



The Creek Line

Serving the St. Johns County Community

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A Florida NewsLine Publication



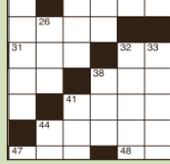
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Local OPEN businesses!

Coronavirus pandemic gives Bartram Trail students an unexpected interruption to school year

By Delaney Cantrell
mail@floridanewsline.com

The coronavirus outbreak and its direct effects on people's health have been publicized all over the media recently, but its indirect effects haven't been spotlighted as heavily. This worldwide pandemic has stolen the end of year celebrations for high school students everywhere, including Bartram Trail High School students.



Photo courtesy Brian Seaman
Brian Seaman uses distance learning to complete his senior year.

Since the introduction of coronavirus to Florida, St. Johns County schools have moved their courses to online instruction, providing a very different ending to the year for students.

"My online distance learning experience has been iffy," said Bartram Trail senior Brian Seaman. "The best part of it is that I work on my own schedule and decide how I'm going to use the day to my full potential. The most challenging part is staying focused and getting my work done."

Junior Kelli Moore agreed that it has been a "trying experience."

Coronavirus pandemic cont. on pg. 13

Masks, masks and more masks

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

In light of recent shortages of PPE (personal protective equipment) due to the coronavirus pandemic, many local people have heeded the call to sew masks of all kinds at their homes. Some, like St. Johns resident Jean Rolke and Shorty Robbins, district secretary for State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, say it is the perfect activity to keep busy and be helpful during the stay at home order.

"Everybody has their part to play to help out," Rolke said, "and this is mine."

Rolke said she learned to sew in home ec class in high school. Over the years, she sewed some clothes for herself and children, but recently had gotten away from it as other activities occupied her time.

"But when the information came out that volunteers were needed to sew masks, I hopped on it," Rolke said.

She currently sews most days of the week for six to seven hours a day. Over the approximately 150 volunteer hours she has logged, she has sewn 230 masks.

Rolke said she started out sewing the cloth masks with elastics and then moved on to the ones with ties that are more comfortable to wear. She has gotten some materials donated, especially the 1/4 inch elastic that has been in short supply with so many people using it to make masks. She said several neighbors who had some of the elastic tucked away with their sewing notions donated it to her and another neighbor has helped her with some of the sewing.

While Rolke still sews these types of masks, she recently became aware of an initiative by UF Health for a new design of surgical mask. She receives special material for these masks from the hospital; it is called Halyard H600 and is used to wrap sterilized surgical equipment. It can be autoclaved for sterilization and reused. Rolke said that UF is in the process of

vetting and patenting this new design and while it cannot be used in place of the N95 mask yet, studies are optimistic that it might be proven even more effective. For now, Rolke is one of a group of volunteers who is making these masks from the specialized fabric and returning her finished products — 68 so far — to the hospital.

"I've learned a lot about masks," Rolke said.

Shorty Robbins also said she learned to sew in home ec class and said she has continued sewing as a hobby her whole life. Robbins lives in a tiny house and even built a sewing table in the precious little space she has.

She has been working from home, serving State House District 17 constituents. In the evenings, she looked forward to catching up on some sewing projects, but first



Some of the personal use masks that Shorty Robbins has sewn.

decided to make some cloth masks for her son, who is asthmatic and lives in Orlando. Since he works for Universal Studios, she found some Harry Potter fabric in the store for his masks and some for his friends. Then, other friends of her son who worked at Walt Disney World requested masks made with Star Wars materials and she obliged. Then she sewed masks for her mom, other friends ... and it just took off.

"I know that a lot of people are addressing the very real needs of hospitals for



Photos courtesy Shorty Robbins
Shorty Robbins sews masks in her tiny house

masks," Robbins said. "I'm doing what I can for individuals in need, especially in light of the recommendation to wear face coverings when out in public. Some of the masks I have made have even been custom sized."

Robbins is using all donated materials, since in her tiny house she didn't have a stash of material to use — except for some coveted flamingo material, which she says she has "sacrificed" for the cause. When she began making the masks, she did some online research and found a pattern with a tutorial for a mask she felt was the most comfortable to wear. It calls for a pipe cleaner across the nose for a snug fit and hair elastics to hold the mask behind the ears. Her masks have a pocket in them for a coffee filter which provides additional protection, but Robbins is quick to point out that her masks are intended only for personal use.

