helped start Flagler Hospital (now AdventHealth) in Palm Coast. He vividly remembers beach days at Flagler Beach, Marineland, and the Alligator Farm. During his orthodontic residency program at Jacksonville University, Dr. Hadgis and Anne loved beach cruising on their bikes from Jacksonville Beach all the way up to Mayport.

All aspects of modern day orthodontic services are provided by these two Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics together with their highly trained and caring team members. They have two office locations, St. Augustine and St. Johns. Both offices are state of the art with soundproof game rooms and private rooms for adults. Dr. Glenos and Dr. Hadgis offer the latest technologies and services to enhance precision

results and overall patient comfort such as impressionless 3D scanning, Invisalign clear aligners, Damon braces, and Insignia custom braces. They also have a low dose 3D x-ray unit to see teeth and bones in all dimensions.

"We pride ourselves on providing the best orthodontic experience, excellent service, and are respectful of appointment times," Dr. Hadgis said.

Dr. Glenos and Dr. Hadgis have a combined 40 years of experience of providing the most efficient, cost effective treatment plans for St. Augustine and St. Johns families and they accept most insurance plans.

Visit www.smilesbyGHortho.com and click the "Online Smile Assessment" link for more information on steps to get to a healthy and beautiful new smile.

Ponte Vedra Woman's Club donates to charities

Christmas in April. It might feel like it to some local charities, as the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club gave out their end of year checks to the charities they support. Due to our current stay at home order, the charities got their checks delivered instead of at the regular meeting.

The Betty Griffin Center is one that was supported this year. Their vision is a world without domestic and sexual violence and the center supports many areas centered around violence to assist those in their local community. One of their divisions is supporting the Rape Crisis Unit. The club gave \$7,250 to help fund the cost of the rape kits.

The Florida School for the Deaf and Blind is in St. Augustine. It was founded in 1885 and is state funded and private donations to give their students the special needs to help these children become successful. It has just under 1,000 students and is one of the top schools of its kind in the nation. The club gave \$1,700 to fund Safety Day.

Hugs Across the County assists homeless children and those living below the poverty level. This club gave \$2,800 to fund two monthly empowerment lunch meetings, which allow at-risk girls to have lunch and listen to a guest speaker for encouragement to build success in life.

Mission House in Jacksonville Beach's mission is to empower individuals affected by homelessness in the beaches area by providing food, clothing, medical care, and support services as an avenue to self-sufficiency. The club's check for \$4,000 will provide the first month's rent for five formerly homeless families.

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) provides emergency assistance to those who might need food or are in fear of being evicted. The club gave \$3,250 to help them during this extraordinary time of need.

Saint Augustine Youth Services is a therapeutic residential group home for 40 boys aged six – 17 who have suffered from abuse and neglect. The club's in kind giving includes their Pen Pal Program which affords each boy their presents for Christmas, birthday gifts,

and cards of encouragement from participants in the club.

Visit www.pontevedrawomansclub.com for more information or if you'd like to become a part of this charitable organization.

Heartillery Group launches Operation Can-Do

Heartillery Group recently announced Operation Can-Do, a project with the goal of distributing 500,000 cards and letters of love and appreciation now through June 30, 2020 to US service personnel deployed in the USA and around the world.

Deployment — under the best of circumstances — is challenging. Today's coronavirus situation has exponentially increased stress and loneliness among many military personnel mobilized here in the US to fight COVID-19, as well as those abroad, away from family and friends. At the same time, housebound families are looking for boredom-busting, hands-on, and inspirational activities to do together during this period of social distancing. Operation Can-Do seamlessly and safely connects those who need support with those who want to give it during this worldwide public health crisis.

It is fun and easy to join Operation Can-Do. Families are asked to create as many homemade cards and letters as they can from items including colored paper, pens, crayons, stickers, paint, and other arts and crafts materials. Each card should be signed, include an uplifting message, use a generic salutation such as "Dear Service Member," and placed in a blank, unsealed envelope. Once a family's notes are completed, package and mail them as a group to: Heartillery Group, P.O. Box 2649, Ponte Vedra, FL 32004. Heartillery Group will make sure that every card gets into the hands of a hero quickly and safely.



Photo courtesy Heartillery Group. Children enjoy making cards for service members.

According to the CDC, the WHO, and the US Surgeon General, there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread through the mail. Out of an abundance of caution, Heartillery Group asks that Operation Can-Do participants follow common sense hygiene procedures, wash their hands frequently and use a disinfectant to clean card making materials before and after usage. Allow all homemade cards and their envelopes to sit untouched for at least one day before mailing them to Heartillery Group.

