

"If music be the food of love, play on"

Tallahassee Democrat (Florida)

May 14, 2018 Monday, 1 Edition

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Body

Young actors and actresses of The Bardlings Company performed William Shakespeare's "The 12th Night" at the Renaissance Faire in Cascades Park on Sunday. The company comprises of middle and high school actors who perform year-round.

Several hundred Shakespeare fans attended the weekend events, which included performances of the classic "Romeo & Juliet," fencers, magicians and other medieval attractions.

For more pictures visit Tallahassee.com.

Graphic

ABOVE: Young actors and actresses of The Bardlings Company perform William Shakespeare's "The 12th Night" at the Renaissance Faire in Cascades Park.

FAR RIGHT: A magician performs for the younger audiences.

RIGHT: A representative of the Theatre with a Mission troupe hands out "Shakespearean insults" to attendees to promote their upcoming Loco for Love Festival.

LEFT: Two fencers square off.

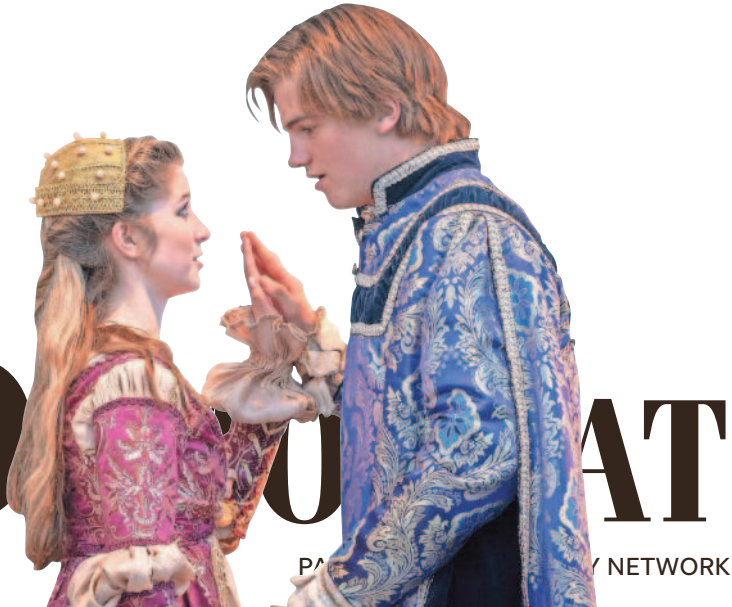
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Shakespeare love, mayhaws
and Talooftime

LIMELIGHT

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018 ■ TALLAHASSEE.COM



THE FIELD IS SET FOR THE 2018 DEMO AWARDS

LIMELIGHT



Eighth Avenue and Green Street in the Levy Park neighborhood where a proposed variance request that would have allowed eight units, on lots that currently hold two homes, was denied on Thursday. PHOTOS BY JOE RONDONE/DEMOCRAT

Levy Park residents
unite, prevail

Zoning board rejects bid to allow tall, skinny houses

Jeffrey Schweers Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Levy Park residents united to fight a variance request to allow eight tall, skinny houses to be built closely together where two, small single-story bungalows currently stand.

And they won.

After more than two hours of presentations from the property owners and the neighborhood in a standing-room-only conference room, the city-county Board of Adjustment and Appeals voted unanimously to reject Jeff and Lorraine Bitteringer's request to eliminate side setbacks on their Green Street property.

"I'm just excited we came together as a community, some say for the first time in 30 years," said Brian Murray, who lives with his wife, Nancy, on Green Street, across from the property owned by the Bitteringers.

Levy Park is a midtown neighborhood west of

See LEVY PARK, Page 5A



Brian and Nancy Murray live across the street from the Levy Park neighborhood plot in dispute. Says Brian Murray: "I'm just excited we came together as a community, some say for the first time in 30 years."

Graham
responds to
ad attacking
her record

Group claims Gillum is
Democratic Party's true
progressive in primary

James Call Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Gwen Graham quickly responded Thursday to a television advertisement criticizing her congressional record by a group supporting Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum. The Collective PAC in a \$700,000 broadcast and cable ad says "Graham is not the progressive she claims to be."

The ad buy is mostly in Palm and Broward counties, where a large swath of registered Democrats lives, and seeks to frame Gillum as the true progressive in the Democratic primary for governor.

It points out Graham voted against President Barack Obama 52 percent of the time while in Congress.

"I am disgusted that Andrew Gillum would allow a secret-money group to run a false attack against a fellow progressive Democrat," Graham said in a statement.



Gillum

The Collective is a political action committee that raises money and supports Black candidates nationwide. The group is based out of state and touts Gillum as the candidate who has the "credentials, experience and record as a progressive Floridian deserve."

The ad builds on a line of attack that Gillum launched in a debate last month. He said he had voted to send Graham to Congress to support the Obama agenda but once in office she failed to do so.

Tallahassee City Commissioner Gil Ziffer was unimpressed with the ad.

"I was hoping my fellow Democrats would maintain a higher level of civility than it appears we are. I'm disappointed the negative ads have begun and they've originated from Mayor Gillum," said Ziffer, who has served on the Commission with Gillum for nine years but is supporting Graham in the gubernatorial race.

See ADS, Page 2A

TCC Starbucks disrupted as manager quits

Byron Dobson Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Tallahassee Community College has temporarily closed its Starbucks café in downtown Tallahassee after the manager's resignation left nobody to run the business.

A sign greeting customers at the Kleman Plaza cafe attached to TCC's Center for Innovation, reads:

"Our Sincere Apologies: This Starbucks will be temporarily closed May 7, 2018 - May 21, 2018 for onboarding and

in-service training. We look forward to creating your next Starbucks experience when we reopen, Management."

"It sucks," said a customer who wanted to buy a Frappuccino Thursday morning. "If they are doing training, that's OK. I don't need Starbucks every day. I'll just go to another one."

TCC spokesman Al Moran said Kimberly Moore, TCC's vice president for workforce development, has hired a new manager and the café will reopen.

"(The previous manager) submitted

her resignation on May 1, effective May 1," Moran said. "There was only one full-time manager and four part-time employees."

The café is open Monday through Friday.

Moran said two of the four part-time employees are leaving and the remaining two, if they choose to return, along with the manager and new employees, will begin training next week.

"Unfortunately, the departure of the

See STARBUCKS, Page 8A



Tallahassee Community College's Starbucks at Kleman Plaza is closed through May 21. It opened in January 2017. BYRON DOBSON/DEMOCRAT

USA TODAY

Release of Russian Facebook ads from 2015 to 2017 shows pattern. 1B

Promoting democracy since 1905

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‘Romeo and Juliet’ has romance, humor, sorrow and really great sword fighting

Jillian Fry and Nick Erlandson

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of love, loss and miscommunication, "Romeo and Juliet," established the archetypal star-crossed lovers, who have inspired five centuries of couples in plays, movies and more.

Southern Shakespeare Festival takes up the challenge of the classic story this weekend with four outdoor performances complementing two days of Renaissance Faire fun in Cascades Park.

The Capulet and Montague families of Verona are avowed enemies. The scene is set when an argument escalates to sword fighting between the servants of the feuding families.

Romeo, son of Lord Montague, has been listless and sullen. His cousin Benvolio, after a bit of prodding, learns that an unrequited love for Rosaline, a member of the Capulet family, is the reason for Romeo's mood.

Meanwhile Juliet's parents are planning her betrothal to Count Paris. When her mother tries to share



Melanie Applegate as Juliet and Renee O'Connor as the Nurse in Southern Shakespeare Festival's "Romeo and Juliet." BOB O'LARY

the exciting news, Juliet — just 13 — remarks that marriage "is an honor that I dream not of."

