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Volume 2 • Number 2 • March 2021

Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

Our History is a Treasure: **Chapter Six** By Jan Otten

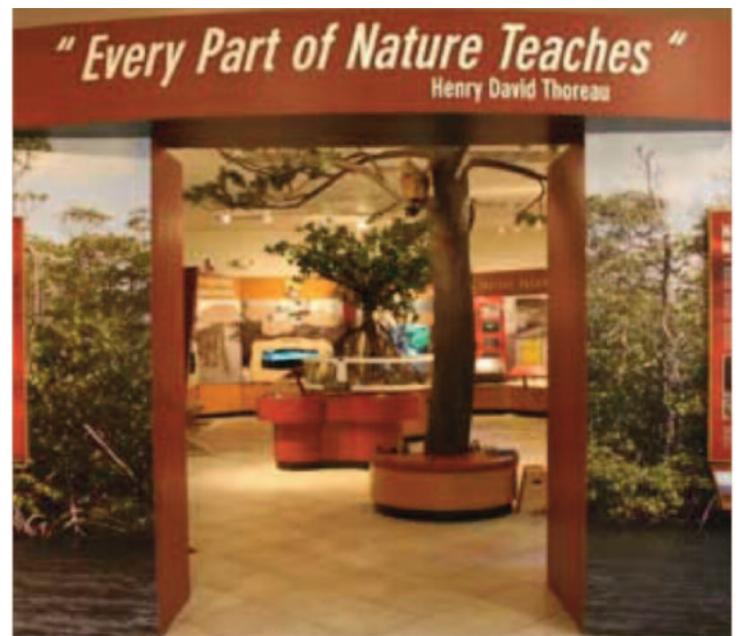
How very fortunate we are to have the epitome of lessons from nature right here in our own backyard. The Hobe Sound Nature Center has as its forefront Environmental Education. Its programs have taught, trained, and influenced an entire generation of environmentally sensitive people.

Because of the uniqueness of Florida's environment, the need for education among residents and visitors is great. Through education, the Hobe Sound Nature Center performs a vital role in the protection of our national resources. The mission of the Hobe Sound Nature Center is to increase public awareness of man's relationship with the natural environment through educational programs and to encourage a stewardship ethic.

The Nature Center is located at the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge on U.S. 1 in south Martin County and through a cooperative agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides and maintains the facility.

Established in 1969, the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge came into being when residents of Jupiter Island donated 229 acres to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional donations have brought the total to over 1,000 acres. The Fish and Wildlife Service manages the land to provide habitat and protection for wildlife and plants native to this coastal area. The Refuge includes three and one-half miles of barrier island beach, sand dunes and mangroves on Jupiter Island and coastal sand pine scrub on the mainland. The beach portion is a highly productive sea turtle nesting area, with the endangered leatherback, green and threatened loggerhead sea turtles using the beach for their nesting. Other wildlife species inhabit this environment, including brown pelicans, ospreys, least terns and many shorebirds. Wading birds are also found along the beach and the mangrove areas. In 2019 the Refuge was rededicated as the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge due to Nathaniel's tireless efforts for the environment.

The sand pine scrub habitat, preserved between the U.S. 1 corridor and the Indian River Lagoon, is Florida's oldest and most endangered habitat. It is home to many vanishing plants and animal species, including scrub jays, gopher tortoises, indigo snakes, four-petaled papaw and dancing lady orchids. The Refuge borders the Indian River Lagoon, an estuarine area



The entry portal to The Hobe Sound Nature Center welcomes visitors with a quote from Henry David Thoreau, "Every Part of Nature Teaches."

where sea grass beds occur. This estuary provides food and shelter critical for the manatee and other endangered species. It also serves as a nursery ground for many economically important marine species.

The Nature Center itself was established in the early 1970s through the leadership of Mr. Jackson Burke and Mrs. Elizabeth Kirby, members of the Jupiter Island Garden Club. The Club's vision became a reality in 1973 when the Center's doors opened to educate young people about Florida's environment.

