

page 3 BFF Best Furry Friend









Sofia Garcia at US Women's Open

#### Getting in the Swing of Things: PXG Women's Match Play Championship returns

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps mail@floridanewsline.com

Sam Brimhall first became interested in golf at nine years old when her older sister was on the high school golf team.

"The golf swing came 'natural' to me, and I became decent at the game fairly quickly," said Brimhall. "Around age 10, I started playing in tournaments and from there, golf became my thing."

Brimhall went on to play golf at Seminole State College under Coach Christa Teno. After two years of eligibility at the junior college level,

PXG Women's Match cont. on pg. 15

## Community comes together to Save Fruit Cove

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

News spread quickly the first week of September in the NW St. Johns County area of Fruit Cove about RISE Development's proposal to build a multi-level apartment complex on Fruit Cove Road. Currently zoned OR (Open Rural), a rezoning would have to be granted by the county for this development to take place — but neighbors are clear in their desire for no rezoning to occur. A Facebook group (Save Fruit Cove), a website (www.savefruitcove.com), a petition at Change.org, as well as a planning meeting to organize and assign duties were accomplished within a week.

A preliminary community meeting was announced by the developer for Sept. 14, but later postponed, apparently due to capacity issues at the proposed meeting venue. As of press date, the meeting has not been rescheduled, but a Save Fruit Cove resident planning meeting held that same night was attended by approximately 300 homeowners.

Matt Marshall, vice president of development with RISE said, "We're evaluating next steps and will communicate with the community when appropriate."

According to St. Johns County Commissioner for District 1 Christian



Whitehurst, this proposed development is so early that any official processes haven't even started yet.

"RISE is yet to even file an application," Whitehurst said. "It's important for people to understand that by law, I'm not allowed to comment on whether I'm in favor or opposed to any development, including this one. But I would never vote to approve anything I thought would be detrimental to a community."

Whitehurst pointed out that he's been a part of this community for 23 years and is well aware of the special character of Fruit Cove Road. He's been impressed by the organization and professionalism of the community in their opposition.

Magan Hartley outside her home on Fruit Cove Road.

Magan Hartley and her husband John are among three homeowners who haven't sold their land and she has been instrumental in getting the word out about the proposed development. She said her family had just moved into their "dream home" on Fruit Cove Road in December 2020 and the first she became aware of the proposed development was when a third party broker walked through her gate in March 2021 and found her in her backvard. He asked if she would entertain an offer to sell, since "all of her neighbors" had sold. She was shocked, but said to send an offer and she'd talk it over with her husband.

"Six very stressful weeks later, we came home to an envelope shoved in our front door which contained an offer that wasn't nearly enough to even make us whole or to find another place to live," Magan Hartley said. "We responded 'no."

Signs dotting the side of Fruit Cove Road.

Save Fruit Cove cont. on pg. 2

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Save Fruit Cove cont. from pg. 1

Hartley said it was a full year later, in April 2022, that she saw the surveyors out around the area. She then posted on NextDoor that a company had secured the land around them and planned a development. She advised neighbors to keep an eye out for a community meeting, all the while dealing with stress and sadness over the uncertainty as to the future of their home and their investment. It wasn't until the very end of August, when the community meeting signs were posted, that the situation really gained traction.

"Somebody, I'm not sure who, posted the Community Meeting signs on Facebook and it just exploded," Hartley said. "All of a sudden 100 neighbors who had 100 friends were rallying. I've always



Particularly poignant sign outside one of the three remaining homes that haven't entered into a contingency purchase by the developer.

loved Fruit Cove, but I had no idea how much everyone here loves what they have. It's truly a special place and we are ready to fight to keep it."

According to Al Abbatiello, a well known local advocate for maintaining the historical nature of the area and chairman of the William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Management Group, Fruit Cove is the gateway to St. Johns County, the Bartram Trail Scenic Highway and the historic St. Johns River, an American Heritage River — a place where older homes blend comfortably with newer homes, wildlife and the 100-year-old trees still dotting the area.

"Our way of life includes small farms and gardens; some residents have goats, chickens, dogs, and horses," Abbatiello said. "Every residential development in this area, including Julington Creek Plantation, was designed to keep the area beautiful while growing as a thriving community. Much of this is due to the original Northwest Sector Plan where residents and the Scenic Highway organization worked with county government to preserve this area from unnecessary development while keeping

it as scenic as possible."

Hartley wants everyone in NW St. Johns County to know that this proposed project, incompatible to the area, could set a precedent for years to come and she advises everyone to pay attention.

"If you have just put down roots here, it should be just as important to you as the people who have lived here a long time," Hartley said. "It's really been encouraging to see the support we've received so far, but this is just the beginning. Please pay attention — check websites, show up to county meetings — and not just for this project, but for all of them. We need to fight for what we have left of what Fruit Cove used to be."

Visit www.savefruitcove.com or Save Fruit Cove on Facebook for the latest information.

[Editor's Note: This is not the only issue facing Fruit Cove. There is presently a proposal for rezoning for a rowing club at the base of the Julington Creek Bridge to include a proposed 35-foot tall structure for storage of crew rowing boats.]

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#### **Publisher**

Mark Pettus

Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

#### **Editor**

Martie Thompson Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

#### Bookkeeper

**Emily Whitehead** Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

#### **Social Media**

SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

#### **Advertising Sales**

Linda Gay

Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

(904) 607-5062 cell

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## Best Furry Friend of the month

Schipperke (though rumored part dragon)

Favorite Activity:

#### Netflix and bellyrubs

Favorite Treat - Cheerios from highchair Favorite Friends:

His kids Natalie (5), Sam (3) and Emmett (1)

How Did He Get His Name:

Rescued at three years old as "PeeWee," we determined Petey better represented his strong but affable personality (and sounded similar enough!)



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.

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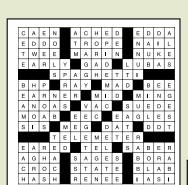


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#### MYSTERY PHOTO

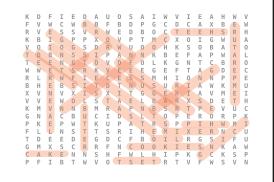




Answers Puzzles PG 14



A. cake B. fondant C. sift D. create











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## October Community Calendar What's Happening in St. Johns

#### **Trout Creek Senior Center of-**

fers activities for seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6795 Collier Road in Orangedale. Cards, crafts and games start each day at 9 a.m. with trivia, nutrition/exercise, Bunco and Bingo among the additional activities before lunch at 11:45 a.m. each day. Contact Program Coordinator Anne Marie Forsythe at (904) 552-1611 for more information.