In an attempt to see the object of his affection, Romeo — along with Benvolio and their friend Mercutio — disguises himself and attends a ball at Lord Capulet's manor. There he meets Juliet for the first time, and sets the show's conflict in motion.

Director Michael Richey's production is beautiful in its simplicity, allowing the vivid characters dressed in luscious period costumes to carry the show.

Juliet's progression through attraction, love and commitment is played convincingly by winsome Tallahassee actress Melanie Applegate, who is just 15. The demure Juliet seems at first completely overshadowed by her Nurse, played with great physical comedy and bawdy presence by special guest artist Renée O'Connor. The Nurse is a memorable performance; O'Connor's fans from her years playing Gabrielle in the TV cult hit "Xena: Warrior Princess" won't be disappointed.

In his first professional performance, Miles Muir — O'Connor's 16-year-old son — does a sterling job conveying the raw emotion of Romeo. His joy and sorrow come through, breathing life into the character.

The stage combat is eye-catching and skilled, but smaller moments establish the intimacy and authenticity of the relationships and truth to the characters' ages: When Romeo jokes with his friends on their way to the ball. His and Juliet's earnest young ardor. Flirtatiousness in the balcony scene.

Noteworthy in this production, both Romeo and Juliet are played by teens. This authenticity adds a wistful sweetness to their overflowing love and affection.

Triple-cast Matthew Thompson nearly steals the show, playing Mercutio with sharp wit, bringing clarity to sometimes obscure Elizabethan double entendres and innuendo. His becomes the voice of reality, clearing the haze of romance and drama to identify those truly at fault when tragedy strikes.

During combat scenes you can hear the blades slice through the air, and metal clash against metal. New York fight choreographer and FSU alum Jason Paul Tate was brought in to add this realism and drama to these scenes — and it shows.

A small chamber orchestra provides atmosphere and depth. A single violin carried by the breeze lends weight to particularly emotional monologues.

Cascades Park is a gorgeous venue and the amphitheater's sound system is loud and clear all the way to the back. Seating is first come, first served, so arrive early for the best seats.

And don't forget to bring bug spray and sunglasses to maximize your enjoyment — both laughter and sweet sorrow — of this delightful Tallahassee cultural tradition.

KICK OFF THE SUMMER AT TALLAHASSEE'S MIRACLES ON MADISON

Miracles on Madison will not disappoint, as it will offer a progressive dining hop around some of Madison Street's finest restaurants, the opportunity to stroll through local shops, a silent auction, and a concert to end the evening.

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www.helpmakemiracles.org/event/miraclesonmadison

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Here are top entries in Southern Shakespeare Festival Sonnet Contest

Special to the Democrat

More than 300 people entered Southern Shakespeare Festival's annual Sonnet Contest. Here are the Top 3 in each category, in alphabetical order. Who will win? Visit the festival Saturday just before the performance of "Romeo and Juliet," to hear the winning sonnets.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

"A Sonnet for my Siblings," by Olivia Lunsford

On the bus from school, can't wait to be home.
I'm ready to rest, a book in my hand.
I arrive at last, I'm fin'ly alone.
But no! I open the door to mayhem.
A hurricane of children knocks me down.
The rolling thunder of tiny kid shoes.
The gust of outraged screaming blows around.
I'm pelted with tears from a baby's bruise.
A cyclone kid leaves Legos to step on.
I cannot see the carpet anymore.
I try to stop them, but the storm's too strong
I wish I had never opened the door.
I think, while I'm drowning in baby drool,
I can hardly wait to go back to school.

Untitled, by Laxmi McGuire

Do you just wander, no destination?
Is all you do stroll along the paved path?
Always obey, without explanation?
Scared to break rules, scared of the aftermath?
You think that you are afraid of dying,
But your fear is that you haven't lived life.
You can't know true laughter without crying,
Can't learn without being cut by the knife.
Would it be so bad to just run away?
If you let go, the wind would carry you.
If you dive in, you cannot drift astray.
Put your hand to the glass, let it glide through.
Emotions coursing through your heart, your veins,
Pure euphoria is all that remains.

Untitled, by Ivy Simpson

Twirling, whirling, all such intricate knots
As it unravels, a pattern will form
Blue moons and white stars, and little black dots
Scarves with tassels for keeping you warm.
A hat, a sweater, ever so cozy
Weaving cables to keep out the cold air
Great for a book where it is not noisy



Diana Butsch (Ariel) waits backstage for her cue in "The Tempest," performed by Southern Shakespeare Festival's Junior Company the Bardlings in 2016. JOE RONDONE/DEMOCRAT

But it unravels again with a tear.
Looping and thatching, over and under
Needles slide up and down with a click click
Weaving a tapestry is a wonder
And only with some wool and two slim sticks
People can knit the world together again
I wait to see if by wool or by chain.

HIGH SCHOOL

"Land of the Free," by Ingrid Cortes-Marin

Land of the free is what I've heard them say.
Land where you speak and will be heard, it seems.
Where the sun falls and still the children play.
Where you may turn your passions into dreams.
Land of sole inequality, I say.
The daily threat of a corrupt bullet.

Glares of hatred, igneous, every day.
A wicked man standing in the pulpit.
Centuries of false liberty, I say;
For think of mental liberation.
Garden of Eden, a hoax, they portray,
As strategy of manipulation.
Manipulated I refuse to be.
My mind is my freedom, not this debris.

"Starving for Freedom," by Annette Lu

I am starving for freedom, locked in chains
Heavy weights holding me back from the light
Trying for freedom, crying in vain
With nowhere to turn, I have lost my fight.

Continued on next page

Courage is fading, the road never ends
But I never slow down, I keep going
And if I reach freedom is what depends
If I lose my sight, there is no knowing
Enveloped in darkness, gloom all around
The wind is howling, the walls are closing
But I see something, shining on the ground
I get up slowly, this light is growing
Now, nothing's in my way or holds me back
Free at last, only restraint that I lack.

“Caught,” by Madeleine Roberts

The stars are fairies, caught in shady webs,
Suspended in the heavens unobserved
By ancient spiders that misplaced their legs
In early days, becoming planets curved.
The tiny sprites endeavor to escape
And beat their wings and twinkle, mortified.
From fairy bodies constellations shaped,
Those freed at long last shoot across the sky.
Who knows how long they'll hang there, cloaked by night
And guarded by Orion's silver bow?
Or thrashing at their bonds that hold them tight,
The age-old struggle started long ago?
But same thing happens each and every day:
Gold dawn appears, the fairies fade away.

COLLEGE/ADULT
“The Play is the Thing (methinks),” Randie Denker

Inspired by Sonnet 34
Why didst thou promise such a beauteous play?
And make me travel to Cascades Park
To see Shakespearean actors strut and sashay
Across a stage, braying “prithee” and “hark”?
T’is only a fool who takes on this craft,
Braving forgotten lines and stage fright,
Unappreciative audiences who ne’er laughed,
Capricious sound systems not quite right.
Then the sorrow of a performance rained out,
The terror of the understudy’s abrupt call,
The critic’s scorn, the gnawing self-doubt,
The clumsy entrance, the humiliating fall.
Then, just when all seems to be going so well,
And sublime words from actors’ lips are born
Along comes an eighty-car train to break the spell,
Drowning out their words with the blasts of a horn.
And yet, despite all the pitfalls and dread, loyal friend,
Methinks the play’s worth more than gold in the end.

“The Line Between Reality and Ren-Faire,”
Kathleen Fedore

The faire will be packed this year I will bet,
Garbed, as we exit a car, not a coach.
Husband bad-jokes “Think of what we won’t get!

