

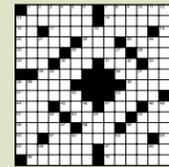
page 3  
Meet Pumpkin!



page 5  
Q&A with  
Vicky Oakes



page 13  
Get to Know ...  
Caitlin Polly



page 14  
Puzzles



Photos courtesy Deborah Warwick

Topaz, a new cougar at the St. Augustine Wild Reserve.

## St. Augustine Wild Reserve acquires new cougars, white lions, and a ti-liger!

By Deborah Warwick  
mail@floridanewslines.com

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve has been busy, building new habitats, acquiring new exotic animals in need of a home, and arranging fundraisers to help pay for it all.

This year, the Reserve received a beautiful young cougar from Montana named Topaz. She is extremely sweet and loves going for walks and swims in the Reserve's lake. A male cougar named Loki

St. Augustine cont. on pg. 12

## Teen Court a benefit to our community's youth

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Teen Court, developed in Texas in the 1980s, is based upon the premise that youthful offenders will more readily accept responsibility for their actions when judged and sentenced by their peers. In St. Johns County, Teen Court has been in existence since 1999 as part of the St. Johns County Clerk of Court's office, under the watchful eye of Theresa Simmons, the county's Teen Court coordinator. In her position, she not only is responsible for acting as a liaison with the State Attorney's office and the St. Johns County Sheriff's

office for referrals who become the "defendants" in Teen Court, but also for recruiting teen volunteers from area high schools who become the "prosecutors," "defense attorneys," and "juries" in Teen Court.

"I have worked in various departments at the Clerk's office and believe me every job is important here; however, the best position I've had and have a passion for is Teen Court," Simmons said. "I got a chance to make a difference in the lives of children — making a difference one child at a time — and I love it."

Teen Court cont. on pg. 2



Photo courtesy Teresa Monson

St. Johns County Clerk of Court Brandon Patty and Teen Court Coordinator Theresa Simmons.

## First women's match play championship tees off in St. Johns County

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Over the past 14 years, Mark Berman has been on a golf journey with his daughter Hannah as she played golf at the junior, high school, college and elite level (pro). While it was exciting and rewarding, one glaring discrepancy became very clear to him, especially as Hannah went pro.

"You get to the end of college, and all of a sudden you have been lured by this dream and this promise to be able to play golf professionally — but for men versus women, it is significantly different," he said. "When you get out of college, you are faced with very few opportunities as a woman golfer to grow and to get better."



Photos courtesy Mark Berman

To help kick off the PXG Women's Match Play Championship, a Women's Initiatives Collaboration with Generation W, PXG brought in its marketing team from Arizona and its regional sales leaders, seen here with the official championship trophy, which was produced by Ponte Vedra Beach non-profit Ocean Sole Africa.

Consider this: On the women's side, there is the LPGA, the Symetra Tour (2019 total money leader \$124,000) and

three developmental tours with average purses of \$30,000 with \$7,500 in average wins. On the men's side, there is the

PGA Tour, the Korn Ferry TOUR (2019 total money leader \$565,000) and more than 30 developmental tours with an average purse of \$100,000 with \$16,000 in average wins.

"It is an age-old disparity. It is because there were always so many boys/men playing golf. It was never really focused on girls and women playing golf until about 10 or 12 years ago when the industry basically said we are focusing on getting girls to play golf," Berman said.

When Hannah first began playing, 1,200 young women between the ages of 14 – 18 were ranked by the National Junior Golf Scoreboard.

Women's match play cont. on pg. 12

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**Teen Court** cont. from pg. 1

“Theresa has been a critical and integral component of our Teen Court,” said St. Johns County Clerk of Court Brandon Patty. “She’s been in her position for 21 years and had the first Teen Court case in 2000.”

Simmons said since its inception, Teen Court has tried 1,938 cases and more than 500 volunteers have been involved. Prior to the pandemic, Teen Court was held in the St. Johns County Courtroom Annex on Tuesday evenings from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The purpose of Teen Court is to direct minor cases — first time misdemeanors such as retail theft, battery, trespassing and disruption of school — away from the formal juvenile court. Those offenders who are referred to Teen Court, as well as their parents, meet with Simmons to determine if they are willing to voluntarily participate in the program. The offender must admit guilt to their charges, testify truthfully in Teen Court, and be willing to accept the sanctions of the Teen Court. Assuming they do, usually no further action is taken and the case is dismissed by the State Attorney.

The defendant has a “teen-defense attorney” assigned to their case who is responsible for bringing out mitigating circumstances in an effort to sway the jury to reduce the penalties the jury is required to impose. There is also a “teen-prosecuting attorney” who is trying to bring forward all the reasons why a stronger penalty should be imposed by the jury.

The “juries” in Teen Court are made up of trained middle and high school volunteers along with a few previous defendants from

Teen Court, who are mandated to serve on a jury as part of their sentence. This offers the young offenders a unique opportunity for rehabilitation. The jurors listen to both of the teen volunteer attorneys’ arguments and then retire to the deliberation room to come to agreement about the number of jury duties and community service hours the defendant must serve, as well as any other appropriate sanctions.

Simmons said the teenage volunteers in Teen Court also gain from their involvement and in fact several have gone on to law school themselves.

“Teen Court gives the volunteers a sense of confidence,” she said. “They learn to stand up tall and speak clearly. This translates well to the high school and college classroom.”

The program, like many, has been on hiatus the last year due to the pandemic, but Patty said his office is constantly monitoring the delta variant and is hopeful to restart Teen Court this winter. Simmons will be retiring in December, a loss that Patty said will be big.

“Our intent is to continue to offer Teen Court, and in fact to grow the program,” Patty said. “This is a legacy program through multiple clerks of court and we want to continue to build it.”

Simmons said she is still sending out information to teen volunteers who request it (email [tsimmons@stjohnsclerk.com](mailto:tsimmons@stjohnsclerk.com) if you are interested) and plans to come back as a volunteer after her retirement to lend assistance and knowledge. Patty said his office will post the Teen Court restart date to its website ([www.stjohnsclerk.com](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com)) as soon as it is set.

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Pumpkin!



**BREED:**

Yorkie

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**

Chasing lizards and frogs

**FAVORITE TREAT:**

Bacon

**Favorite Friend:** Lola, a poodle she met at the dog park

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**

She was born in the fall and we got her in November when Pumpkin everything is all the rave!

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

# Happy Fall!



## Table of Contents

- 4 What's Going on in St. Johns
- 6 Q&A with Sheriff Rob Hardwick
- 8 Briefs
- 9 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 16 Fishing
- 17 Gardening
- 18 Travel

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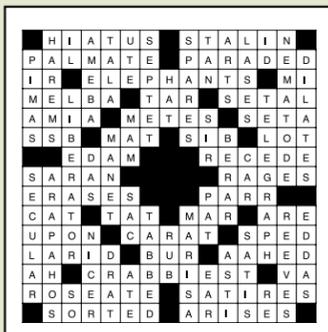


## MYSTERY PHOTO



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

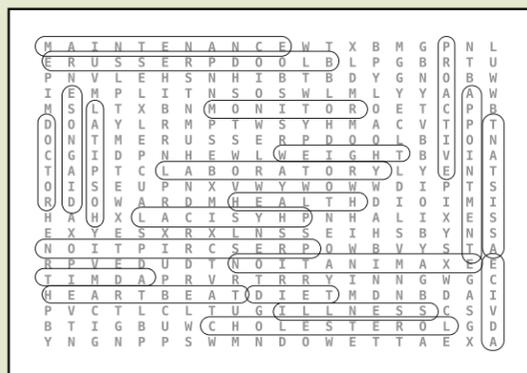
Last month's Mystery Photo was the St. Johns County Fire Station #19 on Veterans Parkway. Our winner was Maggi King. Congratulations!