As friends and friends of friends, along with members of the tiny house community requested masks, Robbins has tried to oblige. She doesn't accept payment for her masks, but instead asks people to donate to the GoFundMe account of a fellow tiny house friend in Tennessee who has children with learning and health disabilities and has been very adversely affected by the coronavirus situation.

"The tiny house community is all pulling together, just like our local citizens," Robbins said. "It is a great thing to see."



Photo courtesy Jean Rolke
Equipment and supplies that Jean Rolke uses in her home to make surgical masks with the Halyard H600 specialty fabric.

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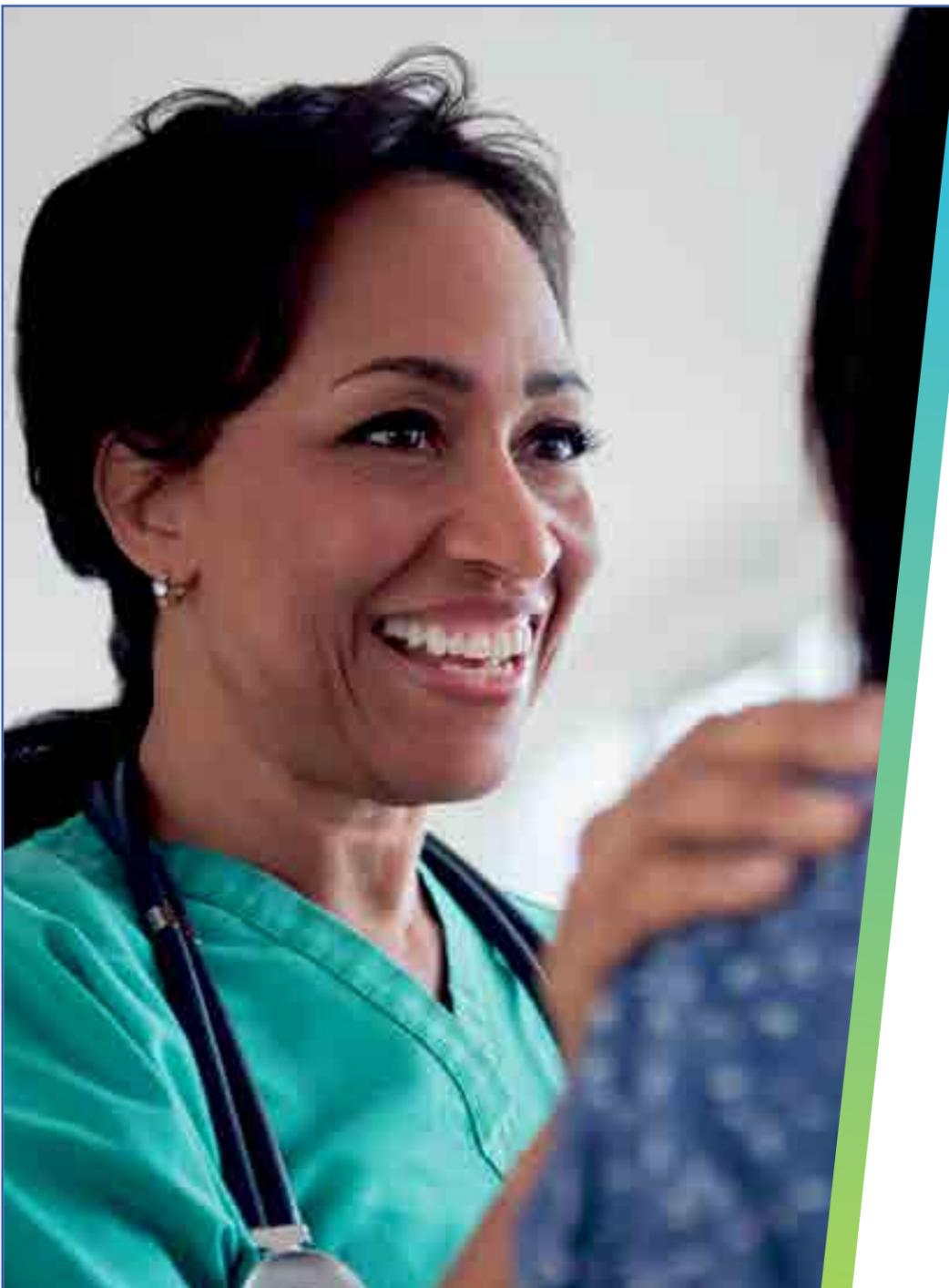
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Sammy!