According to Emily Spencer, founder and executive director of Heartillery Group, "My team and I are at the ready to distribute your notes of support and gratitude to those who are serving our great country. Imagine the impact of half a million surprise goodwill greetings! Working together, we can lift the morale of so many active duty military personnel who are away from loved ones during this really scary time."

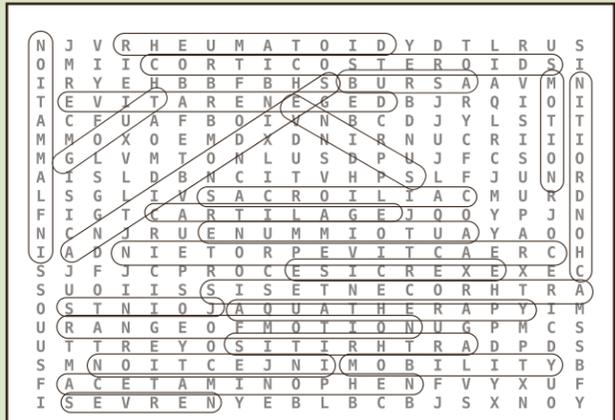
Heartillery Group's mission is to show love and gratitude in simple ways to those who serve. The organization works with schools, churches, seniors, veteran's organizations, corporations and businesses, and other caring communities to collect, assemble, and mail care packages and greeting cards to US military personnel deployed across the globe. Heartillery Group, a registered 501(c)(3) organization, has sent nearly four million cards and 6,000 care packages to service personnel overseas since its inception in 2013. Visit www.heartillerygroup.org for more information on Heartillery Group and Operation Can-Do.

Answers to puzzles on page 12

Answers to our Puzzles



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



Life

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Get to Know . . .

Laura Moritz

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Laura Moritz
Laura Moritz

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Laura Moritz felt called to the prison ministry for most of her life. So, when she stopped working as a nurse practitioner a few years ago, she knew exactly where she wanted to dedicate some of her time. Moritz accessed the program through Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and visited six different Florida prisons with Deacon Lowell “Corky” Hecht, the Diocese of St. Augustine’s Director of Prison Ministry. All of the prisons Moritz visited are male prisons, because there are no female prisons in the Diocese’s jurisdiction. She also attended an orientation and received clearance through the Florida Department of Corrections. Moritz, who has four children, was looking for a place where she could help build relationships, get out of her comfort zone and spend one day a week at the prison. She also wanted to apply her 20 years in the medical field in some way to the prison ministry. Ironically, the prison she ultimately chose, Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler, is the only prison in Florida that is also a hospital.

Q: Where are you from originally?

A: I was born in Chicago, but I lived in upstate New York and Louisville, Kentucky. My husband, John, is from Seattle. We have been in Ponte Vedra Beach for about 20 years.

Q: How did your upbringing influence your desire to serve in the Prison Ministry?

When I was maybe 15 or 16 years old, I went with my dad, who is a physician, to the Methodist Church in downtown Jacksonville to help the homeless people. My job was to count the pills and to help hand out the medication. My mom was involved at St. Vincent De Paul at Assumption Catholic Church, getting furniture to men released from prison to help them start a new life. I think because my parents valued helping others that this was instilled in me. They always tried to help others and even joined the Peace Corps after they retired.

Q: What do you do when you are at Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler?

A: I am a Catholic volunteer and a Eucharistic Minister. I bring them Jesus each week. I stop at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Mandarin on the way to Lake Butler and pick up the Eucharist and then offer a communion service at the prison to Catholic inmates. I usually have around eight to 14 inmates who attend each week. I also visit the wards in the medical facility and talk to the men in beds and pray with them and give them information. I could see patients all day long in my practice, but to pray with someone you don’t know is sometimes awkward. When you look at people’s eyes in the prison, you see the emptiness and hopelessness. They do not have much hope for anything else. In many cases, no one comes to see them. All it takes is one person to show them a better way. I think God placed me there because I can handle the medi-

cal aspect of the facility, and it does not bother me.

Q: What has the Prison Ministry taught you?

A: Goodness spreads goodness. If I can bring them hope, that is infectious and they may spread that hope there. As with most things, I went into this thinking that I would be helping them, but the reality is that they help me way more than I could ever help them. I am very thankful that the Holy Spirit has drawn me to this and that I can do it. There are so many people incarcerated. I am told to call them by their inmate number, but I call them by their first name. I refer to them as “my guys.”