Answers to our Puzzles PG 14

## CRYPTO FUN

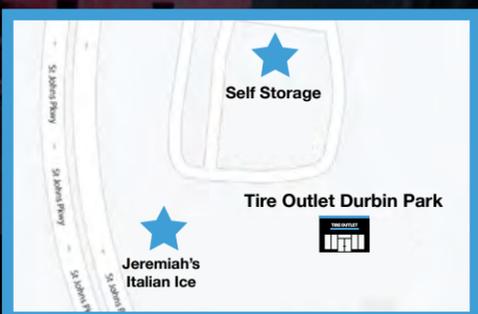
Answers: A. doctor B. checkup C. testing D. diagnosis



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# October

**What’s Going On in St. Johns?**  
A modified calendar of events

## Community Calendar

**Playing HOOKie**, a group for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting and looming (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the outside eating area at Belgian Sweet House Bistro, 12276 San Jose Blvd. (next to Harbor Chase). Visit the group’s Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email [playinghookie31@gmail.com](mailto:playinghookie31@gmail.com) for more information.

Northeast Florida AHEC will host a free **Tai Chi for Arthritis program** via an online live webinar for people 60 years and older on Wednesdays and Fridays, Oct. 1 – Nov. 24, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Attendees will learn how to improve muscular strength, flexibility and fitness. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486 to register.

St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, located at 1221 State Road 13 in Fruit Cove will host its annual **Blessing of the Animals service** on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 9:30 a.m. This service, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, will be held outdoor service (weather permitting). The community is invited to bring a lawn chair and their faithful companion, caged or leashed for safety. The church also provides in-church worship services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (masks are requested). Visit [www.stpatricksepiscopal.org](http://www.stpatricksepiscopal.org) for more information.

**The Honeybee Quilters Guild** will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. after a 6:30 p.m. social in the fellowship hall of Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 11844 Mandarin Road. The program is a demonstration on bias binding. Masks are optional due to the larger meeting space. New members/guests welcome. Visit [honeybeequilters.org](http://honeybeequilters.org) for more information.

**The Jacksonville Camera Club** will meet on Oct. 6 and Oct. 20. Visit [jaxcameraclub.com](http://jaxcameraclub.com) for more information and meeting location updates.

**The St. Johns County Civic Roundtable** will meet on Monday, Oct. 11 at 12 p.m. with guest speaker Carol Saviak, Strategic Partnerships Manager at St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority, North East Florida Regional Airport. This will be an in-person meeting inside of the Passenger Terminal. RSVP to [info@scjroundtable.org](mailto:info@scjroundtable.org) if you would like to attend. Email [info@scjroundtable.org](mailto:info@scjroundtable.org) to register for the meeting or for more information about the St. Johns County Civic Roundtable.

**The Northwest St. Johns County United for Progress Club** will meet on Monday, Oct. 11 via Zoom, with social time beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. The speaker, Sara Bloomberg, founder of the House of Prism, will discuss LGBTQ-IA+ rights, resources and opportunities in St. Johns County. Email [nwsjcp@gmail.com](mailto:nwsjcp@gmail.com) for zoom meeting details.

NuVenture will host a **free community shredding event** at its offices in Bartram Office Park, 13241 Bartram Park Blvd., on Friday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. UltraShred will be on premises for community members to shred any of their financial/private documents at no charge. A food truck will conveniently be available for lunch. NuVenture is also sponsoring a raffle entry for each \$20 donation to benefit Hart Felt Ministries. For every \$50 donation, there will be three tickets for the raffle and lunch provided. Call NuVenture at (904) 253-7600 or visit [www.hartfelt.org](http://www.hartfelt.org) for more information about Hart Felt Ministries.

**Herbal Medicine from Mother Earth’s Garden** will be offered on Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. Attendees will learn about traditionally used herbs to promote wellness and health as well as how to create their own tinctures, teas, and salves. Included are guides, plant identification, lecture and herbal snacks. Pre registration is required via phone or text: (386) 972-1891.

**The All Star Quilters Guild** will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 18 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. Guests are welcome and masks are optional. Visit [www.allstarquilters.org](http://www.allstarquilters.org) for more information.

Northeast Florida AHEC announces a free **Tools to Quit Tobacco Class**, which includes free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges on Tuesday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Flagler Health and Wellness Center, 120 Health Park Blvd. in St. Augustine. Call (904) 482-0189 for more information or to sign up.

**The Newcomers of North St. Johns** will host a meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 11:15 a.m. at Ruth’s Chris Steak House, 814 A1A North, Suite 103 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Doors will open at 11 a.m. The event will feature actor Dianne Jacoby, who will portray infamous female pirate Anne Bonny. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$32 for members. All reservations must be received by Oct. 8. Contact Sue Aird at [sjaird@comcast.net](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net) to register.

**First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Card Club** will play cards at Dunkins Cafe in St. Augustine on Saturday, Oct. 23. Arrival is at 2 p.m and games will be played beginning at 2:15 p.m. Masks must be worn while playing and one item must be purchased to satisfy restaurant management. Call the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 (no texts) to RSVP or for information about the club. The club is open to both men and women and is a smoke- and drug-free club.



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

**Q: Why are we in the process of redistricting right now?**

**A:** Every 10 years the Census Bureau counts the population in each state to determine the overall population of the U.S. for the purpose of reapportioning Congressional representation, with the primary goal of creating districts equal or nearly equal in population.

It's important to note that redistricting affects only those races that appear on a ballot in an election — it's the way we change voting districts and that determines who represents us locally, at the state level, and in Washington DC.

**Q: What is happening at this time?**

**A:** Locally, both the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board are working jointly to redistrict by the end of the year. They have to come up with districts that have a standard deviation of population up to 5 percent. In St. Johns County, we like to keep our County Commission and School Board districts together. The Florida State Legislature will start working on their redistricting when session begins in January. Nationally, Florida will gain one congressional seat when redistricting is completed.

**Q: Locally, will we keep five districts for the County Commission and School Board?**

**A:** Yes, but the way the boundaries are drawn will change to reflect population changes. District 1 in the Northwest and District 4 in the Northeast have gained the most population and the new boundaries will be drawn to encompass a smaller geographical area so that the population of all five of the county's

districts is very close to the same.

**Q: What happens next for the Supervisor of Elections Office?**

**A:** Once the new county commission / school board districts are determined, we will begin work on new precinct lines. We plan to finalize precinct lines, finalize polling places, and mail voters their new voter cards in May 2022. This is cutting things very tight, because June 13 – 17, 2022 are the candidate qualifying dates in advance of the Aug. 23, 2022 Primary Election. The 2022 General Election will be held on Nov. 8, 2022.

**Q: How can readers learn more or participate in the redistricting process?**

**A:** There will be community meetings this fall: Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. in the School Board Auditorium and Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Nease High School Media Center. The Joint Board Meeting for Final Approval of the District Map will be held on Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Auditorium.