BREED:

Labrador Retriever

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Going on a walk

FAVORITE TREAT:

Bacon strips

FAVORITE FRIEND:

My dad

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:

When we rescued him he was named Samuel so we nicknamed him Sammy.

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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.



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

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

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

Florida Department of Health:

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

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

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

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

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

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

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

St. Johns County COVID-19 Updates:

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

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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!	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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**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.

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

Q: What is the county doing to assist residents and businesses navigate the maze of programs for those affected by the coronavirus?

A: We now have a hotline available to direct people to resources and answer questions the best we can. You will be calling live people. Some of the information is available on the county's website, but this provides another opportunity for people to have their questions answered. It's important to find accurate and complete information. Here are the hotline numbers:

For resident assistance, call (904) 209-1250 or email housing@sjcfl.us

For business assistance, call (904) 209-6050 or email ecodev@sjcfl.us

Both hotlines are manned Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Q: Last month we discussed an anticipated budget surplus for this budget year. In light of the coronavirus, is a surplus still expected?

A: We make the county's budget based on anticipated revenue for the current year. At this time, approximately 80 percent of our small businesses are currently shut down, which impacts the tax revenue to the county. So the budget we were assuming we would have has now been impacted because we have less money coming in. Therefore, in addition to discussing next year's budget, as we normally would at this time, we are also discussing the current year's budget.

I have a question for which I would like people's input. As background, in 2018-19 the county had an actual surplus of about \$16 million that we had planned to spend this year on capital improvements. The money has not yet

been assigned to any actual projects. My question is should we now use some of this surplus left from last year for this year's operating expenses, rather than the new construction projects it had been earmarked for? If we can cover our overhead, we would be able to defer taxes and fees that businesses would owe the county for a certain number of months.

I have confidence that our health department is doing its job to keep us safe, so now I'm looking ahead to how we get St. Johns County's economy back on track. I'd like to hear from business owners as to what would be most beneficial to your business so you can resume operations and reemploy your staff as soon as possible.

Q: When is the new fire station in the Northwest expected to open?

A: The new fire station in District 1, near the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Race Track Road, had its final walkthrough completed the week of April 13. The punch list of items is being worked on. We don't have a definite open date yet as it depends on the completion of the punch list and then the training of staff. It's weeks, though, and not months. I encourage people who live nearby to let their homeowners insurance company know about this new fire station as it will save them some money on their policy. Most importantly, there will be a faster response time for emergencies.

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

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

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

Q: Can you tell us about the first virtual school board meeting held on April 14?

A: It went off with no hitches, despite a horrible thunderstorm at the time that we thought might cause us to lose electricity. Most school board members attended virtually from home, but Superintendent Tim Forson and I, along with several tech people and our attorney, practiced social distancing and were at the meeting site. Even the public comment portion went well; people were able to log on and address us via phone with their comments. We could share our screens. I think this procedure will work well for not only school board meetings but also our workshops and we will be doing this for the foreseeable future. I'm grateful to know we can do it.

Q: Do you have any updates regarding the Class of 2020's graduation ceremonies?

A: We have formally suspended these ceremonies as to the time and the place that we had picked out. We will hold virtual graduation ceremonies for each high school at the specific time the school's ceremony was to be held and we plan to be as personalized as we can, with speakers and everything. It will be a school by school decision to possibly hold a ceremony on campus — when the time is right.

Unfortunately, many schools were to have their prom in the past week or so. I did have fun watching on Facebook as kids made the best of the situation — dressing up at home and some neighborhoods had car parades. They're missing these important memories, but making new ones that are unique to the Class of 2020 and something they will never forget.

Q: What is the biggest question you are hearing that you would like to answer?

A: Definitely the biggest question is whether we will go back to our physical schools this school year. We are taking direction from the state and are awaiting their response. As a school board, we would not be upset if we continue the distance learning through the end of the school year. Everyone's gotten into the groove and we don't know exactly when it would be safe to return.

As for next school year, our plan is to begin the year on time on Aug. 10 unless something happens. Things are so unpredictable, so who knows? But that is what we anticipate at this point.

Q: Is early registration for next year continuing?

A: Yes, I'd like to encourage early registration of new students, including kindergarteners for next year. The vast majority can be done online at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us. We really need to get new students registered as early as possible so we can plan for next year.

Q: Do you have anything else to share?

