



Finding the right doctor just got easier.



Nina McIntosh, PA-C, Sarah Hagerbrant, DO, Jaime Kibler, DO, Donald J. Levine, MD, Katherine Wilson, PA-C, and Vanessa Berrios, PA-C, are dedicated to your family's health through every stage of life. They offer you and your family a medical home, where you can enjoy an ongoing relationship with your personal physician. Convenient. Caring. Connected. That's changing health care for good.

Areas of expertise include:

- Sports/school physicals
- Immunizations
- Well child visits
- Preventive/GYN exams
- Disease management

- Minor skin lesion and mole removal
- Osteopathic treatment
- On-site lab

Now accepting new patients. Same day appointments available.

WE'VE MOVED!

Baptist Primary Care Julington Creek
30 Ardisia Lane • St. Johns, FL 32259
904.287.2794
baptistprimarycare.net



© Baptist Health 2022

Guest Column

Potential passive park land for Fruit Cove

By Al Abbatiello, Chairman, William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Management Group

Several years ago, a Daily's gas station was being planned on the site of the former nursery on State Road 13 directly in front of the Fruit Cove Estates neighborhood. Thankfully, because of the probable negative effects of gas spillage affecting well water, the St. Johns River, and the health of Fruit Cove Estates residents, our County Commission denied the planned gas station. The 7.7 acres of land still stands vacant.


Recently, the St. Johns County Land Acquisition and Management Program (LAMP) Conservation Board identified part of that vacant land as potential open space to be used for passive recreation in Fruit Cove. The smaller of the two parcels (north of Otoe's Place) is apparently available to be sold, but the larger, southern parcel is not for sale since the owner has no interest in selling the land at this time.

The smaller of the two parcels is number five on a list of five parcels the LAMP board suggested for the county to consider acquiring for open space and passive recreation. County commissioners have asked staff to start some talks with the owner about possible acquisition. The William Bartram Scenic Highway Organization will continue following this passive park potential for the Fruit Cove area.

It's possible the landowner is still planning a neighborhood commercial center on the larger parcel; however, there has been no recent activity suggesting development is pending. In the interests of keeping the William Bartram Scenic Highway scenic and historic, we will attempt to learn the intentions of the property owner, First Coast Energy, for the larger parcel of vacant land.

Advertise in the next issue Call or email today!

Linda Gay
(904) 607-5062
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com







We're here to help!

WE LIST YOUR HOME FOR 4% TOTAL COMMISSION AND WE LOWER THE COMMISSION TO 3% IF WE BRING THE BUYER!



Your Favorite Mother/Daughter Team!

Tari Taylor + Kari Francom

BROKER ASSOCIATE, REALTOR®
(904) 449-1855
TARITAYLOR@PHRFL.NET

REALTOR®
(904) 347-1560
KARIFRANCOM@PHRFL.NET

PREMIERHOMESREALTY.NET

MIKE & TARI TAYLOR HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED IN FORBES MAGAZINE AND FORTUNE MAGAZINE REAL ESTATE MARKET LEADERS \$194M TOTAL SALES.

* This advertisement is not intended as a solicitation to list your home if it is currently listed with another Realtor.

450 State Road 13 North
Suite 106 PMB 101
St. Johns, FL 32259
(904) 886-4919
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

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

The CreekLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32259 and selected routes in 32092 and 32095. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication October be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2023.



BFF

Best Furry Friend
of the month

Meet Jax!



Breed:

Yorkie

Favorite Activity:

Skateboarding around the pond with his sister or catching lizards

Favorite Treat:

Pupperoni (if you ask him, lizards!)

Favorite Friend:

His sister Laney, another yorkie

How did your BFF get their name:

After the city Jacksonville that we moved to from Virginia – that eventually introduced us to St. Johns.

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@floridanewslines.com to enter your pet.



When you advertise, you encourage repeat business, create traffic, and attract new customers!

Don't miss our June issue!
Deadline 5/19/23

Call Linda Gay today to reserve your space!
904.607.5062

Summer Camp
and Activities
Guide
in this issue!
Pages 10 - 12

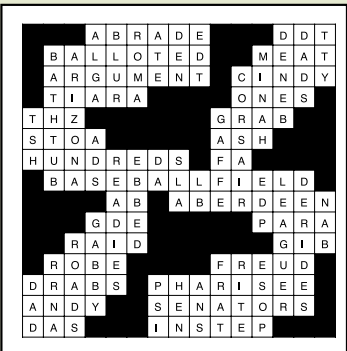
Table of Contents

- 4 What's Happening in St. Johns
- 7 Q&A with Sheriff Rob Hardwick
- 8 Briefs
- 9 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 18 Jimmy's Fishing Report
- 19 Gardening
- 20 Travel

MYSTERY PHOTO



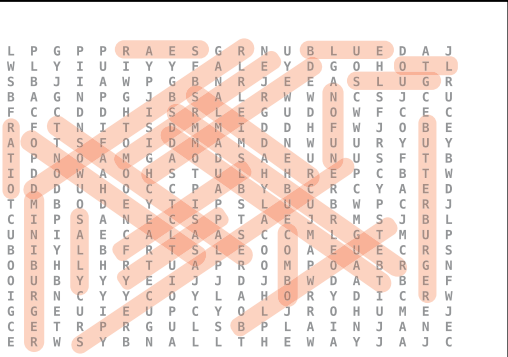
Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@floridanewslines.com
Last month's Mystery Photo was the Field of Dreams playground.



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 14



A. toppings B. grill C. fat D. buns



Our team at Nemetz Dental Associates is ready to help you with all of your dental needs and we look forward to providing you with personalized service and unparalleled treatment.



Nemetz Dental Associates
SPECIALTY DENTAL CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
Pediatric • Restorative • Adult Dentistry • Periodontics • Prosthodontics

Your New Smile Awaits!

Mandarin South Business Center 12421 San Jose Blvd.
Suite 310/320 • Jacksonville, FL 32223

Pediatric Dentistry: (904) 292-2210

Adult Dentistry: (904) 886-4867

Marinela M. Nemetz, D.D.S.

Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Robert J. Nemetz, D.D.S., M.S.

Adult Dentistry | Periodontics | Prosthodontics

We offer

Pediatric Dentistry

Family Dentistry

Periodontics/ Prosthodontics



We Welcome New Patients



www.nemetzdental.com

May

Community Calendar

What's Happening in St. Johns

Trout Creek Senior Center offers 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 11:30 a.m. each day. Contact Program Coordinator Myra Fisher at (904) 209-3658 or mfisher@coasjc.org 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 Maple Street Biscuit Company, 1627 Race Track Road in St. Johns. Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie2022@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.

2nd: Happy Hookers crochet group will meet at the Bartram Trail Branch Library on May 2 and May 16 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. The group crochets or knits blankets for cancer patients at area hospitals. All skill levels are welcome. Visit www.sjcpls.org or call (904) 827-6960.

2nd: Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church in the Loft on the County Dock Road side of the church at 2501 Loretto Road. This meeting will feature the traditional "Ugly" Auction of member-provided sewing related items (not magazines). Bring a checkbook for your new treasures. Wearing masks is optional. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

8th: The St. Johns County Civic Roundtable will meet on Monday, May 8 at 12 p.m. at St. Augustine Waterworks building, 184 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. The featured speaker will be St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick. Email info@sjcroundtable.org to register for the meeting or visit www.sjcroundtable.org for more information.

8th: The Northwest St. Johns County United for Progress Club will meet on Monday, May 8 to celebrate its sixth birthday with a picnic and social at 6 p.m. To attend, visit www.nwstjohnsup.com or email nwsjcp@gmail.com for more information.

9th: Adult Book Club at the Bartram Trail Branch Library will discuss "Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid on Tuesday, May 9 at 5 p.m. Register at www.sjcpls.org or call the library at (904) 824-6960.

9th: Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will hold its meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, May 9 at 11 a.m. at the Serenata Beach Club, 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. At this meeting, outgoing board members will be thanked and incoming board members will be welcomed. The cost of the luncheon is \$32. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail as soon as possible to Donna Holland, 512 Candyroot Ct., St. Johns, FL 32259. Be sure to indicate entrée choice on the check memo line. Visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for food choices and updated information.

10th - 13th: Friends of the Bartram Trail Library Book Sale will be held May 10 – 13 at the Bartram Trail Branch Library during regular library hours. Friends members get early access on Tuesday, May 9 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Friends

can also fill a provided bag on Saturday, May 13 for the Member Only Price of \$5. Non-members can shop at regular donation pricing; suggested donations are \$1 per item.

11th: Mother's Day Gala will be held on May 11 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Modern Aesthetic Centers, 2050 St. Johns Pkwy., Suite 106. The event will feature food, wine and champagne, local vendors, swag bags, and live demos as well as promotional specials. Visit macflorida.com for more information.

13th: The Bartram Trail Genealogy Club meets the second Saturday of each month (this month, May 13) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. in the Bartram Trail Library conference room, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. The topic will be a general discussion on brick walls and great finds. 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/BT-GenClubGroup.

15th: The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, May 15 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. Linda Sill of Creative Quilting will present "A Quilter's Journey." Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

16th: The Newcomers of North St. Johns will host its May luncheon at DoubleTree by Hilton, 116 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine beginning at 11 a.m. on May 16. During lunch, accomplished pianist Carl Grant will entertain members with a medley of soft ballads and love songs. Also featured will be the installation of the club's board of directors for 2023 – 24. The cost for the luncheon is \$35 for members. All reserva-


tions must be received by May 5. Visit <https://newcomersofnorthstjohns.org> for more information.

18th: The Garden Club of Switzerland will feature guest speaker Steven Davies talking about gopher tortoises at 10:30 a.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, located at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. The public is invited. Visit <https://switzerlandgc.blogspot.com/> for more information.



18th: William Bartram Scenic Highway Group will meet on Thursday, May 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd. Join the discussion to keep NW St. Johns County Scenic and Historic and preserve the State Road 13 Scenic Highway. Virtual meeting access is available; contact alabbat@comcast.net or call (904) 699-8475.

19th: Adult Craft – Wine cork birdhouse will be held at 10 a.m. on May 19 at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. The birds will love you if you come and build a wine cork birdhouse. Bring wine corks if you have them, but we have plenty. All supplies are provided by the Bartram Trail Friends of the Library. Register at www.sjcpls.org or call the library at (904) 824-6960. Space is limited.

20th: Foods and Herbs from Field to Forest will be offered on May 20 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.