There are two websites that have comprehensive information about redistricting. For the St. Johns County districts, visit [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/redistricting](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/redistricting) to see the proposed map options. The State of Florida also has a website: [www.floridaredistorting.org](http://www.floridaredistorting.org).

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

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



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

**Q: Can you give us some insight into the redistricting that is currently in progress?**

**A:** First of all, this is for voting districts only and does not apply to school attendance zones.

The School Board and the Board of County Commissioners had a joint meeting with our consultant today [Sept. 16] and we were presented with four different redistricting plans to consider. For District 1, three of them are nearly identical and the maps show our district as a kind of compressed rectangle. Presently we have 11 schools in District 1 and we likely will have six (and a shared Liberty Pines Academy) after the redistricting.

Recall that the purpose of redistricting is to get all five of the districts within St. Johns County to nearly the same population. Right now, District 1 has more people than any of the other districts.

**Q: What are the next steps?**

**A:** We will have Community Meetings on Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. in the School Board Auditorium and on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Nease High School Media Center. The Joint Board Meeting for Final Approval of the District Map will be held on Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Auditorium.

To learn more about the details of redistricting in St. Johns County, as well as see the four proposed maps, visit [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/redistricting](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/redistricting).

**Q: What can you tell us about the school district's new partnership with Flagler Health+ as pertains to quarantining protocols?**

**A:** People were confused about the quarantining process, so we partnered with Flagler Health+, as well as the Health Department and the St. Johns County EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to establish a hotline for parents to call to get all their questions answered. Representatives from all these agencies will be on hand, so this is truly a one-stop hotline. The number is (904) 819-1101 and all calls during business hours will be answered by a person.

**Q: Do you have an update on High School III?**

**A:** Construction is going a little slower than we would like due to supply chain issues and labor shortages that everyone seems to be dealing with. As of the end of August, the school was at 43 percent completion, so we are still able to say we will be open on time next school year.

The new principal, Greg Bergamasco, is in the process of holding community meetings and is beginning to build the school's culture. The school board will vote on the name of the school from among options presented at either the October or November board meeting.

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

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



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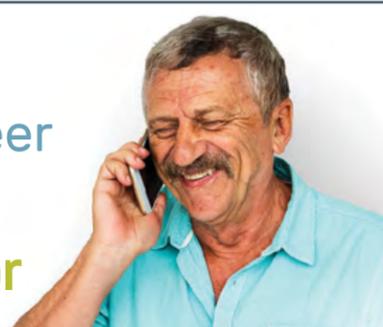
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The ElderSource Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program needs volunteers to make friendly phone calls to seniors who are living alone or are homebound. Your call can go a long way to help someone who might be feeling lonely or isolated.

Caring Connections volunteers are trained, background screened and then matched with a special friend. Hours are flexible as you and your senior will set days and times convenient for you.

*"Phone calls from my volunteer Toni, helped me mentally and physically during the pandemic. Now I am feeling more like myself." – Ms. Kim, Telephone Reassurance Program Participant*



Learn More About Becoming a Caring Connections Volunteer  
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Email: [Volunteers@MyElderSource.org](mailto:Volunteers@MyElderSource.org)  
Visit: [MyElderSource.org/about/volunteer-opportunities](http://MyElderSource.org/about/volunteer-opportunities)

Volunteers are needed in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Volusia and St. Johns counties.

ElderSource

start here for help

Q&A

## with St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick

**Q: What can you tell us about the Sheriff's Office's new training facility?**

**A:** The complex is conveniently located off Agricultural Center Drive, near State Road 16 and Interstate 95. This venture actually started with the previous administration and we just opened in the last few months. Previously, our deputy training took place in a facility that we rented from the school district. This new facility will be a better use of taxpayer dollars.

**Q: What is contained at the new facility?**

**A:** There are two ranges, one of which is the primary range for our deputies. We need to keep our 360 deputies in law enforcement and our 150 deputies who work in corrections proficient with firearms. The second, smaller range is a guest range for other entities and partners in law enforcement, like the FBI out of Jacksonville, as well as for specialized teams like our SWAT team.

**Q: What are the future plans for the complex?**

**A:** The property is a 45 acre parcel, so we still have available space for future use. My plan as sheriff is to continue to move more services here and provide a healthy work environment with everyone under one roof. We are spread out over 20 buildings; basically whatever building the county had available, they put us in. My current office is in the old medical examiner's office.

**Q: Do you have any plans for substations?**

**A:** I'm in favor of co-locating with the St. Johns County Fire Department to save taxpayer dollars. Currently in the works with the fire department are joint locations in SW St. Johns County, Silverleaf, and Nocatee, where an addition to the existing station for our use is in the design phase. It is my goal to have administrative staff work at these locations to make it easy for community members to visit and get assistance.

**Q: Can you remind readers of the non-emergency number for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office?**

**A:** Our non-emergency number is (904) 824-8304. I'd recommend that community members program this number into their phones for future non-emergency use. But of course, if you forget this number, you can always call 911 and we will determine the correct routing for your call.

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

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

The first department we intend to relocate here is our fleet services. They are currently located in the old Wise Potato Chip factory in a building that used to house raw potatoes.

The large building on the property houses our 911 communications center for SJSO and St. Johns County Fire and Rescue, as well as dispatching for the St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach Police Departments and the National Parks. Last year we had 300,000 calls just to SJSO and 95,000 were 911 calls. That comes out to about 678 calls a day, so it is very busy.

Also in this half of the building is our real time crime center with our criminal analysts. It's their job to track crime as it is in progress in St. Johns County. This is one of the tools we use to deter crime within St. Johns County.

The other half of the building is our training division. Every member of SJSO, approximately 900 full time and part time employees, receives some type of training here. We have a number of classrooms of different sizes to accommodate many sizes of groups. It is more cost effective to bring the training to us than to send all of our employees out.

The property also contains a state certified driving track to keep our deputies

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# St. Johns County Clerk unveils snapshot of 2020 county finances

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

In late September, St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon J. Patty presented the inaugural publication of "Tracking Your Tax Dollars: A Guide to St. Johns County's Finances" to the Board of County Commissioners.

Known officially as the Popular Annual Financial Report, the easy-to-understand booklet features highlights from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is a 400-plus-page account-

ing of the county's fiscal year 2019-2020 budget and finances. The Popular Annual Financial Report is designed to be straightforward and comprehensible for the general public and others without a background in public finance.

The 18-page Popular Annual Financial Report is accessible online at [www.stjohnsclerk.com/pafr](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com/pafr). A limited number of printed copies are available at the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, in St. Augustine.

# Church to resume Pumpkin Patch tradition

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

River of Life United Methodist Church, located at 2600 Race Track Road, will again open its pumpkin patch to the public beginning Oct. 11.

After making the difficult decision last year to suspend the operation due to COVID-19, this year the church will offer a somewhat abbreviated season with emphasis on providing a safe and welcoming place for people to take pictures, pick out pumpkins and spend a little quality time with family members. The playground will be open for children as well as a few fun activities.

by 10 a.m. on Oct. 31, when volunteers will return to collect the filled bags. In 2020, the church collected more than 600 pounds of food, which was then donated to multiple area food banks.



