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MAY 2025

From Practically Perfect Princess to Practically Perfect Producer

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LETTER TO RESIDENTS



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FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS:

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 5th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: kayleecrawford@bestversionmedia.com.

HOA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Are you on the association board for your subdivision? Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents. We create customized homeowners association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

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February
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April
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August
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Novemb
Decemb

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May has arrived, and with it comes a season of growth, color, and sunshine. There's something about this time of year that inspires us to slow down, get outside, and reconnect with the people and places we love most. Whether it's a backyard barbecue, a walk through the neighborhood, or a quiet evening on the porch, spring is the perfect reminder of how special it is to be part of a community like ours.

At Lake City Neighbors, we love being part of that connection. This magazine exists to share your stories—the everyday joys, the remarkable accomplishments, and the heartwarming moments that deserve to be seen and celebrated. If you've ever considered nominating someone for a feature, there's no better time. Maybe it's a neighbor who always goes the extra mile, a parent making a difference, or a local business you admire. Your nominations help us continue to spotlight the people who make Lake City shine.

Be sure to check out our **community calendar** to see what's happening around town and how you can get involved! One exciting event coming up is the **casting call for Practically Perfect Performing Arts' first production**, taking place the evenings of **May 8th and 9th**. Auditions are open to ages 7 **to 18**, and more details can be found both in our calendar and within this month's cover feature.

As always, participation in Lake City Neighbors is completely free, and we're just a message away. Whether you want to submit a pet photo, suggest an idea, or simply let us know what you'd love to see in a future issue—we're all ears!

Here's to longer days, fresh beginnings, and all the new memories we'll make together this season.

Until next month, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:13-16 that we are "the salt of the earth [..] light of the world,".

So go be a light and stay salty, friends!



Warmly,

Kaylee Crauford

Content Coordinator Lake City Neighbors





"On a mission to build relationships through the arts, nurture God-given creativity, cultivate storytelling, and deliver exceptional performances that inspire and engage!"

BY KAYLEE CRAWFORD PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOMENTS BY ROBERT FOTOGRAPHY

hen Lydia Weatherly first arrived in Lake City in 2022, she noticed something missing—community theatre. As someone with a deep love for the stage, the idea of starting her own theatre never left her mind. But like many great stories, hers began in a more whimsical way: dressing up as characters for children's birthday parties.

That idea quickly blossomed into The Practically Perfect Party

Co. (TPPPC) in 2023—a small business that brought joy, glitter, and giggles to families across Lake City. What started as a few birthday parties turned into a full-fledged experience, with Lydia training friends in singing, dancing, and character acting to spread magic at every event.

Now, Lydia is taking her talents from birthday parties to the big stage with her latest endeavor: Practically Perfect Performing Arts



(PPPA)—Lake City's very own community theatre program!

From Parties to Performing Arts

Currently studying Theatre Education and Musical Theatre at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Lydia credits her party company as the spark behind her dream. Lydia shared that TPPPC showed her how impactful a little bit of performance could be- a little bit of magic at a birthday party goes a long way. Can you imagine what a full-scale theatre production could do for a whole community?

The inspiration for Practically Perfect Performing Arts was also rooted in her love for teaching and mentoring. Hosting workshops for her party performers turned into full-blown mini acting school, where Lydia helped her friends discover their voice and creativity.

A Family Affair, Fueled by Faith

For Lydia, theatre has been a family tradition. Growing up with parents who blended ministry and the arts, she watched them direct church plays like Charlotte's Web and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and more. Now, that same creative energy powers PPPA.

Her dad, Glen, is one of PPPA's producers. Her mom, Tavia, serves as Art Curator and House Manager. Her brothers contribute



their unique skills in worship arts, film, and design. Even her "church bestie" and family friend, Sheree Vann—who booked Lydia for her very first princess party—is now a producer.

And Lydia? She juggles it all with a color-coded schedule, late-night rehearsals, FaceTime calls with her parents, and a heart full of purpose, stating "Even though juggling so many responsibilities can be stressful at times, I'm reminded that these aren't just tasks to check off a list—they're part of the calling God has placed on my life. He is my motivation and my strength!"

Debut Production: Finding Nemo Jr. Swims into Town

PPPA's first production, Finding Nemo Jr., will hit the stage June 26–29, 2025. Auditions are open to local students ages 7–18, with multiple roles and flexible options for all skill levels. Why Finding Nemo? Lydia has seen the Disney musical more than 20 times—it's a story that captures hearts of all ages. "I've always loved it's versatile production design and how it captivates audiences with its heartwarming story of family, friendship, and adventure," Lydia muses.