Smiles by GLENOS & HADGIS ORTHODONTISTS



Dr. Jimmy Glenos

Dr. Craig Hadgis



TWO STATE-OF-THE-ART LOCATIONS

ST AUGUSTINE **ST JOHNS**

Free Initial Visit

904.79.SMILE (797.6453)

smilesbyGHortho.com

Voted
Best Orthodontist
St Augustine
and
St Johns

Coming Soon!

2023 – 24 St. Johns County School Directory

Our annual St. Johns County School Directory will be distributed to students in all St. Johns County Schools when school starts in August.

Total circulation of more than 45,000!

Deadline July 18.

**This publication sells out quickly.
Call today to include your business!**

Linda Gay | 904.607.5062

Linda@floridanewslines.com

Guest Column

What you need to know about Florida’s Constitutional Amendments

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Did you know that citizens may propose amendments to the Florida Constitution through an initiative petition process? The initiative petition process, in addition to other requirements, requires a specific number of petitions to be signed by registered Florida voters before the proposed amendment can appear on the ballot. Per the Florida Constitution, the number of signatures needed is based on 8 percent of the voters who cast votes in the last Presidential election. In addition, the signatures must also come from voters in at least one half of the congressional districts of the state. The statewide total valid signatures needed for the initiative to make it to your ballot in 2024 is 891,523. A proposed amendment requires at least 60 percent approval from Florida voters to pass.

Statewide, groups often submit over a million signatures on the initiative petitions. In order to be valid, the signature submitted must be that of a registered voter in the county to which the signature has been submitted, and the signature on the petition must match the signature on the voter’s record.

Once proponents obtain 25 percent of the total number of required signatures, the Secretary of State sends the initiative language to the Attorney General, who then forwards the language to the Florida Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will determine if the initiative is legal. During the review by the Court, proponents may continue gathering the remaining signatures needed to place it on the ballot. If the Court declares the initiative invalid because it is unconstitutional, violates Florida’s strict

single-subject requirement, or any other reasons, the initiative is dead.

Throughout the year, the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office verifies thousands of initiative petitions signed by St. Johns County voters. Pursuant to Florida Statute 100.371(11)(b), St. Johns County’s actual cost of signature verification of an initiative petition is \$0.55. Since January 2023, our office has received and verified almost 19,000 signed petition forms. The most popular petitions currently circulating are “Adult Personal Use of Marijuana” and “Right to Clean and Healthy Waters.” Once a month, an Initiative Petition Summary is uploaded to our website at www.votesjc.gov for public viewing.

After the petitions are verified by the Supervisor of Elections Office, they are forwarded to the Secretary of State. Once the Secretary of State has determined that the required number and distribution of valid signatures has been obtained, the Secretary will issue a certificate of ballot position for that proposed amendment.

Initiative petitions are circulated by either paid petition circulators or volunteer petition circulators. To become a paid petition circulator, one must visit the Florida Division of Elections website and complete an online application. Petition circulators are working in St. Johns County, so don’t be surprised if you are approached at a public library, government building, grocery store, or gas station by a circulator asking for your signature on a constitutional amendment petition. Initiative petitions must be filed no later than February 1, 2024 in order to obtain ballot position for the 2024 General Election.

ONLINE DATING
IS LIKE BOTOX.
EVERYONE DOES IT,
BUT NO ONE
TALKS ABOUT IT.

Give your brain what it needs
so you can hear better

Introducing **Oticon More™** a life-changing hearing device with **BrainHearing™** technology.

Oticon **More** helps your brain decipher intricate details of relevant sounds for **better speech understanding** with **less effort** and the ability to **remember more**.

You're invited to try
Oticon More *RISK FREE*

Come in and bring a
loved one to receive:

- **FREE** Consultation
- **Risk-Free 60-Day Free Trial**

Try it at home, work and play!

Dr. Leslie A. Staverman
Audiologist/Owner

300+ Five Star Reviews

Call 904-262-5550 Today! *Your Community Resource for Better Hearing*
www.StavermanHearingCenters.com 12276 San Jose Blvd. , Suite #710

**MODERN AESTHETIC
CENTERS**

2050 Saint Johns Parkway, Suite 106
904.526.7480

11512 Lake Mead Ave Unit 702
904.982.9400

Book Your Appointment Today
macflorida.com

ALL ABOUT
BALLROOM

DANCE

Ballroom dance and venue rental

DON'T LEAVE
YOUR FUTURE
TO CHANCE

SECURE A PLAN FOR LIFE

Make the safe bet with an active, engaging, maintenance-free lifestyle at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Enhance your lifestyle with:

- Housekeeping
- 24-hour security
- Delicious, chef-prepared dining options
- Fishing and boat docks
- Heated, outdoor swimming pool
- A wide range of important aging services
- And more!

Call (904) 861-6425 today to learn how you can save thousands!

Westminster
Woods
on Julington Creek
WestminsterWoodsFL.org

25 State Road 13
Jacksonville, FL

Q & A

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

Q: Is it too early to register children for the next school year?

A: Not at all. We really need parents to register their children, especially incoming kindergarteners, as soon as possible. Unless parents register, we have no way of knowing how many teachers we will need to hire for next year. Also unknown to us at this point is how many students we will lose to vouchers due to the recently passed HB 1.

We had two teacher job fairs this spring and feel so fortunate that we were able to hire 103 teachers from outside the school district — from all over the United States, actually.

Q: How can parents register their children for school?

A: They can check with their local school, and most of the paperwork is done online. There is an address locator on our main website (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us) that will let residents know exactly which schools their home is zoned for. We encourage parents to register as soon as they can.

Q: What is the status of the new schools under construction?

A: The walls of the Shearwater school have been tilted up and it is beginning to look like a school. At Twin Creeks, the horizontal construction is finishing up and walls will be tilted up soon.

We discussed this last month, but to recap, the RiverTown school has been postponed for one year. We will open the bid process in early June and award the bid later that month. Construction

can start immediately after that, giving a two year window before the school is scheduled to open at the start of the 2025 – 26 school year. We are hopeful that this will result in us getting multiple bids for the work.

Q: What else is happening in the school district at this time?

A: We are gearing up for graduation, which will be here before we know it. This is the time of year that we have student recognitions. We just had our Star Awards for the top 3 percent of graduating seniors and learned about their future plans. Coming up is the Honor the Graduate ceremony, where two seniors from each high school are nominated by their peers as spiritual leaders of their class. This is sponsored by the Christian Educators of St. Johns County. Also coming up is the American Youth Character Awards banquet. Seniors will receive scholarships and juniors will be recognized, all based on their character. At this event, we recognize both public and private school students. Of course, each school will also be holding its own Senior Awards.

Finally, the third annual Pedro Menendez National Signing Day will be held on May 4. Similar to an athletic signing, academy students going straight to the workforce will sign on with their future employers and commit to skilled trades careers or advanced training.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Q & A

with State Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit, R.J. Larizza

Q: Is your office, like many businesses, in need of employees?

A: The 7th Judicial Circuit covers Volusia, Flagler, St. Johns, and Putnam counties. We are struggling to fill prosecutor positions. We currently have approximately 68 Assistant State Attorneys, but we are about six or seven short. It's difficult to find people to apply for a number of reasons, but for one thing, enrollment is down at law schools due to the high cost and then when students graduate, they often have a lot of student loans. Seven years ago or so, we would interview at the University of Florida and Florida State University and get between 10 and 15 candidates interested in an interview. Last year we had just one.

Q: How are you addressing this to try to attract qualified candidates?

A: We have raised the starting Assistant State Attorney salary to a minimum of \$65,000, but you can easily add \$20,000 to \$25,000 on top of that if you consider benefits we offer like health insurance and retirement.

Inexperienced prosecutors start in misdemeanor, and that pays the \$65,000 minimum. A felony line attorney makes \$75,000 minimum and for drug prosecutors, the minimum is \$82,500. Felony intake attorneys, who make the filing decisions, earn a minimum of \$90,000 and criminal prosecutors earn a minimum of

State Attorney cont. on pg. 13

"I only want cremation."

CALL FOR PRICING

Flagler Memorial Cremation Society

(904) 669-1809 • (904) 797-4990

2600 Old Moultrie Road • St. Augustine

serving St. Johns, Flagler and Putnam counties



with St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court
and Comptroller Brandon Patty

Q: Can you give background on the deceptive mail campaign posing as the County Records Office?

A: Several residents have reached out to my office about a letter from a Tampa-based company claiming to be the County Records Office. The letter informs the recipient their deed has been recorded in the Official Records and lists the new property owner's name. The company offers to sell the property owner a copy of the recorded deed for \$89.

In Florida, the Clerk of Courts and County Comptrollers are the record-keepers for official records, such as deeds and mortgages. Residents are encouraged to contact my office or visit our website to obtain a free copy of their deed.

Q: If a deed or document is recorded with a property owner's name on it, how can the property owner be notified?

A: The Clerk's Office provides a free recording notification service. If you subscribe to the Property Fraud Alert system, you will receive an email alert when a document including your name is recorded into the Official Records of St. Johns County.

The alert provides an early warning system for subscribers to become aware of what may have otherwise gone

undetected. Subscribers armed with this notification system will be able to take prompt, appropriate action if they determine the activity to be fraudulent.

Q: With summer travel around the corner, do you have any updates on the timelines to apply for and receive a passport?

A: Yes, at this time, the U.S. Department of State has stopped accepting expedited applications for passports. If you are traveling in less than nine weeks, you must call the National Passport Information Center at 1-877-487-2778 in order to make an appointment for passport services at a U.S. Department of State Passport Agency. If you are planning to travel in more than nine weeks and need a new passport, consider visiting our recording department in the St. Johns County courthouse or making an appointment at our annex locations in Julington Creek or Ponte Vedra Beach. To schedule an appointment, call (904) 819-3632. F

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

A: Residents can call my office at (904) 819-3601 or my cell at (904) 599-8688. My email address is BPatty@stjohnsclerk.com. A lot of questions can be answered by visiting our website, www.stjohnsclerk.com, which is most commonly used to pay traffic citations or search court records.



with St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick

Q: You are well known for being visible in the community. Why do you think that is important?

A: I think it is important to be seen frequently and also that is how I receive feedback from the community. If there's something we can do better, I want people to let me know, as partnerships with the community are important. It also gives me the opportunity to share how we're policing and let the community know how they can help us make the community safer.

Q: What are some types of community engagement that your office participates in?