Photo courtesy River of Life United Methodist Church

In addition to the pumpkin patch, River of Life will host its second annual "Trick or Treat for Non-Perishables." On Oct. 24, church members and volunteers will be dropping off collection bags to Julington Creek Plantation homes. Neighbors are invited to fill the bags with non-perishables and leave those bags by their mailboxes

The church will also be collecting non-perishables at the Pumpkin Patch during the three weeks of operation, from Oct. 11 – Oct. 31 (or until the pumpkins are gone). Weekday hours are 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 7p.m.

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## Briefs

### Volunteers needed to make friendly calls to seniors

The pandemic has underscored how older adults living alone are often more isolated and need a connection to the community and friends. You can help solve this problem without even leaving your home.

ElderSource, a nonprofit organization that works to empower seniors with dignity and independence, is recruiting volunteers for its Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program. Caring Connections offers a simple way for someone to make a difference in the life of a homebound older adult.

Caring Connections volunteers are needed immediately with approximately 40 seniors currently waiting to be matched with volunteers. All volunteers are trained, background screened and matched with a special friend. Hours are flexible, as the volunteer and the senior work together to set the days and times convenient for each person to connect by phone.

Volunteers are needed in all seven counties of the ElderSource service area that includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia.

To learn more about how to be a Caring Connections volunteer or if an older adult would like to be matched with a volunteer, email [Volunteers@My-ElderSource.org](mailto:Volunteers@My-ElderSource.org) or call the ElderSource HelpLine at (904) 391- 6699.

### Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club announces October luncheon

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will hold its October meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m.

The theme for the luncheon will be a Mystery Party in which guests will be among the potential suspects at the annual Pumpkin Palooza Costume Party. Eight members will be amongst the potential suspects and the remaining members will guess "whodunit."

The cost of the luncheon will be \$23; make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Lin Collier, 6409 Autumn Berry Cir., Jacksonville, FL 32258. Payment must be received no later than Oct. 7, 2021, no exceptions. Be sure to indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line. Lunch choices include: slow braised beef pot roast with garlic mashed potatoes, baked chicken wrapped in flakey puff pastry, and butternut squash and ricotta cheese risotto.

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May for lunch. There are also various game groups (Bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Chicken Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg), golf, recipe exchange, monthly special events, book clubs, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and commu-

nity projects. Visit the club's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BTNC1](http://www.facebook.com/BTNC1) or email Donna Holland at [bartramtnc@gmail.com](mailto:bartramtnc@gmail.com) for more information.

### Most advanced Contrast-Enhanced Mammography now available

Ackerman Cancer Center, the world's first and only private practice offering proton beam technology, is offering another first: Contrast-Enhanced Mammography (CEM) as a cutting-edge cancer diagnostic method at Ackerman Breast Clinic at its location in Amelia Island.

Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States, with more than 250,000 breast cancers diagnosed each year. Contrast-enhanced mammography has been shown to find breast cancer better than traditional mammograms, and is especially beneficial to women with dense breasts or at a high-risk of breast cancer. It provides exceptional clarity to help rule out cancer or highlight an abnormality requiring further attention. Contrast-enhanced mammography is just like a normal mammogram except it uses a contrast medium, which is a substance that is injected into the bloodstream and shows up on an x-ray. The contrast medium collects in tissues with robust blood flow, especially cancerous tissues, enabling the radiology team to study that area in more detail. It is performed simultaneously with a 2D mammogram; 3D mammography can also be performed at the same visit.

Founded in 1997, Ackerman Cancer Center was established to deliver patients the highest-quality of personalized cancer care, while remaining committed to the mission of service to those in need throughout the entire spectrum of society. Visit [ackermancancercenter.com](http://ackermancancercenter.com) for more information.

### Trout Creek Senior Center now open ... again!

St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) hosted a grand reopening Open House at the Trout Creek Senior Center, 6795 Collier Road in Orangedale, on Sept. 8. from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

As of Sept. 15, the Trout Creek Senior Center has resumed in-person programs for seniors one day a week on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Participants enjoy lunch and activities to include bingo, games, health presentations and book club. Advance registration for the program is required as space is limited. COA plans to increase program offerings over time.

"It's been a long and very difficult year for all, especially for seniors," said COA executive director, Becky Yanni. "We are so excited for our close-knit community of seniors to be able to enjoy each other's company once again at Trout Creek."

COA has taken a careful, phased approach to reopening its six senior centers throughout St. Johns County in the wake

Briefs cont. on pg. 14

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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## Market Insight



### Florida Man

By Scott A. Grant  
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Tuesday, July 25, 2017, just after 3 p.m., Alexander Sperber parked his red Mustang in the parking lot and entered a branch of the Regions Bank on Third Street in Fort Lauderdale. He approached a teller and extended his left index finger. He told her that he had a gun and demanded that she put money into the bag he was carrying.

The teller filled the bag with \$4700 and a red dye pack. Sperber fled on foot. The dye pack exploded. His clothes, face, and a cast on his left hand were stained. He proceeded to run down Los Olas Boulevard, stripping naked and tossing fifty- and hundred-dollar bills into the breeze. Observers were shocked. "Was he naked?" a dumbfounded observer asked. Another man commented that he thought the philanthropic streaker was an escaped mental patient.

The police arrested Sperber after he had run a few blocks. They put a yellow tarp over his nudity and brought the bank teller to the scene to make a positive identification. They then took the bank robber to Broward Health Medical Center for evaluation. The FBI came to interview him. Sperber waived his Miranda rights and told the FBI the whole story.

He had woken up that morning and decided to rob a bank and run naked down the street throwing money away in order to jump start his career as a comedian. It turns out he wasn't an escaped mental patient. He was a graduate

of Lehigh University and a graduate student at Florida Atlantic. He also claimed to be an inventor. He was working on obtaining a patent for a new type of automated awning. Something to protect people from the hot Florida sun.

Sperber was held in jail and faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted. In January of the following year, a federal judge found Sperber not guilty by reason of insanity. The trial lasted just 25 minutes. It seems that everyone involved, including prison psychiatrists agreed that the would-be bank robber-comedian was so mentally ill that he could not be held responsible for his actions. The prosecution told the judge that Sperber believed "that a chip installed in his head compelled him to commit the bank robbery to further his career as a comedian."

At the time, the story was presented as just another classic Florida Man tale and in some ways it is. But as more facts came to light, the story became more tragic. Sperber had a long history of mental illness. He suffered from schizophrenic hallucinations and often stripped naked under stress. He also had a history of autism. In the end, he received the treatment he needed and was released.

*Scott A. Grant is a local columnist, author, speaker, and historian. By day he is a fiduciary asset manager and president of Standfast Asset Management. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfast.com.*

## SCORE to host webinars for business owners

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

SCORE is a national service organization that supports small businesses nationwide. SCORE has a network of more than 11,000 volunteers operating in more than 340 local chapters around the country. The organization is supported by the US Small Business Administration (SBA).

In October, SCORE Jacksonville will host a four part series of interactive workshops entitled "Achieve Your Business Dream," perfect for aspiring and emerging business owners. They are taught by SCORE mentors with decades of business experience in the topics they teach. This four week program usually has a \$99 fee; however, TD Bank has sponsored this series. It is strongly recommended that you register for and attend all four sessions. The goal is to provide you with the background you need to assemble a business plan, start a business and make an existing business succeed. Workshops are online on four consecutive Tuesdays in October from 5:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. :

Session 1, Oct. 5: Business Foundations – What Will Your Business Be?