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 Panera Bread in the RiverPlace shopping center, 11111 San Jose Blvd. Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie31@gmail.com for more information.

Jokers Wild, a local card group, plays the game of "Hand, Knee, and Foot" on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining, please call (904) 230-6962 and leave a message.

Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church at the Mandarin Road Campus in the Woody Room at 11844 Mandarin Road. Members will share their favorite tools. Bring a notepad to write ideas for your holiday shopping. Wearing masks is optional. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

The Garden Club of Switzerland will meet at the
Bartram Trail Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.
on Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. Attendees will learn about "Growing from Seed." Guests are welcome. Visit www.switzerlandgc.org for more information and to register.

6th: The Jacksonville Camera
Club will meet on Oct. 6 and
Oct. 20 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Shepherd
of the Woods Southside, 7860 Southside
Blvd. There is a social "hour" of 30 to 45
minutes before the meeting. Visit jax.
jaxcameraclub.com for more informa-

Butterflies of October, a family-friendly presentation of the Garden Club of Switzerland, will be held on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Manatee Room of the Bartram Trail Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. with an op-

be held on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Manatee Room of the Bartram Trail Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. with an optional trip to the Alpine Groves Butterfly Garden. Visit www.switzerlandgc.org for more information.

Oth: The Bartram Trail Genealogy Club meets the second Saturday of each month (this month, Oct. 8) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. in the Bartram Trail Library conference room, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. Every level, beginners to experts, are welcome. If interested, come to a meeting or send a request to join the club at www.facebook.com/groups/BTGenClubGroup.

Chapter of Sisters in Crime will meet on Oct. 8 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. (FOL Room). Doors open at 10 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:15 a.m. The guest speaker is John Boles, award-winning writer, editor, and former owner of an interactive live murder mystery production company. Bring your coffee and bring a friend. The group welcomes misters and sisters to learn more about writing, promoting, and enjoying crime fiction. Visit www.nefloridasistersincrime.org for more information.

Bartram Trail Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., on Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Annual Blessing of the Animals Service to honor St. Francis of Assisi at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 1221 State Road 13, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9. This will be an outdoor service on the front lawn, weather permitting. All animals will receive a special blessing during the service (and we may have treats too!) For safety purposes, all animals must be leashed and/or caged. Call (904) 287-2807 for more information.

Roundtable will meet on Monday, Oct. 10 at 12 p.m. at St. Augustine Waterworks building, 184 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. The meeting will feature guest speaker Henry, Dean, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Chairman from District 5. Email info@sjcroundtable.org to register for the

meeting or visit www.sjcroundtable.org

County United for Progress
Club will meet on Monday, Oct. 10 at 6:30
p.m. and will host a Meet and Greet for
local candidate races. Contact nwsjcp@
gmail.com for more information if you'd
like to attend.

th: Bartram Trail Newcomers'

and Women's Club will hold its meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive off County Road 210. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. Bingo will be played and prizes will be awarded. The cost of the luncheon is \$32. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Deborah Russell, 12376 Fireberry

\$32. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Deborah Russell, 12376 Fireberry Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32258. Payment must be received no later than Oct. 4, 2022, no exceptions. Be sure to indicate entrée choice on the check memo line. Visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for food choices and updated information.

17th:Culinary and Medicinal
Herbs from the Garden will be
offered on Oct. 15 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 at (386) 972-1891.

17th: The All Star Quilters
Guild will meet at 9:30
a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m.
meeting on Monday, Oct. 17 at the First
Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
This month will feature a potpourri of

quilt entertainment paired with a "Tea and Hat" luncheon fundraiser, \$10 for a ticket. Wearing a hat is encouraged. Tickets are not required to attend the meeting only. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

18th:The Newcomers of North
St. Johns will host a meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Oct 18
beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro, 10110 San Jose Blvd.
in Mandarin. The event will feature a presentation by Executive Director Becky Yanni and Director of Development Tom Torretta from The Council on Aging St. Johns County. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$35 for members. All reservations must be received by Oct. 7.

Visit https://newcomersofnorthstjohns.

org for more information.

family-friendly benefit fundraiser for Jessie Edenfield will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Alan Roberts Ranch, 4175 FL-16 in St. Augustine. Admission is free; children's activities and games as well as meal vouchers are available for a charge. Other activities include a bluegrass band, silent auction, and basket raffle. Visit www.strong4jessie.com for more information.

21st:Adult Craft — Painting a paperweight crafted by the Frog Man will be held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation, on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Supplies provided by Bartram Trail Branch Friends of the Library. Registration is required; call (904) 827-6960 beginning on Oct. 1 to sign up.

26th:Teen and Tween Sewing
Series is a three part series
for beginner sewing enthusiasts to be
held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library
starting on Oct. 26 from 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Register for all three classes by calling
(904) 827-6960 or visiting the Information Desk. Class size is limited.

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#### with St. Johns County Commission Vice Chairman Christian Whitehurst, District 1

## Q: What is the status of RISE's proposed apartment complex on Fruit Cove Road?

A: The status is that it's so early that the process of this being evaluated by staff, the PZA and finally the Board of County Commissioners has not even begun. We commissioners are the last ones to see it and an application typically takes between six months and a year before it gets to the Board of County Commissioners.

## Q: Can you give an update on your availability thus far with neighbors concerned about this proposed development?

A: I have been in regular contact with people on Fruit Cove Road. I was invited into one of their homes to hear their concerns and it was packed with 70-80 people. I answered questions, discussed the process, and listened to concerns for more than two hours one evening. We talked about compatibility and how that is something I'm allowed to consider when an application comes before the board. We also discussed the history and unique nature of the neighborhood.

## Q: Were you aware of the group's planning meeting at Geneva Presbyterian Church?

A: Yes, I attended that meeting at Geneva with about 300 other people.

I listened to the presentation and answered some questions in a one-onone setting as people filed out.

I've received lots of phone calls and emails from concerned residents and I understand the fear of the community about this proposed development.

#### Q: What's the next step?

A: As I understand it, some people have asked RISE and they have not committed to any future meetings at this point. We're just waiting to see what they [RISE] do.

## Q: On another note, are you aware of the proposed rezoning for a rowing club at the base of the Julington Creek Bridge?

A: Yes, I am aware of this and I believe it will come before the Board of County Commissioners before the end of the year. I'm very familiar with the background of the rowing club when they were in Mandarin and I've had meetings with neighbors on Wentworth Avenue and am aware of their concerns.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc1c-whitehurst@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 584-5348.



