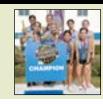
September 2025 Volume 25 Issue 9

A Florida NewsLine Publication



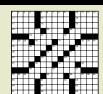
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## CreekLine seeks local stories in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Florida NewsLine Staff editor@floridanewsline.com

This October, the CreekLine is proud to spotlight the strength and resilience of breast cancer warriors and survivors — and to honor the memory of those we've lost.

We invite you to share your story or the story of a loved one. Your journey can inspire, uplift and remind others that they are not alone.

Email us at editor@floridanewsline.com by Sunday, Sept. 22 for a chance to be featured.

## CreekLine seeks local stories to honor veterans

Florida NewsLine Staff editor@floridanewsline.com

The CreekLine is honoring Veterans Day (Nov. 11), and we want to highlight the service, sacrifice and stories of our military veterans right here in our community.

We're looking for:

Local veteran trailblazers — business owners, community leaders, or anyone making a difference after their service.

Multigenerational military families keeping traditions of service alive.

Stories from veterans who made St. Johns County home after their service.

Veterans involved in local organizations, volunteer work, or mentoring.

Young veterans and their families sharing what service means to them.

Know a veteran we should spotlight? Want to share your own story?

Email us at editor@floridanewsline. com by Monday, Oct. 27 for a chance to be featured.



Photos courtesy Hallowes Cove Academy Hallowes Cove Academy is St. Johns County newest school.

## New K-8 school in Rivertown begins inaugural year with full elective offerings

Tracy McCormick-Dishman editor@floridanewsline.com

Hallowes Cove Academy opened its doors this month as St. John's County's newest school, serving kindergarten through seventh grade students in the Rivertown community. The school will add eighth grade next year to become a full K-8 academy.

The decision to start without eighth grade allows current eighth graders from feeder schools to finish their final year at their home schools, said Lauren O'Shell, an instructional coach at the school.

"The eighth graders that we're getting come from Swiss Point, Freedom Crossing, and Cunningham Creek, and it's so that the eighth graders can finish their year at the school that they had been at," O'Shell said. "We're not going to move them before they're graduating."

The school draws teachers from those three feeder schools as well as educators from across the district and out of state. Throughout the summer, new staff participated in team-building events before the building became available in July.

Despite being new, Hallowes Cove offers a full range of middle school electives including art, band, Spanish, yearbook, musical theater, and digital tools classes.

"All of those are electives that we have in middle school, which is pretty rare for a brand new school to have enough teachers and students to kind of make that mix," O'Shell said.

The school mascot is the Hurricanes, and the academy developed mission and vision statements during summer planning sessions.

Community rallies around new school

Principal Jessley Hathaway, who came from Osceola Elementary, began meeting with community members in May to establish a Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO has already demonstrated remarkable support.

During pre-planning week, PTO members and community volunteers assembled and delivered more than 100 cube organizers to classrooms, ensuring every student has their own cubby space. Volunteers responded within two days



Principal Jessley Hathaway walks with his kindergarten son, Benjamin, at Hallowes Cove Academy.

of the request being posted.

"They had enough volunteers of just random community members to come and do that," O'Shell said. "The PTO has already had lunches and breakfast for the staff."

Hallowes cont. on pg. 2

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The gymnasium at Hallowes Cove Academy in Rivertown.

Hallowes cont. fron pg. 1

The community support extends to local businesses, with the school's spirit wear company operating within the Rivertown area.

"Even our spirit wear company is a company within the community, which is cool because it's just kind of like the community is giving back," O'Shell said

Principal Hathaway expressed his enthusiasm for leading the new school and serving the Rivertown community.

"This is an amazing community. They've been supportive the whole time. I'm blessed to have this opportunity to lead this school and serve this population," Hathaway said. "Welcome to Hallowes Cove. Go Hurricanes!"