A: In the past month, I attended the grand opening of the pickleball courts in Julington Creek and some of my deputies and I have been outside Publix in Fruit Cove, RiverTown, and Nocatee. We hand out information and various SJSO items as we try to form relationships and bonds with the community.

I also regularly speak to homeowners and condo associations. These are all unique and give me the opportunity to address specific issues based on their particular needs. I also visit civic organizations like Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and Boy Scout troops. I coach football at multiple schools and this gives me the opportunity to talk to the parents of the athletes as well as the

athletes themselves. I try to reach out to all ages.

Q: What can you tell us about the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA)?

A: This is a 11-week course that meets each Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and is offered twice per year. It gives an insider's perspective on law enforcement and is designed to give participants a working knowledge of our office's mission, operation, policies, and personnel. There is no charge for the academy, but class size is limited. There is more information on our website about dates and how to sign up to attend.

Q: How can organizations invite you to speak to their members?

A: My style is to lead by walking around, so visiting with organizations and community members is something I enjoy doing. Interested people should email me at sheriff@sjso.org or call our non-emergency number, (904) 824-8304 and ask for the office of the sheriff to schedule a visit from me. I can address a specific topic or give a kind of "State of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office" type of presentation.

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

A: They can email me at sheriff@sjso.org or call me at (904) 824-8304.

BARTRAM SPA & SALON

Save The Date! You don't want to miss this event

Join us for special offers and complimentary demos of the Emsculpt Neo and Emsella devices.



**Monday May 22nd
9am-12pm**

Call or email to pre-register for your spot to demo one of the devices. Space will be limited!



Dr. Suny Caminero, MD

Specializing in Restorative and Innovative Gynecology
Natural, Medical, Surgical, and Cosmetic Gynecology

Discount packages, swag bags, complimentary consultations and raffles!



Don't Forget Mother's Day
**108 Bartram Oaks Walk Drive
Suite 201 St. Johns Florida 32259**

Gift Certificates Available
904.899.1234
www.bartramwalkspa.com



Briefs

Summer reading volunteers needed
RSVP of St. Johns County is looking for community members to assist once a week in the summer reading program in the St. Johns County School District. Hours are flexible. If you are traveling this summer, you can help while you are in town. Orientation for reading volunteers will be Monday, June 5 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Fullerwood Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive in St. Augustine.

“There are students who can greatly benefit from the help of those willing to give just a small amount of their time,” said Cheryl Freeman, RSVP director. “Assistance from community volunteers can make all the difference in helping these students succeed.”

To make a training reservation or for more information, contact RSVP at (904) 547-3952 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Church collects insect repellent for homeless
St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church is once again collecting bug spray and sunscreen for those experiencing homelessness in St. Johns County. Volunteers at Home Again and Wildflower Clinic distribute the insect repellent and sunscreen to the homeless — and change lives.

Please drop off your donations to the church at your convenience and church volunteers will ensure they are delivered to Home Again and Wildflower Health to help those in need. St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church is located at 1221 State Road 13 in Fruit Cove. Call (904) 287-2807 for more information.

COA announces expanded transportation services to Trout Creek Senior Center
St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) has announced that transportation services to and from COA’s Trout Creek Senior Center will now be available for registered participants of the Trout Creek Senior Center each day the

center is open: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. COA’s Trout Creek Senior Center is located at 6795 Collier Road in Orangedale. The center offers lunch, activities, exercise, special events, and socialization for adults aged 60 and up.

Contact COA’s Myra Fisher at (904) 209-3658 for more information and to register to attend. Visit www.coasjc.org/trout-creek-center to view a complete calendar of upcoming events at the center.

Paper shredding event scheduled
It’s that time of year — time to clean out and securely shred older personal and confidential records. Knights of Columbus Charities has a quick, easy and inexpensive solution. For a \$20 donation to Knights of Columbus Council 12664 Charities (25 percent of net proceeds will support Pregnancy Support Centers), you’ll receive a quick fill, Seal and Shred Bag that holds up to 40 pounds of paper.

Purchase your bags at San Juan Del Rio on April 29, 30 or May 6, 7 after mass, fill the bags with your old records, seal them, and bring them to the shred-truck on May 13 between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at San Juan Del Rio. The Shred-Truck provides secure on-site shredding of your documents.

If you cannot pick up a bag from the church, email rebridenjax@live.com and we will deliver in the NW St. Johns area

Senior living facility receives Governor’s Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care for 10th time
River Garden Hebrew Home has once again been awarded the Governor’s Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care, a clear indicator that the agency remains on-track as a premier care facility for seniors in

northeast Florida. The award was presented by Kimberly R. Smoak, deputy

secretary of Health Quality Assurance at the Agency for Health Care Administration to Dr. Lawrence Goldberg, River Garden Hebrew Home board president, during the River Garden Senior Services annual meeting on March 26. River Garden Hebrew Home has proudly achieved this esteemed status since the award was created 21 years ago.

The Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care was created in 2002 by the Florida State Legislature to recognize Florida’s premier quality nursing homes that have exceptionally high standards and display excellence in the quality of care delivered to their residents. Prior to receiving the award, a nursing facility must undergo a rigorous examination to ensure strict regulatory compliance and the provision of enhanced programming and services. In addition, a site visit is made to the facility by representatives of the Governor’s Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care.

Currently, there are more than 700 nursing homes in the state of Florida and only 10 are recognized with the Governor’s Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care. River Garden and one other facility have maintained the recognition since its inception in 2002.

Florida libraries launch local author contest
The St. Johns County Public Library System will participate in the sixth annual Florida Author Project contest, which creates opportunities for indie-published authors. In partnership with “Library Journal” and BiblioBoard, the Florida Author Project gives libraries a chance to engage with a growing group of fresh literary voices in their communities and an opportunity to play an active role in the discovery and promotion of new works.

Submissions will be accepted through May 31, 2023, for local authors of adult and young adult fiction to be recognized as the top indie-published eBooks in Florida. Winners in each category will receive \$1,000 as well as:

- Honors at the 2023 Indie Author Day Reception
- Opportunities to promote the winning title in participating Florida public libraries

- Inclusion in a full-page spread in “Library Journal,” one of America’s oldest and most renowned trade publications for library news
- Opportunities to earn royalties through the IAP Select collection (ePUB format required for eligibility)

For indie-published authors, the contest is a fantastic prospect to elevate their careers and expand their readership. Along with the accolade of the award and its perks, being recognized by librarians creates credibility and visibility in the growing marketplace of digital content and indie-published books.

Authors may submit their work at indie-authorproject.librariesshare.com/florida. Each book submitted to the contest must be independently-published, in the category of adult or young adult fiction, written by a Florida resident, and available in either ePUB (strongly encouraged) or PDF format.

To learn more about writer’s resources at the St. Johns County Public Library System, visit sjcpls.org/writers-resources.

Fort Mose historical and artistic event to be held
Fort Mose Historic Park will host the St. Augustine History Festival, an event for the community, on May 12 – 13 to celebrate the historical significance of the park.

An Afro-Cuban art exhibit will be held from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. Working with the Fort Mose Historical Society, the St. Augustine Friendship Association will display works by Afro-Cuban artists Orlando Piedra, Roel Caboverde, Mildo Matos, Laurence Zuniga, Oscar Lasseria and others on the grounds of Fort Mose.

The Fort Mose Militia reenactment will occur at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. each day.

Historian Jane Landers will speak on ties between St. Augustine, Fort Mose and Cuba on May 13, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. St. Augustine historian Susan Parker, PhD, will be the interlocutor.

Many know that Fort Mose was the first community of free Africans recognized by European powers in what would become the continental United States.

Briefs cont. on pg. 15



Fruit Cove
BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarity for Life

www.fruitcove.com
501 State Rd 13, St. Johns, FL 32259
904.287.0996
Worship 9:30 & 11am
Connect Groups 9:30 & 11am

 @FruitCoveBC

Beer & Wine Available

WILLIE'S OLD SCHOOL RULES OF BBQ

EVERY MEAL
comes with a side of
SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY.

WILLIE JEWELL'S
Old School
BAR-B-Q

\$5.00 off
any purchase of \$25 or more
Willie Jewell's Old School Bar-B-Q
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Offer expires 5/31/2023
No cash value. Dine-in and TakeOut only. One coupon per Customer.

NOW DELIVERING WITH DOORDASH, UBER EATS, AND GRUB HUB!



SMOKED FOR HOURS
SERVED IN MINUTES



Seniors Happy Hour
Mon - Fri • 4pm - 6pm
15% discount for seniors
age 60 & over.
Dine-in only.

Turkey Tuesday!
\$2 off any adult turkey sandwich,
platter, or salad. Dine-in only.

Kids eat FREE on Wednesday!
5:30pm-8pm
1 Kids Meal free (10 & under)
with purchase of 1 adult
platter. Dine-in only.

**View our full menu
and order online!**
www.WillieJewells.com • (904) 342-2373
105 Murabella Parkway, St. Augustine FL 32092
(next to the Publix at the corner of SR-16 and Pacetti Road.)

 Like us at facebook.com/williejewellsworldgolf for information on promotions and other events!

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Business Briefs

31st annual Small Business Week Celebration to be held

The U.S. Small Business Administration will present the Small Business Week Awards and Top Lender Awards at the 31st annual Small Business Week celebration on May 5 at the Herbert University Center on the campus of the University of North Florida.

In recognition of the small business community’s contribution to the economy and society, the President of the United States designates one week each year as National Small Business Week. The U.S. SBA, in conjunction with the FSBDC at UNF, will host this special event at the local level to honor and present awards to local entrepreneurs and those who support and advocate for small businesses

The keynote presentation will be “Who’s Going to Do the Work? How the Demographic Drought Will Reshape Small Business in America,” during which attendees will hear about the declines in the working-age population and why companies are finding that many people are choosing to stay out of the workforce and what can be done about it. The presenter is Ron Hetrick, Senior Labor Economist with

Lightcast, a global leader in labor market analytics. Visit www.sbdc.unf.edu/events/sbw2023 for more information.

Hospital appoints six new members to board of directors

Baptist Medical Center South has welcomed six new members to its board of directors. The new members add a diverse range of skills, knowledge and experience to the board.

“Unlike many health systems, Baptist South has its own local board who play a vital role in setting the strategic direction of our hospital to ensure we are meeting the health care needs of our residents,” said Kyle Dorsey, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist South. “Our new members are entrenched in our community and have a deep understanding of our area. I know they will help us shape our decisions in the best interests of our patients so they get advanced, high-quality care.”

The newly appointed board members begin their terms March 27, 2023, and will serve three-year terms.