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

#### Q: Can you share a schedule update from your office?

A: The TRIM period ended on Sept. 13 and now we move on to the next phase of the tax year. For individuals who have filed a petition with the Value Adjustment Board, their hearings will be scheduled over the next three months. Simultaneously, we will submit the tax roll to the county's tax collector for preparation of the tax bills, which will be mailed out the first week of November. Our office will then move forward to the 2023 tax year.

#### Q: What does that entail?

A: We will begin adding any newly constructed homes to the tax roll for next year. New homeowners can get an idea of the value of their newly constructed home by visiting our website, www.sjcpa.us. We start the valuation of existing homes in January.

#### Q: Is there anything homeowners can do now for the next tax year?

A: It's definitely time to start thinking about filing for exemptions — homestead, senior, veterans etc. If you moved into your home in 2022 and qualify for an exemption, you can apply now and we will approve it and then pend it for 2023. This also gives us time to start the process of getting portability from other counties in Florida, if applicable.

#### Q: Do you have anything else to share?

A: County property appraisers are bound by law to appraise property at just market value. We establish this based on sales from the previous year — and values increased pretty dramatically in 2022 for tax purposes. This is a reflection of 2021 sales. Sales for 2022, which will impact 2023 for tax purposes, show that values have already increased by 18 percent. I anticipate it being more than 30 percent again by the end of the year.

This illustrates the importance of filing for homestead exemption promptly if you qualify. If you moved into your home last year, be sure to apply next year and it will become the base year for your cap. (For homeowners that have homestead exemption on their property, as part of Save Our Homes, each year the assessed value of their home can only increase by the lower of 3 percent or the CPI cost of living index.)

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

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



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#### with St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick

#### Q: Do you have any Halloween safety tips?

A: Yes. First, plan a route in advance and only trick or treat at homes or businesses that you are familiar with. It's best to go while it's still light outside, but definitely stay in well-lit areas and with a group. Establish a curfew and stick to it. Be sure to take your cell phone as it can be used not only for communication, but also to provide a flashlight.

Make sure your child's costume, including masks and wigs, are flame resistant. They should also be light in color and reflective so they are clearly visible to motorists. Avoid costumes that are oversized and high-heeled shoes that can cause a child to trip.



Instruct your child not to eat any treats until an adult can examine them.

If you will be out driving on Halloween, take extra time and watch for children darting in and out from between parked cars. Slow down and pay attention. Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys very carefully.

Remember, if you see suspicious activity, call the Sheriff's Office and report it.

#### Q: What is the Sheriff's Office doing for Halloween?

A: We are hosting the only Haunted House in town, called "Sheriff Hardwick's Haunted Jail," on Oct. 21, 22, 28, and 29 from 6 p.m. – 11p.m. at 4015 Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine. There will be food trucks, photo opportunities and more spooky but safe fun! Tickets are available on Eventbrite at: www.eventbrite.com/e/sheriff-hardwicks-haunted-jail-tickets-416867520977

The Haunted Jail was organized and created by Sheriff's Office employees as a 501.3c fundraiser for the SJSO Special Teams Association Inc. Individual and corporate sponsorships and donations are still being accepted.

## 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@sjso.org or call me at (904) 824-8304. Also, our website, www.sjso.org has a wealth of resources, from alarm registration to Crime Stoppers to our Neighbors app.





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#### **Guest Column**

#### **General Election FAQs**

By Vicky Oakes, St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

With a successful 2022 Primary Election officially in the record books, the Supervisor of Elections Office is looking forward to and planning for the November General Election. This is a great time to make sure you are Election Ready and prepared to head to the polls on Nov. 8. It's also a good time for me to answer some frequently asked elections questions:

#### Is it too late to register for the November 8th General Election?

No! The deadline is Oct. 11, 2022, so you still have time to register to vote or update your address.

#### What is the easiest way to register to vote?

The State of Florida offers online voter registration, which can be accessed through our website at www.votesjc. gov. Look for the "Register to Vote" quick link on the front page. You will need a Florida Driver License and the last four digits of your social security number to use online registration.

#### If I don't have a Florida driver license, can I still register to vote?

Yes. Simply make use of the printable voter registration form available on our website. You can fill out, print, sign, and mail it to us. You can also register to vote at any driver license office or one of your local public libraries, which all have Saturday and evening hours.

If you have questions or need an application mailed to you, please call our office at (904) 823-2238. Mailed applications must be postmarked by Oct. 11, 2022, in order to qualify for the November General Election. Applications turned into the Elections Office, driver license offices, or public libraries must also be submitted by the deadline at close of business day.

## If I have moved recently from another county in Florida, do I have to re-register to vote?

No. You will simply need to request an address change with our office.

#### How can I update my address?

Call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238 or use the online form available on our website. You are required to provide your name, address, birthdate, and Florida driver license number or last four digits of your social security number to confirm your identity.

#### Will I receive a new voter card after I register or update my address?

Yes. A new card will be mailed to you that provides your voting districts and Election Day polling location.

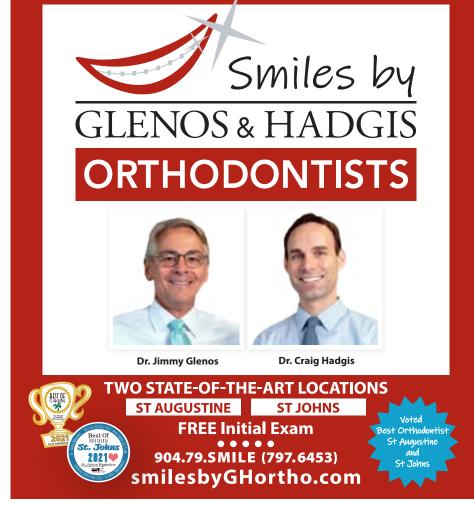
#### Will I receive a sample ballot from the Elections Office?

Yes. Every voter who has not requested a vote-by-mail ballot will receive a sample ballot in the mail. They are scheduled to be mailed in early October; however, they are already available on our website. You can also use "My Voter Status" on the website to look up your voter record and your sample ballot.

#### Is the ballot long this year?

Yes. It's only one page, but there is a long list of candidates that includes federal, state, and local candidates as well as many judges. Additionally, there are three constitutional amendments on the ballot and a local sales tax referendum.

For more information about voting in the upcoming Nov. 8 General Election, please see our ad in this newspaper. You can also visit our website at www. votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238 for assistance. I look forward to seeing you at the polls!



## GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022

#### **OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY**

Due to the 2020 Census and Redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some Election Day polling locations have changed. Visit **VOTESJC.GOV** for more information.



4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine. FL 32095 (904) 823-2238 www.votesjc.gov

We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.

#### REMEMBER, YOU HAVE **3 WAYS TO VOTE!**



#### **VOTE-BY-MAIL**

Visit www.votesic.gov or call (904) 823-2238 by 5 PM on October 29 to request a vote-bymail ballot.