The school serves families in the Rivertown development and surrounding area. As the academy grows to include eighth grade next year, it will provide a complete K-8 educational experience for local families who chose the area partly because of the planned school.



Fifth grade safety patrols helped out with arrivals and dismissal on day one.

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Best Furry Friend of the month

## Breed:

#### Tuxedo cat

Favorite Activity:

Watching animals from the window.

Favorite Food:

Shredded chicken

Favorite Friends:

His sister, Cali Cat
How did your BFF get their name:

His human brother, Zach.



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 Mandarin NewsLine.

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## MYSTERY PHOTO

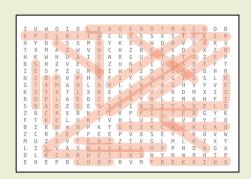


Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.
Last month's Mystery Photo was Julington Creek Rec Center.

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Answers

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To submit items for the Community Calendar, email editor@floridanewsline.com.

#### Sept. 9 **Fall Kick-Off Luncheon**

Bartram Trail Newcomers and Women's Club will hold its Fall Kick-Off Luncheon Monday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. at St. John's Golf and Country Club in St. Augustine. The theme is "Getting to Know Me" and will feature a barbecue buffet. Cost is \$32. The club offers bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Chicken Train, Bunco, Mah Jongg, golf, book club, Nature Walk, Lunch Divas and Girls Night Out. Membership is open to everyone.

#### Sept. 11 **American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372 meeting**

American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372 will meet Thursday, Sept. 11. The post meets the second Thursday of each month at the Williams YMCA upstairs, 10415 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville. Visit alpost372fl. org for more information.

### **Sept. 13 Bartram Trail Genealogy Club**

The Bartram Trail Genealogy Club meets Saturday, Sept. 13, from 2-4 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. Members will share family short stories and legends and the sources and techniques they used to write them. Open to the public of all levels of genealogical experience. Email ginglish@comcast.net for more information.

#### **Sept. 13 Women's Worship Night**

Women's Worship Night will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, from 5-7 p.m. at Creekside Christian Church, 92 Life Spring Way, St. Johns. The free

event for women 18 and older will begin with mocktail refreshments followed by praise and worship. Participants are encouraged to bring a friend for a night of worship together.

#### **Sept. 15 All Star Quilters Guild meeting**

All Star Quilters Guild meets on the third Monday of each month at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville. Check-in and social time at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Visit allstarquilters.org for more information.

#### **Sept. 16**

## **Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon**

Newcomers of North St. Johns will hold its September luncheon Tuesday, Sept. 16. at 11 a.m. at St. Johns Golf & Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive, St. Augustine. Cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for guests. Reservations must be received by Sept. 8. Entertainment will be provided by Jacksonville guitarist Cassidy Lee from "The Voice." Annual membership is \$30. Visit newcomersofnorthstjohns.org for information.

#### Sept. 18-21 **Ladies International Poker Series Florida State Championship**

The Ladies International Poker Series Florida State Championship will be held Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 18-21, at bestbet Jacksonville. The first, longest-running and most popular poker tour for women features ladies-only and co-ed play, plus a questionand-answer session with poker legends Linda Johnson and Jan Fisher.

**River of Life UMC Pumpkin Patch opens** River of Life UMC Pumpkin Patch opens Sunday, Sept. 22, for its 23rd year. Hours are

Monday through Friday, 2-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Morning field trips available Monday through Friday at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. Contact Kayla Hull at children@rolumc.com. The annual Free Family Fall Festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, from noon to 4 p.m.

#### **Oct. 8 Palencia Elementary Family Bingo Night**

Palencia Elementary School PTO will host Family Bingo Night Wednesday, Oct. 8. Visit palenciapiratespto.com for more information.

## **Oct. 8**

## **Palencia Elementary Mother/Son Night**

Palencia Elementary School PTO will host Mother/Son Night Saturday, Oct. 8. Visit palenciapiratespto.com for more information.