A: I'd like to say that I have been amazed at our students, our teachers, and our parents and how they have handled this giant shift in our world. Everyone has gone above and beyond — all 5,000 of our staff, almost 44,000 students, and all of their parents — all have done a remarkable job. I applaud them all and it just proves how resilient we are when we have to be.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



with St. Johns County 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 Rodriguez 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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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, bcc2smith@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 1: Beverly Slough, beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510
 District 2: Tommy Allen, tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510

State of Florida Elected Officials
 Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146
 State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov, (904) 823-2300
 State Senate District 7: Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610

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

Local education center adjusts to virtual instruction

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

As schools in St. Johns County closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic, parents began to turn to Tutoring Club of St. Johns to pick up the pieces.

“Students thrive with consistency,” said Kimberly Mullins, the director of Tutoring Club. “We received hundreds of calls from concerned parents. It only takes a few weeks for students to lose momentum and motivation — we knew we had to find a way to bring our services online.”

But recreating a tutoring environment is more than simply finding a video conferencing service. They needed to create a seamless experience for students. Tutoring Club was up to the challenge.

“We worked with other Tutoring Club centers from across the country to evaluate solutions,” said Tutoring Club’s marketing manager, Kyle Kamrath. “It was a tremendous amount of work, but I couldn’t be happier with the results.”

The first step was to digitize their entire curriculum, including reading, writing, math, and SAT/ACT resources, ensuring that their students and tutors had access to them remotely.

Next, they developed “personal classrooms,” enabling tutors and students to work on documents in real time as they would in person.

“It simulates the personalized, face-to-face environment our students look forward to,” said Mullins. “The students will continue to work with their same tutors, but now virtually. All that changed is students meet with their tutors online. We kept the same hours, same tutors, same management team and same curriculum.”

The final step was to retrain their staff. The Tutoring Club administrative staff then put endless hours into developing new processes to assure each student’s session went smoothly. Directors communicated with their current families and helped them get set up online. It was a team effort.

“With the schools closed, and many parents not able to help their students, this could be a very frustrating time for families. At the Tutoring Club, we are well prepared to guide them through this. We continue to help high school juniors prepare for the upcoming SAT / ACT and are still working with our students that need to catch up before the start of the next school year,” Mullins said.

Tax-deferred accounts get (temporary) boost from CARES Act

By Michael P. McCarthy
mail@floridanewline.com

You need to primarily rely on yourself to protect your health during the coronavirus. But from a financial standpoint, you may have gotten some relief — or at least some flexibility — from the recently passed \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Retirement account holders, including owners of IRAs and 401(k)s are usually required to start taking distributions from these accounts once they reach age 72. The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions (RMDs) for all employer plans and IRAs in 2020, with the exception of defined benefit plans. If you’ve already taken your distribution for 2020, you can put the funds back in your retirement account if you meet certain requirements.

Of course, if you needed — or will need — the money from the RMD for your cash flow needs, you won’t have to return it. But if you don’t really need the money, avoiding an RMD in 2020 or returning an RMD to your retirement account will give the funds more time to grow on a tax-deferred basis before the RMDs are

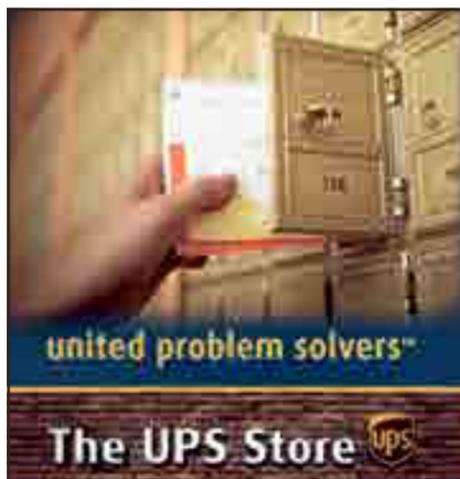
once again required in 2021.

Another CARES Act provision allows for the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty to be waived for withdrawals up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement accounts, including IRAs and 401(k)s, for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief. Qualifying individuals include those who are diagnosed with COVID-19, have a spouse or dependent who is diagnosed with COVID-19 or experience adverse financial consequences as a result of COVID-19, including quarantines, layoffs, business closures or child care responsibilities. Income tax on the distribution would still be owed but could be paid over a three-year period. Employer plan participants also may increase the amount that can be taken as a loan from a qualified retirement plan from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 2020. While the CARES Act allows these penalty-free withdrawals and increased plan loan amounts, you will need to contact your plan administrator to determine whether these options are available in your plan.