"My goal for Finding Nemo Jr.—and all future PPPA productions—is to make sure students feel supported and encouraged," she says. "I want them to know that the people behind the table aren't staring them down with frowns but are cheering them on with pom poms, excited to see them shine!"

PPPA will begin as a summer theatre program, with plans to expand into holiday camps and year-round productions. The long-term dream? A vibrant, multi-use venue in Lake City that serves as the headquarters for both PPPA and TPPPC and as a rental space for community events.

More Than Just a Stage

PPPA is more than a theatre—it's a movement. Lydia envisions a space where all talents are welcomed: set builders, costume designers, ushers, musicians, choreographers, and more.

Workshops and camps are also in the works, from Worship Band Camp to Film Camp and even Product Design classes each led by members of Lydia's creatively gifted family.

Advice for Young Dreamers

Lydia knows what it's like to dream big-







and to start small. Her advice for other young entrepreneurs?

"Plan your vision, find your cheerleaders, embrace trial and error, grow your skills, and lead with kindness, boldness, and encouragement," she says. And most importantly—"Trust in the Lord, take new opportunities, and go for it!"

Whether she's leading a workshop, singing under the spotlight, or organizing a rehearsal from her college dorm room, Lydia Weatherly is on a mission: to build relationships, nurture Godgiven creativity, cultivate storytelling, and deliver exceptional performances that inspire and engage. And with Practically Perfect Performing Arts, she's doing just that—one "happily ever after" at a time.











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Best Version

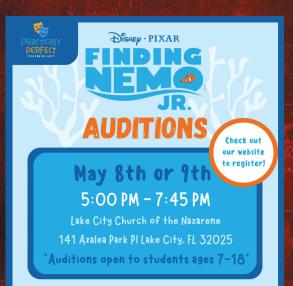
Practically Perfect Performing Arts Core Values:

- CHARACTER OVER COMPETITION— "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" -Romans 12:2
- 2. EXCELLENCE OVER EGO— "And now, dear brothers and sister, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." -Philippians 4:8
- 3. SERVICE OVER SPOTLIGHT— "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." -Ephesians 5:1-2

GET INVOLVED!

Want to be part of Lake City's newest theatre family? PPPA is currently recruiting volunteers, performers, donors, and local business sponsors for Finding Nemo Jr. and beyond.

- Visit https://practicallyperfectpa. wixsite.com/home
- Follow @practicallyperfectperforming on Instagram or @Practically Perfect Performing Arts on Facebook
- Email to join the volunteer team or learn how your business can support the arts





Question everything.

This is honestly one of the most profound lessons my mom ever taught me. I really didn't have an appreciation for it until I became a nurse. Questioning the narrative is essential for personal and professional growth, critical thinking, and the pursuit of truth. By challenging the assumptions



and digging deeper into what we are taught, we develop a better understanding of our relationships and the world around us. We uncover hidden biases, avoid blindly accepting information (or misinformation?), and make more informed decisions.

Applying this skill in healthcare is what sets me apart. I am able to be curious and innovative. Ultimately, this curiosity leads me to finding the root cause of illness and disease. How can we really heal without knowing why we got sick in the first place?

My curiosity paid off during the covid debacle, when I was the only healthcare provider in my area (outside of an emergency department) willing to treat patients. I had no idea what I was doing, and neither did anyone else. But in the midst of the tremendous pandemic fear, people got better. I attribute many of the early successes to just being available. Once people knew they weren't alone, the fear subsided, and they were able to heal.

At Florida Wellness and Preparedness, I have created a telehealth healing oasis. By averting insurance, I am able to provide my patients with my time, and this is where the magic happens. My goal is to get to know you so that I can provide personalized healthcare, tailored specifically to your needs!