#### Oct. 10-11 **Fall Plant Sale**

St. Johns County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Johns County Extension Office, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine. The sale will feature landscape plants, houseplants and vegetable seedlings. Tours of the Demonstration Gardens on the property will also be offered. Visit sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/ for more information.

#### Oct. 14 **Palencia Elementary PTO meeting**

Palencia Elementary School PTO will meet Tuesday, Oct. 14. Visit palenciapiratespto.com for more information.

#### Oct. 14 **Living Hope Community Church Pumpkin Patch opens**

Living Hope Community Church will open its

pumpkin patch during the second week of October at 2585 Pacetti Road. All proceeds above the cost of pumpkins will support local ministries including Somebody Cares of St. Augustine, St. Francis House/Port in the Storm of St. Augustine, and Alpha Omega Miracle Home in St. Augustine. Visit livinghope-community-church.com for more information.

### Oct. 25 **Free Family Fall Festival**

River of Life UMC will hold its annual Free Family Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 25, from noon to 4 p.m. The free event will feature hot dogs, chips, drinks, popcorn, snow cones, bounce houses, face painting and musical entertainment. The festival is held in conjunction with the church's Pumpkin Patch fundraiser, which supports children's ministries and collects donations for local food banks and shelters.

#### **Ongoing Activities A Course in Miracles Study Group**

A Course in Miracles Study Group meets on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. at Unity Church for Creative Living, 2777 Race Track Road. This is a unique spiritual self-study program designed to awaken attendees to the truth of oneness with God. Cost: Donation. Call 904-287-1505 or email uccloffice2777@gmail.com for more information.

## **Widow to Widow support group**

Widow to Widow, support group for widows by widows is held at Council on Aging (COA) River House, 179 Marine Street in St. Augustine on Wednesdays from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Call 904-209-3655 (Monday-Thursday) or email tharris@coasjc.org for more information.





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# NERC secure track state title: 'No I in Team'

By Jill Benavides mail@floridanewsline.com

The No Excuses Running Club middle school girls' track team arrived at the 2025 FLYRA Track Middle School State Championship in Bradenton, Florida, with one goal in mind: the state championship title.

At the meet, they learned the true meaning of team. After Allie Austin won the 3,000-meter race Friday night, it became apparent that another top runner was struggling. Pushing through an asthma attack in the last 600 meters, Avery Hartley (4th) fought to score for her team, as did Eva Delaney (2nd) and Bri Motycka (3rd), securing 29 team points Friday night.

Going into Saturday, the girls knew they would all need to dig deep and work together, uncertain if Avery could continue. Every runner gave her best, encouraging one another and literally holding each other up.

The 800-meter relay A team—Allie, Avery, Bri and Eva—placed first. The B team—Meghan Richardson, Emma Godfrey, Ivey Edgell and Christina Ha-



2025 NERC GIRLS 800 State Champs

ven—seeded 16th, finished fifth, securing 10 points. In the 1,500 meters, the girls scored 23 more points: Allie was 2nd, Bri 3rd, Avery 4th and Eva 5th. In the 800 meters, Allie placed 8th, adding two final points, for a total of 64.

It all came down to the last event of the day. The girls gave everything they had and won by two points. Not one runner gave up, backed down or let up. "There is no I in team," the girls demonstrated.



2025 NERC GIRLS 3000 Allie State Champ



2025 NERC GIRLS State Champs at Meet

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# New Lutheran Church brings mission and service to St. Johns County

By Tracy McCormick-Dishman editor@floridanewsline.com

Living Hope Community Church, a Lutheran congregation sent out by Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, is establishing roots in St. Johns County with a mission to serve both faith and community.

The congregation purchased its current five-acre property at 2585 Pacetti Road in April 2024 using proceeds from the sale of a previous second location in Mandarin. In January 2025, the congregation voted to send a Mission Planting Pastor to St. Johns County to continue carrying the mission of Jesus through a Lutheran witness to the faith.