#### **VOTE EARLY**

You can vote in person prior to Election Day by visiting any early voting location from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday. November 5. Early voting locations will be open from 8 AM to 6 PM daily. Locations are listed below.



#### **ELECTION DAY**

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on November 8. Signature and photo ID are required to vote in person. For more information, visit www.votesjc.gov

#### **DEADLINE APPROACHING**

The last day to register to vote in the 2022 General Election is Tuesday, October 11. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 11, 2022, to qualify for the November General Election. Applications turned into the Elections Office, Driver License offices, or public libraries must also be submitted by the deadline at close of business day.

#### MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on your vote-by-mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote-by-mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your vote-by-mail ballot in a Secure Ballot Intake Station at any early voting location during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot must be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office no later than 7 PM on Election Day. If your vote-by-mail ballot is returned late, it will not count.

#### ON OUR WEBSITE www.votesjc.gov

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote-by-mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

#### **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

★ Dates & Times: October 26 - November 5 • 8 AM - 6 PM Daily at all locations Includes two Saturdays and a Sunday

#### **Ponte Vedra Branch Library**

101 Library Blvd Ponte Vedra Beach

#### **Ponte Vedra Concert Hall**

1050 A1A North Ponte Vedra Beach

#### **Julington Creek Annex**

(St. Johns County Service Center) 725 Flora Branch Blvd St. Johns

#### SilverLeaf Amenity Center

218 Silver Forest Dr St. Augustine

#### Supervisor of Elections Office 4455 Avenue A, #101

St. Augustine

St. Augustine Beach City Hall 2200 A1A South

**Branch Library** 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine St. Augustine

**Southeast** 

#### Hastings **Branch Library** 6195 S. Main St

Hastings

#### **ELECTION DAY**

- ★ Tuesday, November 8, 2022
- **★** Polls are open 7 AM 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day, you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence

#### **KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO**

To locate your polling place visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at 904-823-2238.







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#### County commissioners propose creation of Sales Tax Advisory Committee if voters approve referendum

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

During the regular commission meeting on Sept. 20, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners directed county staff to provide the board with recommendations for the potential creation of a Sales Tax Advisory Committee. Staff will provide the Board of County Commissioners with a schedule and appointment process for the citizenled committee.

The committee will only be established if St. Johns County voters approve the one-penny sales tax referendum on Nov.

"It's an opportunity for all the citizens to weigh in through the advisory committee if the referendum passes," said Chairman Henry Dean, Commissioner of District 5. "It's important to hear the community's feedback on how they would like to spend the funds."

On Feb.15, 2022, the board directed the County Attorney to prepare a proposed one percent local government infrastructure surtax ordinance for a first reading on March 1, 2022, and second reading for adoption on March

15, 2022. During the March 15 regular commission meeting, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted 4 to 1 to send to referendum a proposed one-penny sales tax ordinance for voter approval.

"It's always important to gather community input, especially on an item as important as this. We want to ensure that if this passes in November, every community in St. Johns County sees the benefit and the advisory committee will help us do that," said Vice-chairman Christian Whitehurst, Commissioner of District 1.

Should more than 50 percent of voters approve the proposed ordinance, the sales tax increase will begin for ten years on Jan. 1, 2023. The proposed increase would take St. Johns County's sales tax from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent of the sale of goods and services. For taxable personal property, the additional onepenny sales tax would only be collected on the first \$5,000. The additional sales tax would not apply to certain groceries, prescription drugs, medical products and supplies, or other goods and services exempt from taxation.

#### **New Memory Care Center opens**



Westminster Woods on Julington Creek hosted a grand opening for its brand new Memory Care Center on Aug. 30, featuring a blessing of the building and ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Residents' Association President Dr. Joan Hodges said, "This building with all that it holds, carries the visions, hopes and dreams of those who have gone before us, those who will currently live here and those who will come here far into the future." Following the speeches and ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were invited to tour the brand new, state-of-the-art neighborhood and residences.



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Worship 9:30 & 11am Connect Groups 9:30 & 11am







## Business Monthly

#### **Business Briefs**

#### New glaucoma specialist joins practice

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons recently welcomed glaucoma specialist, Yasmin Islam, M.D. to its practice. Dr. Islam received her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass., and her ophthalmology residency at the University of Florida. She furthered her training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens completing her glaucoma fellowship.

Dr. David Hayes, ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons said, "We are very fortunate to have Dr. Islam join our team. As a fellowship-trained glaucoma surgeon, her knowledge and expertise in glaucoma will be invaluable. We have a significant population of glaucoma patients and with the addition of Dr. Islam, we have now expanded our resources to care for them. She's a welcome addition and we're excited about her contribution to the future of Clay Eye."

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons offers comprehensive eye care in the following specialties: glaucoma surgery, cornea surgery, diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration, laser cataract surgery, laser floater lysis, medical retina, retinal surgery, LASIK surgery, cosmetic eye procedures, pediatric ophthalmology, and pediatric eye exams. In addition, they offer routine eye exams, contact lenses, and boutique eyewear for the entire family. Visit www.clayeye.com for more information.



Yasmin Islam, M.D.

#### New family medicine physician in **Julington Creek**

Heather Clair, M.D., a board-certified family medicine physician, has joined Flagler Health+'s network of Primary Care providers. Dr. Clair is now scheduling appointments for new patients at the Flagler Health+ Primary Care office at Julington Creek, located at 2570 Race Track Road, Suite A in St. Johns. Providing versatile care for patients from newborn to geriatric, Dr. Clair joins Flagler Health+ and is practicing alongside Tristan Imhoff, MD, at the Julington Creek office that opened in early 2022.

"Dr. Clair brings a wide range of experience and education to Flagler Health+ as we grow our primary care practices throughout the community," said Dr. David Rice, Chief Physician Executive. "Her addition to the team at Flagler Health+ Primary Care at Julington Creek will help to better serve our neighbors in northern St. Johns County."

Dr. Clair received her doctorate degree in medicine from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular genetics from the University of Louisville. She completed her residency at the Orange Park Medical Center Family Medicine Residency in Orange

Visit flaglerhealth.org/julingtoncreek for more information.



Dr. Heather Clair

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Heather Clair, MD
Family Medicine



Tristan Imhof, MD
Family Medicine



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Mark Michaels, MD
Family Medicine

To learn more about becoming a new patient, visit FlaglerHealth.org/JulingtonCreek or FlaglerHealth.org/Greenbriar



#### **Briefs**

#### Mentors needed for St. Johns County schools

The St. Johns County School District is looking for volunteers who have a bit of time, a listening ear, and an encouraging word to help a student become successful in school and in life. Research shows that students who consistently meet with mentors have increased attendance, decreased disruptive behavior, and/or increased academic achievement. Mentors assist in a school setting and meet with a student approximately once per week.