The pox or plague from a flea or a roach!”
Was it this hot in Renaissance days?
Not smiling yet, I’m trying to force it.
Wish fans were inside my kirtle and stays,
Sweltering ‘neath my Amazon corset.
Fools blocking the way with cell (fie!) in hand!
Will someone please tell this Instagram set
Glitter fishnet hose, pointy elf-ears and
Wings are not even close to accurate?!
Oyez! Huzzah! Of this line we are freed!
Bring on Shakespeare, merry-making and MEAD!

“Love’s Labour’s Won,” by Robert Ferdinand



When I a callow youth of seventeen
Did first behold my heaven in thine eyes
Of tawny hue, my heart proclaimed you Queen
And swore thy heart would be my sacred prize
For I unworthy of such sweet delight
As shines enthroned upon thy gentle brow
Did pray that thou my love might yet requite
And thus perfect my joy should fate allow
So I unswerving as the stars above
Did proffer there my worship day by day
To thee alone- and lo, thy precious love
Did blossom like the rose adorning May
As in thy love my heaven sinews anew
So time shall never dim my love for you.

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Shakespeare love, mayhaws and Taloofa time

Kati Schardl

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

“In the spring time, the only pretty ring time/When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;/Sweet lovers love the spring,” warble the two singing pages in William Shakespeare’s “As You Like It.”

And as sure as sweet lovers love the spring, fans of the Bard of Avon do too, because it means the annual Shakespeare in the Park festival is nigh.

“As You Like It” was last year’s Shakespeare in the Park production. This year’s fest presents one of Shakespeare’s most beloved tragedies, that of the young lovers in “Romeo & Juliet.” Guest artist Renee O’Connor, who played Gabrielle on the TV series “Xena: Warrior Princess,” will tread the boards as the Nurse, with her son Miles Muir as Romeo and Tallahassee actor Melanie Applegate as Juliet.

The performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday evenings on the stage of the Cascades Park amphitheater. The Friday performance is ASL-interpreted. Southern Shakespeare’s youth troupe, the Bardlings, will perform “Eighth Night” at 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

A festive panoply of activities accompanies the performances, courtesy of Southern Shakespeare Company and the fest’s creative partners and sponsors.

Don your period finery for the Renaissance Faire and Picnic on the Lawn from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and bring the young folks along for the Kids’ Faire featuring live mermaids, jugglers, illusionists, fencing demonstrations and more.

Quench your thirst with a flagon of ale at the ShakesBeer Garden, satisfy your appetite at the Old English Pub - which will be serving such delicacies as smoked turkey legs, a whole pig roasted by Pink Jacket Catering, mutton sausages and more, or just bring your own picnic. There will be other food vendors, an artisan market and more.

Best of all, this fest is free. Visit www.southernshakes.org to find out more.

Other fests will draw folks together to congregate and celebrate this weekend.



Festival goers feed the katahdin sheep during Mayhaw Berry Harvest Festival at Golden Acres Farm on May 8, 2016. ALVIN MCBEAN/DEMOCRAT

Take a look:

Want Proof?

There’s something for everyone at the Spring Family Festival from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at Proof Brewing Company in Railroad Square Art Park. There will be bounce houses from noon to 4 p.m., live music by Ten Pound Pancake, food and drink from the MoBi food truck (as well as Proof’s award-winning craft beers, of course) and a firetruck on site for young and old to explore. It’s free. Visit <http://www.proofbrewingco.com/new-events/>

Yeehaw for mayhaws

See how mayhaw berries are harvested, go on a hayride, pet and feed goats and sheep, learn how to make mayhaw jelly, or purchase some already made at the Mayhaw Berry Harvest Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sun-

day at Golden Acres Ranch near Monticello. It’s free. Visit <https://goldenacresranchflorida.com/events/mayhaw-berry-harvest-festival/>

It’s Taloofa time!

Midtown Merchants Association presents the Fourth Annual Taloofa Fest from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday in Midtown along Thomasville Road between 5th and 6th avenues.

The event is part block party, part music festival and part local history fair, with live music from the Good Little Chickens (4 p.m.), Avis Berry & the Mason Margut Ensemble (5 p.m.), The Intoxicators! (6 p.m.) and the Longineu Parsons Jazz Ensemble (7 p.m.) on the stage across from Waterworks and Midtown Reader.


Living history interpreters from Mission San Luis will be wandering the grounds, there will be exhibits talking about Tallahassee’s early history, and

food and beverage vendors (including adult libations crafted especially for the fest) will be providing eats and drinks.

Proceeds from sales of Grasslands Brewery beers will benefit the Alzheimer’s Project. There will be plenty of activities for the young ‘uns, artisans peddling their wares and more. It’s free. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2030391137212159/>

Have a FAB time

The inaugural Havana Festival of Arts & Bikes (FAB) takes place Friday and Saturday in downtown Havana, just north of Tallahassee. The event merges the arts, bespoke murals and the outdoors, with a Wine Around on the Block featuring food, drinks and art for sale Friday evening and a bike and arts fair from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Most events are free. Call 850-591-2222 or visit www.havanamainstreet.com/havana-fab.



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Bianca Montague gives a cast member direction as Melanie Bynum looks on

Young troupe
presents a
condensed
version of play
at Shakespeare
Festival

BARDLINGS HAVE A ‘NIGHT’

Amanda Karioth Thompson Council on Culture & Arts

Shakespeare’s legacy has endured for more than 400 years and there’s no expiration date in sight. A new generation is embracing his works and putting their own spin on them. The Southern Shakespeare Company’s junior troupe, the Bardlings, is currently rehearsing “Eighth Night,” a condensed version of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” and they haven’t lost any of the comedy’s wit or whimsy.

The Bardlings company is comprised of local middle and high school actors. The group is co-directed by Robin Jackson and Bianca Montague who offer dramatic training as well as performance opportunities. Additionally, the Bardlings attend community theater productions and participate in specialized workshops.

The Bardlings will perform “Eighth Night” during the Southern Shakespeare Festival at

Cascades Park this weekend.

Montague shared that the students are also included in set building and stage management. “As much as we can, we involve them in every aspect so they understand everything that goes into the show, not just the performance part but all of it.”

“Very rarely will we do straight Shakespeare. We’ll change the setting or the time period but this year we wanted them to have a chance to do Shakespeare with a setting and costuming that’s true to the time period. We decided instead of changing its theme, we’d shorten the play so they would take more time to learn the dialogue. The shortened version has helped them grasp the language and what the story is about.”

Even in its adapted form, the play contains

See FESTIVAL, Page 2C

The Bardlings company is comprised of local middle and high school actors.

LIMELIGHT EXTRA

Meet Romeo in the park, hoof it at Taloofa Fest

Get a jump on your weekend entertainment plans every Wednesday, and pick up the Limelight section on Friday

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Movies

MOTHER COURAGE: Gabrielle Union (“Bring It On”) will stop at nothing to rescue her two children being held hostage in a house designed with impenetrable security in “**Breaking In.**” She’s a mom on a mission. It’s rated

PG-13 and opens Friday at AMC.

MAMMA MIA: When her husband unexpectedly dumps her, housewife Deanna (Melissa McCarthy) decides to back to college — the same college as her daughter (Molly Gordon). Needless to say, the daughter isn’t exactly keen on this idea, in the comedy “**Life of the Party.**” It’s rated PG-13 and opens Friday at AMC.

A CAPITALISTIC AFFAIR: A 26-

year-old Karl Marx meets young Friedrich Engels in Paris in 1844. And the rest, as they say, was history. See how the labor movement was born (among censorship, police raids, riots, political upheavals) when the **Tallahassee Film Society** screens “**Young Karl Marx,**” at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at All Saints Cinema. Visit www.tallahasseeifilms.com.


RURAL REVIEW: See a bunch of short films that deal with interesting people and places outside of the bustle of the city. Viewing the “**Rural Route Film Festival**” program is like choosing

the road less traveled, and learning something new about our constantly amazing world. **Tallahassee Film Society** shows it at 6 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday at All Saints Cinema. Visit www.tallahasseeifilms.com.

