

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

OCTOBER 2017 Volume 4 Issue 10

Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley, Nocatee and South Ponte Vedra Beach

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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St. Johns CARES Kids 9/11 Never Forget banner and dinner delivery

St. Johns CARES Kids held its annual 9/11 Never Forget Banner and Dinner Delivery on Sunday, Sept. 17. The event was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma. Everyone had a great time showing support for Station #18 in Nocatee and first responders everywhere.



Photos courtesy Katrine Strickland

Annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic set to tee off against breast cancer

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

On Oct. 12, women golfers from Ponte Vedra and the surrounding communities will make their way to the tee box at the beautiful Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. The 11th annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic has become a much anticipated event led by volunteers, many of whom are breast cancer survivors. The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic supports both Baptist Medical Center – Beaches and Mayo Clinic – Jacksonville by providing direct financial support for breast cancer research and related services.

“The money raised here, stays here. Funds will be raised through the registration fees and through both corporate and individual sponsorships. Cocktail party tickets, a silent auction, the David Yurman Trunk Show at Underwood Jewelers, and the sale of flags displayed during the golf tournament, will all contribute to the fundraising,” said committee member and volunteer Sara Strom.

The fundraising goal for this year is \$150,000 for breast cancer research and treatment, with \$1.2 million already donated over the years by The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic, an event that started out small as a group of women hoping to help support the fight against breast cancer. All proceeds from the event go directly to the medical facilities. The funds will be used in predetermined ways to help improve the outcome for local breast cancer patients.

Contributions over the past decade have helped purchase state of the art equipment and assisted with many important aspects of patient care. A tremendous help in pioneering research, the event helps bring hope and resources to many. Based on requests made by Baptist Beaches and Mayo Clinic, each year the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic committee reviews and then chooses what the raised funds will go towards. A huge effort is made to target what the community needs most.

This year’s contribution will help Baptist Medical Center – Beaches purchase a second mammography unit, the Senographe Pristina, that offers



Photos courtesy Pink Ribbon Golf Classic
Golfers sport pink attire while golfing to raise money for breast cancer research and related services at the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic.



improved clarity for radiologists and will reduce the current backlog. This will allow next day appointments and reduce patient discomfort and physical strain. The contribution to Mayo Clinic – Jacksonville will support The Jacoby Center for Breast Health. The Jacoby Center is committed to bringing patients innovative new therapies and supporting clinical trials.

Administrators at both medical facilities have expressed appreciation and emphasized the importance of The Pink Ribbon Classic’s financial support. This type of local commitment helps to attract and retain medical talent.

“Being part of Mayo Clinic facilitates unique opportunities to interact with patients, identify a clinical question that is relevant to patient care and act in a timely, meaningful way. Through the support of benefactor funds, it allows us to consistently and steadily work toward a solution,” said Mayo Clinic’s Dr. Sarah McLaughlin.

Additional events supporting The

Pink Ribbon Classic include a Tee-Off Cocktail Party on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017. This will be open to golfers and nongolfers alike and held at a home in Marsh Landing. The party will feature the work of prominent area artists offered in a silent auction.

A David Yurman Trunk Show and Cocktail Party at Underwood’s Jewelers in Ponte Vedra will be held Nov. 14 – 16, which will provide an opportunity for early holiday shopping with 10 percent of the proceeds donated to The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic. The highlight is a reception and the presentation of checks to Baptist Medical Center – Beaches and Mayo Clinic – Jacksonville, on Nov. 16, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

These events would not be possible without the passion and determination of many women volunteers striving to make a real and tangible difference in the fight against breast cancer. Visit www.pinkribbonjax.org for more information and for online registration.

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Today, rhinos are being poached at astounding rates across the world for their horns, forcing the entire species into extinction within the next decade.

Editorial
page 10

Pet of the Month!



Hello! My name is Snickers! I am a one-year-old female cat who was brought to the Pet Center as a stray.

Hi! My name is Candy! I am a six-year-old female cat who was also brought to the Pet Center as a stray. Come visit us at the Pet Center!

Come visit us today at the Pet Center!
130 N. Stratton Rd.
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 209-6190

Mystery Photo



Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.
Last month's winner was Donna McDonough.

FLORIDA NewsLine

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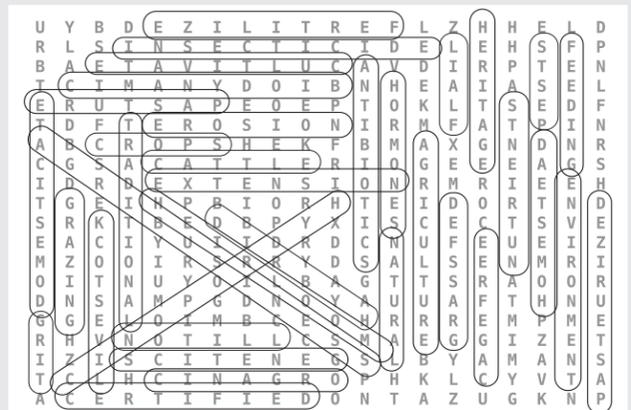
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answers to puzzles on page 12



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Answers: A. hammer B. saw C. nails D. drywall

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*Source: CVC audit 2015

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take 5



Datil peppers

Photo courtesy UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County

Ponte Vedra Woman's Club announces evening meeting

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Metro Diner, 340 Front Street #700 in Ponte Vedra Beach. After a brief meeting, attendees will hear the testimony of a Rethreaded advocate/survivor and how Rethreaded is breaking the cycle of the sex trade by offering viable and creative work to those affected by human trafficking. Beautiful products are created by Rethreaded employees from donated t-shirts and sold through local events to bring freedom to women affected and to break the cycle; items will be available for purchase. Visit www.pontevedrawomansclub.com to pay for your ticket via PayPal and email social@pontevedrawomansclub.com to RSVP.

Adventure in Arts presentation to feature Florentine museums

The first program of the Adventure in Arts series will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. It will feature Debra Murphy, PhD, Chair/Professor of Art and Design at the College of Arts and Science at the University of North Florida, who will present "Facelift of Two Grand Florentine Museums: Revisiting the Uffici and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo." Adventures in the Arts is an art-related series sponsored by Cummer Beaches, an affinity group of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, and by Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Marianne Stein at (904) 280-2976.

