

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

MAY 2018 Volume 5 Issue 5

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



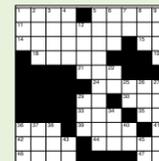
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Sea turtle season is here

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Following a challenging 2017 — that saw the second hurricane in 11 months affect northeast Florida — for sea turtle nests along northern St. Johns County beaches, the 2018 season returns on



Photos courtesy Tracy Klemf

A turtle returns to the sea after laying her eggs.

May 1. This is typically the earliest date that female sea turtles return to shore to lay their eggs. The season continues until Oct. 31.

“Last year was the second year in a row that we had a big storm,” said Wes Moore, a volunteer with Ponte Vedra Sea Turtle Patrol, which patrols three and a half miles of beach from the Duval County line to Sawgrass Beach Club. “We had approximately 20 percent of the nests wiped away during the hurricane, which is about the same percentage the entire state experienced.”

Despite this, Moore said that he had some good news to share: the green sea turtle has been upgraded from endangered to threatened. Loggerheads remain threatened and leatherbacks are

Sea turtle cont. on pg. 11

PGA TOUR raising standards at THE PLAYERS

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

2018 at THE PLAYERS Championship will be one to remember. Never ceasing to put fans first and continuing the effort to make the experience as enjoyable as possible, the PGA TOUR strives to improve every year upon the last. Special announcements and new additions were recently unveiled at the media day held at Sawgrass.

THE PLAYERS youngest ever winner and reigning Champion, Si Woo Kim, answered questions from the media. Si Woo’s Kimchi short ribs were revealed as the Korean inspired addition to the menu.

Long time favorites such as Tacos on 12 with Tacolu will be available again this year. Hawkers and Mojo BBQ will also be on hand to serve fans. Perhaps the most highly



Si Woo’s Kimchi short ribs were revealed as the Korean inspired addition to the menu.



THE PLAYERS defending champion Si Woo Kim.

Many changes have been in the works to expand food areas and the kids’ zone, extend fairway bunkers for more approachable viewing areas, increase seating availability, and an updated PGA TOUR app will be available to help fans move around easier and to make the on site experience different and better. The new Family Care Suite, presented by Baptist Health, will be available just inside the Nicklaus Gate for nursing



Photos courtesy PGA TOUR

THE PLAYERS defending champion Si Woo Kim with Executive Director of THE PLAYERS, Jared Rice.

moms and young families to cool off in the climate controlled setting. Expansion of the lower lawn and the wall removal will be valuable at the closing ceremony.

Among many other changes this year, the PGA TOUR Shop will be expanded to 21,000 sq. feet of retail space with more lifestyle apparel and limited edition hats and tees than ever before.

The musical act for this year’s Military Appreciation Day ceremony on Tuesday, May 8 will be award-winning country music artist Luke Combs. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the 17th hole.

With the return of Tiger Woods and fans eager to see all their favorite players, ticket and parking sales will be watched closely in order to prevent tremendous overcrowding.

THE PLAYERS Championship will be held May 8 –13 at TPC Sawgrass.

anticipated new addition will be the bier garden behind the 16th green. THE PLAYERS Championship is teaming up with a local brewery to provide an area for craft beer fans to enjoy during the tournament. THE PLAYERS Championship Bier Garden, presented by Hoptinger, will be open to all fans of age with a Stadium Pass.

“It speaks to our vision to not only embrace all tastes, but also highlight restaurateurs like Hoptinger that are indigenous to northeast Florida. The tournament celebrates Northeast Florida and that’s what makes THE PLAYERS so different,” said Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Jared Rice.

Ocean Palms to upgrade classroom technology



Photo courtesy Pamela Riley

Popular events sponsored by Ocean Palms Elementary’s PTO, such as the Otter Run and sought after auction items from Groovin Havana Nights, helped raise \$60,000 for new technology in the classrooms. Principal Tiffany Cantwell accepted the check and announced the funds would be used for clear touch panels in every classroom. The money will also help fund other computer programs such as i-Ready and RAZ Kids. Pictured are Tiffany Cantwell with board members from the Ocean Palms PTO.