Offices for the USFWS and Nature Center staff were originally housed in a renovated 1950s motel located on the property. A staff of 2 was hired in 1982 by the Hobe Sound Nature Center Board of Directors and they were charged with the responsibility of expanding and improving the existing programs. "Friends of the Nature Center" was established for the purpose of maintaining the Nature Center as a year-round environmental learning facility. A small museum geared to Refuge issues was created.

continued on page 6

The Lost Boys

As I sat at my desk attending a State-mandated, 4-and-a-half hour long online seminar to maintain my qualifications as a sea turtle nest survey volunteer, my mind began to wander a bit. No disrespect intended, it's a wonderful program, but my attention may have been a bit harder to keep than others because, after all, this will be my 31st season counting turtle tracks in the sand. One of the benefits of having been around so long is watching the process of discovery unfold. I attended (and still do) annual conferences to hear, in person, the talks that revealed the discoveries that we now consider everyday 'biofacts' every kid knows about sea turtles. Just 30 years ago, we didn't know much about nesting behavior, or hatchling behavior, or migratory behavior, or genetics, but over that time, we've developed a solid framework of understanding of how these animals evolved and adapted to complete their life history. Well, except for the boys.

Question: in all of the documentaries, articles, or talks you've ever seen about sea turtles, how many even mention the adult males? We've learned every detail about how the turtles find their way to where they were 'born', how they repeatedly struggle through the nesting process, how they fight for survival as they depart the nest and grow up, but, upon closer inspection, our 'solid' understanding of sea turtles is so focused on females and neonates that it virtually ignores an entire, and highly relevant, demographic of the population.

Let's quickly review what we do know. Studies have shown that males are produced when the temperature of the egg drops below what is known as a 'pivotal temperature' in a nest, directing specific metabolic processes to produce testes rather than ovaries. We know that sea turtle populations are gender-biased, in this case meaning that typical populations contain fewer males than females. Lastly, we know that adult males also undertake reproductive migrations, and once arrived actively compete, sometimes pretty violently, for females. That's about it.

That leaves us with what we can surmise. Whether or not we are watching them, male sea turtles help turn the cogs of their respective ecosystems. As described in previous articles, each sea turtle species occupies its own 'ecological niche', from tropical seagrass grazers to temperate jellyfish eaters. They help balance and maintain healthy populations of their prey items, and in turn, help maintain healthy populations of their predators. Since males and female sea turtles rely on the same resources, we can

conclude that they occupy overlapping ranges (vs. segregating to different places), and therefore have a reasonable chance of encountering each other during their normal, non-reproductively motivated, daily lives. It follows, then, that males respond to the migrations of reproductively-active females by undertaking their own. Why bother to travel hundreds, even thousands of miles to find females that are, in theory, around all the time anyway?

This question leads us to one of those big things we'd like to explore next about sea turtles. Remember, migrations are inherently costly. Huge amounts of energy are expended during travel, and the participants have to leave the relative safety of



Researchers equip an adult male green sea turtle with a satellite transmitter to help understand his movements.
Photo: Dean Bagley

their home environments and expose themselves to a whole suite of additional predators, all for the opportunity to mate. This sounds remarkably similar to the annual spring break migrations college students make each year (coincidentally, to Mexico, much like the turtles). If you ask any of the human males, they'd say they're there for obvious reasons, which boil down to that's where the girls are. Not just any girls, only the ones that are most likely to be sharing the same ideas they have. In other words, the most 'available' females have purposefully segregated out of the larger population to cluster in a predictable location. Female sea turtles are only reproductively active every few years, so only a minority of the female population engages in reproduction in any given year. If the size of your habitat can potentially include an entire ocean basin, it may otherwise be difficult for males to locate and identify which are the receptive females. Reproductive migrations may be the answer to solving this problem, making an otherwise expensive trip pay off by having much higher chances of encountering interested females. If we're right, looks like our old buddy Lord Tennyson's wisdom "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love" applies pretty broadly! However, in the case of our male turtles, maybe not so 'lightly'; it's often a pretty long round-trip swim for a chance at romance.