Relay for Life kicks off new year

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County will hold its 2017 – 2018 Kick Off party at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12 at Nease High School located at 10550 Ray Road. Relay for Life of North St. Johns County is a family community event that will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Bartram Trail High School from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m. Prior to the event, relay teams work together to raise funds year round to benefit the American Cancer Society's various programs that assist those affected by cancer. Volunteers are a vital part of Relay for Life of St. Johns County's success year after year and the group is presently seeking volunteers to join the committee. Email rfl.northsaintjohnscounty@gmail.com for to learn more or visit www.relayforlife.org/nstFL for more information.

Datil Pepper Fall Festival scheduled

UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County will host the 2017 Datil Pepper Fall Festival at St. Johns County Agricultural Center, 3125 Agriculture Center Drive, on Oct. 7 and 8. The festival will offer educational events, a food court, plant and rain barrel sales by St. Johns County Master Gardeners, and a 4-H Youth Kids Zone. On Saturday, the very popular Datil Pepper Restaurant Cook-Off will showcase local chefs and their datil-inspired cuisine. For a dollar a sample, attendees can taste these culinary delights. Also on Saturday, there will be an amateur Datil Pepper Hot

Sauce Contest

for locals to compete with their favorite homemade hot sauces. Visit <http://bit.ly/datfest17> for more information.

Coin Club to host show

The Ancient City Coin Club of St. Augustine will host a fall Coin and Currency Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #113, 5050 Inmam Road in St. Augustine. Doors open at 9 a.m. and admission and parking are free. The show features U.S. and foreign coins and currency, silver and gold bullion, medals, jewelry, tokens and more. There will be hourly door prizes and raffles of a \$5 gold piece, 2017 silver eagle, \$20 CSA note and 1963 proof set. Visit Facebook.com/accstaugustine or contact Jerry Walden at (904)-940-6245 for more information.



Photo courtesy Ancient City Coin Club

The Coin and Currency Show will be held on Oct. 21.



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29	30	31				

around town

November 4 American Cancer Society's Cowford Ball VIP Party, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Ball, 6:30 p.m. – 12 a.m., Morocco Shrine Auditorium, Callie.hugo@cancer.org, (904) 391-3607 or www.cowfordball.org

November 4 US Coast Guard Auxiliary About Boating Safely class NE Florida Regional Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way, St. Augustine; Registration required; www.abs.mysafeboating.com

November 23 Second annual Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot 7:30 a.m. start 10k/5k; Nocatee Town Plaza Office Park, 460 Town Plaza Ave. Benefits St. Johns CARES; www.psyched-connections.com

December 1 - 3 41st annual Art and Antiques Show: "London Calling"; Hosted by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, www.artandantiquesshow.com

save the date!

3rd Parents with Hope (support for parents who have lost a child)

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Valley,
4750 Palm Valley Road
www.pontevedravally.com/grief-support

Oct. 3rd - Nov. 7th Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Class

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Flagler Hospital
Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

4th Pink Ribbon Golf Classic Tee Off Cocktail Party

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Private home in Marsh Landing
www.pinkribbonjax.org

5th Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, 7
440 US Highway 1
Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
7:30 p.m.
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
(904) 460-0243

5th - 6h & 7th - 8th St. Johns Riverkeeper Eco Heritage boat trip

St. Johns River
Shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org or (904) 256-7613 or www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org

6th GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Environmental Education Center,
505 Guana River Road
(904) 823-4500

7th- 8th Katz 4 Keeps cat adoptions

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
935B A1A North
(904) 834-3223 or katz4keeps.org

9th Sawgrass Women's Club business meeting featuring Kathryn Pearson Peyton, MD

10 a.m.
Sawgrass Beach Club
(904) 599-7917 or
www.sawgrasswomensclub.com

Current Events Discussion Group

10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
adsilby@yahoo.com

Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
www.pvmsd.org

St. Augustine Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida dinner and trivia

6 p.m.
St. Augustine restaurant
Call Lea for location and joining information
(904) 829-0643 or (904) 814-9612

10th Lilies of the Valley widow support group

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Valley,
4750 Palm Valley Road
www.pontevedravally.com/grief-support

Friends of the GTM Reserve board meeting

5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Environmental Education Center,
505 Guana River Road
Public welcome; (904) 823-4527

11th Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach

7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)
Players Community Senior Center,
175 Landrum Lane
carmenjsardinas@gmail.com

12th Relay for Life of North St. Johns Kick Off Party

6:30 p.m.
Nease High School,
10550 Ray Road.
rfl.northsaintjohnscounty@gmail.com

Pink Ribbon Golf Classic Women's Golf Tournament

7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,
200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
www.pinkribbonjax.org

13th Food Truck Friday

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

14th Vessel Safety Check by Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Vilano boat ramp
http://vsc.mysafeboating.com

14th - 15th The Beaches Art Fest

Beaches Museum and History Park,
Pablo Ave., Jacksonville Beach
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
www.thebeachesartfest.com

17th St. Johns CARES meeting

7 p.m.
Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org

18th First Coast Card Club - adult card players

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
(904) 829-0643

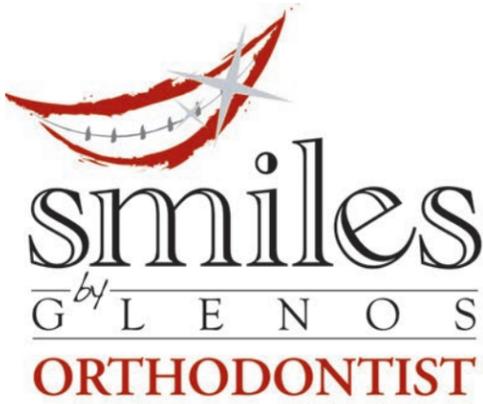
21st Nocatee Farmers Market: Fall Festival

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Town Center Field, Nocatee

26th Adult Coloring Club

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
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with Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board Member, District 1

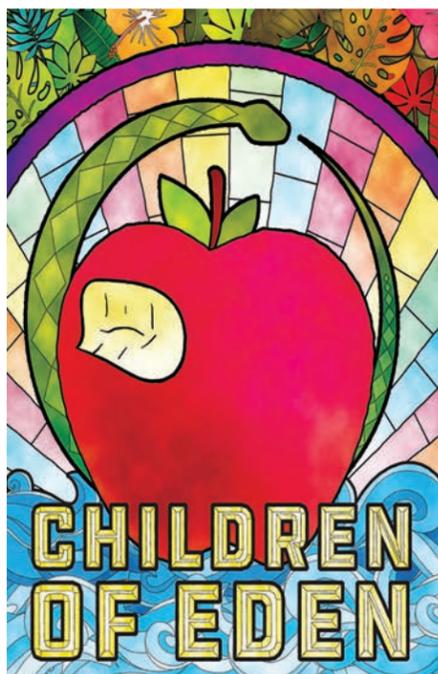
Q: During Hurricane Irma, several schools were used as shelters. Can you give us an update?