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take 5



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721-2144 or email development@morningstar-jax.org for more information.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping class offered

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has partnered with UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County for a lecture on Florida-Friendly Landscaping on Friday, May 11 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. at The Players Community Center, 175 Landrum Lane. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. At this lecture, attendees will learn how to plant a beautiful landscape that could save time, energy and money while protecting our future. Focus will be on how to attract pollinators and other wildlife to your landscape. Contact Kelly Ussia at (904) 209-0335 or kussia@sjcfl.us for more information about this free program.

“A Night on the St. Johns” gala announced

The Diocese of St. Augustine’s Morning Star School will host the seventh annual “A Night on the St. Johns” Gala and Auction on May 5, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., at The Haskell Building, 111 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. Proceeds from the gala and auction will be used to fund specialized education programs, state-of-the-art technology, and this year, the establishment of a tuition assistance fund to help families who can’t afford a special education for their child. Inspired by the popular Cinco de Mayo celebration, the gala will feature Mexican inspired cocktails, dancing, food and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75/person, and the event is open to the public. Call Maria Johnson at (904)

COA announces annual Centenarian Luncheon

Council on Aging will honor community centenarians and nonagenarians at the annual Centenarian Luncheons, scheduled for May 3, 2018 at 12 p.m. at River House (179 Marine St. in St. Augustine) and May 23, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center (175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach). Table sponsorships are available for \$250 and include a variety of special recognitions and a seat (Ponte Vedra) or two seats (St. Augustine) at the luncheon. If you or someone you want to honor is age 95 or better, or if you would like to sponsor a table or RSVP, contact Cindy Walker (St. Augustine) at cjwalker@stjohnscoa.com, (904) 209-3687 or Danielle Johnson (Ponte Vedra) at djohnson@stjohnscoa.com, (904) 280-3753.

in Ponte Vedra. Call (904) 543 9301 or (904) 504-0451, email lkurinsky@gmail.com, or visit www.ChabadBeaches.com for more information.

Summer reading and math volunteer opportunities offered

RSVP of St. Johns County is seeking community members to assist once a week in the summer reading or algebra



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Chabad at the Beaches starts new book club

Chabad at the Beaches presents a Jewish book club for women that will meet on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss “Around Sarah’s Table: Ten Hasidic Women Share Their Stories of Life, Faith, and Tradition,” by Rivkah Zakutinsky and Yaffa Lieba Gottlieb. The book club is free of charge and meets at Dunkin Donuts

program through the St. Johns County School District. Hours are flexible, out of town travel can be accommodated. “There are students who can greatly benefit from the help of those willing to give just a small amount of their time,” said Cheryl Freeman, RSVP director. Contact RSVP at (904) 547-3945 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.



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Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the slide at the Nocatee Splash Park. Our winner was Tyler Dunn.

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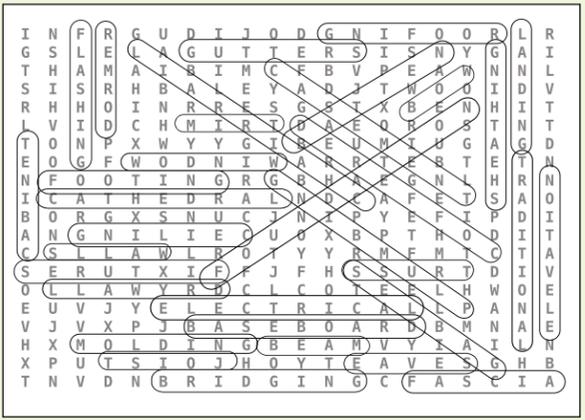
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answers to puzzles on page 12

A	B	E	D		P	P	M		U	L	A	N			
R	O	V	E	D		A	R	A		N	A	D	A		
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I	D	L	Y		E	N	E		R	A	N	I			



Answer to our Puzzles

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. roof B. structure C. foundation D. window

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

around town

May 1
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.pontevedravalley.com/grief-support

St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
 (904) 460-0243

May 2
Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)
 Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane
carmenjsardinas@gmail.com
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
 10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com

May 4
GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation
 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500
Nocatee Community Shabbat Dinner
 6:30 p.m.
 Nocatee Crosswater Hall, 245 Nocatee Center Pkwy.
 RSVP: www.JewishStJohnsCounty.com/Nocatee or (904) 701-4422

May 3
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 7:30 p.m.