Allison Bovee, MBA, is a commercial relationship manager and a senior vice president at Synovus Bank.

Emily Dawkins is North Florida regional president for Truist Financial Corp. Veronica Lee, MBA, is senior vice president and global head of accounting products for State Street Corp.

Hugh Matthews, PE, is chief executive officer for England-Thims & Miller, Inc.

Julie Merten, PhD, is an associate professor of Public Health at the University of North Florida and director for the interdisciplinary health studies program in the Brooks College of Health.

Jeremy Wood, MD, is chief of emergency medicine for Emergency Resource Group.

SCORE Jacksonville recognized as Chapter of the Year for Central/North Florida

SCORE Jacksonville has received the Central/North Florida District Chapter of the Year Award for outstanding performance in 2022.

“We are honored to receive recognition from the district,” said Jacksonville SCORE Chapter Chairperson Derrick Smith. “Our volunteers have a passion for helping small businesses. They are committed to the success of the businesses in this community. We are proud to be recognized for the exceptional growth in the services provided as well

as the high levels of client satisfaction because of our outreach.”

SCORE has been a part of the local small business community for 57 years. In 2022, the chapter’s volunteers provided free face-to-face mentoring as well as free or low cost workshops for 8,868 new aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. Last year also saw the launch for the JAX CEO Forum, a consortium of business owners who meet monthly to network and share cutting-edge new ideas and solutions specifically curated to bolster and enhance their own senior management skills.

The 61 dedicated SCORE Jacksonville volunteers conducted 2,177 mentoring sessions and hosted an extensive number of workshops that helped lead to the creation of 248 new businesses and 1,007 new jobs. SCORE data shows that entrepreneurs who receive three or more hours of mentoring report higher revenues and increased business growth. In addition, SCORE Jacksonville offers a wealth of resources to guide entrepreneurs in every phase of their small business journey.

Visit www.score.org/jacksonville for more information about the services provided, how to request a mentor, workshop registration or volunteer opportunities.

Prudential Financial Planning Services



Andrew Laino, CLU®, CFP®, CLTC®
Financial Planner



Offering financial planning and investment advisory services through Pruco Securities, LLC (Pruco), under the marketing name Prudential Financial Planning Services (PPFS), pursuant to separate client agreement. Offering insurance and securities products and services as a registered representative of Pruco, and an agent of issuing insurance companies.
1008115-00004-00

701 San Marco Blvd
1st Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-313-4553
Comprehensive Financial Planning

D5404

Advertise your business!

Call 904-607-5062 today!



24 Hour Approvals - Home Purchase - Home Equity Loans - FHA - VA - Jumbo - First Time Home Buyer - Cash Out Refinance



MEET YOUR PERSONAL LOAN CONCIERGE FOR THE BEST RATES AND LOAN PROGRAM TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

800-631-6918
Get started - Prequalify Online 24/7
www.bearingmtg.com

FL licensed mortgage broker NMLS #2457636. All loans are subject to credit approval. This is not a commitment to lend or extend credit. Other restrictions may apply.

Personalized financial advice to help achieve your goals



Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S. Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2022 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



Chris Thompson

CFP® CRPC®
Financial Advisor
Associate Manager

904.380.2290
4601 Touchton Road, Ste 3120
Jacksonville, FL 32246
chris.thompson@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson
St Johns County resident since 1993

Bundle home & auto. It's easy.


Call me for a quote



Don Haneline, Agent
196 Everest Ln Ste 3
Saint Johns, FL 32259-4102
Bus: 904-615-1415
InsureWithDon.com

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL





> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

New job, new retirement account options

Changing jobs? Consider these 401(k) options:

- Leave the money in your previous employer’s plan
- Move it to your new employer’s plan
- Roll it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Cash out the account subject to early withdrawal penalties

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



Richard D Paul II, CFP®
Financial Advisor
9965 San Jose Blvd #50
Jacksonville, FL 32257
904-880-4488





Summer Camp and Activities Guide!



Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA

notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests: The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and personality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children

to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale: Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from oceanfront camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein,

youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

Session length: Camps may last as little as one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If parents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.



HELP LOCAL CHILDREN THRIVE

By Supporting Daniel Today

Due to abuse, neglect or serious emotional issues, many local children don't have the stable ground and nourishment necessary to grow into healthy, happy adults. Daniel's experienced team can provide the support and tools they need to flourish, but we need your help.

YOUR DONATION CAN

- supply counseling for abused children
- connect neglected children with foster families
- provide homeless teens with shelter and support
- strengthen and reunify high-risk families



Please Donate
danielkids.org
904.296.1055

SUMMER CLASS SESSIONS

June 13th through August 3rd



- Wiggle Giggle • Ballet
- Tap • Jazz • Hip Hop
- Modern/Contemporary
- Adult • Pointe • Acro
- Dance Fusion • Conditioning
- Stretch & Worship



Musical Theater & Bible Dance Camp too!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Register online at www.switzerlanddanceschool.com

904.287.6331
585 State Road 13, Suite 103 St Johns, FL 32259
1/4 mile south of Julington Creek Bridge





Florida's Number 1 Youth Soccer Program

Programs for ages 2-19 - Boys & Girls
NEW PROGRAMS & CAMPS NOW OPEN
Year round program for all levels of play
Multiple locations



www.FloridaEliteSA.com

SUMMER JUST GOT A LOT COOLER



CAMP INCLUDES

- ✓ THEMED DAILY ACTIVITIES
- ✓ MARTIAL ARTS FUN
- ✓ SO MUCH MORE...

Try the best summer camp around!
YOUR KIDS WILL THANK YOU.
Enroll today to guarantee your favorite weeks!!!





NOW ENROLLING MARTIAL ARTS SUMMER CAMP

Drop Off: 8:45AM-9:30AM / Pick Up: 3:30PM-4:00PM

Monday - Ninja Games	3 Martial Arts Classes per week no experience necessary Weekly Rates \$350/Week for Current Students \$375/Week for Non Students <small>*(details to come)</small>
Tuesday - "Take A Hike"	
Wednesday - Movie Day	
Thursday - Beach Day	
Friday - "Freaky Friday"*	



Lion's Den Karate 335 S. Legacy Trail, B102-112 St. Augustine, FL 32092
(904) 826-1904 Info.lionsdenkarate@gmail.com



Summer Camp and Activities Guide!



Summer camp by the numbers

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Summer camp is a rite of passage for many children. Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. (YMCA)

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. (Statista)

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. (American Camp Association)

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp

operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. (American Camp Association)

50: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. (CampMinder)

58 to 63: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. (American Camp Association)

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. (CampMinder)

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. (CampMinder)

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. (CampMinder)

22: Number of YMCA camps across Canada. (YMCA)

Code With Us This summer!

Call or Text (904) 719-7490



10% Discount
with Promo Code
GO_CAMPS





CELEBRATING 29 YEARS!

YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR SUMMER CAMP!

MUSICAL THEATER CAMP
YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS – CINEMA TIME
AGES 6-11

DISNEY VILLAIN CAMP
DANCING, ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE
AGES 4-8

MOANA'S HAWAIIAN LUAU
MOANA, LEIS, LIMBO, BEACH BALLS AND BALLET
AGES 4-8

PERFECT PRINCESS CAMP
DANCING, ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE
AGES 4-8

PRESCHOOL PREP DANCE CLASS
PREBALLET AND PRETAP
GET YOUR LITTLE ONE READY TO JOIN US IN THE FALL
AGES 3-5

EXCEEDANCE SUMMER INTENSIVE
INCLUDES BALLET, JAZZ, MODERN TECHNIQUE, STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING, IMPROVE, CONTEMPORARY, HIP HOP, A DANCE PHOTOSHOOT/MOCK AUDITION AND MORE.
AGES 8+

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL 904-262-2217

NORTH CAMPUS – MANDARIN
11018-135 OLD ST AUGUSTINE RD
JACKSONVILLE FL 32257



SOUTH CAMPUS – COUNTY ROAD 210
105 NATURES WALK PARKWAY
ST. AUGUSTINE FL 32092

WWW.ARTOFDANCEJAX.COM

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLUB

Now Enrolling!



Enhanced Health & Safety Protocols

Balancing
Safety, Fun
& Learning
All Summer Long

Summer is almost here and Primrose® has the space for your child to use their imagination as they explore, build and create something new every day. By putting updated health and safety protocols in place, you can enjoy some well-deserved peace of mind that your child is having a safe, active and adventurous summer that will lead to fewer questions of “what are you watching?” and more conversations about what they learned.

Learn more at PrimroseSummer.com



Primrose School of Julington Creek
904.230.2828 | PrimroseJulingtonCreek.com
Primrose School at St. Johns Forest
904.824.1100 | PrimroseStJohnsForest.com

Each Primrose school is a privately owned and operated franchise. Primrose Schools is a trademark of Primrose School Franchising SPE, LLC. ©2021 Primrose School Franchising SPE, LLC. All rights reserved. Ages for Summer Adventure Club program vary by location.



Summer Camp and Activities Guide!



IVYBROOK ACADEMY®
HALF DAY PRE-SCHOOL

WE OFFER
6 - One week fun
themed sessions
June through July

200 North Ridgecrest Lane, St Johns FL 32259 • 904.592.3999 • www.Ivybrookacademy.com

SUMMER CAMP



REGISTER NOW!



FAST
Flotation Aided Swim Training

FAST Swim Program offers lessons for ages 2 to 92
Water Safety starts early
Learn to swim in 12 lessons for ages 5+
Accredited by the Florida Department of Health

FAST Swim follows CDC and AAP water safety guidelines

CDC and AAP state: Make US Coast Guard lifejackets and direct supervision by a responsible adult a must for non-swimmers.

Proudly serving Saint Johns County

We are Committed to Teaching All Ages & Abilities

- Maximize instructional time
- Improve group lesson safety
- Promote student skills achievement for all ages and abilities
- Dedicated to the belief that drowning incidents are a preventable tragedy
- Before committing to swim lessons search online for Florida Department of Health Swim Instructors Advisory Council to ensure the program is State approved

Our Success Stories
Practice proper breathing and stroke technique



Progressed from minimal skill techniques and wearing a puddle jumper to swim team ready



Wounded Warriors swimming proficiently in less than 10 lessons

Contact us today! 904-640-9199
Become a state certified Water Safety Instructor
jen@fastswimprogram.com • www.fastswimprogram.com

Strategies to encourage kids to read more

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Many adults feel there’s no better way to relax than curling up with a good book. Though a relaxing afternoon of reading may appeal to adults, kids could prove a little more reluctant to crack a book.