Even though you may be able to access these funds penalty-free, it doesn’t necessarily mean you should do so. Try to exhaust some of the other provisions in the CARES Act first, such as the mortgage or student loan relief, or using the direct payment to bridge the gap on current expenses before taking a distribution or loan from your retirement account. If you decide to take a withdrawal or loan, work with your financial advisor to consider developing strategies to contribute/pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

Consult with your tax professional before making any CARES Act-related moves with your retirement accounts. Partnering with your tax and financial professionals can help in the decision-making process.

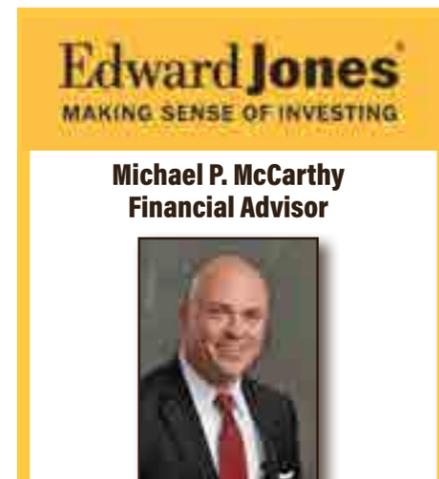
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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly



Market Insight

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.

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.sjcchamber.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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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.



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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>. The survey will be used to determine community preferences for the walking environment and where to focus pedestrian infrastructure improvements.

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.



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

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.

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.

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Get to Know . . .

Kelly Brewer

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewslines.com

Kelly Brewer's first introduction to fitness came after learning that part of her cousin's wedding festivities included a half dome hike — 16.4 miles roundtrip with a summit that was 8,839 feet in California. After learning in 2012 about the hike planned for immediate family on Sept. 3, 2014, Brewer took her first BODYPUMP weightlifting class with her husband, Ben. Fast forward to the hiking day in Yosemite National Park. Kelly and Ben made the grueling hike, using cables at 45-degree angles at one point and finishing with a head lamp at dusk.

Soon after, Kelly got certified to teach BODYPUMP in 2015 and then added BODYFLOW, SPRINT and three Soul Body Barre classes to her certification resume; she began teaching at a variety of locations including the Flagler Center YMCA. In 2019, Kelly earned her Group Exercise Certification and is now the Flagler Center YMCA Group Exercise Co-Coordinator, and she also teaches classes. Kelly credits YMCA Group Exercise Co-Coordinator Amy Perry's group challenges with kickstarting her and her husband's healthy habits and with their weight loss. Kelly lost 37 pounds, and Ben lost 35 pounds. They are not looking back.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born in Kansas City, Kansas, and then moved to Dallas, Texas, for seven years and then Oklahoma for four years. We moved to St. Johns County when I was in middle school, so I attended Swiss Point Middle School, then one year at Nease High School before being transferred to the newly built Bartram Trail High

School. I attended the University of Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science degree and then later attended Florida State College at Jacksonville (Dunn Avenue's science-based campus) for the Dental Hygiene Program which I completed in May 2010.

Q: You mentioned attending the dental hygiene program prior to your fitness career. What did you like about being a dental hygienist?

A: I am a detail freak. Most people think it is so disgusting. I got great satisfaction from taking something disgusting and making it pretty. I loved my patients, and I truly enjoyed the career. I was also lucky to work for my childhood dentist, Dr. Sam Hanania. I had told my childhood dental hygienist "I want to do what you do," and then I did it. We later worked together. In 2015, I was in a car accident on Interstate 10, and the whiplash that I experienced made it very difficult for me to work as a dental hygienist. No matter how hard you try to sit ergonomically correct, you can't do it and get the job done. It took its toll on me physically, so I had to scale back my hours. Then we got pregnant with Benson, now three years old, so I decided to become a stay-at-home mom.