A: Well, first I am grateful to our principals, not just those who stayed at their own schools the whole time, but others who also pitched in, for their hard work. I'd also like to recognize those I think are the unsung heroes: members of the transportation department, who picked up residents and took them to and from the shelters in school buses.

We had five planned shelters — Bartram Trail High School, Timberlin Creek Elementary School, Pacetti Bay Middle School, South Woods Elementary School and Pedro Menendez High School. All were about half full except for Pedro Menendez, which was completely full. Then, the governor asked us to open Mill Creek Elementary as a shelter due to its proximity to Interstate 95 as an option for travelers. It was ironic that this school then suffered damage due to tornadic activity — the entire front awning over the parent pickup line was ripped down.

Q: Today (Sept. 18) is the first day back to school. How did things go?

A: I call this our second first day of school. Everything seems to be firing on all cylinders and everyone seems happy to be back. Several principals expressed to me that they were grateful for us bringing back all the staff on Friday to decompress and plan before the students arrived on Monday.



OCT 19-22

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Charles Lisanby

Orchestrations by
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Q: In all, St. Johns County students missed six days of school due to Hurricane Irma. Are there any plans yet to make up that many days?

A: Since Governor Scott called for every school in the state to be closed for Friday, Sept. 8 and Monday, Sept. 11, I'm hopeful that there may be a waiver from the state for those two days. St. Johns County can compensate for two to three days with the extra minutes that we already have added to each school day. Finally, Veterans Day and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving are already in our calendar as make up days. So we have lots of options and will let parents know as soon as we hear from the state as to the course of action we will take.

Q: How was the topping off ceremony held this morning for the Aberdeen K-8 school under construction?

A: It was so good to have something positive. The contractor told us that he had won a Sunshine State Safety Award for this project due to no injuries onsite and no missed days. We were glad to applaud the workers this morning. We have no worries in the least about the school opening on time for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Q: Speaking of the new K-8 schools, how did the zoning meetings go earlier in September?

A: We actually had to postpone the third Town Hall meeting due to Hurricane Irma, but we had a large public response at the meetings we held. The rezoning plan presented was a starter plan and the possibility exists that it will be adjusted due to the public input we received. We hope to vote on the rezoning for both schools at our November Board Meeting, but this is the school district's timeline and a vote can be pushed back if necessary. The next step after that is naming a principal for each of the new schools, hopefully in January 2018.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Property Appraiser requests storm damage reports

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

St. Johns County residents whose homes or properties sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Irma are encouraged to complete a Storm Damage Report through the Property Appraiser's Office. The damage reports will provide a county-wide assessment to assist in expediting recovery efforts.

Visit www.sjcpa.us/storm-damage-report, call (904) 827-5500, or send a detailed email to sjcpa@sjcpa.us to report home or property damage. Once a report is submitted, the Property Appraiser's Office will schedule a time to visit the property and document any reported damage.

For more information, call (904) 827-5500.

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904-515-6437



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MarketInsight



Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Who wants to be a millionaire?

How would you like to get paid thirty thousand tax-free dollars a year? What if I told you that you could earn that every year for the rest of your life? And your children's life? And their children as well? Most of the time when someone makes a claim like that, I would advise you to run; run far and fast. Get rich quick schemes rarely work. Most of the time they are just a con to separate you from your hard-earned money. This is different, I promise. What makes it different? It is not quick. It is slow. In fact, the whole plan takes 30 – 35 years to implement. My plan relies on two well-known investment concepts called compounding and dollar cost averaging.

So, here is how it works. First you need 35 years. Second, you will need to make an investment of \$450 a month. Now if this was an infomercial, I would describe that as "less than \$15 per day." But, this is not an infomercial. This is math. What I want you to do is to take that \$15 a day and invest it into a Roth IRA. Inside the Roth IRA, I want you to invest into something that resembles a Standard & Poor's Index 500 Fund. Index 500 funds seek to replicate the return on the stock market as a whole. This article presumes you will make a return of 8 percent on your Index fund. (Frankly, you will probably make more, but 8 percent is a good number and one that gets used most often in examples of this nature.)

So, at the end of 35 years, your \$15-a-day will have increased in value to slightly more than one million dollars. Congratulations! You are a millionaire. The even better news is that because you put the money into a Roth IRA, you are a tax-free millionaire, which is pretty much the best kind of millionaire to be. You can take out as much or as little as you like every year and never pay tax on the income. My suggestion is that you take out thirty thousand dollars a year, but if you wanted, you could take it all out and buy a house or a small yacht or blow it all at the craps table in Vegas. Beware though — if you take your Roth to Vegas and you win, you will have to pay tax on your winnings.

The thirty-thousand dollar a year income is based on you earning a 3 percent dividend. Lots of stocks pay 3 percent, including Coca-Cola and Intel. As long as you receive the dividend inside your Roth and then take it out, it is tax-free to you ... forever. And like all stories with a happy ending, you and your family will live happily ever after.

Scott A. Grant is President of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfastic.com.

Disaster loan programs activated to aid businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Florida businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma may now apply for various state and federal disaster loan programs. As a principal responder in the state's Emergency Support Function for Business and Industry, the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of North Florida stands ready to assist businesses with disaster loan applications and with other post-disaster challenges.

State assistance: Governor Rick Scott activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide short-term, interest-free loans to businesses damaged by the storm. Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network and Florida First Capital Finance Corporation (FFCFC), the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan helps businesses bridge the gap between the time damage is incurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims or longer-term Small Business Administration loans. Up to \$10 million has been allocated for the program.

Under the program, eligible small businesses in all 67 Florida counties with two to 100 employees may apply for short-term, interest-free loans for \$1,000 to \$25,000 for 90 or 180-day terms. To be eligible, a business must have been established prior to Sept. 4, 2017, and demonstrate economic injury or physical damage as a result of Hurricane Irma. Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org for more information and to apply for the Florida Emergency Bridge Loan program; the deadline to apply is Oct. 31, 2017.

Business Damage Assessment Survey: Small businesses that have incurred losses due to Hurricane Irma are asked to complete a Business Damage Assessment Survey, which will help the State Emergency Response Team determine the needs and level of assistance for impacted businesses. Visit www.flvbeoc.org to take the survey.

Federal assistance: Following President Donald Trump's major disaster declaration, impacted businesses may now apply for low-interest loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Business Physical Disaster Loans are intended to help repair or replace disaster-damaged property. Businesses and

nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace property, including real estate, equipment, inventory, machinery, and other business assets. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, nonprofit organizations meet financial obligations and operating expenses through the disaster recovery period.