Q: You mentioned a need for people to become Prison Ministry pen pals. Could you share more about how this works?

A: The hardest thing is that inmates feel completely and utterly disconnected from people. We have so many names on the list just waiting for a pen pal, and we do not have enough people to fulfill everyone’s request. There are 48 prisons within the Diocese’s jurisdiction, and each prison has about 1,500 inmates. Anyone can be a pen pal. You do not have to be Catholic, and the correspondences are all anonymously written and delivered through Our Lady Star of the Sea. It is a beautiful thing to write a letter. You get to establish a trust, and it really is a wonderful way to get to know someone. If anyone is interested in becoming a pen pal, they can contact me to learn more at moritzlaura@yahoo.com.

Unique Nocatee Company cont. from pg. 1

uct list, visit www.backyardbuffalo.com.)

“Backyard Buffalo products are made using centuries old Indian traditional techniques. We are working with the Florida Department of Agriculture to get these processes state approved. Until then, to comply with Florida regulations, all our products must be labeled ‘Not for Human Consumption,’” said Patel.

Patel said she works closely with and learns from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Dairy Division and the Dairy Inspector. She sees the regulators and inspectors as allies who want to see her succeed. Patel said that a milk room is currently being constructed for Backyard Buffalo in New York which will help her with this approval process.

Today, Patel has three milking water buffalos (the third one is named Milky), seven sheep, chickens and honey bees (she both sells the honey and uses it in her products) and is looking for anyone interested in boarding sheep in their backyards. Her dream is to recreate Backyard Buffalo in many different places.

“That is the reason for our business name,” said Patel. “I envision this being in other people’s backyards and keeping this in our community.”



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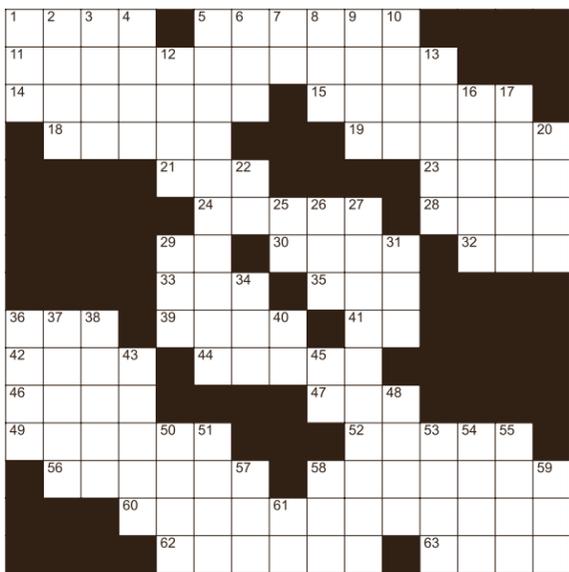
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To our readers: Remember all the local small businesses that you’ve asked for years to donate and sponsor your organizations, sports clubs and school events? Right now, they’re in need of your support.

Return the favor.

Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 10
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Not bad
- 11. NYC Mayor
- 14. Essays
- 15. Walk lightly
- 18. Those who utilize
- 19. Actress Judd
- 21. One-time community of nations
- 23. Norwegian river
- 24. Unconscious states
- 28. Make muddy
- 29. Unit of volume
- 30. Consciousnesses
- 32. Envision
- 33. When you aim to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports are some
- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. Military flyers (abbr.)
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Ecological stage

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 2. Instead
- 3. Gifts for the poor
- 4. A type of gin
- 5. Torments
- 6. One point south of due east
- 7. Actor Pacino
- 8. Feline
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Short cries for help
- 12. Straits can sometimes be this
- 13. Further
- 16. Variety shows
- 17. Supernatural
- 20. A university in Connecticut
- 22. Atomic #27
- 25. Of I
- 26. We all have one
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. This can sting
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Religious leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Jr.'s father
- 43. Ray-finned fish genus

CLUES DOWN

- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. S-shaped line
- 51. Small bunch of hay
- 53. Ripened
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Of the ears
- 58. To the ___ degree
- 59. Wood
- 61. Cools your home

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

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

WORDS

- ACETAMINOPHEN
- ANTIBODIES
- AQUATHERAPY
- ARTHRITIS
- ARTHROCENTESIS
- AUTOIMMUNE
- BURSA
- CARTILAGE
- CHONDROITIN
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- C-REACTIVE PROTEIN
- DEGENERATIVE
- EXERCISE
- GOUT
- INFLAMMATION
- INJECTION
- JOINTS
- MOBILITY
- MOTION
- NERVES
- RANGE OF MOTION
- RHEUMATOID
- SACROILIAC
- SPINE

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

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

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

Clever ways to use leftovers

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Finding new ways to use leftovers means minimal waste and fewer trips to the supermarket.