Q: What fitness advice would you offer someone trying to workout at home during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: You have to establish some sort of structure and accountability. I try to work out to Amy Perry's live stream at 11 a.m. every day. It is very difficult to teach a class without anyone physically present, so I want to be there for her. It is a different way to feel connected and accountable for what you are doing. It

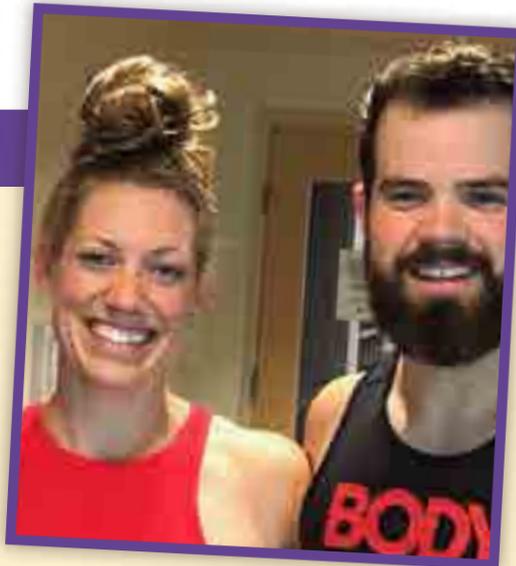


Photo courtesy Kelly Brewer
Kelly and Ben Brewer

can be challenging at first, but stick to it and do it. You will find success. I view it just like the time I set aside for my spirit with scripture reading. It is all about self-care.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: We participate in Spartan Races, a series of obstacle races that vary in distance and difficulty. They are held all around the world. Amy Perry introduced us to our first race in Jacksonville in April 2018. We did the Super, which is 8 miles/13K with 25 plus obstacles. We really didn't know anything about it going into it. We were blind to all the obstacles, and I had to get past the fact that I do not like to get dirty. I had to change my mentality about that. After that, in November 2018, Ben, Amy and another friend did the Ultra (Ultra is 30 miles/50K with 60 plus obstacles) in South Carolina. I went as part of the support crew. We kind of got the Spartan bug after that. To date, I have done 10 races, and Ben has done 16. There is something about completing the obstacles that makes you feel recharged. It also involves teamwork and encouragement. Just like group fitness, we all suffer and achieve together.

Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured?
Email Martie Thompson at
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Coronavirus pandemic cont. from pg. 1

When asked what she misses most about going to school, Moore said, "I miss all of my friends and my teachers." She is upset about not being able to go to her junior prom and wishes she could have finished out her junior year strong.

Along with the cancellation of school, St. Johns County graduations have also been cancelled. A virtual graduation for each school is being planned, but many seniors have spoken out that this does not provide the proper ending that they deserve.

Seaman said, "I'm pretty upset about graduation being cancelled since it's a once in a lifetime kind of experience. There's something special about being around everyone you know and celebrating one last time before everyone goes down their own path."

He also commented on the idea of virtual graduation by saying it's not quite the satisfactory ending he was hoping for and he feels that it won't provide the recognition the students deserve, particularly those at the top of their class.

Both Seaman and Moore had plans outside of school that have been cancelled due to the epidemic. Seaman and his family have been planning a trip around Europe for this upcoming summer that has now been cancelled. It was going to be Seaman's graduation gift. Moore had plans of going to Nicaragua on a church mission trip which was cancelled as well.

"Even though teenagers complain about school all the time, we never really knew what we had until it was gone," said Moore. "Now that it's gone, all we want to do is go back."

Seaman is grateful for the time he has gotten to spend with his family during this quarantine, but he hopes to see his friends soon. He hopes people listen and take the advice that health professionals are advertising so that everyone can get out of isolation sooner and high school students can potentially get the ending of the school year that they deserve.

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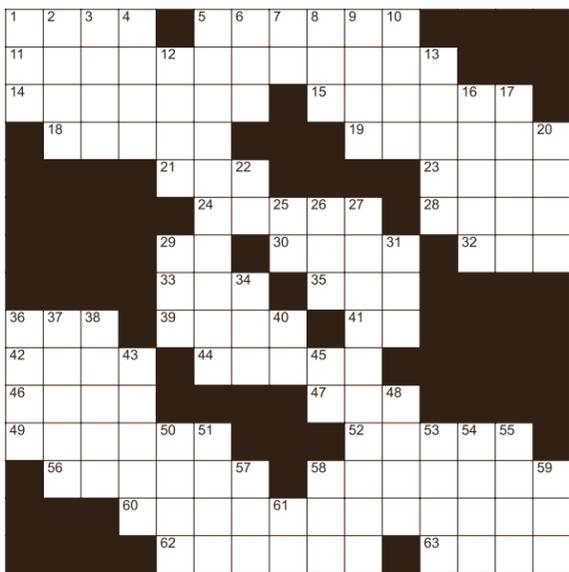
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Puzzles