While construction plans are still in development, the church currently meets at Picolata Crossing Elementary School, located next to their property at 2675 Pacetti Road. Services include Bible Study and Children's Sunday School at 4:45 p.m., followed by worship service at 5:45 p.m.

"We have been given a heart to love and care for our neighbors," said church leadership. This commitment to community service will be demonstrated through their upcoming pumpkin patch, modeled after their sending church's successful community outreach program.

The pumpkin patch will open during the second week of October 2025 on the church's property. All proceeds above the cost of pumpkins will support local ministries that serve those in need throughout the community.



Benefiting organizations include Somebody Cares of St. Augustine, St. Francis House/Port in the Storm of St. Augustine, and Alpha Omega Miracle Home in St. Augustine.

The pumpkin patch represents more than a fundraiser—it embodies the church's commitment to being actively involved in addressing local needs while providing a family-friendly community gathering space.

As Living Hope Community Church continues to grow its presence in St. Johns County, the congregation remains focused on building relationships and serving their neighbors through both spiritual guidance and practical support.

The church welcomes visitors to their weekly services at Picolata Crossing Elementary School. For more information about services, the upcoming pumpkin patch, or ways to get involved, visit living-hope-community-church.com or find them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at Living Hope Community Church.

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## Local teens explore the world through Rotary

By Al Kalter mail@floridanewsline.com

"Lapland was so cold that it reached around -20°C at times, and the amount of snow was truly outrageous. We had done a multitude of activities, but my favorites had to be the husky rides, sauna, seeing the northern lights, and finally skiing. I had tried to snowboard at first because I thought it would be easier and cooler to say I had been snowboarding. Boy, was I wrong! I couldn't even stand up on the board without falling on my face a minute later. The moment I switched to skis, I picked it up so fast. Within ten minutes, I was going down the slopes by myself," said Isaac, a 2023-24 Rotary exchange student in Finland.

Every year, thousands of high school students worldwide embark on the adventure of a lifetime, sponsored by a local Rotary Club for a year in



another country. Locally, the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail–Julington Creek has offered this opportunity for more than 20 years. Students from Creekside and Bartram Trail high schools have enriched their lives, discovered new cultures, learned new languages, and served as ambassadors for the U.S. and their community in dozens of countries

Rotary is currently accepting applications from area high school students interested in spending the 2026-27 school year abroad. The application deadline is November 1. Possible destinations include countries in Europe, South America and Asia, and Rotary provides scholarship funds to keep costs at a minimum.

Rotary Youth Exchange programs are open to students aged 15-18. Applicants should be above-average students who have demonstrated leadership in

their community and possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things. These traits help students fully experience life in another country and become effective cultural ambassadors.

Why participate in a study abroad program? The challenges are significant, but so are the benefits: gaining a new perspective on the world, becoming immersed in another culture, adapting



Photos courtesy Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

to a new way of life, learning a new language, improving life skills such as confidence, resilience and independence, enhancing college or job applications, and making lifelong friendships in the host country and around the world.

As a true exchange program, Rotary also welcomes teenagers from around the world into the local community each year. These students live with volunteer host families, offering a unique opportunity to bring the world into the home and broaden family horizons.

To learn more about Rotary Youth Exchange opportunities, visit rye6970. org.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail–Julington Creek meets every Thursday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Guests and prospective members are always welcome.

## Julington Creek gets mascot makeover

By Heidi Karl mail@floridanewsline.com

Over the summer, several projects were completed at Julington Creek Elementary in anticipation of students returning in August. Two of the projects were supported by the PTO, which hired Tricia Burford of Mural Creations & More to paint a mural and update the school mascot.

The mural can be seen by students as they move throughout the school. The mascot, a longtime symbol of the school, was in need of some care. Burford spent many hours on the projects, which turned out beautifully, school officials said.