Children have much to gain from reading and being read to. According to the Children’s Bureau of Southern California, a nonprofit organization devoted to strengthening vulnerable children, their families and the communities where they live, reading aloud to children supports their cognitive development; improves their language skills; prepares them for academic success; increases their discipline and ability to concentrate; and improves their imagination and creativity. Many of those same benefits apply to kids who read on their own, which may be more appealing as kids advance through elementary school and aspire to become more independent.

Since children have so much to gain from cuddling up with a good book, parents can try these strategies to encourage kids to read more.

- Allow kids to read the same book. Parents of young readers or children learning to read undoubtedly know how much children like to read the same book over and over again. Though that might not engage moms and dads, experts note that allowing kids to read the same books again and again is an effective way to foster a love of reading in children. Researchers have linked reading the same books again and again to greater vocabulary acquisition and improved reading comprehension, among other benefits. Kids are more likely to enjoy reading if they recognize more



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Reading benefits children in myriad ways. Parents can look to various strategies to foster a love of reading in their children.

words and can better understand the stories, so parents can encourage kids to read the same books again and again.

- Take a book along when running errands or traveling. The Children’s Book Review notes that books can be just as handy in cars as tablets and other devices kids use to watch movies while on the go. Though some children may get car sick when reading while a car is in motion, those who don’t have plenty of time to read while in the backseat. On long road trips, promise a movie after kids have read for an hour. When running errands with the kids in tow, encourage them to read by keeping a couple of books or magazines in the backseat at all times.
- Practice positive reinforcement with emerging readers. Another way to encourage young readers to pick up a book more often is to praise their efforts even if they struggle with words. Patience can go a long way toward instilling a love of reading in children. If kids are struggling with a word or words, read the sentence aloud with them. Reading also has a tendency to pique readers’ curiosity, so parents can encourage kids to ask questions about the books they read and help them find answers to those questions if necessary.
- Enroll kids in library reading programs. Summer reading programs sponsored by local libraries have been found to be conducive to promoting reading in young children. In its report titled “The Role of Public Libraries in Children’s Literacy Development,” the Pennsylvania Library Association indicated that preschool and summer reading programs encourage children to spend significant amounts of time with books and also encourage parents to play a greater role in their children’s literacy development. Participation in such programs is typically free of charge, so there’s no reason why families cannot take advantage of these highly effective programs.

SUMMER WILL BE HERE
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...

Get Ready For
Beach Days
With Jet & Ivy

SHOP OUR BEACH DAY COLLECTION
FOR SWIMWEAR, HATS,
WATER SHOES & MORE!



jet & ivy

206 Ashourian Avenue, Suite 110
The Forum at Greenbriar – corner of St Johns Parkway & CR210
904.209.5915 / jetandivy.com

travel • pantry raiders • gardening
fishing • entertainment • puzzles

Life

Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Rev. Yvonne McAndrew

Rev. Yvonne McAndrew has been the minister at Unity Church for Creative Living on Race Track Road since 2016. Born and raised in Chicago, she said she was basically unchurched growing up, although her mother did occasionally attend a Unity Church there. By the time Yvonne was in her mid to late 20s, she said she was really struggling with her life and ended up checking out that Unity Church. “It was exactly what I needed,” she said. “They spoke my language and I felt like I was home.” Over the next several months she became more involved and eventually became a minister with the church. She has served churches in Columbus, Ohio and Norman, Oklahoma before coming to St. Johns. Previously married for 36 years, she said she is still friends with her ex-husband. They share a daughter, Shavonne, who lives in Tallahassee.

Q: How did you become more involved and eventually a minister with Unity Church?

A: After I had been attending the church for about eight months, I had a blind faith moment and signed my then-husband and myself up for classes at Unity Village, outside of Kansas City. We spent our vacation time there and my husband was unsure about it at first. But after the first day, we knew where we needed to be and signed up

Get to Know ...

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



Photo courtesy Yvonne McAndrew
Rev. Yvonne McAndrew

for more classes for the following year. After a series of classes and a couple of years, I obtained my Licensed Unity Teacher certification, which meant I was licensed, but not ordained. I could do most things that a minister could do. I resisted for awhile, but eventually in 2012 I graduated from the ministerial program at Unity Village, so I am a minister now.

Q: Why did you choose to become a minister?

A: My life took a 180-degree turn when I started going to Unity and I wanted to give back. Unity has changed my life for the better. I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity to give back and love the community. Unity gave me hope and direction and I now have a personal relationship with God. I realized that life doesn't

have to be difficult all the time.

Q: How did you end up here in St. Johns?

A: I had gotten the nudge that it was time to move on. I prayed about it and my guidance was to go to Florida. I went online and saw that Unity had five openings at churches in Florida, so I sent my resume to all of them and then interviewed with three. When I came here, I knew this was where I'm supposed to be. The people were warm and welcoming. I love the church building; it's similar to the Mediterranean style of the buildings in Unity Village.

Q: What would you say is special about Unity?

A: Unity is a positive, practiced, and progressive approach to Christianity. It's based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer and meditation. Our affirmation is “God is good. All the time.”

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

A: I enjoy reading and painting. I like to take painting classes at places like Painting with a Twist. It's therapeutic for me to follow the instructor and be focused on the art. I like to connect with friends and I love being out in nature — being present in the beauty that surrounds us. I like taking photos of nature's beauty as well.

[Author's Note: For more information about Unity Church for Creative Living, visit www.unityinjax.com.]

State Attorney cont. from pg. 6

\$100,000. Finally, homicide attorneys and managing attorneys each make a minimum of \$120,000.

The 7th Circuit is the highest paid in the state. I want people who work with us to be able to take care of their families and be comfortable ... and to stay with our office.

Q: What is a unique benefit of working with the State Attorney's office?

A: There's an emotional and mental satisfaction of a well-prosecuted case. We are serving the victim and the community. When you successfully prosecute, for example, someone who has sexually assaulted a child or an adult, and when you get justice for that victim, there's a special satisfaction of getting the crime element off the streets. It's like nothing else.

Q: How should interested parties learn more about employment opportunities with your office?

A: All of the information about the positions, including how to apply, may be found on our website, www.sao7.com

River City Concert & Jazz Bands
MUSICIANS WANTED

The River City Band is a group of musicians ranging from high schoolers to seniors, from amateurs to professionals, who enjoy making music together and performing for the community. Whether you are an active performer or haven't played in years, please join us!

Thursdays
Concert Band 6:30-8:00 PM
Jazz Band 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Fruit Cove Middle School
3180 Race Track Rd.
St. Johns, Florida

Please contact:
Gordon Woodrow, Conductor,
(402) 250-7281
www.RCCBJAX.com

AFFORDABLE WATER
CONDITIONING • SOFTENING • PURIFICATION

Residential Commercial
Family Owned and Operated Since 1989

CLEAN WATER FOR YOUR HOME

Affordable Water solutions for your home with the best customer service in the industry.

- Water Softeners & Filtration Systems
- Service on most makes and models
- Delivery of Salt & Potassium for your system

Call today **904-262-0197** for your Complimentary Water Test & Analysis.

3760 Kori Road • www.affordablewaterjax.com

Mama Said There'd be Deals Like This

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

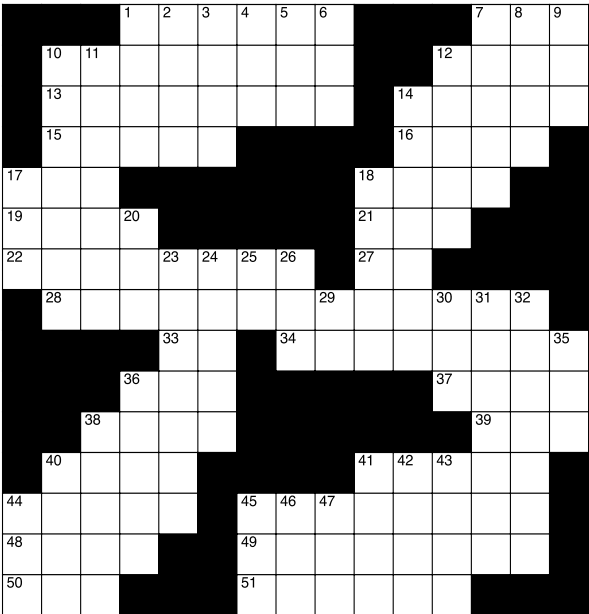
20% OFF
One regularly priced item

Valid in-store at the participating stores listed. Coupon not valid for Seed/Bird Food, Optics, Gift Cards, DSC Memberships, Campana Baths or Sale Items. Cannot be combined with other coupons/discounts. Offer expires 5/31/23
ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER

St Johns 450 SR13 at Racetrack Rd (Next to Publix) 904.230.3242 wbu.com/jacksonville	Jax Beach 4138 Third Street South (Between Trader Joes & Staples) 904.246.6832 wbu.com/jacksonvillebeach	World Golf Village 180 Capulet Drive #5 (At Murabella) 904.209.5754 wbu.com/staugustine
---	--	---

Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Wear away by friction
7. Insecticide
10. Elicited a secret vote
12. Beef
13. Disagreement
14. __ Crawford, supermodel
15. Jeweled headdress
16., Digits
17. Trillion hertz
18. Snap up
19. Classical portico
21. Residue after burning
22. Large integers
27. Free agent
28. Where ballplayers work
33. Blood type
34. Scottish city
36. Google certification (abbr.)
37. Serbian monetary unit
38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
39. Wood or metal bolt
40. Relaxing attire
41. Famed neurologist
44. Dullish brown fabrics
45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
48. Griffith, Rooney
49. Lawmakers
50. Government lawyers
51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
2. Britpop rockers
3. National capital
4. Consumed
5. The habitat of wild animals
6. Sun up in New York
7. Cygnus star
8. Male parents
9. Talk to you (abbr.)
10. A place to clean oneself
11. Southwestern US state
12. South Korean idol singer
14. Pirate
17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
18. Mistake
20. Promotions
23. Prepares
24. Partner to flowed
25. State lawyer
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Pound
30. Electronic data processing
31. Sports player
32. Treats with contempt
35. Apprehend
36. Excessively talkative
38. Highways
40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. College organization for males
42. Any customary observance or practice
43. Employee stock ownership plan
44. Male parent
45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Female bird
47. Autonomic nervous system

BURGER JOINT SLANG WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ALL-THE-WAY
BLOWOUT
BLUE
BUTTER BURGER
COMBO
DOUBLE MEAT
EAST COAST
FACIAL
HAMMERED
LTO
MID-RARE
MINIBURGER
NO FUN
ON WHEELS
PATTY
PLAIN JANE
RABBIT FOOD
RATIO
SALLY
SEAR
SLIDER
SLUG
SMASH BURGER
SPECIAL SAUCE



Solve the code to discover words related to hamburgers.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 9 = N)

- A. 24 19 6 6 14 9 17 21
Clue: Lettuce and tomato are two
- B. 17 18 14 5 5
Clue: Cooking device
- C. 15 13 24
Clue: Oily or greasy matter
- D. 3 16 9 21
Clue: Burger breads

Community Marketplace Call (904) 886-4919 for advertising rates

SNIP'S TREE & STUMP SERVICE
Tree Preservation • Plant Health Care • Insect & Disease Treatments

Paul Oklevitch
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST Over 25 Years Exp.
FL-5456A – LICENSED & INSURED

(904) 268-1017 www.snipstree.com

- Pressure Wash
- Soft Wash
- Residential
- Commercial

Call Steve today!
904-230-3749
1-888-33-SOFTWASH

From Green to CLEAN!