Session 2, Oct. 12 : Marketing Basics & Social Media

Session 3, Oct. 19: Financial Basics, Business Naming & Market Analysis

Session 4, Oct. 26: The Business Plan, Financial Projections & Funding

*About SCORE: Locally, SCORE counselors' skills include: accounting, consulting, distribution, financial planning, franchising, human resources, marketing, operations, publishing, retail sales, strategic planning, sales, consumer products, Internet, technology and nonprofit management, and doing business with the government. SCORE provides support to business owners in several ways, including free confidential mentoring for startups and existing businesses, workshops to help entrepreneurs start and run a successful business, advice on how to get a business loan, and assistance with putting together a successful business plan. Visit jacksonville.score.org for more information.*

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

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## Nease football players take on leadership challenge

On Labor Day, more than 30 Nease football seniors and their coach spent the day completing the daunting Osprey Challenge Course at the University of North Florida. In partnership with UNF's Taylor Leadership Institute, these seniors focused on overcoming obstacles and becoming a stronger, more cohesive group by completing the high ropes course — culminating with a zipline across Lake Oneida. This is part of the Leadership Institute's increased efforts to immerse area students in UNF resources, including leadership training, the ropes course/zipline, group athletic events and community engagement opportunities with



Photo courtesy Dr. Matt Ohlson

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Photo courtesy Freedom Crossing Academy

Freedom Crossing Academy students and staff are assigned one of 13 houses at the school.

## Freedom Crossing Academy recognized with school culture awards

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

Freedom Crossing Academy, a K-8 school in NW St. Johns County, has been recognized by the Florida Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Project (FLPBIS) for its resilience in implementing a school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework during the 2020 – 2021 school year. This is a set of strategies based in behavioral and biomedical science that enhances student quality of life and reduces problem behaviors. National research shows that full implementation of this framework leads to improved student outcomes.

Freedom Crossing Academy creates a safe, supportive, and positive school culture by aligning their PBIS school-wide behavior expectations, known as the “FCA Way,” with Capturing Kids Hearts best practices and the Character Counts education program. Capturing Kids Hearts is a school-wide relationship building approach for students to feel connected, supported, and valued every day. Every morning, teachers greet students when they enter the classroom. Students share “good news” during their morning meetings and begin each day with a launch of the school’s vision and mission statement. In every classroom, teachers and students create social contracts to promote a self-managing, highly effective learning environment of productive relationships, teamwork, and leadership. Freedom Crossing Academy also implements the Six Pillars of Character Counts, a county-wide character education program that instills positive character traits.

Every day, students are recognized and

rewarded with LiveSchool points for demonstrating the FCA Way school-wide behavior expectations — Focused on Safety, Committed to Responsibility, and Always Respectful. All staff can award LiveSchool points to students demonstrating the six pillars of character and for demonstrating the FLIGHT characteristics aligned to the school mission and vision. Freedom Crossing Academy also encourages a culture of friendly competition, team building, and positive relationships across all grade levels with the FCA House Points System. All students and staff are assigned one of 13 houses and enjoy celebrating positive behavior and outstanding character through monthly House competitions and spirit activities.

Freedom Crossing Academy is dedicated to increasing positive student behavioral outcomes and fostering positive relationships. Schools that have received training in Positive Behavior Interventions and Support have shown fidelity of implementation, and are monitoring school-wide outcomes and are recognized by the Florida Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Project’s Model Schools program. Freedom Crossing Academy is being recognized by the FLPBIS Project as a PBIS Model School for their work towards developing student leadership and character skills, creating a positive learning environment, acknowledging appropriate behavior, and using data to identify needs for support for students.

For more information about Freedom Crossing Academy, visit [www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us) for more information about Freedom Crossing Academy and visit [www.flpbis.org](http://www.flpbis.org) to learn more about the FLPBIS Project Model School program.



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## Palencia Elementary hosts ninth annual Fore the Kids Golf Tournament

By Tiffany Trivedi  
mail@floridanewline.com

Palencia Elementary School will again host its annual fundraiser, the Fore the Kids Golf Tournament on Monday, Oct. 18 at the Palencia Club. The tournament registration will open at 11 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start and a four-person scramble format. Entry includes lunch and a 19th Hole Awards Dinner. This event is one of the largest fundraisers put on by the school's PTO.

Each year, in partnership with the school's administration, the PTO determines how and where the money raised in the PTO fundraisers is best utilized. This year the decision was made to allocate some of the funds to build an outdoor space for the children. The goal is to improve the playground areas and build an outdoor classroom. This will give the children and teachers more options to promote creativity, have fun outdoors, and get closer to nature.

There are many ways to get involved in

this event — from sponsoring, to donating time to help run the event, to playing in the tournament.

Golf Chair Christina Oleksyn said, "We have players that have played in this tournament for nine years and have truly made it a tradition to continue to play. The sponsors and players are the heart of our tournament and I wish I were able to list them all. Last year this fundraiser broke a record on the net amount earned and we want to exceed that amount this year. Every player and every sponsor counts and we can't thank everyone that participates enough."

Visit <https://palenciapiratespto.com/fore-the-kids-golf> if you would like to register to play in the tournament or you're interested in becoming a sponsor. Lastly, it takes a lot of volunteers to make this event run smoothly. So, if you are available on Oct. 18, there are many ways you can lend your time and energy; visit the Palencia Elementary School PTO Facebook page to sign up to volunteer.



Photo courtesy Alexis Brown

## Voice of Bartram sings for peace and joy

On Sept. 21, the Bartram Trail High School choir, The Voice of Bartram, participated in AVoice4Peace, marking the day when choirs from all over the world come together and sing, by holding a concert in the school's courtyard. According to Bartram Trail senior and vice president of The Voice of Bartram Alexis Brown, the choir hopes the concert helps spread peace and joy.

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**St. Augustine** cont. from pg. 1

is also new to the Reserve. He is a year and a half old and likes to walk on his lease.

Cougars have many names (around 81), all for the same cat. The names include cougar, Florida panther, painter, mountain lion, puma and more. They are the second largest cat in the Americas (after the jaguar). They can't roar; they have a different hyoid bone structure in their throats which allow them to purr. Cougars live in various ecosystems from mountains

and deserts down to sea level. Their range includes North and South America. Their main prey is deer, but will eat smaller animals as well. They have the longest hind legs in proportion to their bodies in the entire cat family, allowing them to leap over 20 feet with one bound. They can drop down from a ledge or tree 60 feet tall, landing softly on the forest floor. In the wild, they live around 10 years and in captivity, 20 years.

Also this year, the Reserve received a snow white lioness, an extremely rare color vari-

ant of the southern African lion. Sahara is settling in nicely into her new habitat. White lions in the Timbavati region of Africa were first sighted in 1938. They are regarded as divine by some African cultures. White lions are not albinos; they are leucistic, a recessive trait derived from a mutation in the same gene (for tyrosinase) that causes albinism. They vary in color from blond to white. In the next month or two, the Reserve will receive a snow white male lion who is in need of a home, retired from a breeding program. St. Augustine Wild Reserve does not breed animals, so these animals will be kept separate.