May 5
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-4: About Boating Safely course
 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sea School, 14180 Beach Blvd.
Boatsafely04@gmail.com or (904) 955-7077

May 7
Caregiver support meeting
 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
 (904) 297-0061
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
adsilby@yahoo.com

May 8
Friends of the GTM Reserve Board Meeting
 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center
 (904) 823-4500
Lilies of the Valley widow support group
 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
www.pontevedravalley.com/grief-support
Adult Coloring Club
 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

May 8 - 13
THE PLAYERS Championship
 TPC Sawgrass
www.theplayers.com

May 10
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
 Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326
Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St. Augustine
www.stjohnsaudubon.com

May 11
Food Truck Friday
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

May 12
HAWKE's Dine on the Wild Side
 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 St. Augustine Alligator Farm
 Tickets available April 15; www.hawkewildlife.org

May 14
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, W. Epstein Building

cgsml3@yahoo.com
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
www.pvmsd.org

May 15
St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org
First Coast Newcomers Club trivia evening/dinner
 6 p.m. dinner / 7 p.m. trivia
 Contact Lea for name of St. Augustine restaurant and to be added to attendee list
 (904) 829-0643 or (904) 814-9612
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Americana singer Trevor Compton
 11 a.m.
 Marsh Creek Country Club, 169 Marshside Drive
 RSVP by May 7, sjaird@comcast.net

May 15 - June 19
Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Class
 Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
 Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

May 19
Nocatee Farmers Market: Jacksonville Jaguars Rally
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

May 20
Singers by the Sea concert, The Spring Sing
 2:30 p.m.
 Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 3rd St. S., Jax Beach
www.sbsts-fl.org

May 29
First Coast Card Club - adult card players
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
 (904) 829-0643

May 31
AARP Driver Improvement Class
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Council on Aging's River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine
 Call (904) 209-3655 to register

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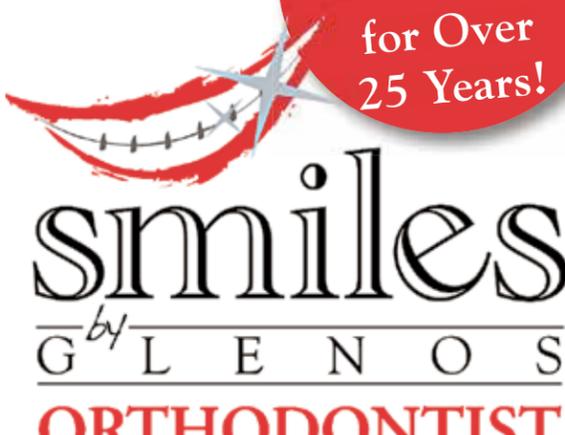
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**with Florida State Representative
Cyndi Stevenson, District 17**

Q: What provisions were made in the budget for education this year?

A: The per pupil funding increased by an average of \$101.50 for the state of Florida. In St. Johns County, we were fortunate to increase by \$172.10, which gives our School Board a little more funding to work with. Of course, a significant amount of this funding is for school safety and mental health programs in the schools.

Q: What can you tell us about the events leading up to the passage of SB 7026, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act?

A: What happened in Parkland was a terrible tragedy, which cut short the lives of 14 students and three faculty members. Republicans and Democrats banded together to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott in March. The bill set new age limits, to age 21, for the purchase of all firearms; provides for a uniform gun purchase policy that requires a three-day waiting period and background check for all firearm purchases; bans bump stocks; strengthens the Baker Act by allowing law enforcement to seize a person's gun for 24 hours if they pose a threat to others; and says that people who are unable to buy a gun due to mental health issues won't be able to possess one either.

Q: Basically, it sounds like some loopholes were closed?

A: This law closes significant gaps in current law to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. This bill does not prevent law abiding, responsible people from possession of any firearm. Those serving in our military and law enforcement are exempt from the new requirements.

Q: What are some other provisions of the bill?

A: We are going to invest more to protect children at school by funding more School Resource Officers throughout the state. The bill also created a voluntary program called the Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which allows school staff to be armed at school after specific training and mental health assessments. This program is voluntary for both school districts and teachers. All schools are required to perform active shooter and hostage drills and multi-agency communication will be improved. Finally, the mental health component is addressed with increases in mental health services and crisis teams that provide mental health services to youth with serious chronic mental illness.

Q: What are your thoughts on this law?