Businesses must first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.disasterassistance.gov, or by mobile device at m.fema.gov or call the toll-free helpline at (800) 621-3362. Upon registration with FEMA, businesses may apply for a disaster loan online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>; by downloading an application from www.sba.gov/disaster; or by visiting a SBA recovery center or the Florida SBDC at UNF for assistance. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017 and the deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

The Florida SBDC Network supports disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation through its Business Continuation Services. For questions about the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, the U.S. SBA Physical and Economic Injury Loan Programs, and how the Florida SBDC can help, contact the Florida SBDC Network at (850) 898-3489 or Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org.

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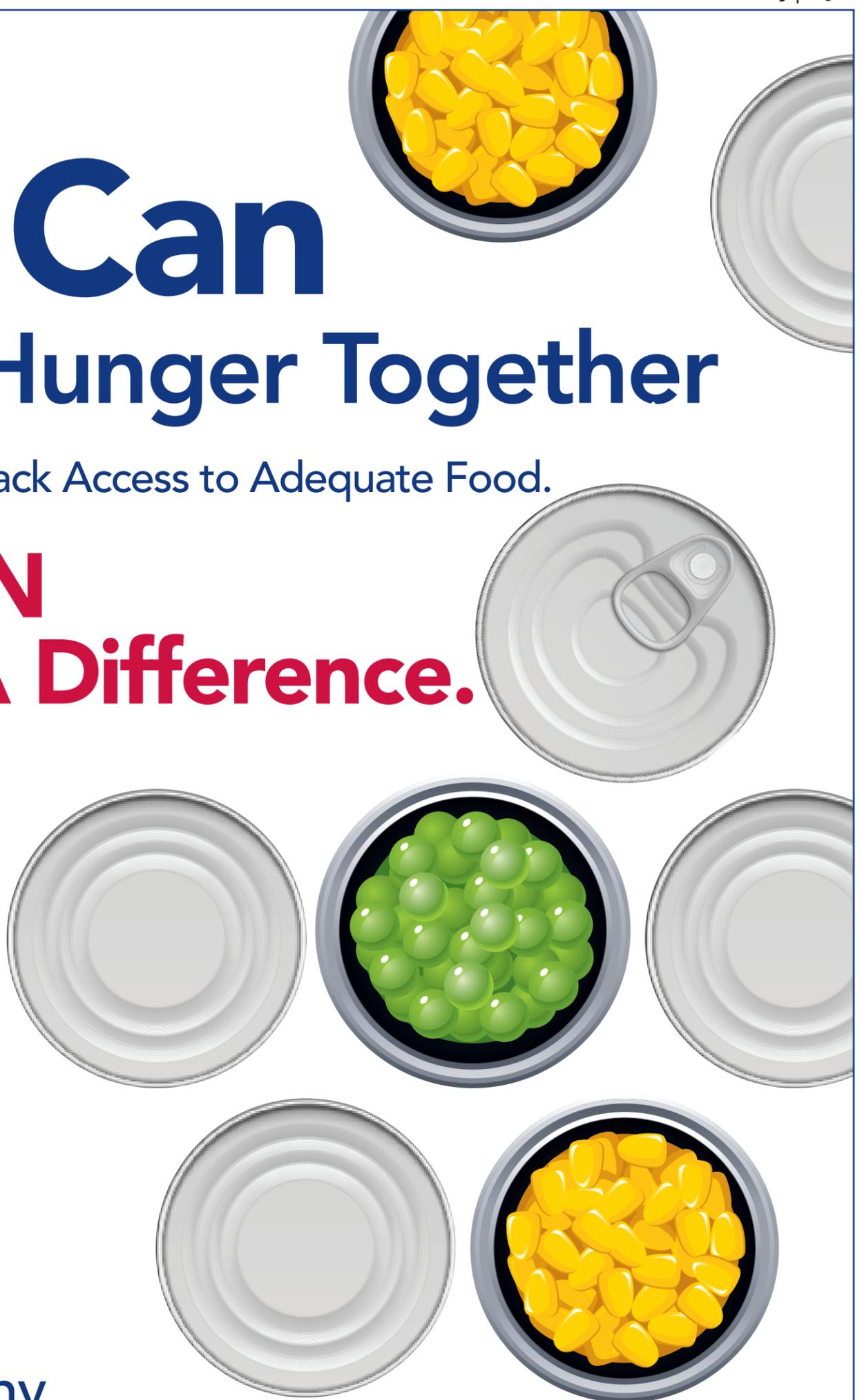
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*Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2017 Report

Briefs

A1A to undergo traffic signal upgrades

Five intersections along three miles of State Road A1A from PGA Tour Boulevard to Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard are currently undergoing traffic signal and crosswalk improvements.

Intersection improvements at State Road A1A and Country Club Boulevard/PGA Tour Boulevard, L'Atrium



Photo courtesy Florida Department of Transportation

Circle, Executive Way, Marlin Avenue and Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard include the installation of upgraded traffic signals and new mast arms, countdown pedestrian timers and enhanced crosswalk striping.

Crews began mobilizing in late September. Construction will occur weekdays with some occasional weekend work, as needed. No lane closures are allowed during peak driving times or on holidays or special events.

Florida Safety Contractors, Inc. of Thonotosassa, Fla., is the contractor for FDOT's \$1.6 million project. It is scheduled for completion, weather or possible unforeseen circumstances permitting, in spring 2018.

St. Johns County Public Libraries offer programs for students and job hunters

St. Johns County has launched Brainfuse, an on-demand eLearning program for all ages and grade levels. Brainfuse is available at all St. Johns County public libraries, remotely at home, and on the go with the free Brainfuse mobile app. Brainfuse offers a wide variety of educa-

tional resources, including personalized live tutoring in core subjects such as math, reading, writing, science, and social studies, SAT preparation, and other academic content and support.

Adults can also take advantage of Brainfuse through the Adult Learning Center, a suite specializing in basic skill building and career preparation, and JobNow, which offers real-time resume, interview, and career coaching services, and job search resources.

Brainfuse is available for free to all library patrons, and librarians are available for assistance. For more information, visit www.sjcpls.org or call (904) 827-6935.

Chabad Irma relief feeds thousands

Chabad emissaries throughout Florida banded together in the days following Hurricane Irma to help coordinate relief efforts to help the vast number of residents who were without power or were homebound. More than 85 Chabad Centers across the state of Florida opened their doors and kitchens to the thousands left without power, providing freshly cooked meals at no charge while offering a welcoming, friendly and cool place of relief.