Orientation for those interested in mentoring will take place on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Fullerwood Center Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive, in St Augustine. Contact (904) 547-3952 or email Cheryl\_Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you are interested in taking part.

#### Golf cart giveaway raises funds to support Bartram Trail Athletics

Bartram Bears Athletic Booster Club is raising funds by offering a drawing for a street legal 2018 EZGO TXT (blue and black) with a Bluetooth speaker and brand new batteries. The cost is \$25 per ticket and the drawing will be held at the annual Bartram Boogie fundraiser (March 2023). You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds will benefit Bartram Trail Athletics.

Bartram Bears Athletic Booster Club is a nonprofit organization comprised of an all-volunteer board that raises money to assist the athletic department to help fund all of Bartram Trail's sports programs. The funds raised are used for everything from uniforms and sports equipment to bus transportation costs for away games and playoffs, and facility maintenance and upgrades. Over the years, the group has helped provide a lighted message board for the school, stadium scoreboard and video board, sound system, a new gymnasium floor, a new Toro mower, and countless other items.

Visit www.bartramathleticboosters.com for more information.

#### Nease High School athletes to benefit from scholarships

Nease High School alumnus, Class of 1986 and pro golfer, Len Mattiace, will be funding a \$3,000 sponsorship/scholarship for students attending the school. Annually, \$1,000 will be designated to go to a male and female athlete in addition to a \$1,000 going to the Golden Panther Booster Club.

Sponsorships along with student athlete scholarships are vital to the funding of high school sports and the future of athletes. St. Johns County does not allocate funds towards the district high school athletic program. It is up to the individual sports teams to fund raise in order to cover their specific needs. With the growing costs associated with providing athletes an elite environment, the teams fall short and sponsorship funds fill the gap.

Each sports program at Nease High School is part of the more broad Golden Panther Booster Club which has 501 C3 status so donations are also tax deductible.

#### 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. 11 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. Bingo will be played and prizes will be awarded. Attendees are encouraged to wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

The cost of the luncheon is \$32; make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Deborah Russell, 12376 Fireberry Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32258 no later than Oct. 4, 2022, no exceptions. Be sure to indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line. (Visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for food choices and updated information.)

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups, including Bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Chicken Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg, golf, recipe exchange, monthly special events, book club, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and community projects. Email Linda Beard at bartramtnc@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.facebook. com/BTNC1 to see pictures of the meetings and download a membership form.

#### Newcomers of North St. Johns welcomes Council on Aging director to October luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will hold its next luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro, 10110 San Jose Blvd. in Mandarin. The event will feature a presentation by Executive Director Becky Yanni and Director of Development Tom Torretta from The Council on Aging St. Johns County about the many services and events the COA provides.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$35 for members and \$40 for guests. All reservations must be received by Oct. 7. Visit https://newcomersofnorthstjohns.org for more information.

The Newcomers of North St. Johns offers a variety of activities for St. Johns County residents to get acquainted and have fun, including smaller lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips and cultural events.

#### Local family delivers food to more than 150 homes in St. Johns County

One year ago, a local couple, Debra and Bill Logeson, began volunteering for Care Connect+, a program of Flagler Health+, and in that time, they have delivered food to more than 150 homes. This milestone was recently celebrated with gas cards given to the Logeson family, donated by Jimmy Jam Community Outreach. With St. Johns county continuing to grow and the need for

food increasing, Care Connect+ is looking for more food delivery drivers to join the Logeson family in their efforts.

"Through this food delivery service, I have learned so much about the community. With St. Johns County being the fastest growing county in Florida and all the tourists that come to the area, it's hard to realize families are struggling," said Bill Logeson. "You can throw a rock from any building in the area and hit a community that needs help."

Care Connect+ started the food delivery program in early 2020 when they recognized the increased community need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through volunteer drivers, like the Logeson family, and Epic-Cure, a group of volunteers dedicated to eliminating food waste and ending hunger, Care Connect+ was able to start screening individuals for their needs and determine if they were eligible to be put on a list for food delivery. The program has since continued to grow, meaning more delivery drivers are needed.

The food delivery schedule is released every Monday, and then the food delivery is every Thursday. Volunteers will receive the list of addresses that morning, stop by Epic-Cure to pick up the bags of food, then deliver them to each home.

Visit CareConnectVolunteers.com or

Briefs cont. on pg. 12



**LET'S RE-ELECT** 

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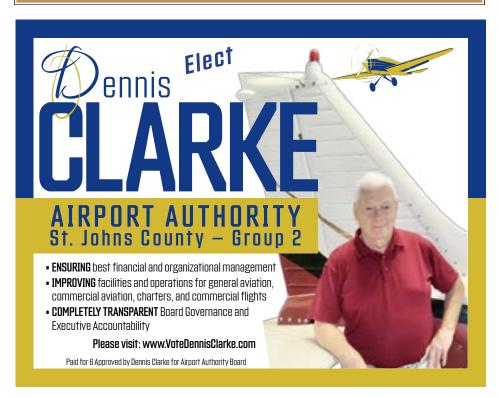
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**Briefs** cont. from pg. 11



Debra and Bill Logeson

email Jennifer.Wills@FlaglerHealth.org to learn more about becoming a food delivery driver for Care Connect+.

#### **United Way of St. Johns County** announces new president

Mark D. LeMaire has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of St. Johns County, serving St. Johns and Putnam counties.

"I am pleased to announce the selection of Mark LeMaire as United Way-SJC CEO," said Board Chair Joe Pickens. "Mark's extensive nonprofit experience combined with his familiarity with both St. Johns and Putnam counties make him the ideal person to lead our organization. When you have a perfect fit, you don't just think it, you feel it too. That was the unanimous sentiment of the search committee."

Among many other achievements, while serving at United Way, LeMaire led the organization's planned giving effort, secured new planned giving commitments, stewarded the organization's annual community investments and volunteer center, built a neighborhood focused funding initiative, oversaw \$6M annual budget and developed and implemented an online grant application process.

LeMaire has a M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of South Florida, a B.A. degree from Southeastern University and over 20 years of nonprofit experience. He is a licensed foster parent for

the State of Florida and a 2020 graduate of Leadership St. Johns.

LeMaire will replace former United Way-St. Johns County President/CEO, Melissa Nelson, who assumed the role of President/CEO for United Way of Florida in June 2022. Lemaire will join the organization on Oct. 3, 2022. A transition team has been put in place as well to ensure a smooth transition.