Photos courtesy Julington Creek Elementary



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Reverend Yvonne McAndrew

# Business Month

## **Business Briefs**

## **YMCA CEO to retire after 14 years**

Eric Mann, president and CEO of the YMCA of Florida's First Coast, announced Monday he will retire in summer 2026 after more than 40 years serving YMCAs nationwide.

Mann will continue in his current role and provide guidance during the transition until his successor is identified, according to a news release.

"Eric's service to YMCAs across the country and his steadfast commitment and innovative approach to improving people's lives across Northeast Florida is unmatched," said Gary Norcross, chairman of the YMCA of Florida's First Coast Metropolitan Board of Directors.

During Mann's 14-year tenure, membership grew 33 percent as the association expanded across Clay, Duval, St. Johns and Nassau counties. New facilities opened in Nocatee, Northwest St. Johns, Wildlight and Northside neighborhoods, with future expansion planned for Durbin Park.

Other achievements include renovation of the Johnson Family YMCA in Northwest Jacksonville and construction of the Winston Family YMCA, the association's largest branch. Fundraising grew 515 percent, including a multimil-



Eric K. Mann

lion-dollar gift from Mackenzie Scott during the pandemic. The organization received more than \$90 million in contributions and gifts under Mann's leadership.

Operational revenue grew more than 50 percent in 14 years, while the total number of individuals served increased nearly 40 percent. Mann also launched Healthy Living Centers that provide health screenings and programs on nutrition, healthy aging and other health topics.

The Metro Board of Directors has initiated a nationwide search for a new CEO in partnership with the YMCA of the USA. The search committee includes former and current board chairs who were involved in recruiting Mann.

## County releases fifth edition of financial guide

St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Brandon Patty announced the release of the fifth edition of "Tracking Your Tax Dollars: A Guide to St. Johns County's Finances."

The Popular Annual Financial Report provides residents with a clear picture of how tax dollars were collected, spent and invested during Fiscal Year 2024. The guide is a refined version of the county's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and includes county revenues and expenditures, the budget process and a breakdown of how funds support community services.

The report also features economic indicators and community trends, including updates on demographics, housing, population and community growth, as well as the county's strategic investment in community services.

The PAFR is available online at stjohnsclerk.com/pafr. Printed copies can be requested at the St. Johns



Brandon Patty

County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's Office at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. The full Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is available at stjohnsclerk.com/acfr.

For questions, residents can contact the Customer Care Call Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (904) 819-3600 or email clerk@stjohnsclerk.com. Patty can be reached directly at (904) 599-8688 or BPatty@stjohnsclerk.com.

## Property taxes may rise despite stable home values

St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer said property taxes will likely increase for many homeowners even in neighborhoods where home values have stabilized or decreased.

The increases are due to Florida's Recapture Rule, part of the Save Our Homes legislation that protects property owners from rapid year-to-year increases in property values by allowing gradual changes instead.

Under the law, assessed value contin-

it equals market value, even when market value remains flat or decreases. The homestead property cap is 3% or the Consumer Price Index change, whichever is less. The non-homestead property cap is 10%.

Property owners who have owned homestead properties for many years may have significant differences between market value and assessed value, meaning they may never see the two figures equal but still receive tax savings compared to rates without the Save

The Save Our Homes portability benefit allows property owners to transfer up to \$500,000 of the accrued difference between market and assessed

value from one homestead property to another within three years.

For more information, contact Creamer at Eddie@sjcpa.gov or 904-827-5500.

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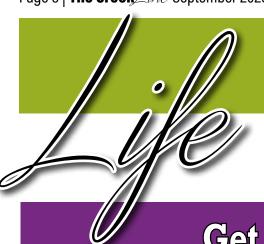
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travel - pantry raiders - gardening

## fishing - entertainment - puzzles

Get to Know...