Chabad also used their 187 centers across the state of Florida as an invaluable resource to create a system of communication and be helpful to people who were out of town and unable to reach a family member. In the first week after the storm, Chabad fielded several hundred calls.

Visit www.flchabadrelief.com for more information.

United Way St. Johns County begins new campaign

United Way of St. Johns County kicked off its 2017 – 18 fundraising campaign on Thursday, Aug. 24 poolside at the Casa Monica Resort in downtown St. Augustine with more than 100 commu-



Photo courtesy United Way St. Johns County

United Way employees at the 2017 – 2018 campaign kickoff.

nity supporters, donors and volunteers in attendance. The event, which took place just two weeks before the arrival of Hurricane Irma and with St. Johns County residents still feeling the effects of Matthew, addressed the need for United Way in the community after a natural disaster.

Tony Bernados, 2017/18 Campaign Chair, announced the new goal for the new year – \$1.3 million. Last year, United Way-SJC surpassed its fundraising goal.

To give, to advocate, or to volunteer, visit the United Way-SJC website at www.unitedway-sjc.org or call (904) 829-9721.

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach receives top district honors for charitable giving

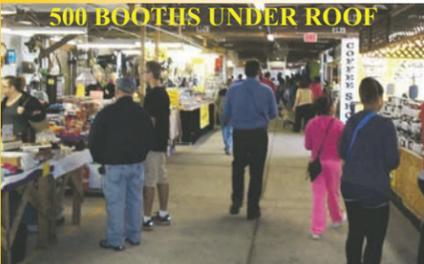
The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach was honored for its charitable giving recently, when the community service organization received several top honors at the Rotary Foundation District Seminar, which was held Aug. 12.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach was honored as the number one club out of 64 clubs in the district for charitable giving to Rotary's signature Polio Plus campaign during 2016 – 2017. Since the 1970s — when Rotary clubs around the world took up the challenge to eradicate the disease worldwide — the number of annual cases of polio has dropped from 350,000 to approximately 35 last year.

Briefs cont. on pg. 9

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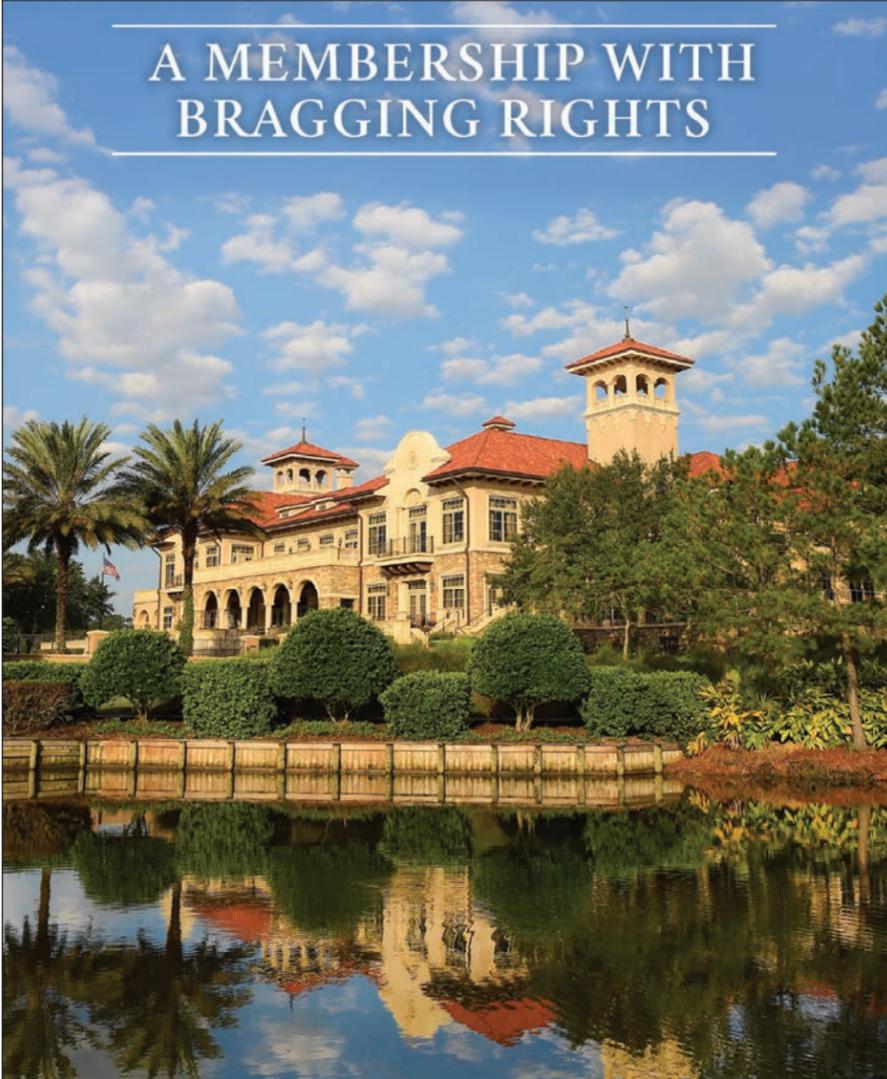


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Get to Know . . .

Jermaine Reynolds

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Jermaine Reynolds is the director of bands at Ponte Vedra High School, but that might not be the case if not for a last minute schedule change by his middle school principal. Reynolds, who was born and raised in Alachua, Fla., was a member of his middle school chorus for two years when the principal ended the program. He wanted to stay with his music teacher, Amy Beres, so he decided to give band a try. What followed was an auspicious music career at Santa Fe High School, where he played baritone and was the head drum major as well as band captain his senior year.

Reynolds took a few years off to work after graduating from high school in 2004; he moved to Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida in 2007, graduating in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in music education. From there, he assisted with area bands including Nease High School before being named director of bands at Newberry High School. He spent two years there before moving to Citrus High School. Finally, he arrived at Ponte Vedra High School in 2016, where he now directs the Ocean of Sound band of 108 in addition to teaching classes in concert band, jazz band and percussion/guard.

Ponte Vedra's marching show this year is entitled "Jack" and it is basically the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Reynolds said things are really clicking this year for the band as they perform their first competition-style show. They are busy learning the drill

for the closing number in anticipation of their first competition at Middleburg High School on Sept. 30. Reynolds said that although they are behind in their preparations due to Hurricane Irma, he knows that band programs across the state are in similar circumstances.

1. Who influenced you to want to become a band director?

Definitely my high school band director, Kathy Lavay. I knew I wanted to be a teacher by the time I started high school, I just didn't know what subject. When I joined band in my freshman year, she immediately had a huge impact on my life.