#### **Volunteers sought to help local** taxpavers

AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation's largest volunteerbased tax preparation service. Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers either in person or virtually, with a number of roles available.

In addition to tax preparers, whom the program will train, Tax-Aide needs people who can provide technical and communications assistance, interpreters, and program leaders. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome.

Tax-Aide offers free in-person and online tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate income. Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers overpay their taxes or turn to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they've earned because they are unable to pay for assistance. Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968 and has served over 68 million taxpayers since its inception. The program has volunteers in every state who typically number more than 30,000.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

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Get to Know...

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

## Natatie Edmondson

Natalie Edmondson is a 1997 graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, so when she heard the news of the killing of 17 students and teachers four years ago, she was affected in a personal way. The tragedy prompted her to want to take action, and when her efforts to help her local community in Iowa were met with indifference, she said she turned inward, faced her own mortality, and realized her health was of utmost importance so that she could continue her efforts to try to make a difference. "I found healing through fitness," she said. She made lifestyle changes, took up running, and lost 130 pounds. Continuing her journey, she plans to run the New York City Marathon in November as a member of the Sandy Hook Promise marathon team. Now living in NW St. Johns County, she is holding shoe drives, "Shoes for Sandy Hook," to raise the funds she needs to participate in the marathon. Community members can support her efforts by dropping off donations of gently worn, used, and new shoes at the bright yellow box inside RiverTown's Riverhouse, 140 Landing Street in St. Johns, before Oct. 15. She lives with her husband Kevin and three children who attend

#### Get to Know . . .

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



Q: How did you begin your healing through fitness?

A: I had always enjoyed sports growing up and had run two half marathons. Then, after the tragedy at my alma mater, I felt isolated and ineffective living in Iowa. I became inspired to improve my health. I called the University of Iowa's bariatric program, which was a lifestyle changing six month program. I eventually lost 130 pounds and now am in the best shape

of my life. I found joy in trying new things — road cycling, duathlons, and then thought what's next? I decided to run a marathon, but only to benefit a charity that I'm passionate about.

#### Q: How did you decide to benefit Sandy Hook Promise?

A: Every Christmas, my husband makes a donation in my name to an anti-gun violence charity. I came across Sandy Hook Promise and immediately knew their beliefs aligned

with mine. Formed by some of the parents who lost children in the Sandy Hook Elementary shootings, they envision a future where children are free from shootings and acts of violence in their schools, homes, and communities. They offer programming for kindergarten through 12th grade, including peer-led Promise Clubs, teach how to identify at-risk behav-

iors, and maintain hotlines that have already averted 14 school shootings and averted more than 1,000 suicides.

My mission is to continue on with them after the marathon in a volunteer capacity to try to bring their programming to our local schools.

#### Q: How does the Shoes for Sandy Hook fundraiser work?

A: My goal is to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes and I am well on my way. The amount of money raised is determined by the total weight of the shoes collected. All donated shoes will be redistributed to microenterprise partners through Funds2Org and will be used in developing nations for impoverished people to start their own business. These people are taught how to run a business and sell shoes and allows them to provide for their families. It also keeps shoes out of landfills. It basically allows donated shoes a second chance to make a difference. With the money raised, I'll be able to donate to Sandy Hook Promise and run in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6.

#### Q: How are you training for the marathon?

A: I've been running around 20 miles per week and will build up to 40 miles per week as the marathon gets closer. I'm also doing a lot of cross training.



#### **Beth Tate is Board Ready! Airport Authority Board**

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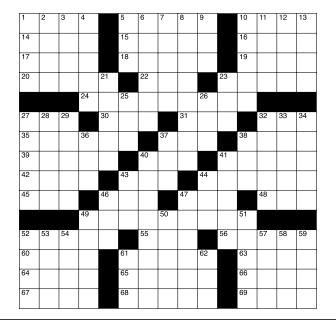
#### Chris George

Candidate for St. Johns County Commissioner Seat 4

904-495-3045 ChrisGeorge32081@gmail.com Vote4Chrisgeorge.com or facebook.com/ChrisGeorge32081



Answers on page 3 Provided by MetroCreative



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Bay Area humorist
- Hurt
   Icelandic poems

- 14. A taro corm
  15. Metaphorical use of a word
  16. It fears the hammer
  17. Excessively quaint (British)
  18. Laid-back California county
- 19. Cook in a microwave oven 20. Not late
- 22. Go from one place to another
- 23. Peoples living in the Congo24. Popular pasta27. Available engine power (abbr.)30. Popular musician Charles

- 31. Angry
  32. Spelling is one type
  35. One who makes a living
- Indicates location
- 38. Imperial Chinese dynasty 39. Small water buffaloes 40. Hungarian city

- 41. Fabric
  42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
  43. Precursor to the EU
  44. Philly footballers
  45. Female sibling
  46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
  47. Magnetic these of high english

- 46. "When Harry Met Sally acuess
  47. Magnetic tape of high quality
  48. Insecticide
  49 Apparatus to record and transmit
  52. Some is considered "dog"

- 52. Some is considered "d 55. Israeli city \_\_Aviv 56. Fencing sword 60. Ottoman military title 61. Wise people
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Popular type of shoe 65. Administrative district
- 66. A way to reveal 67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
- 68. Actress Zellweger 69. Romanian city

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Small town in Portugal
- Site of famed Ethiopian battle German river 4. Christmas carols
- 5. Cash machine
- 7. Rumanian round dance 8. Widespread occurrence of disease
- 9. A place to relax 10. Feeling of listlessness 11. Coat or smear a substance 12. Wild mango

- 13. Brews
- 21. Belgian city23. Confined condition (abbr.)25. Swiss river
- 26. Small amount
- 27. Part of buildings 28. Vietnamese capital
- 29. Sailboats32. Shelter

- 34. Discharge
- 36. Snag
  37. Partner to cheese
- 38. A container for coffee
- 40. Spend time dully 41. Satisfies 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume
- . Type of student . Erase
- 46. Type of 47. Erase 49. Instruct

- 50. Girl's given name
  51. Jewish spiritual leader
  52. "To his own"
  53. North-central Indian city

- 54. Greek alphabet characters
- 57. Weapon 58. Amounts of time 59. American Nobel physicist vital
- to MRIs
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic62. Witness