By Tracy McCormick-Dishman editor@floridanewsline.com

## Lauren O'Shell

Lauren O'Shell and her family moved to Rivertown seven years ago, choosing the community partly because they knew a school was planned for the neighborhood. Her son Campbell, now a fourth-grader, attends the same school where she works.

"When we built our house, we knew that having a school in the neighborhood was something that was coming," O'Shell said. "It's exciting that we still get to be in the same school."

This school year brings additional challenges as O'Shell navigates her instructional coaching position while caring for 5-month-old Palmer, her second child. After 20 years in education, she transitioned three years ago from classroom teaching to her current role.

"I'm kind of like a bridge between the teachers and the students and the administrators," O'Shell said. "I help teachers with the curriculum and how to support students."

The role allows her to work with all grade levels from kindergarten through eighth grade, expanding her impact beyond the 22 students she once taught in her own classroom.

"Instead of just impacting a small group of students, I can make a larger impact," she said.

Nine-year-old Campbell has embraced his role as big brother, eagerly

## Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured? Email Tracy Dishman at editor@FloridaNewsLine.com



Lauren O'Shell

helping with Palmer's care.

"I couldn't ask for anything better with our 9-year-old," O'Shell said. "He just loves her, he wants to do everything for her. I just feel like he's like a little second mom to her."

The family's free time revolves around Campbell's baseball and football activities, with baby Palmer now joining them at games.

O'Shell came to Florida from Northern Virginia to play soccer at Flagler College. She and her husband, a Pittsburgh native, made Florida their permanent home after graduation.

As an educator and community member, O'Shell continues to find fulfillment in her evolving role, helping build connections that support both teachers and students in her community.

## Recovery retreat offers hope

The Grace and Recovery Foundation is hosting a spiritual retreat focused on addiction recovery at the historic Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre De Dios, 101 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, on Sept. 20, coinciding with National Recovery Month.

The day-long retreat runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with breakfast served at 8:30 a.m. The program combines traditional recovery principles with faith-based elements, featuring witness testimonials, scriptural reflection and meditation, small group discussions and a review of the 12 steps of recovery. All ages are welcome.

While Catholic Mass and confession are available, participation remains optional, making the program accessible regardless of specific faith traditions.

For more information, contact the Grace and Recovery Foundation at 732-425-7949.

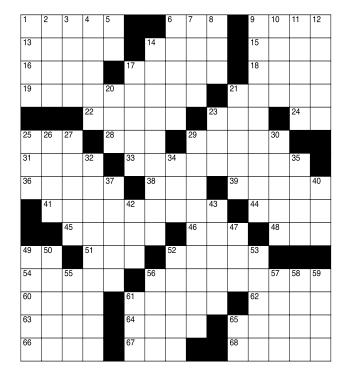
Let us know what you would like to read in The CreekLine! editor@ floridanewsline.com







Answers on page 3 Provided by MetroCreative



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 9. Cover the entirety of
- 13. Leafy appetizer
- 14. Showy ornament
- 15. Norse personification of old age
- 16. Athletes
- 17. Closes tightly
- 18. Attack via hurling items
- 19. Where the reserves stand
- 21. Sword 22. Begat
- 23. Damage another's reputation
- 24. Northeast
- 25. Turf 28. For each
- 29. Hours (Spanish)
- 31. Western state
- 33. One who offers help
- 36. Flanks
- 38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

- 39. Free from drink or drugs
- 41. Tunnels
- 44. Mature
- 45. More dried-up 46. News organization
- 48. Steal something
- 49. Forms one's public persona (abbr.)
- 51. Female fish eggs
- 52. Small petrel of southern seas
- 54. Edible starches
- 56. Historical
- 60. In a place to sleep
- 61. Horse grooms
- 62. Off-Broadway theater award
- 63. Chinese dynasty 64. Resembling a wing
- 65. Small projection on a bird's wing
- 66. Of the Isle of Man
- 67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)
- 68. Plate for Eucharist