2. What is the most satisfying part of your job?

Seeing the looks on my students' faces after they have had a really good performance and they know it — when it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks, but they know they did a good job.

3. What is the most challenging part of your job?

I'd say dealing with so many students. Ponte Vedra is the largest band I have directed. We grew from 97 students last year, my first year, to 108 this year. That is in comparison to 40 musicians at Newberry and about 60 at Citrus.

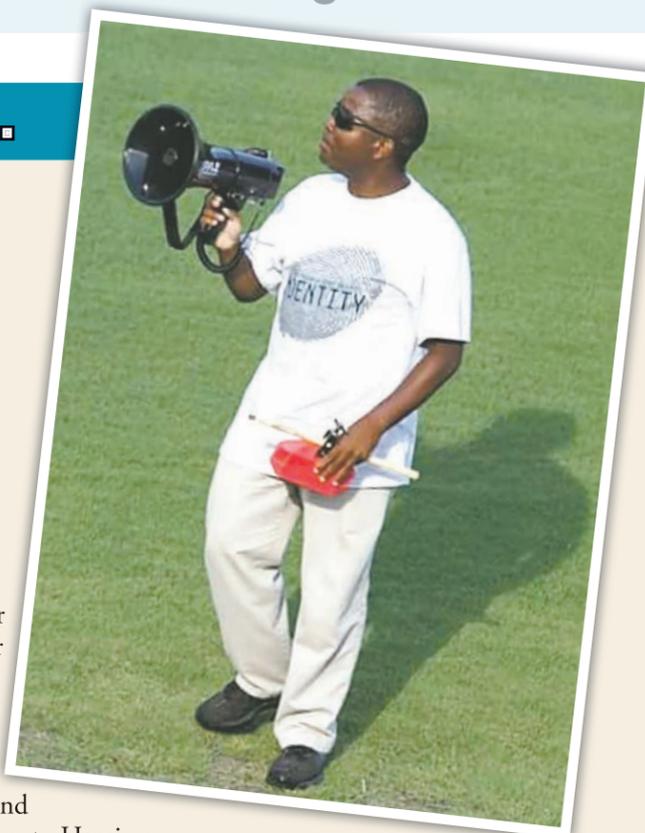


Photo courtesy Jermaine Reynolds

Jermaine Reynolds

4. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I definitely see myself still at Ponte Vedra High School, directing one of the strongest and most respected bands in the northern Florida area. I'd like the band to grow to about 200 by that time. When I went to college at UNF, I fell in love with Jacksonville and for the four years I spent directing bands in Newberry and Citrus, my goal was always to find a perfect job for myself in the Jacksonville area. I think Ponte Vedra High School is a perfect fit.

5. Which superhero do you identify with?

Superman. A lot of parents and students have asked me over the years how I can do so many things at one time and I always say jokingly that it's because I'm Superman.

Briefs cont. from pg. 8

The Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club was also one of the few local clubs to receive an award for being a 100 Percent Paul Harris Fellow Club, and was recognized for being among the top three clubs in the district for both total annual giving and per capita giving for the year.

New education director named for Beth El - The Beaches Synagogue

Vickie Kennedy has been named Education Director for the religious school at Beth El - The Beaches Synagogue. Kennedy was an originating member of Beth El and former Education Director in 2005. She returns to this position with plenty of experience; she has taught both religious school and adult education, is the current Sisterhood President, and is an active member on the temple board. Prior to retiring, Kennedy taught for 25 years at Neptune Beach Elementary.

"Children of Beth El families will love Judaism and engage in continuous lifelong learning about our faith," Kennedy said.

Her renewed goal and mission is for "Beth El Religious School to provide students and their families with an inclusive, planned, spiraling curriculum designed to inspire, engage and educate." Helping her achieve this mission are five returning educators and four new additions.

Get to Know . . .

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



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Editorial

Girl Scout's project to educate about rhinos

By Miranda Van Zyl
mail@floridanewsline.com

As an Ambassador Girl Scout currently working on the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve, the Gold Award, my project is focused on saving the remaining rhino population from poachers, and ultimately extinction.

My interest in this cause began when I saw a news broadcast in March of this year reporting on the death, by poachers, of a four-year-old White Rhino in a French zoo. I think most of us thought that rhinos in zoos were safe, but it appears that they too have become targets. This event left me speechless and feeling that something had to be done about these terrible poaching incidents worldwide. I immediately changed my project to focus on stopping the murder of these beautiful creatures, and have since established a rhino awareness program called "USA-RhinoHero."

Today, rhinos are being poached at astounding rates across the world for their horns, forcing the entire species into extinction within the next decade. Throughout Africa an estimated 10 – 20 rhinos are poached daily — but these statistics are low since not all African nations report poaching, due to the negative impact it may have on tourism.

As part of my research, I've been fortunate to visit many zoos with rhino exhibits, and have been invited behind the scenes. These one-on-one interactions have taught me so much. Each expert shared the very same misconception the public generally has about rhinos: that they are mean and aggressive. I now know this is only true if an adult rhino



Photo courtesy Miranda Van Zyl

is being threatened by another animal or forced to protect their territory and/or young. With the patience of their gracious keepers, it didn't take long to get over my fears. Soon I was feeding them treats and rubbing behind their ears and on their horns. The rhinos really love the attention and I have since fallen in love with them.

I have been active with my awareness program on social media for four months and have attracted a sizable following in the U.S. and overseas. I post fun rhino facts, educational articles and updates on disastrous poaching incidents. My plan is to continue to show the world that rhinos are kind and gentle creatures, and I am determined to educate the Asian countries, specifically Vietnam and China that the rhino horns do not contain any magical powers to enhance health or treat illnesses such as cancer.

Please join me on this campaign at US-ARhinoHero on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. The rhinos are counting on us!

THANK YOU JACKSONVILLE #1 FOR VOTING US



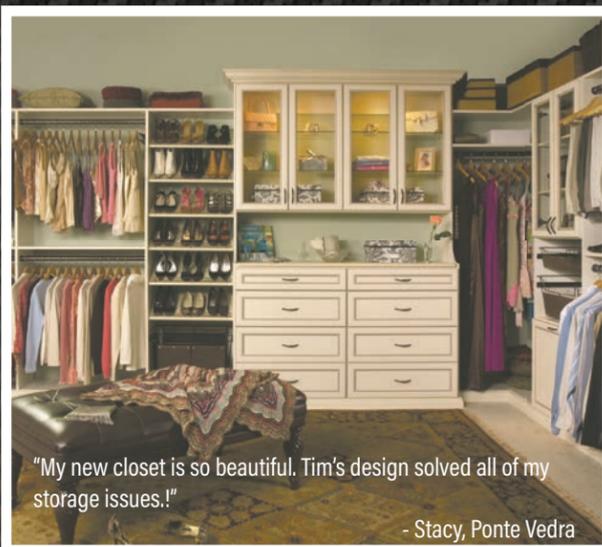
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This 'n That

By Mims Cushing
mail@floridanewslines.com

Summertime and the stomach was achin'



This summer, I was overdue to have my once-a-year stomach ache. Sure enough the aching began one Thursday night. Was it a virus or had I eaten something weird? I sure hoped it wasn't a virus because I had been in a crowd of 60 for a couple of hours that morning. Had I given them all my germs?