These are among the many questions still to be answered about sea turtles, particularly the males. In fact, there is a new international initiative underway among biologists to focus their efforts on the males, and I can't wait to applaud all the new discoveries I'm sure are still to come! By the way, the boys are just now making their way through our waters now, so let's raise a pint and wish them the best of luck along their way! Go get 'em, fellas, we haven't forgotten about you!

Submitted by **Larry Wood, Ph.D.**

Research Coordinator

National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation

www.savetheseaturtle.org



Chapter Six Answers

Across

- The Center is home to a jumping what **Spider**
- A team of 80 what serves the visitors **Volunteers**
- The nature Center was established by what Jupiter Island Club **Garden**
- Florida's environment is **Unique**
- Name of the Center's Barred Owl **Caloosa**
- The Nature staff is currently how many **Four**
- Endangered sea turtles use the beach for **Nesting**
- Residents of Jupiter Island donated 229 what to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **Acres**
- Name of the Center's Red-tailed Hawk **Spirit**
- Reservations for the nighttime beach walks begin on the 1st of what month **April**
- What type of pelicans make their home on the beach portion of the Refuge **Brown**
- The estuary provides food and this other critical item for manatees **Shelter**
- Hobe Sound Nature Center has as its main focus **Education**

Down

- What kind of scorpions live at the Nature Center **Emperor**
- The interpretive Center features exhibits on the **Estuary**
- The Center is home to a de-scented spotted what **Skunk**
- There are two saltwater what at the Center **Aquariums**
- "Every part of what teaches" **Nature**
- Visitors on the conducted nighttime walk witnesses egg-laying of what kind of sea turtle **Loggerhead**
- The "Owl's Roost" is what kind of shop **Gift**
- The scrub pine is home to dancing lady what **Orchids**



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The **Hobe Sound Beach Shop/Tees Please** was first started by printing custom tee shirts and has evolved into much more. Come in and talk to us and learn how we can help you and your crew (or team) look your best to further promote your business while serving your valued customers.



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Scooters is Hobe Sound's "Cheers." It's where the locals go. I've never been there when the friendly, and highly competent staff doesn't welcome me with open arms and shout a hearty "hello." You can be sure that soon those behind the well-stocked bar will know your name and just what it is you prefer to drink. The beer is the coldest in town, and Cindy makes a great homemade Bloody Mary to start off what may be the best and least expensive Saturday and Sunday brunch.

The menu is extensive and every night a one-page addition is printed and inserted with the constantly changing Specials ranging from Deep South Jambalaya to Conch Fritters and

Steamed Clams to delicious slabs of perfectly done Roast Beef. And every week the staff starts cooking and smoking ribs on Tuesday to make sure that they are perfectly done when Rib Night Wednesday rolls around. And it's important to place your order early before they run out!

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Submitted by Anonymous Restaurant Reviewer