A: Parents entrust their children to our public schools. We have a duty to make them as safe as possible. Some parents I have spoken to feel that it is an epidemic of violence in our schools. Because of this, I wanted to share some information from a study by James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminology, Law and Public Policy at Northeastern University. He clarifies that, "This is not an epidemic ... Mass school shootings are incredibly rare events, furthermore, the incidents of shooting incidents involving students have been declining since the 1990s." I am grateful that the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott took decisive action to improve school safety. We cannot stop every act of evil, but we can take steps to keep it as far away from our kids as possible.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?

A: Readers can email me at Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov or call my local office at (904) 823-2300.

Special advertising sections coming!

The CreekLine | Ponte Vedra NewsLine | Mandarin NewsLine | Southside NewsLine

June - Real Estate

July - Pet Guide, Summer Fun Guide

August - Back To School Guide

September - Back To School Guide

October - Breast Cancer Awareness

November - Senior NewsLine

December - Holiday Guide



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FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.us)

Sheriff's Office:
Sheriff David B. Shoar, dshoar@sjso.org, (904) 824-8304

Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

Property Appraiser:
Eddie Creamer, sjcpa@sjcpa.us; (904) 827-5500

Supervisor of Elections:
Vicky Oakes, voakes@votesjc.com, (904) 823-2238

Tax Collector:
Dennis Hollingworth, taxcollector@sjctax.us, (904) 209-2250

Clerk of Court:
Hunter S. Conrad, (904) 819-3600

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

District 1:
Jimmy Johns, bccljohns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301

District 2:
Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0302

District 3:
Paul Waldron, bccd3pwaldron@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0303

District 4:
Jay Morris, bccd4@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304

District 5:
Henry Dean, bccd5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

St. Johns County School Board (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

District 4:
Kelly Barrera, kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (904) 547-7510

State of Florida Elected Officials

State House District 17:
Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov, (904) 823-2300

State Senate District 7:
Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Congress District 4:
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U.S. Senate:
Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Ponte Vedra or Nocatee or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

While we will do our best to answer all the questions we receive, we may not be able to answer all questions received each month. Also, due to publication scheduling, the time it takes to research answers may vary.

Here are answers to questions we received this month:

Q: When is the boardwalk going to be rebuilt at Mickler Beach? Could a temporary walkway like the one at Jax Beach be used?

A: According to Billy Zeits, assistant director of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department, the county has funding to rebuild the walkover and they are currently working with the county's purchasing department to finalize costs and select a contractor. The goal is to build a 12 ft. wide walkway on the north side of the beach walkway to the Coastal Construction Line. They anticipate having a plan in place prior to May 1, but it is too early at this point to determine the length of construction time. Zeits does anticipate allowing public access during construction of the walkover. As for the possibility of a temporary walkway, he said: "We are trying to make the best investment we can for the county. We will try to go with the original plan unless it is cost prohibitive. If it is, then we would probably go with a temporary walkway and seek additional funding for the permanent walkway."

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com



with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: Can you give us an update on the proposal to add to Florida's homestead exemption?

A: This November, on the ballot will be an opportunity for all Floridians to vote for an additional \$25,000 of homestead exemption. The primary personal exemption in Florida is the homestead exemption, which is currently a \$50,000 reduction in assessed value that is granted to Florida resident property owners who live in their house as a primary residence as of Jan. 1 of each year and whole file by March 1.

Q: How will the proposed additional exemption work?

A: For assessed property values of \$0 to \$25,000, the exemption applies to all millage rates. For property values of \$25,000 to \$50,000, there currently is and will continue to be no exemption. The next band, for properties valued between \$50,000 – \$75,000, the exemption applies and continues to be applied to all millages except schools. The proposed new exemption will continue as follows: for properties valued between \$75,000 – \$100,000, there is no exemption and then for properties valued between \$100,000 – \$125,000, the third band would apply to all millages except schools. If your home's value falls between any of these bands with exemptions, you'd receive a pro-rata exemption.

Q: How many properties in St. Johns County would be affected if voters approve the ballot measure in November?

A: In St. Johns County, there are just over 66,000 parcels with homestead exemption and approximately 56,000

would be affected by the homestead exemption increase. Therefore, about 10,000 parcels would not get a benefit if the measure passed.