Whole House / Driveway / Walkway / Patio / Roof
Screen Enclosure / Pool Deck / Fence + More!

Licensed/Insured • Senior/Military Discount • Free Estimate

**AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL
RESIDENTIAL REMODELING**

NEW CONSTRUCTION / REMODEL / SERVICE WORK

904-737-6337
WatsonConstructionGroup.com

Building Services: CBC1263291
HVAC: CAC1816040.

Plumbing: CFC057343
Electric: EC13010558

LONGLEAF RIDES LLC

Contact Us For All Your Transportation Needs!

Alberto Trinchetta
Call or text: 516-547-6512
Email: longleafrides@gmail.com

STUMPGRINDING
(904) 294-1735
FREE ESTIMATES
Multiple Stump Discount
Licensed & Insured

PAVERS CONCRETE & MORE
Tear Out and Replace

- Driveways • Walkways • Patios
- Cool Deck & Slabs
- Pool Deck Remodel

Free Estimate
904-651-5593
Licensed, insured, bonded

We treat your home like our own!
Softwash & Power Wash • State of Art Equipment

**House Washing • Pool Decks
Screen Enclosures • Flat Work • Fence
Residential & Commercial**

QUALITY GUARANTEED AND HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PRICING

Discounts for Military-Police-First Responders-Senior Citizens

Call today for your free Estimate
904-687-7400 • www.Coastalcleanpressurewashing.com
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

CONCRETE WORKS
Commercial or Residential - no project too small

- Driveways
- Walkways
- Pavers
- Concrete Removal
- Patios
- Driveway Extension

floridaconcreteworks.com
Free Quote Today!
Catering to the needs of the homeowner since 2002

Call 904.838.1836 and let's talk about what we can do for you!

- Water Softeners
- Media Rebeds
- Reverse Osmosis
- Aeration/Oxidation
- Chemical Feed
- UV Sterilization
- Cartridge Filtration Systems

GAM
GELL'S AQUA MAINTENANCE, LLC
TURN ON THE WATER...WE'LL DO THE REST

www.gellsaquam.com
Residential and Commercial
Free Water Analysis

Call today 904.238.8636
Chris Gell/Owner
Licensed & Insured

HEALTH & FITNESS

Dental insurance - Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Covers 350 procedures. Real insurance - not a discount plan. Get your free dental info kit! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 [Hablamos Español](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Down + Low Monthly Pmt Request a free Quote. Call before the next power outage: 1-855-948-6176

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Le-

afilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free Leaf-Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dor-

Job Finder:

Looking for something to do? Part-time program specialist position open. You would be making presentations to adults about how to help the children in their lives avoid alcohol/drug misuse. For more information: susanjpact@gmail.com

rance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/31/24. 1-866-479-1516

The Generac PWRcell solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce reliance on grid, prepare for outages & power your home. Full installation services. \$0 down financing option. Request free no obligation quote. 1-877-539-0299

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

Switch & save up to \$250/yr on talk, text & data. No contract or hidden fees. Unlimited talk & text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based service. Call 1-855-903-3048

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/ one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

Inflation is at 40 year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call National Debt Relief to find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! Free quote: 1-877-592-3616

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Time-

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN - LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(866) 643-0438

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*

& \$499 Value!

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

share Cancellation ExpertsOver \$50,000,000 in time-share debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo

for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Are you a pet owner? Do you want to get up to 100% back on vet bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet

coverage that can help! Call 1-844-774-0206 to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/ads

Diagnosed with lung cancer? You may qualify for a substantial cash award - even with smoking history. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help!! Call 24/7, 1-877-648-2503

Briefs cont. from pg. 8

Florida's Spanish colonial government created the community in 1738 to encourage enslaved Africans in the English colonies to flee the north to escape to St. Augustine, where in exchange for conversion to Catholicism and males' military service to the Spanish colony, runaways received freedom and land. Women and children farmed the land and occasionally sold extra produce in St. Augustine.

Less well known is the fact that when England gained control of Florida from 1763 – 1783, the community of Fort Mose faced a dire crisis. It was doubtful that England would recognize community members' freedom, so community members had to choose between flight or possible punishment and re-enslavement. Most chose to follow the evacuating Spaniards to Cuba, where some established the community of San Agustin de la Nueva Florida — St. Augustine of New Florida.

Visit <https://fortmose.org/> for more information.

Grant funding available for Northeast Florida nonprofits

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has opened its spring competitive grantmaking process and invites nonprofit organizations working in the six-county Northeast Florida region to apply for funding in areas detailed below. Last year, The Community Foundation awarded more than \$2 million in grants through its Foundation-directed grantmaking, supporting organizations large and small across a breadth of issue areas, including young children, aging adults, individual artists, and more. A complete list of competitive grants made

last year is available at www.jaxcf.org.

Program Support Grants (Now open)

- Purpose: Support for launching, expanding or improving services that support vulnerable populations and address unmet community needs.
- Amount: Up to \$25,000
- Location: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and Putnam counties.

Capacity Building Grants (Now open)

- Purpose: Help organizations better achieve their missions, promote continuous improvement and increase effectiveness.
- Amount: Up to \$10,000
- Location: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties

Individual Artist Grants (Opening May 1)

ANDY DAHMS

PAINTING SERVICES

Professional Painting Contractor



Whole house repaints

Interior & Exterior

Pool Deck

Patio Floor

Decorative Curbing

Reseal Decorative Stone or Pavers

941-730-1381

Andygoodeats1@gmail.com

Insured and References Available

- Purpose: Individual Artist Grants are designed to help Northeast Florida artists emerge to the next level of their artistic careers.
 - Amount: Up to \$5,000
 - Location: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam or St. Johns County
- LGBTQ Community Fund Grants (Opening May 1)
- Purpose: The LGBTQ Community Fund makes grants to nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida that build

- greater togetherness within LGBTQ communities and support Northeast Florida welcoming and celebrating its LGBTQ population.
- Location: Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay and St. Johns counties
 - Amount: Up to \$25,000
- Small organization grants and Beaches Community Fund grants have already closed for the year. Visit www.jaxcf.org for more information about the above grant opportunities.

COLD STONE

CREAMERY

2 FOR \$6

Two Like It® Size Create Your Own (Ice Cream + Mix-In) For \$6 Served in a cup. Waffle products and extra mix-ins available for addl. charge.

COLD STONE CREAMERY

valid at World Golf Village and Racetrack Rd

Limit 1 coupon per visit. Expires 5/31/23

\$4 OFF

Any Large Round, Large Rectangle Or Small Rectangle Signature Cake (Excludes Small Round Cakes, Pies, Petite Cakes & Cupcakes, Custom Cake Decorating And Writing)

COLD STONE CREAMERY

valid at World Golf Village and Racetrack Rd

Limit 1 coupon per visit. Expires 5/31/23

HANDCRAFTED & MADE FRESH

JUST FOR MOM

Celebrate Mother's Day with Cold Stone Creamery

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 14th

2570 Racetrack Rd - 904-429-9669
coldstonecreamery.com/store/23690

52 Tuscan Way - 904-547-2540
coldstonecreamery.com/stores/23675

Uber Eats | DOORDASH | GRUBHUB

World Water Day cont. from pg. 1

Julington Creek Elementary School including in-ground and raised garden beds, native landscaping, and sensory learning experiences.

According to INK!’s executive director Donna Lueders, teachers, administrators, and volunteers continued to support the ongoing service-learning project and the second annual World Water Day celebration, in collaboration with the Academy of Environmental Sciences and the Teaching Academy at Creekside High School.

This year, Creekside students added a butterfly science chamber with screened-in room, more native plants and landscaping, and various species of regional butterflies. New totems were also built with a variety of highly

tactile materials for exceptional student education (ESE) students at the elementary school.

According to the international non-profit organization, Pure Water for the World, this year’s World Water Day follows the campaign theme, “Accelerate Change.” Locally, the program included Academy and elementary school students in rotational learning groups with hands-on learning activities including a Wacky Watersheds and Fun 2.0 space where students learn about the water cycle, and a Nifty Natives area featuring the importance of native landscaping in the community, and pollination through a student-developed sensory activity.

The Rock N’ Roll activity encourages students to understand rock cycles, rock types, and the importance of

limestone in the development of the Florida aquifer. Sifting through Soils helps students learn about soil layers and the importance of soil resources in water filtration. Green ThumbsUp! features gardening basics and the opportunity for students to plant their own seeds.

St. Johns County 2020-2021 District Teacher of the Year Ali Pressel initiated the place-based learning plan and outdoor classroom project in 2020 with Jeanette Murphy, Julington Creek Elementary School’s principal. Pressel is an environmental sciences educator in the Academy of Engineering and Environmental Sciences at

Creekside High School.

Pressel implemented the World Water Day educational program focusing on water resources and water conservation with Creekside’s Academy of Future Teachers instructor, Regan Ashker. Under the guidance of Pressel and Ashker, Creekside students implemented upgrades to the outdoor learning space, developed sensory learning experiences, and designed new engaging lessons to share with younger students for this year’s Water Day event.

Visit www.ink-stjohns.org for more information.



Creekside High School and Julington Creek Elementary students at Green ThumbsUp! location.

Second graders send cheer to ill children



Patricia Tople's second grade class made blankets and sent them to Ryan's Case for Smiles, which then passed them on to ill children at Nemours Children's Speciality Care, UF Proton Therapy Center, and Community Peds Care.