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Chapter Six

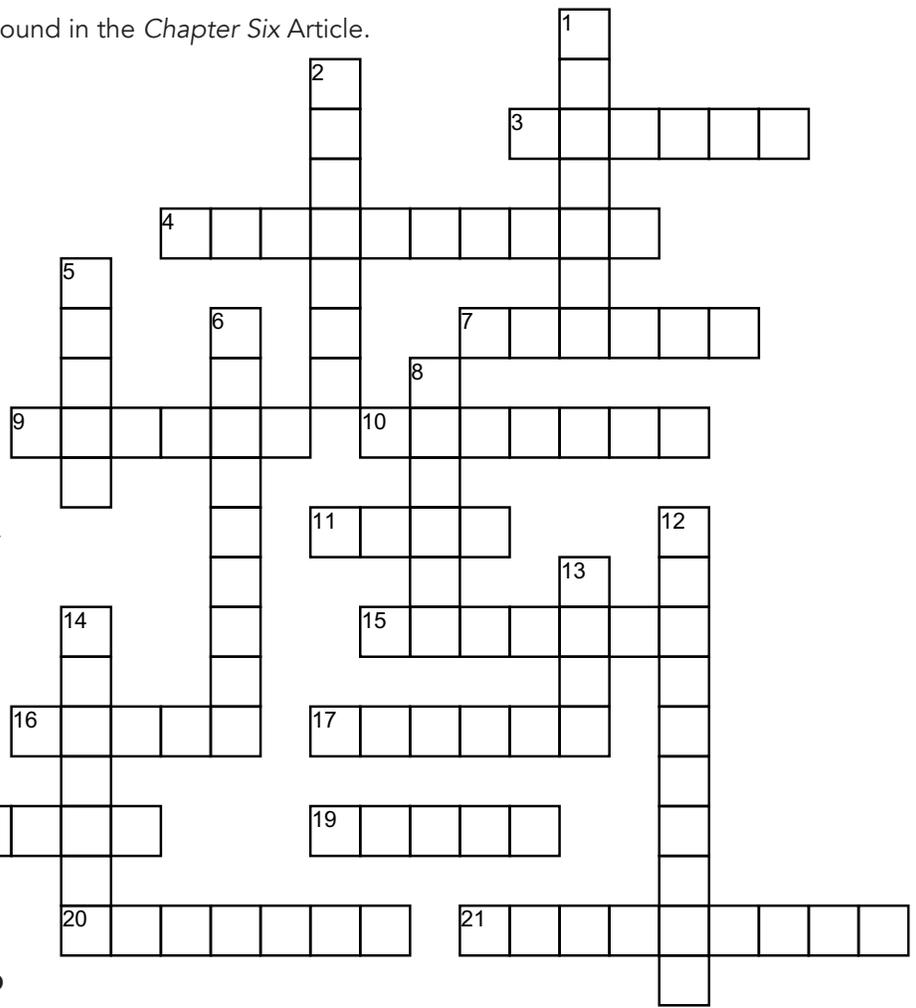
Hint: All Answers Can be Found in the Chapter Six Article.

Across

3. The Center is home to a jumping what
4. A team of 80 what serves the visitors
7. The nature Center was established by what Jupiter Island Club
9. Florida's environment is
10. Name of the Center's Barred Owl
11. The Nature staff is currently how many
15. Endangered sea turtles use the beach for
16. Residents of Jupiter Island donated 229 what to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17. Name of the Center's Red-tailed Hawk
18. Reservations for the nighttime beach walks begin on the 1st of what month
19. What type of pelicans make their home on the beach portion of the Refuge
20. The estuary provides food and this other critical item for manatees
21. Hobe Sound Nature Center has as its main focus

Down

1. What kind of scorpions live at the Nature Center
2. The interpretive Center features exhibits on the
5. The Center is home to a de-scented spotted what
6. There are two saltwater what at the Center
8. "Every part of what teaches"
12. Visitors on the conducted nighttime walk witnesses egg-laying of what kind of sea turtle
13. The "Owl's Roost" is what kind of shop
14. The scrub pine is home to dancing lady what



The Hobe Sound Beach Shop wishes you a happy and lucky St. Patrick's Day!

A Case of Mistaken Identity



Most people would identify a legless, scaled creature found slithering along a trail as a snake, but this is not necessarily always true! Glass lizards (genus *Ophisaurus*) share these characteristics with snakes, but are distinct in several ways including their taxonomy. The first difference you are likely to notice is its movement—glass lizards move along the ground in a more awkward and stiff motion than snakes because they have less specialized movement methods. They also deviate from snakes in their eating behavior. Snakes typically eat large meals periodically, consuming nothing for long periods in between prey opportunities. Glass lizards eat insects, spiders, and other small prey on a consistent basis. A few other differences you may notice on glass lizards are their visible ear openings and eyelids, both of which are absent in snakes. These unique reptiles spend their time in flatwoods and near wetlands, making Jonathan Dickinson State Park a very suitable home. Next time you're at the park, keep your eyes peeled and you just may spot one of these misleading creatures!

Laura Adams

Park Services Specialist
Jonathan Dickinson State Park





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Real Estate Corner Do pets count in the home buying process?