Q: How would this affect county revenue?

A: Based on current numbers, this would reduce the county's taxable value by approximately \$1.3 billion, which represents a decrease in taxable revenues of about \$9.3 million. It's important to note that this would not reduce the total revenue to the county, but would reduce the rate of growth of revenues.

Q: What else can you share with us?

A: If passed, the additional homestead would be into effect for the 2019 tax year (that is, on the November 2019 tax bill). If a person already has homestead filed, they do not need to do anything; the additional homestead would automatically be applied. Finally, if an individual property owner would like to see how the proposed increase in homestead exemption would affect their tax bill, they can go to our website, www.sjcpa.us, and click on the "Stay Informed" tab and enter their address. The website's calculator will give the updated amounts.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?

A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Speedway Ste. 203, (904) 827-5500. It is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Also, readers can email me at Eddie@sjcpa.us or call me at (904) 827-5500.

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Shangri-La

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

In September of 1922, a young Army Air Corps lieutenant took off from Jacksonville Beach in an attempt to set a new cross-country flight record. At the time, Jacksonville Beach was called Pablo Beach. He took off in a De Havilland DH-4. Twenty-one hours and 19 minutes later he landed at Rockwell Field in San Diego, after making one refueling stop at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He was the first man to cross the country in an airplane in less than a day. His name was James "Jimmy" Doolittle. After his record breaking flight, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. This was an era where record breaking aviators were celebrated by the public and press.

Doolittle competed in a number of races and in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, he won the Triple Crown of airplane racing, setting a world speed record of 296 miles per hour in the Shell Speed Dash. Having won all there was to win, Doolittle retired from racing.

"I have yet to hear anyone engaged in this work dying of old age," he would say at the time. But Doolittle was no shrinking violet and his most famous flight was still ahead of him.

On April 18, 1942, Doolittle, now a lieutenant colonel, and 15 other crews took off from deck of the aircraft carrier Hornet. They were flying Mitchell B-25 two-engine bombers. Neither the planes nor the carrier were designed for this sort of operation and both required modifications to launch at all. Their plan was to fly to Tokyo and other cities and drop their bombs before proceeding to land in occupied China. It must have seemed like a suicide mission.

Six hours later, Doolittle and his raiders dropped their bombs on Tokyo. They proceeded, low on fuel, toward the Chinese mainland. Three planes crashed at

sea. One landed in Russia and the crew was imprisoned. The remaining planes made crash landings in China.

The raid itself did little damage, but it caused a panic in Japan and euphoria here in the States. Finally, we were striking back! When asked where the planes had launched, President Roosevelt would respond "from Shangri-La," a mythical valley mentioned in a book called "The Lost Horizon" by James Hilton. Afterwards, FDR would rename the presidential retreat we now call Camp David, "Shangri-La."

What interests me most about this story was the effect the raid had on the stock market. The market had been plunging since it opened on Monday Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. All the war news was bad. We would have been hard pressed to find investors who were bullish on the market in April of 1942. Yet, 10 days later, the Dow would bottom at \$92.69, before beginning a strong rally that would carry the market up 130 percent over the next four years.

The lesson here is that no matter how bad the news, never bet against the USA or the stock market.

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

Correction

Due to an editing error, the first name reference for General Morgan was omitted in the MarketInsight column entitled, "The right to bear arms" in the April 2018 issue of St. Johns Business Monthly. General Morgan's name was Daniel Morgan. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Stay calm on the investment roller coaster

By Karsten Jacobson
mail@floridanewsline.com

Unless you live near an amusement park that does a lot of advertising, you probably didn't know that Aug. 16 is National Roller Coaster Day. Actual roller coasters provide people with thrills — but as an investor, how can you stay calm on the "roller coaster" of the financial markets? Here are some suggestions:

- Know what's in front of you. If you've ever ridden a roller coaster in the dark, you may find it scarier than if you boarded it in daylight — after all, it can be unsettling not to know where you're going. The same can be said about investing: If you have no idea what's in front of you, you might find the journey

investment roller coaster cont. on pg. 8

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Photo courtesy Nocatee

Nocatee Farmers Market celebrates spring

The community enjoyed beautiful weather at the Spring Fling Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, March 17. Attendees enjoyed visits with the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo, live music from The J Crew Band, kids' activities, drinks from the bar, and shopping from more than 80 local vendors. American Integrity Insurance was the sponsor for this event.