The spread of COVID-19 has upended many people's lives. As with other virulent health crises, the practice of social distancing has been recommended to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 outbreak. One way to socially distance oneself is to avoid unnecessary trips to places where the public may congregate, such as grocery stores.

Some people visit supermarkets and other food stores every day, especially if they don't meal plan or shop for the week. According to the Time Use Institute, the average shopping trip takes 41 minutes and people go food shopping an average of 1.5 times per week. Any additional time spent at the grocery store increases the likelihood of contact with others, potentially increasing shoppers' risk of contracting coronavirus as well.

Being more mindful of food waste and putting leftovers and ingredients to use in new ways can help stretch food further and reduce the need to make frequent trips to the grocery store. Consider these ideas to make use of leftovers.

- Save those vegetables. It's easy to scrape a half-portion of uneaten vegetables into the trash thinking it can't be used. Instead, combine it with other vegetables accumulated throughout the week. Many play well together and can be mixed into casseroles, omelets, soups, and stir-fry recipes.
- Create new meals. Using leftovers does

not mean eating the same exact meal a second time. Ingredients can be utilized in new ways. For example, a roast chicken can be broken down and the meat can be used for fajitas on another night. Leftover tomato sauce and meatballs from a Sunday dinner can be turned into an impromptu chili with the addition of beans and peppers.

- Think beyond dinner. Leftovers can be collected at any time of day and used later on. Cold cuts can be chopped and used to make a stromboli with some refrigerated pizza dough. Save Belgian waffles from breakfast and top with breaded chicken fingers for a delicious chicken-and-waffles meal for lunch or dinner. Leftover roasted potatoes and scraps of ham can be used in a breakfast hash.
- Stuck on starches. Turn extra rice from dinner into arancini (rice balls) for a snack on another day. A leftover sweet potato or two can be mixed with butternut squash to make a sweet and healthy mashed side dish. Mashed potatoes can be transformed into potato croquettes or potato pancakes.

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Answers to puzzle on page 4

We are Fans of Baseball!

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Who Are These Baseball Players?
First Set: 1. C, 2. E, 3. B, 4. A, 5. D
Second Set: 1. B, 2. E, 3. D, 4. C, 5. A

Baseball Teams - Add Them Up!

- 1. Oakland + a a a = Oakland A's
- 2. Minnesota + u n = Minnesota Twins
- 3. Boston Red + s o x = Boston Red Sox
- 4. Los Angeles + a n g e l s = Los Angeles Angels

Focus and fire!

Yuck! I'll have to order a different plate next time.

We're nutty for baseball!

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Travel

Day Trips — Post Quarantine

By Debi Lander mail@floridanewsline.com

The coronavirus and subsequent stay at home orders ended leisure travel and tourism. What and when flights, hotels, attractions, and even restaurants will look like when they reopen remains to be seen; however, I join many who are hopeful that we may leave our homes sometime in May or June.

I've selected a few driving day trips with outdoor activities that may get you going. For now, this type of action seems to be the safest way to return to travel. Be sure to verify that parks or locations are open before you go.

Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Driftwood Beach, Jekyll Island

Take a leisurely drive up to historic Jekyll Island, where the island itself looks like a nature preserve. My favorite spot is Driftwood Beach. There, you'll find numerous petrified trees scattered along the shoreline. The beach always looks like a significant storm ransacked it the night before. If possible, get up early and arrive for sunrise, but Driftwood enchants any time of day. Take your camera as pho-

tographers love this spot, as do kids who climb all over the trees and overturned roots. Afterward, a drive around the small island will take you past the iconic Jekyll Island Club and Millionaires Row — summer homes of the super-wealthy in the Golden Age.

Savannah's Historic Squares

Savannah is about a two-hour drive from Jacksonville. Georgia's first city followed a city plan with a grid of 24 squares. Today, 22 of those green park-like squares remain. A walking tour becomes the best way to experience Savannah. Stroll among the many live oak trees, greenery, churches, museums, shops, and historic homes. The grandest square, Forsythe Park, attracts locals and visitors alike and features a stunning central fountain. Why not have a picnic in the park?