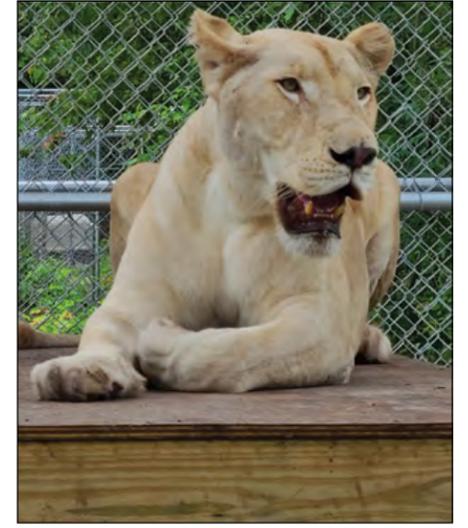


Photo courtesy Deborah Warwick  
Sahara, a snow white lioness.

What is a Ti-Liger? Apparently, there are only six in the world and one of them, Chandra, is at the St. Augustine Wild Reserve. A Ti-Liger is a cross between a male tiger and a female liger (a liger is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger). This means that Chandra is three-quarters tiger, one-quarter lion. She looks similar to an orange tiger, but if you look closely, you can see spots and strange stripes, distinguishing her from regular tigers.

Now more than ever, St. Augustine Wild Reserve can use donations of supplies for the animals, including monetary donations. The Reserve's tour operation has diminished considerably in the wake of the pandemic. To protect staff and guests, everything is thoroughly sanitized and the open-air compound allows for social

distancing. Tours are appropriate for children and adults and may be booked via [bookoo.com/tigertours](http://bookoo.com/tigertours). If you cannot visit, consider sending a tax-deductible donation. Visit [www.sawildreserve.org](http://www.sawildreserve.org) for more information.

Staffed by a host of valuable volunteers, the St. Augustine Wild Reserve is always in need of new caging and animal supplies. Plans are to raise funds to construct an onsite veterinary clinic, and a barn for diet preparation. Email [wildreserve@aol.com](mailto:wildreserve@aol.com) to volunteer, particularly if you have building/welding of fence working skills. The St. Augustine Wild Reserve is a 501©3 tax exempt organization.

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**Women's match play** cont. from pg. 1

"Now there are 5,000 ranked. And this does not include girls under the age of 14 and college age women," said Berman. "There was never the need until all of sudden there was this explosion of girls (the high school classes of 2014 – 2018). They are now starting to graduate college, and that is the explosion. Now we have unbelievable talent, unmatched, unparalleled, innumerable talent. They are absolutely good enough to play in the LPGA or just a year or two away from it, but they need that developmental time."

Against this backdrop, Berman, managing partner of MediaShare Consulting Group and in the golf industry for 25 years, created the first ever professional women's golf tournament in St. Johns County and the first in Jacksonville since 1976.

The PXG Women's Match Play Championship will take place Oct. 26 through Nov. 4 at the World Golf Village. It is under the umbrella of the Women's All Pro Tour. It is one of only three US women's developmental tours for women and the only one which provides a pathway into the Symetra Tour. It is open to all professional players who are not LPGA players.

"This was my brain child, my dream. I pitched to PXG to be our title sponsor, and they said absolutely," said Berman. "I am fond of saying that I'm not doing this for Hannah, but I am doing it because of her."

Sixty-four "rising star professional female golfers" are set to play in the back-to-back tournament series, which features one 54-hole stroke-play tournament the first week at King & Bear, followed by a Match-

Play event the following week at Slammer & Squire. Berman credits his sponsors for their generosity, which enabled the event to be free.

To be clear, though, this is not just about

golf. That's why Generation W, a Jacksonville Beach-based women's thought leadership organization, will host the "Links to Leadership Summit" during the event.

"This event goes beyond the golf course," said Donna Orender, founder and CEO of Generation W. "Links to Leadership will be energizing, informative and inspirational. It is designed to create the opportunity for the players and guests to learn from each other, develop personal leadership skills and provide collective connection skills."

Hannah Berman, a 2016 Ponte Vedra High School graduate, is excited to participate in the event.

"I am so proud of my dad. He cares about women's sports more than anyone I know," said Hannah, now 23 and an associate golf professional in Colorado and at the Sawgrass Country Club on a seasonal basis. "Women are worth it in sports. There is no reason why we should have anything less than men. Women across the board are worth it and should feel empowered by this."

Hannah Berman began playing golf at age nine and became a two-year captain on the Ponte Vedra High School golf team, the MVP and a four-time postseason champion.

For Mark Berman, this event, which will raise money for INK! (Investing in Kids operated by The St. Johns County Education Foundation), is all about creating opportunities for women in golf, in the community and in the golf industry.

"It is not a knock against the guys. It is just how do we create more playing opportunities and eventually earning opportunities for these young women so that they can get to their next level."

For more information about this free event, visit [www.PXGWMPC.com](http://www.PXGWMPC.com).



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## Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

### Caitlin Polly

Caitlin Polly and her family now live just a few miles from her teenage home. Her parents and three siblings moved to NW St. Johns County from Mandarin when she started high school. She attended St. Joseph High School and ultimately graduated from Bartram Trail High School, where she was involved in sports like basketball and volleyball. She went to Florida State University and then moved back to St. Johns while she earned her law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law. She works for Kanner & Pinaluga as a first party property attorney who represents homeowners and business owners with insurance coverage disputes, a great deal of which are the result of wind/hail storms and hurricanes. She is married to Jason Polly, an analyst with the US Army and also a member of the Army National Guard, who is from St. Augustine. They have a blended family of five children, ranging in age from one to 14. In a full-circle moment, their oldest child started at Bartram Trail this school year.

**Q: How did you become interested in first party property law?**

**A:** I have always been interested in construction and I kind of fell into my first job as a first party property attorney. It's a niche area of law and I grew to love it and have a passion for it. I've worked on behalf of insurance companies, but in my job now I work for the plaintiff/property owner. It's common for homeowners to disagree with their insurance company's determination of the amount of a claim and this is where I would come in. With my new job with Kanner & Pinaluga, I was offered the exciting opportunity to start a St. Johns County



Photo courtesy Caitlin Polly  
Caitlin Polly and family.

branch of the firm.

**Q: Do you have any tips for homeowners from your expertise?**

**A:** The first thing is you should actually read through or at least be familiar with your homeowners insurance policy because each one is different. Pay special attention to the section "Duties After Loss," which outlines things like the homeowner's duty to report the loss to the insurance company, to continue to protect the property, and document everything. Also, especially in St. Johns County where we have experienced such a dramatic increase in property values, it is important to make sure your policy covers the full value of your house in the event of a loss — especially what it takes to rebuild your home in the event of a total loss.

**Q: How did you meet your husband?**

**A:** We actually both went to Bartram Trail High School and he asked me out a few times, but I always told him

no. We went our separate ways, but remained friends. Over time, we each married others and had two children apiece before divorcing. Then we met in 2016 via remaining friendly on social media. We rekindled the flame and married in 2018. We have one son together in our blended family.

**Q: Why did you decide to raise your family in St. Johns County?**

**A:** My husband and I both have strong ties to the community. We both have families here and when I had children at a young age, I felt it was important to have the support of family while I continued going to law school.

**Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** The majority of my time spent not working is shuttling kids to activities! I will say that with five kids, a full time job and a military spouse, it's a never ending balancing game. I'm a mom first and it helps that I'm passionate about my job, but every day I try to do my best to find balance.