Famous

AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE CENTER

www.FamousAutoRepairandTires.com

500 SR 13 N.
Behind McDonald's,
Next to Primrose
904-217-7326

5717 University Blvd. W.
904-337-1695

2560 US Highway 1 S.
St Augustine, FL 32086
904- 203-1390

2430 Blanding Blvd
904-267-1900

1964 Cassatt Avenue
904-634-7923

9962 San Jose Blvd.
904-619-6309

3575 US Highway 17
904-458-4997

Come see us before your next road trip!

\$25 OFF
\$100 OR MORE PURCHASE
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.
Excludes oil change.

\$50 OFF
ANY SET OF TIRES
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

\$20 OFF
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

\$20 OFF
AC EVAC & RECHARGE
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

\$20 OFF
ANY FLUSH
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

\$5 OFF
ANY OIL CHANGE
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

\$39.99
CONVENTIONAL OIL CHANGE
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

FREE
Flat Repairs

Ride Home
Available

STORE
HOURS:
Mon. - Fri. 7 am-6 pm
Sat. 7 am-5 pm
Sun. 8 am-4 pm

“Servicing Every Customer Like They’re FAMOUS!”

☆☆☆☆☆

Let Famous Automotive Professionals give you a 5-Star Service.

Find us on
Facebook

Limited quantities. Does not include disposal fees, tax, installation. Offers cannot be combined.

Locally owned and operated

Church for Creative Living in St. Johns

2777 Race Track Road, St Johns, FL 32259

Sunday Service 10:30 AM
In Person or Streamed on

UCCL’s Mother’s Day Celebration!
Join us Sunday, May 14th as we honor the incredible Moms in our community. All are welcome as we travel the journey of spiritual unfoldment together.

Reverend Yvonne McAndrew
Phone: 904.287.1505
[www. UnityInjax.com](http://www.UnityInjax.com)

Bartram Trail Winterguard finishes season 10th in nation

By Cindy Kee
mail@floridanewslines.com

More than 14,000 students, 40 states and four countries were represented at the WGI (World Guard International) competition held April 13 – 15 in Dayton, Ohio, and Bartram Trail High School Winterguard placed 10th in the Scholastic A Division. They were the only team (of the more than 120 teams competing in this class) from Florida to make it to the finals in Scholastic A.



Photos courtesy Cindy Kee
The Bartram Trail High School Winterguard team performed "Lights Will Guide You" at the WGI competition in April.

Their program, entitled "Lights Will Guide You" was set to a rendition of "Fix You." The program began with a performer being carried over her teammates and lifted onto the floor. Utilizing just one piece of equipment at a time, the program showcased the ensembles' ability to confidently command their choreography. The program also included full ensemble sabre and rifle with a flag feature to conclude the show, as the performers finished looking into the light, towards home.

Bartram Trail Winterguard earned first place at every local competition this season, were WGI regional champions in Palm Beach, and gold medalists in the Florida division for Scholastic A Class. They are the first Winterguard team in Bartram Trail High School history to

place in the top 10 and only the second team in the school's history to make it to finals (first was in 2007) at WGI Championships.

The program is under the direction of Rick Krystofiak, who has been with Bartram Trail Guard for more than 10 years.

Creekside High School competed in the preliminary round, but did not advance to semifinals; however, they did earn a level 1 superior rating and improved their overall ranking in the WGI circuit. This was Creekside's first ever trip to this competition. Both Bartram and Creekside were given a police escort by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, April 11 when they departed for the competition.

A keystone species and ultimate host: The gopher tortoise

By Dianne Battle

The largest economic driver in Florida is tourism, often referred to as "heads on beds." If wildlife made a contribution to this industry, the gopher tortoise would certainly qualify for an award for the number of "heads in burrows" it accommodates.

Gopher tortoise burrows are used by at least 350 species as permanent homes or temporary emergency shelters; the species list includes some strange bedfellows such as the venomous eastern diamond-back, gopher frog, Florida mouse, and numerous insects. Burrows can be up to 40 feet long and 15 feet deep, big enough to accommodate a lot of critters and protect them from threats like fire.

Gopher tortoises have been around for about 60 million years, and up until 50 years ago, were so numerous indigenous peoples and European settlers used the shells for implements and the meat for food. As human populations increased, gopher predation and loss of habitat caused their numbers to plummet. The eastern gopher tortoise has not been listed for federal protections; however, like the monarch butterfly, the Federal Wildlife Service recognizes the gopher's precarious status but does not have enough funding to provide protections throughout its entire range.

The gopher tortoise is a keystone species, meaning it is critical to the existence of other species, among them

the 350 full and part-time residents in their burrows. These burrows can be identified by the semi-circle forming the tunnel entrance under the sandy soil. Their preferred habitat includes upland longleaf pine forests. Regular small fires ensure that both the longleaf pines and the wiregrass regenerate regularly. The gopher tortoise benefits from the new vegetation sparked by these fires. It sounds like an unusual partnership, but it has worked for thousands of years. Gopher tortoises' favorite foods include fire-dependent grasses, cacti, and broad-leaved vegetation. These plants supply all the hydration the tortoise needs.

The state of Florida has an abundance of water, surrounded by salt water, lakes, and rivers. Its five species of sea turtles and 30 species of freshwater turtles are adapted to this environment with light streamlined shells and webbing between clawed feet which allow these turtles to swim and manage their buoyancy. Land-based tortoises have heavy rounded shells, and clawed feet adapted to digging.

The gopher tortoise's environmental engineering prowess (burrowing) makes it worth protecting — and keeping wild. In fact, this animal has its own special day of recognition: April 10 is Gopher Tortoise Day. Visit myfwc.com/education/wildlife/gopher-tortoise for more information.

Dianne Battle is president of the Garden Club of Switzerland.

Funeral • Crematory • Memorial Park



Pre-Planning advisors are available to assist you.

WWW.CRAIGFUNERALHOME.COM • (904) 824-1672
Call for a no cost consultation



(904) 233-8731
Broker Associate & REALTOR®
DougNunneryRealtor.com

EXPLORE LUXURY SENIOR LIVING IN JACKSONVILLE



ELEVATE YOUR LIVING

Whether it's fine dining, luxury spa experiences or exceptional events and personalized care you're seeking, our senior living community has you covered. Discover how luxury senior living allows you to thrive at every level.

*This is HarborChase.
Come celebrate with us.*



HARBORCHASE OF MANDARIN
(904) 584-9817

Explore
Luxury Senior
Living at
HarborChase





Need Adult Care For Summer?

Our Adult Day Program offers seniors a variety of daily activities designed to engage physical, social, occupational and intellectual needs. Now you can have more time to work, relax or tend to your own needs.



- Purposeful, safe environment
- Full schedule of daily activities
- Worry-free time for caregivers
- Available Monday-Friday (8am-5pm)



Scan Code to Request
RiverGarden.org
904.288.7858



A not-for-profit agency sponsored by the organized Jacksonville Jewish community.

Nutrition Check

Eliminating diet culture

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RD and Rayonna Hills BS
mail@floridanewslines.com

Have you ever heard of diet culture? The term diet culture is a social exception that tells us how we are expected to eat, look, and that only when our bodies look a certain way, we are accepted. It is a system of beliefs and rules that promote weight-loss at any cost to achieve the “desired” appearance, which can impact all genders and all aged individuals from adolescents to older adults. During this month, May 6 is recognized as “National No Diet Day.”

Examples of diet culture are:

- Categorizing calories and labeling foods as “good or bad”
- Commenting on/criticizing another persons’ weight (children and adults)
- Diets that cut out food groups (e.g., fruits, whole grains)
- Influencers who glorify “health” by adopting unhealthy eating behaviors

Diet culture can be very dangerous, not only emotionally, but also physically. It often fuels guilt and shame around eating, encourages body discrimination, and can lead to disordered eating habits and in some cases, eating disorders such as bulimia, binge

eating, anorexia, or many others.

In order to avoid diet culture, we can:

- Removing labels such as “good or bad” when it comes to foods. All foods can be good and enjoyed in moderation; let’s focus on food positivity over food negativity.
- Focusing on your overall diet and acknowledging foods that make you feel good, recognizing that all foods provide value and benefit to our bodies, some more than others.
- Try to avoid being exposed to diet culture (this is really hard!), such as unfollowing those on social media who promote strict diets/restrictions/eliminations or ending a conversation with someone who may be talking about it
- Be mindful of how you speak about foods and others in terms of their looks; be kind and seek to be a supportive friend or family member to those who feel diet pressures.
- Think more about intuitive eating. Visit www.intuitiveeating.org/10-principles-of-intuitive-eating/ to learn more.



Jimmy’s Fishing Report

By Jimmy Tomazinis
mail@floridanewslines.com

I hope everyone is doing well and staying cool as the warmer part of the year begins to ramp up. With the hot temperatures and Memorial Day later this month, May can mean the beginning of the busy boating season in Northeast Florida. Considering this I wanted to take a few words and remind everyone of the wonderful water resources we have available to us here and that it’s everyone’s responsibility to keep them safe and enjoyable places for everyone.

While no and minimum wake zones can seem like inconveniences, they were placed there for the safety of people and wildlife and are not optional. We have plenty of space in our area of the river, so be courteous to others and don’t crowd them while they enjoy their own little slice of paradise. If you

must pass someone at a close distance, please be mindful of your wake and know that you are liable for it. Kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, and other small watercraft are much more sensitive to boat wakes than larger boats, so think of how they will be impacted after you pass them.

If you are new to boating or have never taken one before I would highly recommend taking a boater safety course. An FWC-approved course can be found online at www.boatus.org/florida. Another valuable resource for in-person courses and vessel safety inspections would be our local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla. You can reach out to them via email at division07014@gmail.com for a schedule of courses and any other information.

One last thought is to be aware of your trash while on the water and if you see some in the water, please remove it so we can continue to leave the river better than when we found it.

Now let’s talk fishing. The larger redfish have shown up and many over slot fish are being caught on crab around dock lines and shell bars. Sheepshead are around if you want to move a little closer to the docks and present them with a smaller piece of crab or a clam. The stripers are still hanging on the bridges, biting on frozen shrimp and I’m sure they are partaking in the live shrimp that we no doubt have around already. We just can’t throw the nets for them yet. That all starts next month. Until then stay safe, think of others, and tight lines.