FWP Health



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAYS SQUARE DANCING WITH THE DIXIE DANCERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB

@ Teen Town Center
533 NW Desoto Street
Time: 7 pm - 9:30 pm
For More Info: Contact Barbara Rosenthal at 386-466-2984 or email wingedbat47@ gmail.com
Visit us at dixiedancers.org

WEDNESDAYS FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY @ Olustee Park

Time: 11 am - 2 pm

w 2025

THURSDAYS TRIVIA NIGHT

@ Halpatter Brewery 264 N Hernando Ave, Lake City, FL 32055 Time: 7 pm

EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT. GROWERS AND MAKERS MARKET @ Olustee Park Time: 9 am - 1 pm

SAT. MAY 03 KIWANIS KID DAY 2025

@ Florida Gateway Rodeo Arena
572 SW Mary Ethel Ln
Time: 9 am - 3 pm
Kids will enjoy bounce houses, water slides, kid's workshop, games, petting zoo, food vendors, & more!
Admission is \$5 for children (16 and under); free for ages 17 and older.
For More Info: visit kiwaniskidsday.com

ANNUAL HATS OFF TO MOM MOTHER'S DAY TEA

@ Gateway Art Gallery 168 N Marion Ave Time: 11:30 am - 2 pm For Tickets: Call 386.752.5229 or stop by the Gateway Art Gallery

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

@ The Oaks Restaurant
The Country Club at Lake City
717 NW Fairway Drive
Time: 4 pm
Derby attire requested. Prizes for Best
Dressed & Best Hat. Derby drink specials.
\$10 Entrance Fee



MON. MAY 05 CINCO DE MAYO

CCSS BINGO-DE-MAYO

@ Lake City Lifestyle Enrichment Center 628 SE Allison Ct Time: 5:30 pm Join us at the Lake City Lifestyle Enrichment Center for our Bingo-De-Mayo fiesta! Enjoy a loaded nacho bar, 6 rounds of bingo, raffles, prizes, and more for just \$10!!! All proceeds support the programs and services provided by Columbia County Senior Services.

Advanced tickets available online now! https://ccss.betterworld.org/events/ ccss-bingo-de-mayo

CASTING CALL: AGES 7 TO 18 PRACTICALLY PERFECT PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS: FINDING NEMO JR.

Audition Dates:

Thu. May 08 or Fri. May 09 Time: 5 pm - 7:45 pm To register for auditions: fill out the google form at practicallyperfectpa.wixsite.com/home For latest updates and announcements:

Arrowhead Survival of Lake City

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Practicallyperfectperforming and Facebook @Practically Perfect Performing Arts

SAT. MAY 10 SPRING MARKET & MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

@ Darby Pavilion at Wilson Park
205 N Marion Ave
Time: 9 am - 4 pm
Entertainment-Vendors-Food Trucks-Children's Activities

SUN. MAY 11 MOTHER'S DAY

TUE. MAY 13 COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITIZENS ACADEMY

@ Columbia County Sheriff's Office 4917 US Highway 90 Time: 6 pm - 9 pm For More Info: Contact Lt. Bulthuis (386)758-1376 or (386)867-2762

SAT. MAY 17 ARMED FORCES DAY

MON. MAY 26 MEMORIAL DAY

SAT. MAY 31 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FAIR

@ Darby Pavilion at Wilson Park 205 N Marion Ave Time: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Raising awareness to eliminate the stigma that mental health ought to be seen negatively. Hosts, Oasis of Hope Therapy, wish to let everyone know that they are not alone in their struggles. For More Info: call (386)697-8842

SAT. JUNE 07 ABILITY RUN BENEFITTING CARC

@ Florida Gateway Fairgrounds 164 SW Mary Ethel Lane Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm CARC will host a Barrel Race on June 7 at the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds, Rodeo Arena in Lake City, Florida, and proceeds from this incredible fundraiser will empower the life enrichment program, inspiring hope and inclusion.

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SPORTS SECTION



SPORTING CALENDAR OF EVENTS COMPILED BY KAYLEE CRAWFORD

REMEMBER: you can always add your own sporting events and calendars to this page to generate more support for your teams at all levels- email your dates to our Content Coordinator, Kaylee at kayleecrawford@bestversionmedia.com.

FRI. MAY 23 - SUN. MAY 25 FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL

@ Stephen Foster State Park 11016 Lillian Saunders Drive White Springs FL 32096

Fees: Advance tickets are \$35.00 per day or \$70.00 for the weekend for adults. At the gate: \$40.00 per day or \$80.00 for the weekend. Children between the ages of six and 16 for the entire weekend \$5.00 Children under six years are free.

For more information, please call 1-877-6FL-FOLK

(1-877-635-3655) or visit www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster or www.FloridaFolkFestival.com.