This past summer, we made a point to buy the Florida State Park passes for our family and we've been making good use of them. Since June, we've been to approximately 10 State Parks. Our favorites so far have been Silver Springs (my kids loved the glass bottom boats) and Ravine Gardens (we enjoyed the hiking trails and suspension bridge.)

**Get to Know ...**

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

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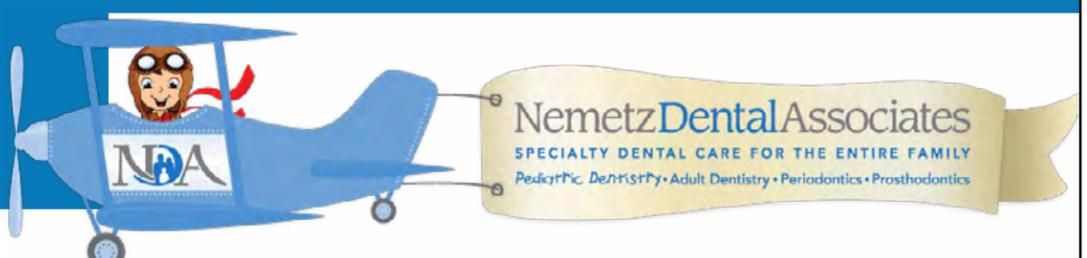
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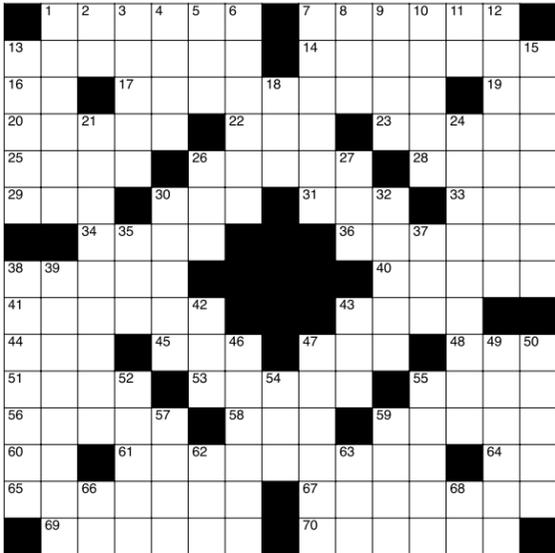
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Break
7. Ruled Russia
13. Having several lobes
14. Walked around proudly
16. Atomic #77
17. Largest living land animals
19. The Great Lakes State
20. A type of toast
22. Partner to feather
23. Bristlelike
25. Bowfin
26. Distributes
28. Hairlike structure
29. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
30. Where wrestlers work
31. Blood relation
33. A great deal
34. Round Dutch cheese
36. Move further away from
38. Type of wrap
40. Furies
41. Removes from the record
43. Young salmon
44. Feline
45. Skin decor
47. Disfigure
48. They \_\_\_
51. Formal term for "on"
53. Weight of precious stones
55. Traveled rapidly
56. Long-winged aquatic bird
58. Prickly husk
59. Expressed pleasure
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Most irritable
64. Virginia
65. Optimistic
67. Humorous works
69. Arranged systematically
70. Emerges

### CLUES DOWN

1. Wives of a polygamous man
2. Where hurt ballplayers land
3. Single-celled animal
4. Rhythmic pattern
5. One from Utah
6. A group of seven
7. Refrains from inflicting
8. Light brown
9. Humanistic discipline
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. It says who you are
12. Roundworm
13. Group of Native Americans
15. Makes wider
18. Headgear
21. One who sets others free
24. Form of communication
26. A Brit's mother
27. Title of respect
30. Famed modernist painter
32. One-time province of British India
35. Prosecutors
37. Motor vehicle
38. Non-religious
39. Native Americans of Colorado and Wyoming
42. Pouch
43. Touch gently
46. Chose
47. Actress Tomei
49. Former Broncos coach Dan
50. Icelandic poems
52. More decent
54. Grillmasters use it
55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
57. Expression of annoyance
59. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
62. Consumed
63. Body part
66. Thus
68. Rupee

## WELLNESS WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

- ADMIT
- ADVICE
- APPOINTMENT
- ASSISTANT
- BLOOD PRESSURE
- CHOLESTEROL
- DIAGNOSE
- DIET
- DOCTOR
- EXAMINATION
- HEALTH
- HEARTBEAT
- HOSPITAL
- ILLNESS
- LABORATORY
- MAINTENANCE
- MONITOR
- PHYSICAL
- PRESCRIPTION
- PROACTIVE
- WEIGHT

⊙ ✱ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♁ ♃ ♅ ♇ ♉ ♋ ♍ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♔ ♕ ♖ ♗ ♘ ♙ ♚ ♛ ♜ ♝ ♞ ♟ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♣ ♤ ♥ ♦ ♧ ♨ ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯ ♰ ♱ ♲ ♳ ♴ ♵ ♶ ♷ ♸ ♹ ♺ ♻ ♼ ♽ ♾ ♿

## CRYPTO FUN

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Solve the code to discover words related to health and wellness.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 12 = S)

**A. 25 6 20 8 6 13**

Clue: Medical professional

**B. 20 3 10 20 4 17 19**

Clue: Well visit

**C. 8 10 12 8 1 7 24**

Clue: Medical examination procedures

**D. 25 1 5 24 7 6 12 1 12**

Clue: Identification of an illness

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Briefs cont. from pg. 8

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ranked No. 3 among all ranked health care providers in the state, and was the only North Florida health care provider among the top three.

The award methodology was based on surveys of Americans working for businesses with at least 500 employees who were asked to rate their employers on various criteria, including workplace safety, competitive compensation, advancement

opportunities, and openness to telecommuting. Surveys were anonymous, allowing participants to respond freely. The final list ranked 1,328 employers who received the greatest number of recommendations in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). Then it was broken down into the top 100 companies in each state and D.C. Forbes partnered with Statista, Inc., a global market research firm, to compile the annual list.

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# Halloween Doors & More drive in movie to benefit Community PedsCare®

On Saturday, Oct. 16, Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation's Halloween Doors & More will present a drive-in movie experience at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

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Proceeds from Halloween Doors & More benefit Community PedsCare, a nationally recognized pediatric program for children in Northeast and North Central Florida living with complex, chronic, life-limiting, or advanced illnesses. All vital care and support are provided at no cost to the family, which is made possible through generous community supporters, efforts of the Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation, and Medicare.

Admission is \$25 per car, per movie. Call (904) 886-3883 or visit HDM.CommunityHospice.com to purchase admissions and sponsorships for Halloween Doors & More.



Photo courtesy Jimmy Tomazinis  
Snook caught by Caitlyn Tomazinis south of the Buckman in June.

# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewline.com

Fishing is a year-round activity for us in this part of the state. There is always some kind of fish waiting to be caught somewhere. Spring through late fall is usually when fishing is at its best. Weather often determines the start and end, the length, and how good our fishing season is going to be.

We've been waiting and hoping all summer long for a comeback to the fantastic bite we were experiencing this spring before heavy rains came and flushed the river. Unfortunately, most of the fishing has remained slow, but has been showing signs of improvement. The croaker bite has been the best bite happening in recent trips, with good numbers and sizes being caught up and down the river.

Now that we are entering our fall season, we have reached a time of year when fishing in the St. Johns River usually reaches its peak. In previous years with similar heavy summer rains, fall fishing still turned out to be great. For many of our fall fishing seasons, the Florida — Georgia football game was the signal to get out in the river for yellow-mouth trout. Sea trout just off of docks from Goodby's Creek to San Marco would soon follow, with a variety of other species such as reds, flounder, and sheepshead.