Festivals

BULLY FOR THE BARD: But soft! What light from yonder Cascades Park breaks? It is the **Shakespeare in the Park** festival, which features perfor-

See LIMELIGHT EXTRA, Page 7C



YOUR DREAM KITCHEN,
every time you need it.

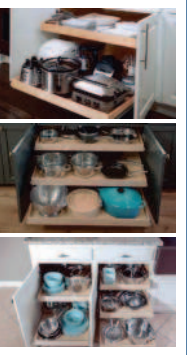
Love your kitchen with custom pull-out shelves for your existing cabinets.

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EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH™

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Schedule your free design consultation (850) 354-6988 • shelfgenie.com

*Limit one offer per household. Applies to purchases of 5 or more Classic or Designer Glide-Out™ shelves. Expires 05/31/2018. Lifetime warranty valid for Classic or Designer Solutions.



Calendar

Wednesday

A Conversation About Education: Hosted by Tallahassee Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Invited panelists include the Leon County School Board Members and hopefully a commentary by Leon County School Superintendent, Rocky Hanna. 6 p.m. Free to the public. FAMU College of Pharmacy, 1415 S Martin Luther King Blvd.

Lake Ella Growers Market: Meet farmers new to the community market. Noon-6 p.m. Free to attend, produce and food available for purchase. Lake Ella, 229 Lake Ella Drive.

Rotary Club of Tallahassee Meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m., luncheon. Program: The Art Therapy Program at Florida State University. Speaker: Dr. David Gussak, Chair, Department of Art Education and Clinical Coordinator of the Graduate Art Therapy Program. Introduction: Rotarian and Rev. Elizabeth (Betsy) Oulette-Zierden, Pastor, Good Samaritan United Methodist Church. Rotary Club President Stephen E. Liner, presiding. Contact Tiffany Baker (850-717-0284) regarding attending. FSU Alumni Center Grand Ballroom, 1030 W. Tennessee St.

Wacissa River Kayak Paddle: 10 a.m. \$57 per person, includes kayak rental, guide and shuttle. The Wilderness Way, 3152 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville. Call 850-877-7200.

Thursday

Fast Forward Tallahassee: Presentations on the latest big in Tallahassee. New businesses, new restaurants, new ideas, new technology and even what could be new if we made it happen. 6 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe St.

Food Truck Thursday: Featuring The Rachel Hillman Band. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Music is free and food is available for purchase. The Shops at Lake Ella, 5810 North Monroe St.

Prem Subrahmanyam Talk: Photographer and Florida Native Orchid expert will give a talk about local native orchids. 7 p.m. Free to the public. Goodwood Museum and Gardens, 1600 Miccosukee Road.

Summer Fill-A-Truck Drive: Final weigh-in and donation count. The public is invited to drop off food and fund donations. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tallahassee Democrat, 277 N Magnolia Drive.

Friday

Bat Observation Night: Count the bats that come out of the Bat House at dusk. Games, glow sticks, and snacks provided. 6:30-8 p.m. Free to the public. Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown.

Contra Dance: 7:15-10:30 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$9 seniors and \$6 for students. Kids under 12 are free. Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe St.

Fiber Friday & Bonfire Kickoff Party: Learn

about every stage of wool fiber and felting production. 3-10 p.m. Free parking. Golden Acres Ranch Florida, 704 Barnes Road, Monticello.

Saturday

12th Annual Mayhaw Berry Harvest Festival: Free hayride farm tour. Feed and pet animals. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free parking. Golden Acres Ranch Florida, 704 Barnes Road Monticello.

9th Annual Safety Fair: Free exhibits and activities to help educate children and families on bicycle safety, including a bicycle rodeo, a bike helmet giveaway and CPR demonstrations. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Governor's Square, 1500 Apalachee Parkway.

Leon County Horseman's Trail Obstacle Challenge: Events for competitors with and without horses. 10 a.m. Free to the public. Participants will pay a \$10 flat fee if they are LCHA members, and a \$15 flat fee if they are non-members. Leon County Horseman's Association, 188 Horsemen's Assoc. Drive.

Rally the Industry: Tennis Event. 9-11 a.m. Free to the public. Winthrop Park, 1601 Mitchell Ave.

SciTurday Engineering Challenge: Recommended for children 10 and under. 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. \$6 per person for early registration; \$8 regular registration The Challenger Learning Center. 200 South Duval St. To register visit: www.challengerTLH.com.

Susan Larned Womble Book Launch Party: A book launch party of Susan Larned Womble's The ABC's of Teaching and her latest middle-grade novel, "Opal's Brigade." Noon-2 p.m. My Favorite Books, 1410 Market Street, C-2 Tallahassee.

Spring Open House and Plant Sale: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. UF/IFAS Extension - Leon County Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road.

Sunday

Manatee Observation Kayak Tour: 9:30 a.m. T-n-T Hide-a-Way, 6527 Coastal Highway Crawfordville. Reservations are required call 850-925-6412.

Mother's Day Brunch: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Members: \$20, Non-Members: \$25 Children 6-12: \$10, Children under 6: Free! Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee St.

Mother's Day Brunch: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 319 Wine and Cheese, 6265 Old Water Oak Dr. To reserve a table, call 850-765-7053.

Mother's Day Brunch at Juicy Blue: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, 316 West Tennessee St.

Mother's Day Evening: Wine, Chocolate, Cheese, and Desserts. 319 Wine and Cheese, 6265 Old Water Oak Dr. To reserve a table, call 850-765-7053.

Tally Go Club: Go is an ancient game popular in Asia. 2 p.m. LeRoy Collins Public Library, 200 West Park Ave.

Monday

Critter Class: Classes designed to prepare 2 & 3 year olds for preschool. 9:15 a.m. -10:30 a.m. \$19 for members and \$22 for nonmembers Tallahassee Museum, 3945 Museum Drive Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Fill a Truck Thursday at the Democrat

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The 2018 Summer Fill-A-Truck food and fund drive culminates with a final weigh-in and donation count on Thursday at the Tallahassee Democrat, 277 N. Magnolia Drive, where AMWAT moving trucks will be filled with food donations. During this event, the public is invited to drop off food and fund donations between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The annual event, which benefits Second Harvest of the Big Bend, is held in partnership with AMWAT Moving Warehousing & Storage and seeks to provide food

Festival

Continued from Page 1C

everything you'd expect from 'The Bard': a shipwreck, disguises, trickery, musical fools, unrequited love, mistaken identity and, of course, clever word play. That's where the Bardlings are concentrating much of their attention.

"They'll read something and think it means one thing and you change the meaning of one word and it changes the meaning of the whole sentence," said Montague. "They're like 'wow, I didn't realize that's what I was supposed to be saying his whole time.' You can always tell when it clicks. They're delivering the line and they've got the right inflection and the right attitude and you can tell they understand what they're saying. They get it."

Sean Ward is in sixth grade at The Magnolia School and he's enjoyed getting familiar with Shakespeare's language. "It's similar to ours but the grammar is different and it's harder to say." Sean has been cast in two roles as a sea captain and a priest. "It's fun to be someone else for a while," he said. "Even if you're a servant who's getting bullied tremendously, it's still fun. In real life it wouldn't be but here, it's fun because you know they're your friends. If you need an army, you have one."

Melanie Bynum agreed and added "you get an immediate family when you join any kind of production." The oldest Bardling, Melanie is in the 12th grade at SAIL High School and is dual enrolled as a full time student at Tallahassee Community College. One of her favorite parts of rehearsing is seeing how her cast mates interpret their characters and take inspiration from them. It's something she has done in past productions.