C В В В D Ρ G C D C X В Ε W V Ε S S ۷ R W Ε D В 0 C Ε Ε Н Н Ρ K В G X 0 Т М C X 0 Ι G W U Α 0 S D R U 0 Н K S 0 Т 0 0 Ι G W 0 В Α N В Ε D K Α Α L Т Ε Ε N G Т 0 V D F 0 L K G N Т C В R 0 W Ε Т S K ٧ Ε Ε Ε G Ε F Т D Ε C Α C R Ε Ε S S М Н Ι 0 N L Ε В Н Ε В S Ι T D Т N U S U Ι М U X ٧ Χ Ι S Χ Ι Т G G Ε K Ι Α ٧ М Ε Ι ٧ ٧ 0 S Т X S Ε W L Α Ε L В Α R D Ε Н В Ρ R Α Ν В S R T C G C U C S Р R R Ρ N В Ι D L Т 0 Ε 0 Ρ K Ε Ρ W Т K U Ρ A Т R S Ρ Ρ Ι Н Ι Χ F R Ι н Ε М Ι Ε N C U L L S Т Т S R Т D D Ε G D C F В 0 Ι Ι F U G М S C R R F N C 0 0 Κ Ι Ε S N Κ Α W C Α Κ Ε N N S Н F W L Н Ι Ρ K G C K S Ρ 0 Т S Ε Τ Т N

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

#### **WORDS**

BAKING **BROWN BUTTER** CAKE CONFECTION COOKIES DESSERT EGGS **ICING INGREDIENTS** LEAVENER MIXER OIL OVEN RISE SHEET SIFTED STIR **SUGAR SWEET TASTE** 

**TEMPERATURE** 

WHTP

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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to baking and decorating Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = E)

16 6 21 Α.

Clue: Confection

В. 24 22 12 10 21 12

Clue: Sugary cake topping

C. 18 24

D.

Clue: Separate flour

9 6 21 3 Clue: Make something

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**PXG Women's Match** cont. from pg. 1

she transferred to Jacksonville University to play her two final years under Coach Kathryn Dougan.

Last year, Brimhall, 23, interned as a sponsorship coordinator and general tournament support staff member for the very first PXG Women's Match Play Championship at World Golf Village. She is ready to do it again next month as the tournament returns to St. Johns County for its second year.

Brimhall now works as a brand consultant for CAA Sports in the golf department, helping clients activate and endorse their brand through relationships with the PGA TOUR and other affiliated golf brands. She credits PXG with helping her to be a professional in the golf business.

"I can't say enough about how this tournament/tour has impacted me. Watching this tour grow from the ground up has shown me that any dream is possible. It has also shown me that people do care about women's sports," said Brimhall. "We have a long way to go, but I know that more initiatives are taking place to provide women/girls more playing opportunities in all sports."

Last year, Mark 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, a back-to-back tournament series, will take place Nov. 1 through Nov. 6 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.

The event features 84 of the world's best non-LPGA players starting in a two-stroke play qualifier from which 64 will advance to the Pod Play Battle Rounds. The winners of each Pod will advance to Sweet 16 of the traditional Match Play Knockout Rounds.

The "Generation W Links to Leadership Summit" will take place on the day off between stroke play and the Battle Rounds. Generation W is a non-profit located in Jacksonville Beach that is dedicated to lifting up women through leadership development, connection, inspiration and education. The summit is being presented by Baptist Health and Circle K. Investing in Kids (INK!), which raises money for underserved public schools in St. Johns County, is the tournament benefactor and the official charity partner. Last year, INK! raised more than \$50,000 through the Pro-Am, its biggest single-day fundraiser.

This year's Pro-Am will be held at the World Golf Village Slammer & Squire course on Monday, Oct. 31. The event is sponsored by Founding Partners Murgado Automotive Bentley & Maserati of Jacksonville, SQAIRZ Golf, Access Golf and Baptist Health.

For Berman, this event 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," he said.

Pro golfer Sofia Garcia, 24, said she enjoyed her time at PXG last year. She was paired with Dr. Scott Fechter in the INK! Charity Pro Am, and the two struck up a professional relationship with Fechter's practice, Pain Relief Center, becoming Garcia's lead sponsor.

"It was just an overall good experience," said Garcia, who is actively pursuing her dream to be in the LPGA Tour. "It was about more than just golf."

Garcia, who is from Paraguay and played golf at Texas Tech, said she especially enjoyed the Generation W Leadership Summit and the opportunity to find support and fellowship.

"Golf has shaped me as a person and has shaped my life. I have so many great memories on the golf course and off," said Garcia, who began playing golf when she was eight years old. "We judge ourselves based on our performances, but we are more than that."

For more information about tickets, the INK! Charity Pro Am and the Spooktacular Junior Clinic, visit www. PXGWMPC.com. Follow Garcia's US Women's Open Journey at www.USGA. org.

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## Slammers advance to 10U Cal Ripken World Series

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

The 10U Julington Creek Diamond King Elite baseball team, better known as the Slammers, ended their fairytale season by advancing all the way to the big game on Aug. 13, 2022. The 10U Cal Ripken World Series, held in Vincennes, Indiana this year, proved to be an elite tournament with 20 teams from across the United States.

This group of boys has been competing together less than a year (since November 2021) and have a record of 87 wins and only 17 losses, competing against teams in tournaments across Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. The team won the USSSA State Championship, Perfect Game North Florida Kick Off and Play Like Rex and Brody. They finished No. 1 in USSSA Florida 10u Power rankings among all travel teams.

Then the summer whirlwind started. In June, the Slammers won their district tournament against local rival, The Villages, 11 - 0. The next day they traveled to Tennessee for a week to compete in the Cal Ripken Experience Eight-State Tournament, where they went 7 - 1 only to lose to a Miami travel team in the championship game, 7 - 2. Next up was the Florida State Championship tournament in July, where they battled it out with all the District winners from North Florida and came out undefeated against Fort Caroline, 3 - 2. Next they were off to the Southeast Regional tournament, hosted by Jax Beach Baseball, where the Slammers were back in the champion-

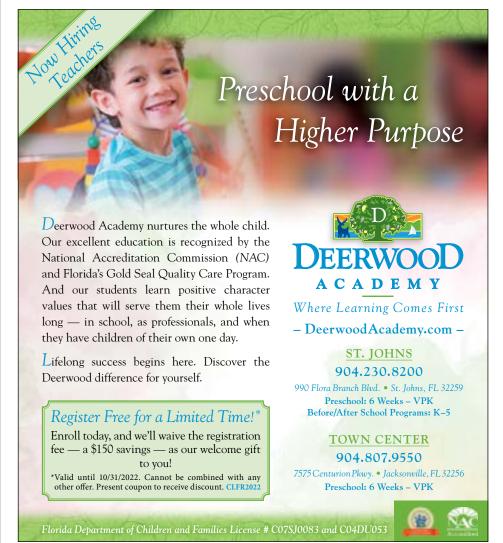
ship game against another local rival and the hosting team, Jax Beach. Both teams fought until the very end, but The Slammers won the Cal Ripken Southeast Regional Tournament by a score of 4 - 2. Bear Bell, Brantlee Mullins, Brock Butrimas, Chase Ramsey, James Lesak, Johnny Degrado, Johnny Mizell, Mark Thompson, Parker Karvonen, Pete Dempsey, Tyson Jordan and Will Campbell now earned a spot in the 10U Cal Ripken World Series in Vincennes, Indiana, which started in less than two weeks. In 10 days the team set out to raise more than \$15,000 to help pay for the trip with the help of Channel 4, Publix, Allstate, and Extreme Wings.