Forsythe Park Fountain, Savannah

If you've read or seen the movie "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," you know about historic Bonaventure Cemetery, just outside the city. The peaceful setting rests on a scenic bluff of the

Wilmington River. The former plantation site became a private cemetery in 1846 and then a public cemetery in 1907. Now, Bonaventure is a world-famous tourist destination. Walk along the old tree-lined roadways and see poignant cemetery sculptures. Many notable persons are interred here, as are the famous Ugas, the University of Georgia's bulldog mascots.

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

Washington Oaks State Park, located near Marineland at the southern tip of St. Augustine, offers fantastic gardens, nature trails, and an unusual beach. The formal gardens are the centerpiece of the park, with colorful displays of native and non-native plant species such as azaleas, camellias, and bird of paradise. Meander along with winding reflection ponds in the canopied oak hammock. Washington Oaks is also famous for the unique shoreline of coquina rock formations that line its Atlantic beach. This ancient rock formation creates the perfect spot for beachcombing, tidal pool exploration, and photography. Visitors can picnic and fish from either the shore or the seawall along the Matanzas River on the west boundary.

Okefenokee Swamp Park

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge rests at the headwaters of the Suwannee and St. Marys River. Okefenokee Swamp Park is a magnificent picture-window for this natural setting. The park's lily-decked water trails, with their miraculously reflective waters, lead to all aspects of the near half million-acre wilderness. Watch out



Gator in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

for alligators, but drive the scenic paths past lakes, jungles, forests, and prairies. Stop and perhaps climb a few of the viewing platforms. The park is easy to reach, located eight miles south of Waycross, Georgia.

Bird Watching

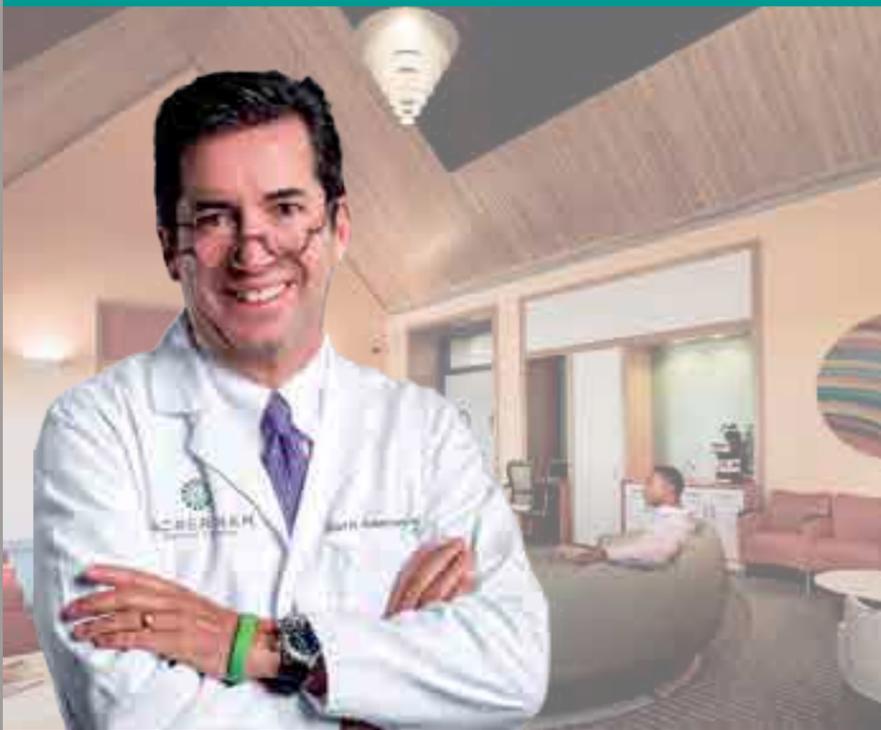
Ocala National Forest: The forest covers almost 400,000 acres of sand pine forest, with small areas of longleaf pines that are the best birding habitat. A visit in late spring or early summer will be most productive. Breeding species to be found here include the rare red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as red-headed woodpecker, brown-headed nuthatch, Bachman's sparrow, swallow-tailed kite, bobwhite quail, summer tanager, yellow-throated vireo, and pine warbler. The area hosts one of the largest remaining populations of Florida scrub-jays.

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park: Osprey, barred owls, hawks, and wading birds reside south of Gainesville in Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Sandhill cranes and other winter migrating species will have departed by spring, but you'll find many resident species to enjoy. Be on the lookout for pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers along the Bolen Bluff Trail.

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

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