Answers on page 10
Provided by MetroCreative



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Expression of sorrow or pity
 - Not bad
 - NYC Mayor
 - Essays
 - Walk lightly
 - Those who utilize
 - Actress Judd
 - One-time community of nations
 - Norwegian river
 - Unconscious states
 - Make muddy
 - Unit of volume
 - Consciousnesses
 - Envision
 - When you aim to get there
 - Electronic data processing
 - Passports are some
 - Snakelike fish
 - Military flyers (abbr.)
 - Popular computers
 - Ecological stage

- Actor Pacino
 - Feline
 - Chinese dynasty
 - Short cries for help
 - Straits can sometimes be this
 - Further
 - Variety shows
 - Supernatural
 - A university in Connecticut
 - Atomic #27
 - Of I
 - We all have one
 - Religious guilds
 - This can sting
 - Sunscreen rating
 - Brew
 - Religious leader
 - Indigo bush
 - Burn with a hot liquid
 - Jr.'s father
 - Ray-finned fish genus
- CLUES DOWN**
- Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
 - Instead
 - Gifts for the poor
 - A type of gin
 - Torments
 - One point south of due east

- Morning
- Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- S-shaped line
- Small bunch of hay
- Ripened
- Crater on Mars
- Humanities
- Of the ears
- To the ___ degree
- Wood
- Cools your home



- Solve the code to discover words related to customers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = e)
- 25 20 21 9 26 4**
Clue: Gives financial support
 - 9 6 21 20 22 8**
Clue: Sale of goods
 - 25 18 9 5 11 20 24 6**
Clue: Buy something
 - 5 8 22 6 4 21**
Clue: Person using services of another

ARTHRITIS WORD SEARCH

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

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

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

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Answers to puzzle on page 4

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d i a m o n d s

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!

- Oakland + **a A A** = Oakland **A's**
- Minnesota + **Tw** = Minnesota **Twins**
- Boston Red + **Sox** = Boston Red **Sox**
- Los Angeles + **Ang** = Los Angeles **Angels**

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com

The spring of 2020 is one that will stand out in our memories for many years to come. Being asked to undergo a variety of lifestyle changes to help benefit ourselves and those around us may have seemed difficult at the moment, but hopefully our sacrifices will soon come to an end with a brighter and more promising future.

The complete closings of our local beaches have put a temporary end to some of the best surf fishing of the season. Hopefully when the beaches reopen, the surf will be loaded and packed with hungry fish that haven't seen a baited hook in a couple of months. If you have had access to the St. Johns River lately, then you've had access to some pretty good fishing. Higher salinities have allowed for a pretty good bite of

flounder, reds, and black drum. Bait sized shrimp are also already in the river as far north as at least Doctor's Lake. The presence of shrimp has most likely contributed to the good fishing. Just to remind you, although there is shrimp in the river, our area counties are closed to shrimping for the months of April and May.

Freshwater fishing too has been more hot than not. Area creeks and ponds are still producing some pretty good bass and bream fishing. The same can be said for the river with the exception that the catfish bite has been beyond excellent. Large numbers of catfish are being caught around creek mouths, sandbar points, river channels and bridge pilings. Many of these cats have been in the five to 10 pound plus range. For an added bonus, a striped bass bite has been fairly consistent around area bridges (Hint ... like Doctor's Lake).

Hopefully and prayerfully a normalization of how we once knew life will soon return. During this time of social restrictions, an outlet for many still exists. That outlet is the outdoors. Whether biking, or hiking, or even fishing, it is free, and available right out your front door.

Fishing Report: Docks and bridges have been best for flounder, reds and drum. Use shrimp tipped jigs or bottom fished dead shrimp. Lots of freshwater catfish for the taking. Surf fishing should be pretty good once beaches open again.

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

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Travel

Day Trips — Post Quarantine

By Debi Lander mail@floridanewslines.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.

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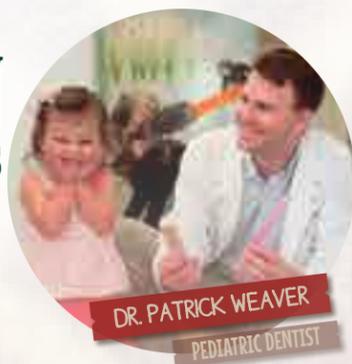
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Dear Editor,

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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.

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