NOW OPEN

Planet Lite™ & Energy Smoothies

35+ smoothies made with real fruit

Protein & Superfood Options

Planet Smoothie®

1405 St Johns Parkway
202
St Johns, Florida 32259
904-217-0897

\$2 OFF

any smoothie

Planet Smoothie®

Valid only at the location listed below and while supplies last. Must present & surrender coupon at time of order. Discount given on item of equal or lesser value. Limit one coupon per person, per visit. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes. Not valid with any other offers or if copied, altered, sold, transferred or where prohibited by law. Internet distribution strictly prohibited. Cash value 1/100¢. 37.0477 © 2023 Kahala Franchising, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

Valid Only At:
1405 St Johns Parkway • 202 • St Johns, Florida 32259
Expires: 09/30/2023

Buy any smoothie, get one 50% OFF

(of equal or lesser value)

Planet Smoothie®

Valid only at the location listed below and while supplies last. Must present & surrender coupon at time of order. Discount given on item of equal or lesser value. Limit one coupon per person, per visit. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes. Not valid with any other offers or if copied, altered, sold, transferred or where prohibited by law. Internet distribution strictly prohibited. Cash value 1/100¢. 37.0477 © 2023 Kahala Franchising, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

Valid Only At:
1405 St Johns Parkway • 202 • St Johns, Florida 32259
Expires: 09/30/2023

Gardening

Unexpected beauty from a “weed” and a bean plant

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

It’s the second week in April and we’ve had a good amount of rain. No torrential downpours, just the steady soaking type and some refreshing brief showers. While venturing into the backyard one day, I glanced along the back of my house, where I’ve laid some long branches to edge an informal bed. Sitting on one of them was a lovely red and black butterfly. I’ve seen the species before, but not often; it was a red admiral.

So why did it appear in my yard? Like most butterflies, it needs specific plants on which to lay eggs, so I did some research (<https://tinyurl.com/yxr5u3tu>). Red admirals can be found in many areas of the world, and they are one of the butterflies I saw as a child in the UK. There they lay their eggs on stinging nettles (*Urtica sp.*), and on this continent there are similar plants for them to utilize. In my yard, though, Florida pellitory (*Parietaria floridana*) is its host plant — a weedy thing that I’d been pulling out without a second thought, and certainly without bothering to learn what it was first. Well, I’ve decided to keep some of it and hope for more red admirals. I’ll be more cautious in future about what I edit from my yard, and this article could help: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2mmd3j>. The website is full of information for wildflower enthusiasts and is worth investigation.

As more insects emerge for the summer, I know there’s more to discover. Before our Shumard oak leafed out I noticed it had two egg-shaped “things” dangling from its outer twigs. I’ve recently learnt that they were cocoons of the polyphemus moth, one of our largest and most beautiful silk moths (<https://tinyurl.com/mazr9zv2>). It might sound strange, but I am hoping our tree will host a small army of polyphemus caterpillars — it won’t suffer — as they could be food for hungry baby birds.

I recently planted out some hyacinth beans (*Lablab purpureus*) at the base of a bamboo “teepee” frame. As well as being

decorative plants, the leaves can be eaten like spinach. The beans are edible, with a good amount of protein, but must be boiled before eating as they contain a toxin. Another experiment. For more information, check out <https://tinyurl.com/4hr7wyc7>.

A reminder — the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/vh021>) is a great source of information on choosing and growing our more usual summer crops.

If you are having a difficult tomato season, information here could help identify possible diseases: <https://tinyurl.com/45ypukb3>. Although a popular crop, tomatoes are not always easy to grow, and I’ve had little joy recently. Next year I’ll try one or two varieties bred by the University of Florida. There are three available from Proven Winners, in their “Tempting Tomatoes” series. They get great reviews based on flavor and disease resistance.


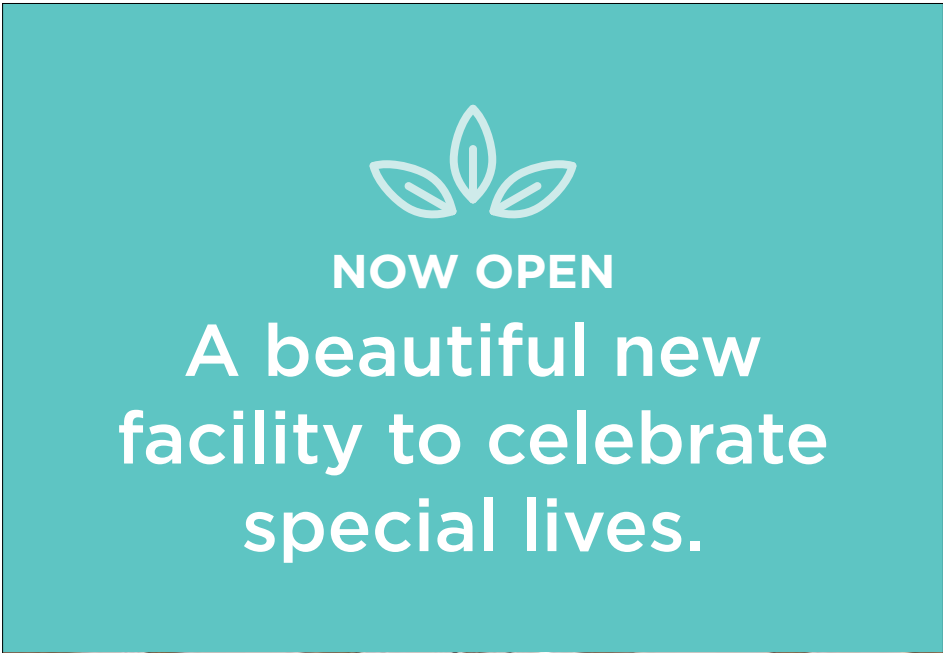
Some of the plants flowering in my garden include wild petunias (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), Simpson’s stoppers (*Myricanthes fragrans*), lance leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia sp.*), sunflowers (*Helianthus sp.*), wild red salvia (*Salvia coccinea*), starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*), and — a mixed blessing — beggar’s ticks (*Bidens alba*), one of the very best native plants for a huge variety of pollinators. It’s vital to keep it in check. If you remove its seedheads before the seeds mature, then it’s a great plant. But if those seeds spread, it will live up to the definition of a weed — there will be plants aplenty in the wrong places.

The native passion vine or maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*) has begun to flower, and the gulf fritillary butterflies that have been flitting around for weeks, have clearly been laying eggs. Their caterpillars are making a meal of the tender new leaves and are growing daily. This native vine can spread too, but it’s simple to pull up when spotted in the wrong place.

Trout Creek celebrates Easter



Photo courtesy Carolyn Karger
Trout Creek Senior Center participant Maureen was delighted to win an Easter gift basket in the center’s raffle. The Trout Creek Senior Center offers 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 11:30 a.m. each day. Contact Program Coordinator Myra Fisher at (904) 209-3658 or mfisher@coasjc.org for more information.



> Flexible event space for 200 guests

> State-of-the-art technology

> Catering and beverage service

> Venue customization options

Learn more: HGStJohns.com

Hardage-Giddens
St. Johns
FUNERALS & CREMATIONS
1285 St. Johns Pkwy. | St. Johns
904-342-1011

Every Detail Remembered® | Dignity®
MEMORIAL

Travel

A family trip to an Arizona Dude Ranch

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

While spring break brings thousands of visitors to Florida beaches each year, thousands of Floridians pack up and travel west. They often leave the state to go skiing or explore the desert surroundings.

I recently flew to Tucson, Arizona, where I met my son, his wife, and their four children. We were all headed to the White Stallion Dude Ranch, a three-generation family-owned and operated guest ranch. The facility follows a legacy of the founders: to preserve the Western way of life and provide guests with an authentic Western experience. I can tell you they succeed.

Less than an hour after we arrived, all seven of us were in the saddles and taking a trail ride across the prickly pear and giant saguaro cactus landscape. The view became a pinch-me moment. I was riding horses with my family in Arizona! The

Sonoran Desert and Rincon Mountains ahead of us made an extraordinary backdrop, so much so that the location has appeared in many Hollywood movies.

While at White Stallion, we did much more than ride horses; we shot arrows at targets on the archery range and went rock climbing. The two older girls rode E-bikes (electric) while others hit the heated pool. I shot a 22-caliber rifle and pistol (at targets) for the first time. And one morning, I rode up and down Suicide Pass as my horse carefully placed his hooves on the rocky terrain. It was a bit scary but rewarding, too.

We were busy and having fun from sunup to sun down, and the kids never missed television (they are not in the guest rooms). Instead, they met others and played chess, air hockey, and basketball; we sat around a campfire, listened to a country western singer, and tried



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Trail ride.

line dancing another night.

The strange thing was while we were active, we were relaxed. No need to cook or clean up, no need to carry a wallet, adults can help themselves to cocktails at the honor system bar, and everyone lays back and basks in the starry night sky. I now understand how a family dude ranch vacation may be one of the best getaways ever. It certainly ranks high in my memories (and I have experienced many exotic trips).

What made our days notable were the welcoming and helpful staff at the White Stallion. The wranglers know how to pick an appropriate horse for every rider. They match your weight and equestrian experience (or lack thereof) with the correct steed. I rode Custer, a Norwegian Fjord horse that was slow but steady. My granddaughter Kate qualified for and took her horse, Comanche, on a fast trail ride.

The grounds are immaculate since gar-

deners tend to the plants every morning. The dining room features indoor and outdoor tables, buffet meals, or custom orders for breakfast. Steaks were pre-ordered at lunch and grilled rare, medium, or well done at dinner. The cooks made and presented my son with a surprise birthday cake.

On our last morning, we took a breakfast trail ride, dismounting our horses at a picturesque area with red and white plaid tablecloths draped over picnic tables. The staff, including the ranch owners, cooked blueberry pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage on the outdoor grills and served coffee in blue tin cups. I didn't become a cowboy in such a short time, but I sure felt the allure of the Western ways.

For more information: White Stallion Dude Ranch: whitestallion.com.

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



White Stallion Dude Ranch.



Moms and babies need special types of care.

We deliver both.

When you're expecting, you have questions. We help answer them.

Rest easy knowing that you *and* your baby are in the right hands.

That's because Baptist Health is the No. 1 health system in Northeast Florida for maternity services and Wolfson Children's provides the most sophisticated care for infants and children of all ages.

To learn more or find an OB/GYN who delivers at Baptist Health, call **904.202.4HER (4437)** or visit baptistjax.com/baby.

Physicians providing care at our hospitals are not employees or agents of the hospitals.