Or was it my smoothie? I'd made one for dinner and used watermelon and boysenberries and yogurt. Was the smoothie brew a bit curdled? I plopped in 6 ounces of yogurt (expiration date not until much later), a bit of water, and a cup of ice chips. When I noticed it looked funny, (I actually typed "furry" which is maybe more apt) I added almond milk that wasn't due to expire for another week. I drank it because I couldn't believe anything that smelled that good could be spoiled.

The night the stomach ache began, I barely slept, tossing every which way. When Lily, my 10.4 pound dog, jumped on my stomach, there were impolite sounds out of my mouth. And out of hers as well when I shooed her off the couch.

When my mother was about my age, she had to be operated on because she had diverticulitis. Her doctor blamed it on the strawberry jam she ate every day. One tablespoon on her Cheerios every morning.

The stomach is a funny thing. Before the '80s, people thought ulcers were caused by stress and sufferers were told to relax and take antacids. Then two remarkable physicians, Barry Marshall and Robin Warren from

down under, determined that treating ulcers with antibiotics was the way to go because there were bacteria — specifically H. Pylori — encamped in some stomachs. Rubbish, other doctors said. Stomachs were a hostile environment. "Gastric acid is," they said, "as corrosive as car battery acid." (from "Catching Cancer" by Claudia Cornwall). We thought bacteria could never grow there. Oh yes, they can!

I took this garden variety stomach ache to a local doc-in-a-shop.

"I guess I should stick to the BRAT diet, right? Bananas, Rice, Apple-sauce and Toast?" I asked.

"No," he said. "Eat saltines and drink Gatorade."

Yuck on the Gatorade, but saltines I like. I bought a trunk-sized box of the crackers and got coconut water to help with the electrolytes, and climbed onto my couch. I was happy for a few days, allowing myself a reprieve from chores.

Recently I stockpiled 1,000 saltines and made friends with diet Gatorade, so I'm set in case I have another episode. I willed myself to get better as I had to fly to Connecticut in a few days for a huge family reunion. I was fine. The person in the seat across the aisle from me was not. He coughed and sneezed the whole trip. I had to will myself not to catch his ... whatever he had. Luckily, I didn't.

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**Middle School (6-8)
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Bartram Campus
November 7, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus
November 9, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 8, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 28, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Upper School (9-12)
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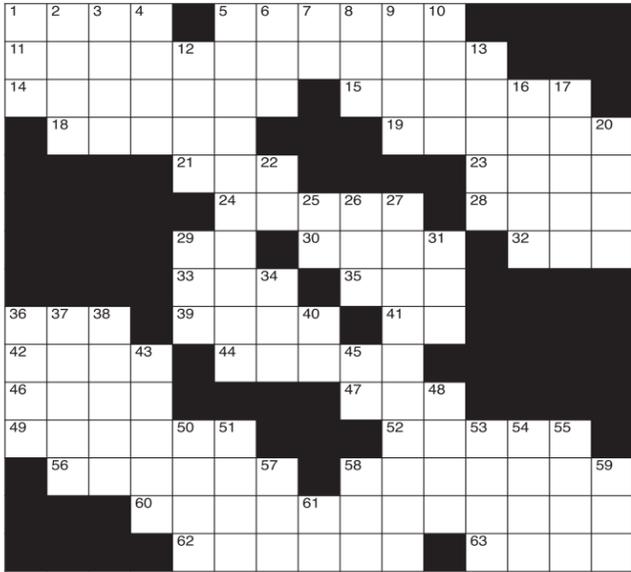
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Defunct social networking service
- 5. Facial expressions
- 11. Forebears
- 14. A portable gun
- 15. Decrees
- 18. Resin obtained from tropical trees
- 19. One who divines the future
- 21. River in Oregon
- 23. Norse god of thunder
- 24. It's on the lawn
- 28. Speaks
- 29. Polish beer
- 30. Ethnic group in Laos
- 32. Insecticide
- 33. Surface of the ground
- 35. Third-party access
- 36. Senior officer
- 39. Makes a living with difficulty
- 41. Expression of sympathy
- 42. Former U.S. president
- 44. Passover feast and ceremony
- 46. Wild sheep of northern Africa
- 47. Pouch
- 49. Public buildings
- 52. Type of cuisine
- 56. "Hotel California" rockers
- 58. Universal
- 60. Eloquently
- 62. Scantily
- 63. Japanese alcoholic drink

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Kilogram force (abbr.)
- 2. Lake __, one of the Great
- 3. Seahawks safety Thomas
- 4. Take a __
- 5. Gazelles
- 6. One's mother
- 7. Iridium
- 8. Comics writer Stan
- 9. Within
- 10. Excite
- 12. Long-legged gazelle
- 13. Leaves
- 16. African nation
- 17. System of handcraft-based education
- 20. Formerly (archaic)
- 22. Argon
- 25. Equally
- 26. Standardized test
- 27. Not part of
- 29. Midway between east and southeast
- 31. Native American tribe
- 34. Marlins infielder Gordon
- 36. Places to relax
- 37. Phonology units
- 38. Bastard wing
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. Lake in Uganda
- 45. Spanish be
- 48. Town in Galilee
- 50. Mediation counsel
- 51. Hair-like structure
- 53. Domesticated animals
- 54. Region
- 55. He cured polio
- 57. Title of respect
- 58. Carpet design
- 59. Strongly alkaline solution
- 61. Cerium

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to home improvement. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = a)