The Vincennes community welcomed 20 teams from across the country for 10 days of baseball. The Slammers squared off against teams from Kentucky, New Jersey, Alabama and Washington. They were able to advance to the single elimination championship bracket on the last day of qualifiers and then went on a hot streak and won their next three games in dominating fashion. Then the Slammers played their hearts out against Marlton, NJ in the big game — but in the end, the Slammers lost 4-3 and finished as 10u World Series Runner up.

"Regardless of the final score, these boys bonded, worked together, overcame obstacles, lifted each other up and made memories that will be sure to last a lifetime — until the 11u World Series in Jensen Beach," said Chris Thompson, team manager and coach.



The Slammers at the 10U Cal Ripken World Series.



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#### **Jimmy's Fishing Report**

By Jimmy Tomazinis mail@floridanewsline.com

I hope everyone had a great September. Good numbers of shrimp showed up in our area of the river and with a little work some freezer stocking was possible. Fingers crossed that they stick around a little while longer. The mullet run started in earnest earlier in the month and for a few days it seemed there was a constant stream of mullet from Fernandina to St. Augustine. If you were lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, there was some great fishing to be had and quite a show if nothing else. Let's hope they stay around too.

I got to talking about transitions in last month's report. September is typically the beginning of our fall transitional fishing period, but by October it's in full swing. Water temperatures begin to creep down, warm water fish head south, and our local temperate water species really start fattening up in one of the last bountiful months of the year. Take advantage of that.

Hit the surf to target pompano, whiting, and just about anything else as the water temperatures get in the 70s. Keep in mind that if you're specifically after pompano, it will be worth your time to look

for favorable conditions — good water clarity being the most important. Clams, sand fleas, and the freshest shrimp you can get are my baits of choice. Get live shrimp at the bait shop and throw them in your cooler. Keep them out of your ice though.

Close to home, the river will continue to reward those using shrimp. Stripers will fire off with the cooler water and have a lot more energy to pull against. Fishing local shell beds can produce hefty croakers and yellowmouth trout. Drop a piece of crab in some of the same areas for redfish. Flounder will be on docks and drop offs. Target them with shrimp tipped jigs or finger mullet if you want to use live bait. Gulp can produce just as well sometimes. Work areas slowly and methodically. They are ambush predators, so present them with an opportunity. Remember flounder regulations recently changed, so familiarize yourself with those if you're wanting to

If I could pick just one month to fish in our area it would be a toss up between September and October, so take that for what it's worth. Go get 'em.

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#### Visits to Literary Landmarks

By Debi Lander mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Key West: Hemingway Office.

Avid readers often become curious about their favorite authors and may enjoy a visit to the author's home or sites from a novel. Here are a few worth considering.

#### Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum in Key West

Legendary writer Ernest Hemingway lived an adventurous life in Florida and Cuba during 1931 – 1939. Visit his restored Spanish Colonial-style house in Key West, including his writing studio and swimming pool — the first in-ground pool in the Keys. Guided tours inform visitors about Hemingway's writing and lifestyle, his six-toed cats, and the pet cemetery. Add a visit to Sloppy Joe's Bar in downtown Key West, a favorite of Hemingway and as colorful as the author.

#### Savannah: Flannery O'Connor's Childhood Home and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

Flannery O' Connor grew up in her family home near St. John the Baptist Cathedral in historic Savannah. Each room of her former house has been restored to the Depression era, presenting insights into the childhood of one of America's greatest short story writers. She later moved to Andalusia, a family farm near Eatonton, Georgia, when diagnosed with Lupus. You can tour this farmhouse, where she lived until she died in 1964.

In Savannah, fans of John Berendt's bestseller "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" relish seeing the sites from the non-fiction story of a mysterious murder and trial. The sultry city becomes as much a character in his tale as the other memorable personalities. Don't miss touring the Mercer Williams House, filled with notable antiques, and walking among the Spanish moss-laden live oaks and funeral statuary in Bonaventure Cemetery.

#### Carl Sandburg's Home: Connemara Farms in Flat Rock, NC

Carl Sandburg, known as the "Poet of the People," lived from 1878 – 1967. Sandberg authored a variety of books, including a biography of Lincoln, children's books, and poetry. He won three Pulitzer Prizes. His country house sits on 270 acres in western North Carolina, now a National Historic Site. You must hike to the hilltop house, but it's a fascinating place that feels like he and his wife lived there yesterday. His office overflows with paperwork, books, artwork, and personal artifacts. The upstairs bedrooms and displayed clothing take you back to the 1950s. Sandburg's wife raised prize-winning goats, and visitors, especially children, adore seeing the descendants of her dairy goat herd near the barn.

#### William Faulkner's Home: Rowan Oak in Mississippi

William Faulkner, a proliferate author, and Nobel Prize winner, hailed from Oxford, Mississippi. His beloved home, Rowan Oak, offers visitors a peek into his private life. The large columned Greek Revival house rests at the end of a tree-lined path. One wall in his office includes a penciled outline of a novel, like a storyboard, and his typewriter. You can follow Oxford's Faulkner Trail to visit other sites in the city dubbed "the Cultural Mecca of the South."

#### **Zora Neale Hurston's Home in Florida**

Fort Pierce, Florida, near Port St. Lucie on the eastern coast, showcases the two-bedroom house of Zora Neale Hurston, playwright, and anthropologist best known for her novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Follow the Dust Tracks Heritage Trail to learn more about this African American storyteller and her achievements.

Other literary landmarks in the South include the Marjorie K. Rawlings homestead nestled amongst citrus groves in Cross Creek State Park, Florida. The Thomas Wolfe Home and Visitor Center is in Asheville, NC, and Margaret Mitchell's house, author of "Gone with the Wind," is in Atlanta. My list could go on, but I'd love to hear of readers' visits to literary attractions.

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

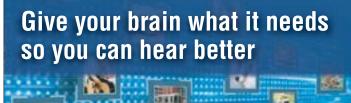
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