You bet they do! According to the National Association of Realtors 43 Percent of homeowners would be willing to move to better accommodate their pets demonstrating that this is a priority among consumers. Sixty Six percent of current US households have a pet or are planning on getting one in the future!

Pets are a very important part of many homeowners life

When searching for a new home, consumers don't only look for pet-friendly features within the home; 18 percent of recent home buyers said it was very important that their new neighborhood is convenient to a vet and/or outdoor space for their pet(s). This is important to consider when marketing a home for sale as potential considerations from prospective buyers.

Fencing, flooring and space play an important role in selecting a new home for the family and pets. Also it is very important to check with any home owners association on rules and regulations concerning pet ownership prior to looking in a community!

Pets also come into play when REALTORS® are advising in selling a home. The most common pet-related change members make to their seller clients is taking the animal(s) out for showings, followed by replacing anything damaged by the pet(s). Eighty percent of REALTORS® recommend that their clients remove pets during showings when selling their home.

While they may not be the top priority for home buyers and sellers, pets are an important aspect and must not be forgotten.

Just Saying!

Rich Otten, PSA, C2EX

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The **Hobe Sound Beach Shop** is growing! Its customer base is broad and the **Turtle Times** is being widely distributed to visitors, residents and shoppers in the local area.

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A little Trivia from Dictionary.com

shenanigans [*shuh-nan-i-guhnz*] plural noun
mischief; prankishness.



Example: There's no Leprechaun shenanigans at the **Hobe Sound Beach Shop's** St. Patty's day sales. The Bargains are real, look for the green tags and save green in your wallet.



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Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Five continued from page 1.

The Elizabeth W. Kirby Interpretive Center opened to the public in 1985 and featured exhibits on the estuary, sand pine scrub, manatees, sea turtles and other relative topics. And then in 1988 the Nature Center built the Jackson Burke Memorial Pavilion for use as an outdoor classroom. By 1998 the Burke Pavilion was added onto and enclosed. The hurricanes of 2004 destroyed the old motel building. The museum was then moved into a trailer provided by the USFWS. Nature Center offices and gift shop were relocated to the Jackson Burke Education Center. In May of 2007 the new building was completed and, in the fall of 2010, new interpretive exhibits and live wildlife enclosures were added and installed generating even more interest in the community. And now, in 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as begun construction on a new classroom building.

The Nature Center currently has a staff of four, a paid intern and, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a great team of about 80 volunteers to serve over 40,000 persons a year. Normally open 6 days a week, the museum and gift shop are temporarily closed per the USFWS regulations. However, following CDC guidelines, many of their programs continue to be offered and conducted, particularly outdoor events. Most are free or for only a very minimal fee.

When the Center re-opens to visitors you can look forward to seeing the impaired raptors, Caloosa the barred owl and Spirit, the red-tailed hawk. Spirit has been with them for about 26 years. Other education critters in the exhibit hall include two saltwater aquariums, an orphaned & de-scented spotted skunk, several non-venomous snakes, 2 baby alligators, gopher tortoise, box turtle, freshwater turtles, frogs, Carolina anole, hissing cockroaches, tarantula, jumping spider, whip scorpion, bark and Emperor scorpions. Quite the collection!

The Nature Center offers both on and off-site native wildlife presentations and field experiences to local natural areas. The Spring Program Series, offered in February and March, presents the public with field trips to natural areas and nighttime lectures with experts. Always booked to capacity is their summer nature camp for students ages 6-12, young naturalist camp for ages 10-14 and specially permitted, highly popular, nighttime sea turtle walks that take place late May to mid-July. These walks begin with a presentation in the Center's classroom and end with a visit to the Hobe Sound Public Beach to witness the egg-laying of the threatened loggerhead sea turtle. A special permit is issued to the Nature Center by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in order to provide people with this unique opportunity to observe this natural phenomenon. The Center begins taking reservations on April 1st each year.