She played the title role in a recent production of "Antigone" at SAIL. "She's a very fierce, head-strong character who stands up for what she believes in," Melanie explained. "I really wanted to take that from

her personality and try to build it into my own because I lack confidence sometimes. Theater can help with your own self-identify, what you want in life and how you want to act."

In "Eighth Night" Melanie is cast as Viola, one of the principle characters who sacrifices her own desires for those of the man she's in love with. Viola's selflessness is something that Melanie admires and she finds Shakespeare's work to be as fitting in the modern day as it was centuries ago. "There are social issues that occurred then and are still occurring now and people can still get encouragement from characters like Viola."

This is exactly what Montague hopes her Bardlings take from their experience with Shakespeare. "He's got plays about royalty, plays about love, plays about family, deception and death. He covers it all, no matter where you've been in life, no matter where you're going, no matter where you are at that moment, there's something in Shakespeare you're going to relate to. There's a character, a story line, dialogue that's going to touch you. That's why he sticks around; that's why he's so relevant."

For middle and high school students, this is an especially important point. Montague explained, "they're going through probably one of the biggest changes that you go through in your lifetime. Their bodies are changing, their voices are changing, their way of thinking is changing. It's such a roller coaster, there are so many highs and lows. Shakespeare is a great way for them to take all of those feelings and push it out there."

The Bardlings will perform "Eighth Night" during the Southern Shakespeare Festival at Cascades Park on May 12 and 13 at 5 p.m. Entrance to the festival is free of charge. For more information about the Bardlings, this production and all of the events planned for the festival, visit southernshakespearefestival.org.

Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Assistant Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).

SU | DO | KU Dave Green

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5/09

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Difficulty Level ★★

Enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of the grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral.

Yesterday's solution

Note: Puzzles increase in difficulty from Monday through Sunday.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS



Bergen

Actor **Albert Finney** is 82. Actress-turned-politician **Glenda Jackson** is 82. Guitarist **Sonny Curtis** of Buddy Holly and The Crickets is 81. Producer-director **James L. Brooks** is 81. Actress **Candice Bergen** is 72. Singer **Billy Joel** is 69.

ASTROLOGY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19). The love (philos) of wisdom (sophia) is philosophy. You'll be thinking a lot about your personal philosophy, deciding what it is (and whether it's changed), honing it and living it more fully.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). A person's character is only as great as he or she treats the weakest in the group. Be very wary of anyone who seems to take advantage of (or be oblivious to) those in a down position.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You'll be drawn to connect. You have a lot to share, but you won't know what it is until you get into the jazz of social interaction. Even you will be surprised by the interesting tidbits that come up.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You are in perfect step with your people, and it is for this very reason that you're able to step back and create a new and complementary rhythm. Think of it as a syncopation that keeps everything livelier.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll put your heart into what you make. People who experience your creation will feel this, perhaps experiencing it as an intangible tug on their own heartstrings.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your service is a sacrifice, yet you may also be paid for it. That fact doesn't take anything away from the gift you give when you dedicate yourself to doing the job with full attention and love.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is a time to do full disclosure, be totally transparent and show your work. You will create bonds as you fascinate others. You'll improve quickly when they point out your strengths and help you see mistakes.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Usually, you know when to step in and lend a hand. If the day needs saving, you'll save it. But today brings up some gray area. You may not be sure whether it's your place or your turn. Pause. Only step in when you're sure.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't want to be repetitive, but the fact is that they won't get it unless you repeat yourself. Say it differently each time or say it the same; that doesn't matter. If it's worth saying, it's worth repeating.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have some self-editing to do today. You'll pump up the fun parts, amplify the essential, ax the superfluous, nix the unnecessary. All this polish is only possible because you once put it all out there. You should be proud!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're wary of being sold, as you should be. When it's a good match, you don't need to be sold. When it's something you've been looking for or something you believe in, need and will use up, you'll go all in.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). There won't be a lot of transactions that absolutely must happen today. So you can turn off the distractions and concentrate on what you most need to be doing, which will be producing and creating.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, May 9, the 129th day of 2018. There are 236 days left in the year.

On this date in:

1754: A political cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette depicted a snake cut into eight pieces, each section representing a part of the American colonies; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

1814: the Jane Austen novel "Mansfield Park" was first published in London.

1914: President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

1918: CBS newsman Mike Wallace was born Myron Leon Wallace in Brookline, Massachusetts.

1958: "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock's eerie thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in San Francisco, the movie's setting.

Village Square hosts ‘Fast Forward Tallahassee’

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Hometowns with a “sense of place” are vibrant, engaged, growing and economically successful. They are places people want to live and raise families. There are new reasons every day why this describes Tallahassee and Leon County.

On Thursday, The Village Square hosts “Our Town: Fast Forward Tallahassee,” a spirited look at what’s new, cool and cutting-edge in Tallahassee.

Sponsored by Bible-Based Church and AARP FL, the program will be moderated by Gary Yordon, co-host of WCTV’s The Usual Suspects.

Presented in partnership with Knight Creative Communities Institute, Leadership Tallahassee, the

Tallahassee Democrat, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee, “Fast Forward” will be fastpaced.

Presentations follow a PechaKucha format (Japanese for “chit chat”) with a maximum of 20 slides that advance automatically after 20 seconds. A Tallahassee tradition since 2012, this year’s lineup promises to be as engaging as ever. The evening will be split into segments covering:

Arts + Play | Up + Coming | Remembering + Reinvention | The Capital of Capital | Living | Moving | Eating
Representation from local government, nonprofits, private businesses and community members alike will drive the evening forward keeping us in the know with all that’s new. The full program listing presenters and topics is available at tlh.villagesquare.us.
Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided by SoDough

If you go

What: “Fast Forward Tallahassee”

When: Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: St. John’s Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe St. (Use rear Calhoun St. entrance).

Admission: Free but space is limited. To reserve a free seat, visit tlh.villagesquare.us.

and Catalina Café. Attendees are invited to bring a take-out dinner or purchase dinner from food trucks on hand, Mae’s Southern Delights & Caribbean Crossroads, starting at 5:15 p.m.

Limelight Extra

Continued from Page 1C

mances of “**Romeo & Juliet**” starring Renee O’Connor of “Xena: Warrior Princess” fame at 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the Cascades amphitheater. There’s also a Renaissance Faire and Picnic on the Lawn from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, a Kids’ Faire featuring live mermaids, jugglers, illusionists, fencing demonstrations and more from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, a ShakesBeer Garden, food vendors, an artisan market and more. It’s all free. Visit www.southernshakes.org.

HAVE A FAB TIME: The inaugural **Havana Festival of Arts & Bikes** (FAB) takes place Friday and Saturday in downtown Havana, just north of Tallahassee. The event merges the arts, murals and the outdoors, with a Wine Around on the Block featuring food, drinks and art for sale Friday evening and a bike and arts fair from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Most events are free. Call 850-591-2222 or visit www.havanamainstreet.com/havana-fab.