A. 13 15 5 5 12 24
Clue: A tool you swing

B. 1 15 20
Clue: Cutting device

C. 4 15 25 19 1
Clue: Secure items

D. 16 24 18 20 15 19 19
Clue: Plaster and paper material

FALL HARVEST WORD SEARCH

U Y B D E Z I L I T R E F L Z H H E L D
R L S I N S E C T I C I D E L E H S F P
B A E T A V I T L U C A V D I R P T E N
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E R U T S A P E O E P T O K L T S E D F
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C G S A C A T T L E R I O G E E E A G S
I D R D E X T E N S I O N R M R I E E H
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D N S A M P G D N O Y A U U A F T H N U
G G E L O I M B C E O H R R E G E M P M E
R H V N O T I L L C S M A E R G G I Z E T
I Z I S C I T I E N E G S L B Y A M A N S
T C L H C I N A G R O P H K L C Y V T A
A C E R T I F I E D O N T A Z U G K N P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

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AGRICULTURE
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CATTLE
CERTIFIED
CROPS
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HEIRLOOM
HERITAGE
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Ocean Palms holds food drive

Photo courtesy Pam Riley

Ocean Palms Elementary held a back to school food drive from Aug. 23 - Sept. 1. The students exceeded their goal of 1,000 food items by collecting 1,789 a full day before the deadline, with a total of 2,024 items at the conclusion of the drive. Donations benefit St. Francis House, Migrant Workers in Armstrong and the Celebration Lutheran Food Pantry.

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Salt Water Fishing **The rites of fall**
 By Capt. Kirk Waltz
 mail@floridanewsline.com

The first thing that comes to mind as the word Fall comes into a conversation with families is it's time to regroup from a summer of fun with the kids to the back to school mode. I did my due diligence to focus on that, but being an avid fisherman, I knew it also meant cooler temperatures and a big opportunity to enjoy the outdoors feed fest that occurs this time of year.



Photo courtesy Capt. Kirk Waltz

The First Coast is unique as it represents a major focal point junction for a huge ecosystem that is historic for its fishing. That system is the St. Johns River, with its broad bends and many creeks covering huge flats. When the weather begins to cool and we get the first Northeast frontal system with NE winds, the switch gets hit and the annual migration of bait fish triggers one of nature's true wonders. Huge pods of menhaden and mullet begin their push to the sea with every predator in pursuit vying to capitalize on this giant influx of quality protein.

It's not uncommon to view this from Doctors Lake all the way to the beaches for weeks on end. It's almost at times like being a part of a National Geographic film special as huge bull reds, jacks, sharks, kingfish, trout, flounder, tarpon and countless other species partake in the feed fest to fatten up for the coming winter. Any Northeast Florida fisherman knows this and chomps at the bit to get the kids off to school and head for the nearest body of water to get in on the action.

It's not really that tough, as the action can be so hot it's visible at times from the bank, bridges, boats, or the beach as the fish crush these huge pods of bait. You can throw artificial lures, live shrimp, or simply bring along a small cast net to catch a few from any of the migrating schools of bait to fish with.

Tackle is simple and to make it complex is really not necessary. Sometimes a float and hook combo is perfectly fine or just a fish

finder egg sinker rig with a small leader works perfectly. My favorite setup is a Penn Spinfisher 4500 7-ft. spinning rod and 30 lb. braid with a small float rig. Nothing fancy; just keep it simple as they say.

The fishing can be epic and at times really hot and heavy. Get out and be sure to bring a camera as it can be truly spectacular at times. I remember one year walking on the Riverwalk to go to The Landing in downtown Jacksonville only to watch as tarpon, jacks, and huge reds crashed giant schools of bait against the wall right under my feet. This is one of the unique opportunities in Northeast Florida to fish some of the nation's trophy fish right here on the First Coast. Walk a bank, launch a kayak, walk the beach or take your boat out as it's one of the best times of the year to enjoy some truly epic fishing opportunities.

Capt. Kirk Waltz can be reached at (904) 626-1128 or visit www.Enterprisefishingcharters.com. He can also be heard on "The Outdoors Show" radio program on 1010 am or 92.5 fm every Saturday, 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. with Capt. Kevin Faver and Jaguar color analyst Jeff Lageman giving out tides, weather, and local reports about the area's fishing.

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Hurricane Irma: Storm lashes, then brings community together

By Shelley Howard
mail@floridanewslines.com

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, following the relaxed Labor Day weekend, residents woke to a flurry of activity as if an alarm had sounded. Panic across the state of Florida seemed to catch speed and spiral out of control. Almost as soon as business doors opened, word of sold out water and growing gas lines spread. By nightfall, gas stations felt the rippling impact as pump after pump was bagged with yellow "out of service" tape. Lines for propane, gas tanks, plywood and flashlights dwindled to empty shelves. Grocery stores felt a rush on paper goods, water, dry foods and ever popular bread.



Photos courtesy Lynn Damm

Many trees fell during Hurricane Irma in Ponte Vedra Beach

St. Johns County residents began lining up in anticipation of restocked store shelves and replenished gas tanks, while Irma reached Puerto Rico as one of the "strongest storms ever recorded in the Atlantic," causing at least 10 deaths by the time she ripped through the Caribbean Islands. The National Hurricane Center warned of a direct impact on South Florida and The Keys, but residents still remained hopeful that the tracking models would see a shift in the eye of Irma; however, Irma was so massively large as a Category 5 that the entire state of Florida would be impacted.

By Saturday, preparations intensified as a Nor'easter rain event took hold of local skies, dumping up to several inches of rainfall ahead of Hurricane Irma. For those who still did not have repairs complete from Matthew's damage or who were looking out their beach homes to see no sand dune protection, the thought of another hurricane was unbearable. Frantic workers attempted to push additional sands into place and lay the foundation for street pumps to battle the storm surge.

Sunday began a new day with pounding rain and wind from the Nor'easter. Following closely on its path was Irma, determined to not be outdone. She blew into St. Johns County shortly before midnight with whipping winds. By approximately 4 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, 2017, the skies began lighting up green as transformer after transformer blew out power to more than half of the county residents. Hours passed, water rose and trees new and old

buckled, falling on additional power lines, across streets, cars and houses. Business structures took on damage just as quickly as rivers flooded and sands washed away. First responders and local law enforcement officers reported for extended duty, knowing that they were taking part in historic relief efforts, but refusing to be defeated.

Hours passed and the skies brightened. Residents began checking on neighbors, powering up chainsaws to assist in clearing subdivision entrances, driveways and even uncovering vehicles buried beneath fallen trees. Utility linemen sat anxiously in their trucks waiting for officials to deem the winds safe to begin 24-hour work crews braving flooded streets and debris to restore downed lines.

School was cancelled for an entire week and local businesses began to clean up and rebuild if necessary. For most, life began to return to some sort of "normal," but it is important look around, listen to the stories of those who lost everything as a tornado tore their roof away or a wave toppled their home right into the ocean, and feel humbled in what our neighbors have experienced and will continue to suffer through for days, weeks or years to come.



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