Fall fishing at the beach is almost always very good. This is the time of year when bait fish begin their migrations south for the winter. Much larger fish like to follow the baitfish, as they too are mi-

grating to warmer water for the winter. The whiting bite has been very good all summer long, and should continue to do so as long as water temperatures remain warm.

Fishing Report: The croaker remain a constant bite in the river. The Green Cove Springs areas of the river seem to be the better locations, but other locations such as Marker 10 or Mandarin Point will produce once the tide gets right.



Photo courtesy Patrick Baiocco  
Brady Baiocco, age 5, caught a panfish in Fruit Cove.

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

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

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# Gardening

## Autumn in sight

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

At this time of year — early September — the nights become cooler, just a little; night-time humidity drops, just a little; and respite from the summer heat seems just a little more attainable. But as the past weeks have shown us all too vividly, the weather can be harsh, and some of our fellow Americans across the country find themselves in dire situations, as many of us did when Hurricane Irma hit our area. We are all at the mercy of the elements.

Inevitably, our gardens change in response to the elements. As nights become darker and longer, this affects plant growth, flowering, and reproduction. We know that when we start our own seedlings, once they germinate, they need strong light. Up to 16 hours a day of bright full-spectrum light should get them off to a great start, along with careful attention to watering and dilute, regular feeding. Our typical cool season vegetables, though, also do well when seeds are sown directly in the garden at the right time, because they are adapted to shorter day lengths and cooler nights.

You may be interested in how our society is adapting to the growing demand for ways to produce our food more locally. When I was browsing the internet, I discovered this University of Florida PowerPoint presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/e4786awv>. While I doubt that many readers are urban farmers in the true sense, I think anyone growing produce even for home use can be considered a farmer. In this presentation there are many interesting resources, from videos about small-scale farming ventures around the country, to references to University of Florida publications. Even at 73 slides long, it doesn't take much time to skip through, and find something relevant and informative, so do check it out.

Some of our holiday plants are dependent on longer nights to flower, includ-

ing the Christmas cactus. I discovered this last year, when I brought one into the house to sit permanently on my kitchen counter. The holidays came and went, but there were no flowers. Wrong plant, wrong place! (<https://tinyurl.com/msbu5dv5>). A smaller Christmas cactus grown from cuttings of this plant stayed outside on my unlit porch and despite the lack of attention, flowered successfully. This year the in-house Christmas cactus is outside, in a sheltered spot, so I can at least say I tried. According to [gardenguides.com](https://gardenguides.com), "Poinsettia, gardenias, kalanchoes, Christmas cactus and chrysanthemums can require up to 18 hours of darkness in each 24-hour period for several weeks before flowering." For more information on selected houseplants, see <https://tinyurl.com/4ndwcrf>.

When temperatures moderate, we can divide and replant hardy perennials. After three or four years, you may find that coneflowers, day lilies, and Stoke's asters, for example, are looking a bit crowded. At the base there will be several "crowns" and when a plant is dug up and examined more closely, the crowns will each have their own set of roots. Sometimes the root systems can simply be teased apart, but if they are very intertwined, they can be cut apart using a sharp knife. If the clump is large, a sharp spade will do the job. Get the divided plants back into soil as soon as possible, either in the ground or in pots. Water well and make sure to look after them as you would any new plant, until established. Clumping grasses can be divided in early spring for best results. Check out this article for detailed information on propagating a variety of plants: <https://tinyurl.com/yf7w5eas>.

Here's hoping for a calmer end to the hurricane season, and support for people so badly affected by Hurricane Ida. Take care, folks.

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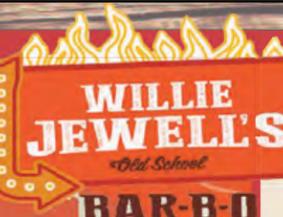
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# Travel

## The Heartland is Kansas

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Kansas, known as the “heartland,” is the geographical center of the contiguous United States. I clicked my heels and flew to the state in hopes of finding sunflowers and stories about the Old West. I indeed found those, but also discovered a few unexpected delights.

The state’s largest city, Wichita, sits on the historic Chisholm Trail, a rural highway used by cowboys driving cattle north from Texas. The Delano district was once a Wild West stop-over where weary cattlemen found rest and recreation — hence, an area with many saloons and brothels. Across the river, the proper city insisted on tighter and tamer rules.

Wichita’s Cowtown, a colorful living history museum, reflects life on the frontier from 1860 to the ‘70s. The lively main street presents historic and recreated shops with costumed interpreters: an apothecary, general store, doctor’s office, milliner, blacksmith, and saloon complete with dancing girls. A gunfight happens twice a day. Stroll around to see the 1880s farmhouse, windmill, and farm equipment.

The Plains Indians inhabited the area before the settlers arrived. In tribute to the Native American tribes, Wichita’s icon, the Keeper of the Plains, rises above the banks of the Arkansas River. Learn about the 44-foot steel sculpture and artist Blackbear Bosin in the nearby Mid-America Indian Museum.

Visiting a sunflower farm blooming at its prime calls for an early awakening. The golden yellow pastures explode between bedraggled cornfields. I photographed the glorious blossoms from many angles trying to capture their beauty. Sunflowers exude happiness, and seeing so many in one place felt reaffirming.

I was excited to learn about Strataca, a salt mine museum located within one of the world’s largest rock salt deposits — and the only salt mine open to the public in the U.S. The 90-second elevator ride transports you down 650-feet to the former work area. Numerous video stations explain the history and mining techniques as they progressed since its opening in 1923. Visitors can ride two trains through older areas of the mine, understanding the difficult working conditions.

Strataca also serves as an excellent place for safe storage with its constant temperature of 68 degrees and dry air. The movie industry sends many films, props, and costumes for safeguarding. It’s a practice I’d never heard about.

The town of Lindsborg, called “Little Sweden,” was founded by Swedish immigrants.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Kansas Maze.



Keeper of the Plains.

Today, 30 percent of the 3,500 population claim Swedish descent. Look around for the local mascots — 28 large Dala Horses, Swedish-style stout wooden animals brightly painted. Visit a small factory making the traditional horses in any size or color. Lindsborg holds seasonal festivals featuring traditional dancers in costume, something I’d love to see.

A drive up a winding road to a bluff overlooking Lindsborg takes you to Coronado Castle. The native stone structure looks like a small castle but is merely a shell with one great room and staircase up to a lookout and tower. The WPA built the structure as a Works Project during the Great Depression. Locals like to picnic there; others are attracted to stargazing and astral photography.

I briefly stopped at the smallest state park in Kansas, Mushroom Rock. As the name implies, some of the limestone rock formations look like giant, 25-ft tall mushrooms. It’s unusual and rather fun.

My visit to Kansas opened my mind to its rocking wonders. Still, there was much I missed, sadly the Eisenhower Presidential Library and the Oz Museum. Consider a visit to the Sunflower State and see what you find in the heartland.

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

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### Make that mammogram appointment

If you are 40 or older, schedule your annual mammogram. You may need to get screened earlier if you have a family history of breast cancer or other risk factors.

### Monitor for changes in your breasts

If you notice a lump or other change in your breasts, talk to your doctor.

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