TALOOFA TIME: Midtown Merchants Association presents the **Fourth Annual Taloofa Fest** from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday in Midtown along Thomasville Road between 5th and 6th avenues. The event is part block party, part music festival and part local history fair, with live music from the **Good Little Chickens**, **Avis Berry & the Mason Margut Ensemble**, **The Intoxicators!** and the **Longineu Parsons Jazz Ensemble**, living history interpreters, exhibits, food and beverage vendors, activities for the young ‘uns and more. It’s free. Proceeds from sales of Grasslands Brewery beers will benefit the Alzheimer’s Project. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2030391137212159/>

YEEHAW FOR MAYHAW: See how mayhaw berries are harvested, go on a hayride, pet and feed goats and sheep, learn how to make mayhaw jelly, or purchase some already made at the **Mayhaw Berry Harvest Festival** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Golden Acres Ranch near Monticello. It’s free. Visit <https://goldenacresranchflorida.com/events/mayhaw-berry-harvest-festival/>

WANT PROOF?: There’s something for everyone at the **Spring Family Festival** from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at Proof Brewing Company in Railroad Square Art Park. There will be bounce houses from noon to 4 p.m., live music by **Ten Pound Pancake**, food and drink from the MoBi food truck (as well as Proof’s award-winning craft beers, of course) and a firetruck on site for young and old to explore. It’s free. Visit <http://www.proofbrewingco.com/new-events/>

Theater

WHEREFORE ART THOU? Actress Renee O’Connor (“Xena: Warrior Princess”) headlines **Southern Shakespeare Festival’s** production of “**Romeo and Juliet**,” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday at Cascades Park. On Saturday and Sunday, a Renaissance Faire will feature jugglers, swordfighting, medieval food and more from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Admission to everything is free. Visit southernshakespearefestival.org.

THE BIG GUY SPEAKS: After many millennia, and in just 90 minutes, God (assisted by His devoted angels) arrives to answer some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since creation, when **Theatre Tallahassee** presents “**Act of God**” at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday in the Studio Theatre, 1861 Thomasville Road. Tickets are \$12. Visit theatretallahassee.org. Warning: Show contains adult language and situations.

DIY DETECTIVE: It’ll be a swashbuckling experience at this annual interactive murder mystery dinner show, this year with a buccaneer theme. “**Murd-ARRR: Pirates of the Salty Dog**,” a manic tale of stolen treasure, mayhem and mischief, plays at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 26 at **Monticello Opera House**, 185 W. Washington St. in Monticello. Tickets range from \$35 to \$45, including dinner; reservations required. Visit www.monticellooperahouse.org or call: 850-997-4242.

Dance

BALLET HIGH: See a combination of excerpts from “**Swan Lake**” plus a selection of contemporary works when the **Tallahassee Ballet** performs its last concert of the season at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. Tickets range from \$28 to \$55. Visit tallahasseeballet.org.

Music

PARTY FOR THE CRITTERS:Belle & the Band headlines the **3rd Annual Concert for the Wildlife** at 7 p.m. Friday at the **Junction at Monroe**, 2011 S. Monroe St. Admission is \$15; proceeds benefit St. Francis Wildlife Association. Visit www.stfranciswildlife.org.

BIG BLUES FROM LITTLE G: Hungarian bluesman **Little G Weevil** brings the **Mojo Queen** from Austin, Texas, to a throwdown at 9 p.m. Friday at Bradfordville Blues Club, 7152 Moses Lane. Tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. Visit www.bradfordvilleblues.com.

GO HONKY-TONKIN’: Get back to your country roots with **Snake Blood Remedy** and **Andrew Pope** at 7 p.m. Friday at **Fifth & Thomas**, 1122 Thomasville Road. Admission is free. Visit www.fifthandthomas.com.

ZOO IN BLUE: Keyboard ace **John Babich**, aka JB of JB’s ZydecoZoo, gets funky on the old upright piano, with assistance from percussionist **Paul Harvey**, at 8 p.m. Friday at **Blue Tavern**, 1206 N. Monroe St. Admission is \$5. Call 850-212-5204.

PICK PUCKETT: Local singer-songwriter **Pat Puckett** airs out some new tunes and old faves at a show with **Slow Low Crow** at 8 p.m. Saturday at **Fifth & Thomas**, 1122 Thomasville Road. It’s free. Visit www.fifthandthomas.com.

LOCAL SHOWCASE: Fill your earholes with local sounds when **Viper Pilot**, **These Brutes** and **Ossifer** team up for a showcase at 9 p.m. Saturday at **The Wilbury**, 513 W. Gaines St. It’s free. Visit www.thewilbury-tallahassee.com.

JAMMIN’ ON THE RIVER: Kick back at the **22nd Annual Newport Jam** with **Lost Creek Band**, **Hot Garbage** and **Lick My Frog**, a mullet toss, and arts and crafts vendors starting at 10 a.m. Saturday at **Outz’s Too**, 7698 Coastal Hwy. on the St. Marks River. Music starts at noon with an open jam session. Admission is free. Call 850-925-6448.

LEON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Renaissance Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room
435 N. Macomb Street
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

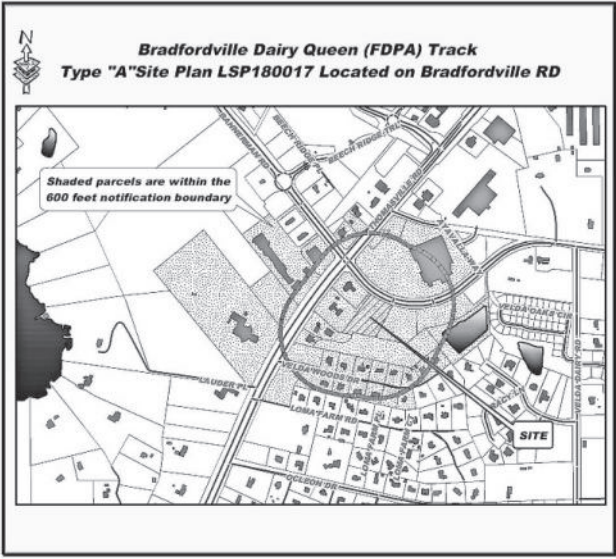
APPLICATION REVIEW MEETING: NEW BUSINESS

3:30 p.m.

Project Name: Bradfordville Road Dairy Queen
Type “A” Final Design Plan Approval (FDPA) Track
Project ID#: LSP180017
Applicant: Mark Cooper, P.E.
Agent: Mark Cooper, P. E., Blackhawk Engineering, Inc.
Parcel ID#: 14-22-26- C-001-1
Location: Southeast of the Thomasville Road and Bannerman Road intersection

The project is located in the Bradfordville Study Area. The development consists of constructing a 3,100 +/- square foot sit-down restaurant with an associated drive-thru. The construction will include on-site parking, and a stormwater detention facility on the south side of the parcel. The property contains two existing driveway connections to Bradfordville Road.

The project will be reviewed through the Type “A” Final Design Plan Approval Track.



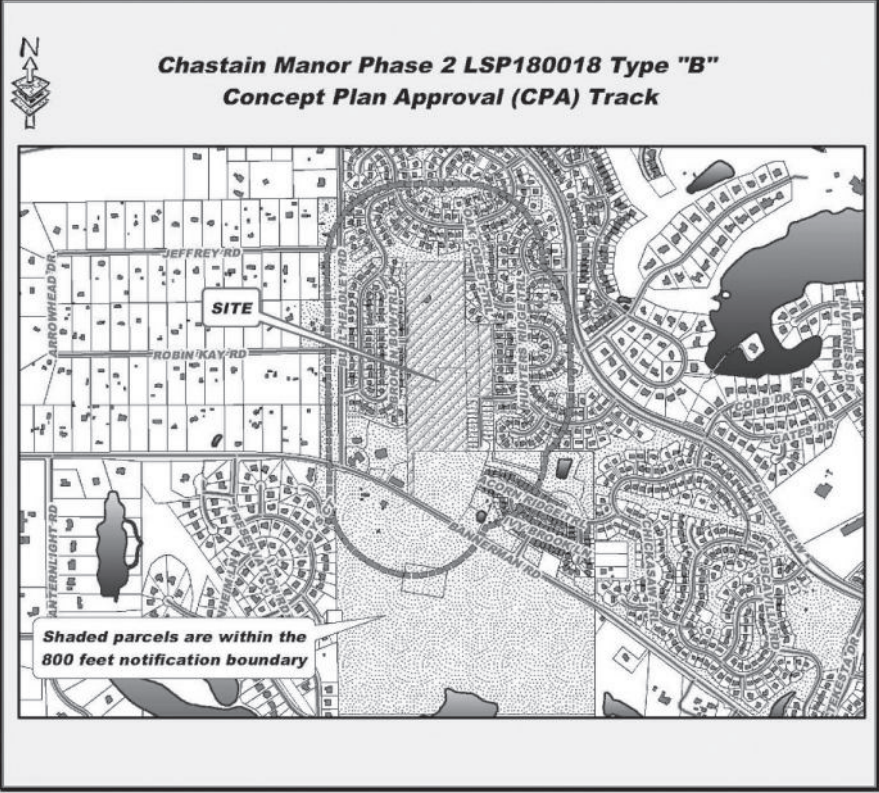
Development Services Contact: Weldon Richardson
RichardsonWe@leoncountyfl.gov
850-606-1357

4:30 p.m.