THU. MAY 8TH & 22 STORYTIME & HIKE WITH A RANGER

@ Ichetucknee Springs State Park 12087 SW Highway 27, Fort White, FL 32038 Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

SAT. MAY 10 MOONLIT GUIDED PADDLE

@ Ichetucknee Springs State Park 12087 SW Highway 27, Fort White, FL 32038 Time: 8:30 pm - 11 pm Moonlit Paddle tickets are \$50 per person, which includes watercraft rental

Join us for a guided evening paddle on the Ichetucknee River under the illumination of the moon! Tour lecturing will be kept at a minimum so that participants can fully take in the sights and sounds of the Ichetucknee River after dark, such as the great horned owls, bats, frogs and more. All ages are welcome but at least one person in each boat should be a confident paddler. Space is limited. Visit our concessionaire's website to book your tickets. Privatelyowned vessels are unable to participate.

For More Info: Contact caitlin.gonsiorek@floridadep.gov

WED. JUNE 04 - SUN. JUNE 08 TDI CAVERN AND INTRO TO CAVE COURSE

@ Hangtime Lake City
162 NW Lakeside Ct
Time: 5 pm
For More Info: Contact Safety Diver Services at getwetwithchet@gmail.com



WHAT BOOK GENRE ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR? COMPILED BY KAYLEE CRAWFORD

Find out what kind of story your bookshelf (and your heart) is craving!

Grab a pencil, answer the questions below, and tally your letter choices. Then keep flipping pages to reveal your result!

1. What's your ideal setting for a good story?

- A. A cozy, small-town community or countryside
- B. A high-stakes courtroom or eerie abandoned house
- C. A magical realm or alternate world
- D. A fast-paced city or globe-trotting location
- E. A real-life historical event or time period

2. What's your current reading vibe?

- A. Comforting and heartwarming
- B. Suspenseful and intense
- C. Imaginative and mind-bending
- D. Adventurous and exciting
- E. Thought-provoking and reflective

3. Pick a weekend activity:

- A. Baking or gardening
- B. Watching a true crime documentary
- C. Playing fantasy board games
- D. Going on a spontaneous road trip
- E. Visiting a museum or reading old letters

4. Which of these quotes speaks to you the most right now?

- A. "There's no place like home."
- B "Trust no one."
- C. "Anything is possible."
- D. "The world is waiting."
- E. "To know the past is to shape the future."

5. What kind of ending do you prefer?

- A. Satisfying and full of hope
- B. Jaw-dropping and twisty
- C. Magical or epic
- D. Open-ended or daring
- E. Bittersweet or meaningful

HOW TO SCORE

Count how many A's, B's, C's, D's, and E's you chose. Your highest total reveals the book genre that matches your current mood. If you're tied between a few, lucky you—you've got options!

Flip to the answer key to read what genre you got—and get a book recommendation to match!

Answers on page 15!



MOVIES TO GET YOU HYPE FOR SUMMER

BY KAYLEE CRAWFORD



© Best Version Media BOOK MOOD ANSWER KEY

BY KAYLEE CRAWFORD

Check your quiz results and discover the perfect genre—and a recommended read to get you started!

Mostly A's - Contemporary Fiction / Women's Fiction

You're in the mood for something heartfelt and down-to-earth. You love stories about relationships, self-growth, and the little moments that make life beautiful.

Try this: **The Last Thing He Told Me** by Laura Dave – A compelling story about family secrets, resilience, and unexpected connections.

Mostly B's – Psychological Thriller / Suspense

You're craving a page-turner that keeps you guessing. Twists, secrets, and shady characters? Yes, please.

Try this: **The Housemaid** by Freida McFadden – A dark and twisty ride that proves nothing is as it seems.

Mostly C's – Fantasy

You're ready to escape reality and dive into a world of dragons, magic, or epic

quests. Expect the unexpected!

Try this: **Fourth Wing** by Rebecca Yarros – A sizzling blend of fantasy, romance, and high-stakes action with dragons to top it off.

Mostly D's - Adventure / Action

You want excitement, energy, and a story that keeps moving. Whether it's a survival tale or a treasure hunt, you're here for the thrill.

Try this: **The River** by Peter Heller – A wilderness adventure that's equal parts suspenseful and poetic.

Mostly E's - Historical Fiction

You're drawn to stories that transport you to another era. You enjoy exploring the past to better understand the present.

Try this: **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak – A moving WWII story told through the eyes of a young girl with a passion for books.

Want to see your favorite genre or book featured in the next issue?

Email your recommendations or share

your book club's open spots—we'd love to highlight what you are reading and connect our community through stories!

Can't find the book you're looking for on your shelf at home? That's okay, hop on down to a library branch to find exactly what you're looking for!

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