Offered throughout the year at the Center presentations include family friendly free programs including Night Explorers, Beach Dynamics and weekly naturalist hikes along the trails. School groups and other organizations visit the Center to take part in specially designed environmental education awareness programs.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Hobe Sound Nature Center receives its funding from Individuals, businesses and private foundations. Sales from the nature-themed "Owl's Roost Gift Shop," also benefit educational programs.

This chapter in our Hobe Sound History was written with the cooperation of Debbie Fritz-Quincy, Director at the Hobe Sound Nature Center since February 1982. Debbie's expertise is exceptional. She has never missed participation in the Hobe Sound Christmas Parade and visits the local schools bringing along Spirit and Caloosa, and other species who reside in the Center's visitor habitat. Hobe Sound is very fortunate to have Debbie and this fine facility with expert teachers always present to help us learn about, appreciate and experience a very unique environment that is Hobe Sound, Florida.

Hobe Sound Nature Center, Inc.

13640 SE Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Mailing: P.O. Box 214, Hobe Sound, FL 33475

For more information go to www.hobesoundnaturecenter.com

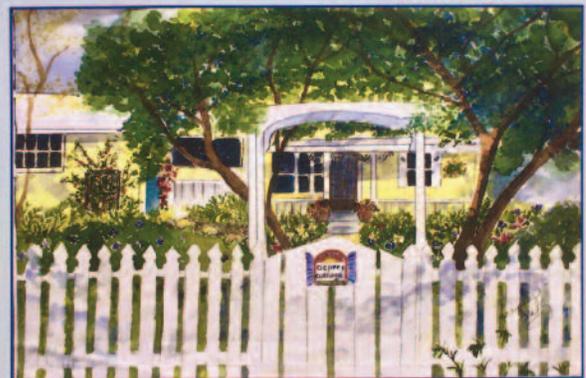


Debbie Fritz-Quincy and Spirit, the red-tailed hawk, photo provided by the Hobe Sound Nature Center

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Financial Corner Test Your Knowledge of College Financial Aid – Part 1

Financial aid is essential for many families, even more so now in light of COVID-19. How much do you know about this important piece of the college financing puzzle?

1. If my child attends a more expensive college, we'll get more aid

Not necessarily. Colleges determine your expected family contribution, or EFC, based on the income and asset information you provide on the government's financial aid form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and, where applicable, the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile (a form generally used by private colleges). Your EFC stays the same no matter what college your child attends. The difference between the cost of a particular college and your EFC equals your child's financial need, sometimes referred to as "demonstrated need." The more expensive a college is, the greater your child's financial need. But a greater financial need doesn't automatically translate into a bigger financial aid package. Colleges aren't required to meet 100% of your child's financial need.

Tip: Due to their large endowments, many elite colleges offer to meet 100% of demonstrated need, and they may also replace federal student loan awards with college grants in their aid packages. But not all colleges are so generous. "Percentage of need met" is a data point you can easily research for any college. This year, though, some colleges that are facing lower revenues due to the pandemic may need to adjust their financial aid guidelines and set higher thresholds for their aid awards.

2. I lost my job after submitting aid forms, but there's nothing I can do now

Not true. Generally, if your financial circumstances change significantly after you file the FAFSA (or the CSS Profile) and you can support this change with documentation, you can ask the financial aid counselor at your child's school to revisit your aid package; the financial aid office has the authority to make adjustments if there have been material changes to your family's income or assets.

Amid the pandemic, annual income projections for some families may now look very different than they did two years ago based on "prior-prior year" income (see graphic). Families who have lost jobs or received cuts in income may qualify for more aid than the FAFSA first calculated.

Tip: Parents should first check the school's financial aid website for instructions on how to proceed. An initial email is usually appropriate to create a record of correspondence, followed by documentation and likely additional communication. Keep in mind that financial aid offices are likely to be inundated with such requests this year, so inquire early and be proactive to help ensure that your request doesn't get lost in the shuffle.

The next *Turtle Times* issue will address the questions regarding: "My child won't qualify for aid because we make too much money" and "We own our home, so my child won't qualify for aid."

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