Project Name: Chastain Manor Phase 2
Type “B” Concept Plan Approval (CPA) Track
Project ID#: LSP180018
Applicant: Benny Chastain, Alva Chastain, and Donnie Chastain
Agent: Alan Wise, P.E., Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
Parcel ID#: 14-08-20-407-003-0, 14-08-20-407-001-0, 14-08-21- C-0010 and 14-08-21- C-0020
Location: North of Bannerman Road between Green Ridge Trail and Broken Bow Trail

The proposed development consists of an 82-unit, single-family detached subdivision. The project site is comprised of 4 parcels with a total area of 33 acres +/- . The subdivision will be accessed via a proposed roadway connection to Bannerman Road, a proposed roadway connection to Green Ridge Trail, and a proposed roadway connection to Broken Bow Trail.

The project will be reviewed through the Type “B” Concept Plan Approval Track.



Development Services Contact: Scott Brockmeier
BrockmeierS@leoncountyfl.gov
850-606-1317

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator at 850-606-5011 or the Office of Resource Stewardship, 1907 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, by written or oral request at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Dial 7-1-1 (TDD and Voice) to access Florida Relay Service. Accommodation Request Forms are available on the website <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/home/accessibilitypolicy>.



The Leon County LINK

LeonCountyFL.gov



For Leon County news and information, please visit: **LeonCountyFL.gov/News**

People Focused. Performance Driven.

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services | The Leon County Link is published on the first Sunday each month in the Tallahassee Democrat. | **May 2018**



Prepare Now. When Disaster Strikes, It's Too Late to Plan.



#HURRICANE STRONG



WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 — 6 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX | 911 EASTERWOOD DR.

LEON COUNTY Citizen Engagement Series

After back-to-back hurricanes in Leon County, this interactive, hands-on event puts disaster preparedness front-and-center just before the start of hurricane season. Learn how to stay connected and informed during any disaster, and if you're lucky, you may just walk away with some critical disaster preparedness supplies, like a weather radio and more. Dinner and refreshments provided.

REGISTER AT: WWW.LEONCOUNTYFL.GOV/CES

LEARN HOW TO PLAN FOR DISASTER


HEAR FROM COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

GET A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

People Focused. Performance Driven. | 850-606-5300

LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

TOPICS THAT ENGAGE AND INSPIRE



Pathway to freedom

Join Leon County for the continuation of the 2018 Library Lecture series with, "The Pathway to Freedom: Florida A&M University's Role in the Black Freedom Struggle." Dr. Darius J. Young, Associate Professor of History at FAMU, will examine the fundamental role the university played during the civil rights era. This lecture is part of the Annual Festival of Freedom commemorating the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in Tallahassee.

MONDAY, MAY 14 • 7 P.M. • DR. B.L. PERRY, JR. BRANCH LIBRARY, 2817 SOUTH ADAMS ST.
(850) 606-2665 • www.LeonCountyFL.gov/GetEngaged



EMS SAFETY FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018
10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. | GOVERNOR'S SQUARE MALL
1500 Apalachee Pkwy. near J.C. Penney's parking lot

- » Child car seat checkpoint
- » Bicycle rodeo course & helmet giveaway
- » CPR demonstrations
- » Leon the Lifesaver
- » First responder vehicle tours
- » First aid demonstrations
- » Thank-a-Veteran letter writing
- » Face painting
- » Other educational activities and more!

For more information, (850) 606-2100 LeonCountyFL.gov



Southern Shakespeare Festival: May 12-13

Experience the magic and mystery of jugglers, illusionists, stilt walkers, and fortune tellers; the spectacle of armored combat; the taste of medieval food; and even learn a new skill, be it blacksmithing, weaving, or belly dancing. The Kids' Kingdom lowers the drawbridge for the young folks and all visitors can enjoy the multiple programs and performances leading up to the main stage production of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, performed in true Renaissance style, on the Capital City Amphitheater stage at Cascades Park. To learn more about the festival, visit www.SouthernShakespeareFestival.org.



06 21 18
THURS

PERFORMING @ CAPITAL CITY LIVE AMPHITHEATER TRAIN

See the multi-GRAMMY and Billboard award-winning band Train live at the Capital City Amphitheater in Cascades Park.
Thursday, June 21, 2018

Get your ticket at CapitalCityAmphitheater.com



For more information, visit www.VisitTallahassee.com

Saturday, June 2



9 a.m. to Noon

#BUILD YOUR BUCKET

North Florida Fairgrounds | 441 Paul Russell Rd.

LEARN WHAT GOES INTO BEING PREPARED



Hurricane season starts soon, so begin preparing your disaster plan and bucket at this family-friendly event with demonstrations and fun exhibits. The first 800 households will get a free bucket and critical starter supplies.

Board of County Commissioners Schedule May 2018		
TUESDAY 8	1:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Workshop County Courthouse, 5th Floor Commission Chambers - 301 S. Monroe Street
TUESDAY 8	3:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting County Courthouse, 5th Floor Commission Chambers - 301 S. Monroe Street
TUESDAY 8	6:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing County Courthouse, 5th Floor Commission Chambers - 301 S. Monroe Street
TUESDAY 15	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) City Hall, 2nd Floor Commission Chambers, 300 South Adams Street
TUESDAY 22	3:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting County Courthouse, 5th Floor Commission Chambers - 301 S. Monroe Street
THURSDAY 24	9:30 a.m.	Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) City Hall, 2nd Floor Commission Chambers, 300 South Adams Street
Live television broadcast available on channel 16 on Comcast and CenturyLink; webcast available anytime at www.LeonCountyFL.gov .		

Your County Libraries are Rocking!


May 29 kicks off the "Best Week Ever" — the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System Summer Reading Program!

This year's theme is "Libraries Rock" and from **May 29 until June 3** all libraries will host programs featuring music, magicians, drummers, dancers, and amazing animals. Add your name to the wall of musical notes at each location to show reading is fun in the summer! Brain muscles need to be exercised just like our arm and leg muscles, so make a plan now to prepare for the next school year by reading 15 minutes every day this summer!

Monday Nights @ Main will offer fun activities beginning on **June 3 at 6:30 p.m.** until the last Monday in July. Story Times for elementary aged students will continue at the normal times throughout the summer. Teens will have their own fun every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Main Library with mystery mayhem, yo-yo instruction by Spencer Davis, Secret Hollow books, and more.

Stop by your nearest County library to pick up a reading record and summer flyer.

For more information, visit www.LeonCountyLibrary.org.



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O'Connor

Continued from Page 1A

fallen in love with Melanie (Applegate, who plays Juliet) and everyone else auditioning for Romeo was much older.” Applegate is just 15, and a Tallahassee local.

It’s rare for a company to find teenage actors mature enough to pull off these iconic roles. The characters are 13 and 14 but are usually played by people in their 20s trying to look younger. O’Connor herself was 23 when she started playing the 16-year-old Gabrielle.