## **CLUES DOWN**

- Vipers
- 2. Ancient city in Syria
- 3. Slog
- 4. Emits coherent radiation
- 5. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 6. Bleated
- 7. Monetary units of Afghanistan
- 8. Tooth doctor
- 9. One who takes apart
- 10. Commoner
- 11. Beat poet Ginsberg
- 12. Cave deposit material 14. Home energy backup
- 17. Begets
- 20. Face part
- 21. Frocks
- 23. Hill or rocky peak
- 25. Giving the impression of dishonesty
- 26. About ear

- 27. Male parents
- 29. Popular grilled food
- 30. Vaccine developer
- 32. Not conforming
- 34. Polite address for women
- 35. 1970 U.S. environmental law
- 37. Astronomical period of 18 years
- 40. One who fights the government
- 42. Center for Excellence in Education
- 43. Watches discreetly
- 47. An electrically charged atom
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Arabic given name
- 52. Popular pie nut
- 53. City in Zambia
- 55. Species of cherry 56. John \_\_\_, British writer
- 57. Be next to
- 58. Make angry 59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

# ON THE TRAIL WORD SEARCH

C U S S S S Ε D Ι W C X Т Ε Ι Н S G K X R D R ٧ N Y W 0 R V Т X М Α Ζ W V N C Н Z В Ε Α X D X Ζ R R G U Ι T 0 T D Ζ Ε P Н K Н U Ι Ι Ν W Α V Ε Ζ U Ν L Ι V Ι D Т F T В S Н Ζ L L Α Ι М Z D T Ε Α S Ι Ε S Ζ U М В W 0 R Ι N C Ρ Ι Y S U Н G G S R D L В G Н ٧ Υ V Ε G Т Α Α 0 Α X L Ε Ε Ι V Ε K Ι R V K D М X Ι S R 0 Ε D C F S Α Υ R L Ι М K Н T S S S Ι R Ι N 0 Ι Т V Ε N Α Z N C X R K C Т K P F Ι L T Ε R G Υ K Α F T U Ι C 0 Υ C Т Ε K V Н L ٧ R L U 0 В P Т Ι K C P Ι R Н W Ν K G N Α K C В Ρ ٧ Y ٧ Z C R Ε Ε Ε 0 S Ε Ι W М U Ζ Ζ Т G R Υ Т L М X P Ρ Ζ S S В S Ε C Α М N D N G Α Т Ι S Υ D C Α В Н C W W N W R Н Т Ρ В 0 Ρ R V М Τ R Ε K G

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

## **WORDS**

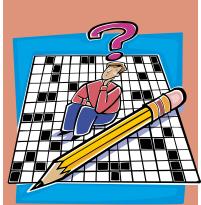
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## Cooler waters mean active fish

By Jimmy Tomazinis mail@floridanewsline.com

We are on the downhill run now. Although it may be very hot out still, our Fall transition is in full swing. When water temperatures go from the low 90s to mid-80s with a Northeast wind here and there, the fish take notice. The main reason is because the food is leaving. Most of the shrimp, mullet, and various other bait fish that have grown up in the river throughout the year are starting to move out to begin the next stages of their lives. The predators take the hint, gorging as they follow them on their way out.

Hopefully the shrimp have returned. They disappeared last month after what was the best early run of shrimp I can remember. We went from catching 100 per cast to catching none two weeks later. That's weird. Especially when there's no major storm event tied to it. If they stay scarce I'd still expect fishing to improve since when they were here in good numbers the fishing was a little slow.

The mullet run is also going on, so if you enjoy surf fishing it's a good time to be on the sand. It's a great show if

nothing else. Just about every evening somewhere along the beach you will see lots of activity as the mullet travel south. Tarpon, sharks, jacks, etc, will be hot on their tails. We have mullet exiting the river too, but it's hard to find them concentrated like they are in the surf. The run doesn't last nearly as long either. Bridges, inlets, and jetties are all great places to look for them.