Laura Johnson, executive director of Southern Shakespeare, said luck had nothing to do with Muir’s casting.

“Self-taped auditions were coming in from all over the country, and Renee was submitting lots of them from actors she’d worked with,” she said. “We didn’t even realize the (family) connection, because we had so many videos.”

Director Michael Richey was wowed by Muir’s audition.

“When I saw that, I started reading the paperwork that came with the video,” said Johnson. “We had seen in the video that Miles was wearing braces, but the accompanying note from Renee said, ‘The braces are coming off in about a month and I can tell you that for sure because I’m his mom.’”

Applegate was equally excited. “I heard there was a 16-year-old and I was praying he would be good,” she said. “If they picked a college guy, they wouldn’t have picked me.

2. “Xena” fans are coming to Tallahassee from all over for the chance to see O’Connor perform live.

“I’ve gotten emails from fans from Alabama to Los Angeles,” said Johnson. “Someone is even coming from Australia.”

Will they see any of their beloved Gabrielle in the Nurse? O’Connor thinks so.

“They will definitely see the sense of who I am come across,” she said. “And in the relationship between the Nurse and Juliet, you can see some similarity to the original relationship between Xena and Gabrielle. It’s a special relationship, very playful.”

3. Muir hasn’t watched a lot of “Xena.”

“People think it’s a crime against humanity that I haven’t seen them,” he said, and laughed. “I saw a few when I was really young and I watched a few recently. It’s so funny watching Mom — kind, gentle, wise Mom — and she’s this young spunky little thing booming out stuff like, ‘You can’t be the Amazon



Renee O'Connor, right, and her son Miles Muir share the stage during rehearsals for the Southern Shakespeare Company's upcoming production of “Romeo & Juliet.” HALI TAUXE/DEMOCRAT

queen until you beat me!” “I think it’s hilarious. And the costumes! She never wears stuff like that at all, so I see the show, and she’s bouncing around, and I’m like, hello?”

Bad news for fans hoping for a reprise of the mini-skirt and crop top: The Nurse’s costume covers O’Connor from head to toe. But devotees will still recognize that impish gleam in her eyes.

4. The stage combat is going to be awesome. Southern Shakespeare brought in a professional fight choreographer from New York, Jason Tate, to train the actors.

The fight scenes aren’t exactly fake — the audience will hear the metal clanging against metal, and get to see some intense swordplay.

“It’s controlled fighting,” said Muir. “Jason’s style of stage combat is more modern. In traditional stage fighting, you always aim the blade away from the other actors. But we have enough space at Cascades Park that we can thrust to center body mass and use actual movement to tell the story.”

5. Mother and son are both musical theater nerds. O’Connor tries to keep it under the radar, but she loves doing community theater, especially with her family. Recently the whole gang — her

husband, both kids and the family dog, Barry — performed in a production of “Mary Poppins.”

“Theater has always been my passion, ever since I was a child, and will always be,” she said. “The writing just has more depth to it than many opportunities in TV and film.”

6. The themes of “Romeo and Juliet” still resonate, even with Millennials.

“It’s a timeless story. Everything in it is stuff that happens to you every day,” said Muir. “People fighting each other over things that don’t matter. Teenage disputes. It’s so relevant to all the school shootings — pointless violence, and not that much is being done to stop things. History repeats itself. The story was told, all these kids died. And nothing much has changed.”

7. Mother and son are loving Tallahassee. She’s enjoying the local restaurant scene. Her favorite so far? Kool Beanz. (“It was unbelievable, such great food!”) The Hideaway behind Waterworks has become their go-to morning coffee stop, and they’ve just discovered Lucy & Leo’s cupcakes.

And he’s a big fan of Tallahassee’s trees.

“It’s really lush, it reminds me of Mid-



Renee O'Connor was 23 when she started playing Gabrielle. DEMOCRAT FILES

dle Earth,” said Muir, whose father hails from New Zealand, where O’Connor met him while working on “Xena.”

“I was just there in New Zealand, and I was expecting Tallahassee to be like L.A. or Texas — hot and dry — but it’s just beautiful. So green. I thought I got off at the wrong stop.”

“Romeo and Juliet” plays at Cascades Park May 10-13. It’s free. Visit southernshakes.org.

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Renee O'Connor Set to Star in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet - Tallahassee Magazine - March-April 2018

tallahasseeemagazine.com

The Southern Shakespeare Company production of "Romeo and Juliet" will be in the Elizabethan style of this FSU School of Theatre production. Free "Shakespeare in the Park" performances are set for May 10-13 in the Capital City Amphitheater of Cascades Park.

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but no other play about star-crossed lovers will ever match "Romeo and Juliet."

Shakespeare's beloved, tragic love story is coming to the Capital City Amphitheater in Cascades Park for free performances May 10-13 by the Southern Shakespeare Company.

Laura Johnson, the company's executive director, said the play is the centerpiece of this year's Shakespeare in the Park Festival, designed for all ages, and that festival organizers are bringing back the Renaissance Fair.

This year's festival will take place over four days instead of the usual three. "We had several close-to-capacity crowds last year, and we received feedback from participants and a number of attendees saying that we ought to expand the festival," says Johnson.

An additional day of performances also allows for additional festivities. "As this will be the first year we will perform Shakespeare in Elizabethan period style and dress, we thought it would be wonderful to bring the Renaissance Fair back to Tallahassee as part of this production," says Johnson. "The fair will surround folks with the sights and sounds, food and fun of a Renaissance festival and will also serve as a wonderful lead-in to the mainstage show."



Romeo and Juliet were willing to die for love while their families waged war around them. See the play for free at the Southern Shakespeare Festival, which has added a Renaissance Fair for 2018.

This year's special guest artist for the Southern Shakespeare Festival is internationally known actor, director and producer Renee O'Connor ("Xena: Warrior Princess" and recently, "A Question of Faith"). O'Connor will perform the role of Nurse in "Romeo and Juliet."

"I'm really excited," she says. "I grew up studying Shakespeare and performing his works, so to be able to return to it and to play the role of Nurse is really meaningful to me."

There are a lot of layers to her character and textures and colors within those layers. I love her sense of humor and her depth of compassion, I love her bawdiness, I love that she is the confidante for Juliet when Juliet feels like she has no one to turn to, and I love the dilemma she faces when she realizes Juliet needs to step away from love and get with the program.

Nurse has this incredible sense of humor, and yet, there are very authentic moments of grief and despair in the play. Nurse worries for Juliet. So when you mix that with moments of bawdiness throughout the play, you get quite a dynamic character. She has a nice little character arc.”

“Romeo and Juliet” is, without doubt, one of the most beloved of Shakespeare’s plays. Michael Richey, the former Florida State University School of Theatre professor who will serve as the guest director for the play, calls it “a story that is inclusive of essential life experiences shared by all of us: love, family, friendship, loss, forgiveness.” He explains that its themes are universal and that they cross all societal boundaries.

“With swordplay, dirty-minded teenagers, lots of laughs and breathtaking poetry, ‘Romeo and Juliet’ has something for almost everyone to enjoy,” he says.

“Romeo and Juliet” is one of Shakespeare’s most well-known plays. According to O’Connor, it’s also one of Shakespeare’s most underrated.

“There’s quite a bit of comedy in the play that most people wouldn’t expect to see, and this shows the brilliance of Shakespeare’s work,” she says. “Most people only recognize Romeo and Juliet, but there are so many wonderful characters in the play. We all know the play and outcome, so it’s nice to be surprised by the work. That surprise comes through getting to know the many characters in the play and seeing and relating to all of their layers. That way, when the obvious ending happens, we feel like we’ve been on a journey with a group of people and fell in love with Romeo and with Juliet on the way. I know it’s going to be a great production, and I hope that even people who think they don’t like Shakespeare will come out to see it.”