I would expect fishing for just about every fish species we have been chasing this summer to be improving. Redfish will be hunting the shallows early and late looking for mullet, shrimp, and whatever else they can find. Sheepshead would love some smaller shrimp around the dock and bridge pilings. Flounder are lurking on shell bars and drop offs waiting for bait to go by. Stripers should be going crazy now that the water temperatures are finally dropping and they can feel a little more comfortable chasing shrimp.

It is time to reenergize and break out of the summer doldrums. The fish are here but they won't be for too much longer so go find them. Tight lines.



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# While the August weather has

## In the heat, small steps make gardening rewarding

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale mail@floridanewsline.com

been brutal, and it will probably continue into September, it's advisable to take it easy. But weeds and our favorite plants have all been growing apace since summer rains began. During heat advisories I find it's just bearable to be out early and my plants have benefited from some grooming here and there. That and a short weeding session, and it's satisfying to have done something useful despite the heat.

Major work needs to be delayed until autumn, so now is the ideal time to dream and plan. The resources we have available through the Uf/IFAS Florida Friendly landscaping program merit a look. The presenters are all experts in their fields and the information they share is rock solid. If you prefer to read to become informed, you can find design ideas, plant suggestions and articles on a host of other topics.

I've long been aware of color variations in flowers like blanket flower (Gaillardia sp.), and it's been brought into focus now that my delightful, dotted horsemint (Monarda punctata) plants are blooming.

My Shumard oak (Quercus shumardii) had some unusual twig dieback recently. Concerned that it could be serious, I contacted our Uf/IFAS Florida Extension specialist, Larry Figart, for advice. He immediately knew the



Photos curtesy Lesley Arrandale Dotted horsemint (Monarda punctata) in bloom shows off its distinctive color variations.

likely cause, as this year the problem has been more prevalent than usual, and I was able to determine that the culprit is indeed a small black twig boring beetle. It lays its eggs inside small twigs and stems, boring a tiny hole on the underside of a twig, which is visible with a good hand lens. If you have any affected plants, prune back to healthy wood or stems and destroy the infected material.

I'm often made aware of my ignorance — discovering there are small beetles in my oak tree being one instance. It can be a challenge trying to understand the natural world, but finding something new is very rewarding.



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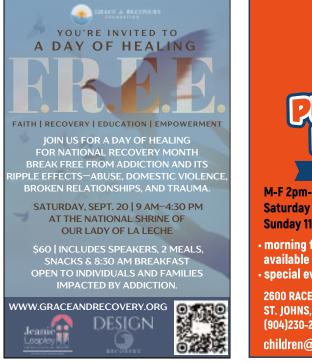
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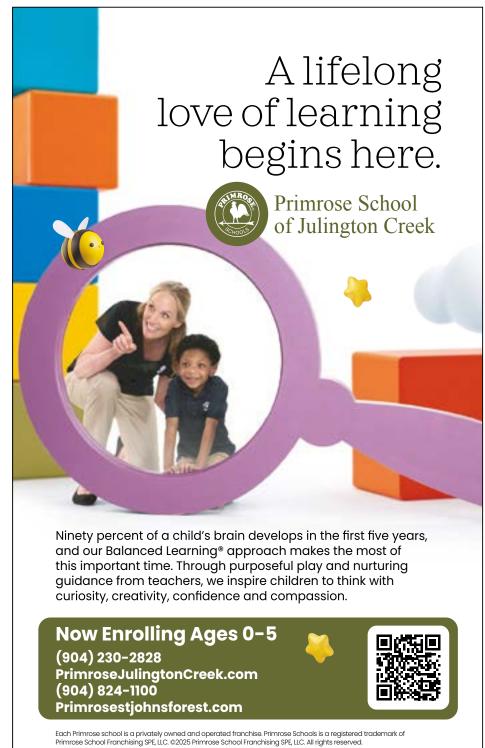
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