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investment roller coaster cont. from pg. 7

unnerving — and if that happens, you could make panicky decisions, which are usually bad ones. So prepare for the inevitable market volatility; it's a normal part of the investment landscape.

- **Buckle up.** When you're on a roller coaster, you need to buckle your seat belt or use a restraint. You want to have the excitement of the ride, but you certainly don't want to take unnecessary risks. And you can enjoy some of the excitement of investing without incurring more risk than you are comfortable with, too. One way to lower your risk level is to diversify across a range of investments — stocks, bonds, government securities, and so on. That way, if a market downturn primarily affects just one type of investment, you'll have some protection; however, although diversification can reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio, it can't protect against all losses or guarantee a profit.

- **Choose a strategy for the journey.** Different people have different ways of handling a roller coaster ride. Some like to throw their hands up, enjoying the feeling of abandon, while others hold on tightly to the bar in front of them. When you invest, you also need a strategy that works for you, and the best one may be the simplest: Buy quality investments and hold them for the long term. How long is "long term?" It could be 10, 20, 30 years or more. Famed investor Warren Buffet says his favorite holding period is "forever." If you've chosen

a mix of quality investments appropriate for your risk tolerance, you may be able to hold them until either your goals change or the investments themselves undergo some transformation.

- **Stay for the whole ride.** When you hop on a roller coaster, you've got no choice — you're staying until the ride is over. As an investor, though, you can exit the investment world whenever you like. But if you take a time out from investing every time the market drops, you risk still being out of the market when it rallies — and the early stages of a rally are often when the biggest gains occur. Furthermore, if you keep investing during a down market, you'll be buying shares when their price has dropped, which means your dollars can go further — and you'll be following one of the basic rules of investing: "Buy low."

You can't take out all the twists and turns of the investment road, but by following the above suggestions, you can help make the ride less stressful — and possibly more rewarding.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Karsten Jacobson. Email Karsten.Jacobson@edwardjones.com for more information.

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This 'n That

By Mims Cushing
mail@floridanewsline.com

Honor your pet: This one's for you, Sebastian

May 3 through May 9 is National Pet Week — that time of the year when you should honor your pet whatever it may be. Here, I will honor my first dog, my dear, long-ago little Sebastian. Thank you, Sebastian. You were my first love.

When I was eight I hounded my parents for a dog. I envisioned a pooch so fully loaded with fur that I could nestle my face in the scruff of its neck. Fur so thick I could whisper my darkest secrets into its soufflé of fluff, which would make any of my secrets inaudible — except to him. Fur so downy it would dissolve my childhood and teenage tears.

I was thinking sled dog, hair of fleece, and white. Mother was fixated on something else. She was bent on a hairless dog. A miniature dachshund. Guess who won. (Being allergic to dogs, she thought it wouldn't shed. They do and it did.)

One Sunday in 1954 we set out for Darien, Ct. from Larchmont, N.Y., to go to a miniature dachshund breeder. The litter of four teeny chocolate puppies, whose names all began with the letter "S," was beguiling, angelic. Samantha and Sebastian were the top contenders. I favored the female. Mom, who had not given birth in three tries to a boy, was partial to the male.

"An aristocrat," Mother called him, which will give you an idea of the type of treatment he received. She loved the name Sebastian and we nicknamed him "Sebas," pronounced "Si bas," (the s is silent) which means "so low" in French. What he lacked in fur he made up for in tail, a perpetually wagging metro-nome that could only mean joy.

Even though the dog was not what I'd envisioned, I was elated and came up with various maladies so I could stay

home from school and play with the pup. Mother allowed this, but if she hadn't I might not be so pathetic about knowing state capitals and so much more.

Dad didn't believe in feeding our king of dogs store-bought dog food. He spoon-fed him his famous moussaka, and let him lick cherry pie off his fingers. Si Bas adored cheese and learned to balance Brie on the end of his nose. He'd "Sit!" for a long time until Dad would holler, "Ok!" Si Bas would growl and throw his snout left and right to loosen the melting cheese, stuck like Scotch tape, and gobble it down. I was thrilled to have a dog who would eat my dinner serving of trout that dad cooked. I loved dropping the happy dog forkfuls of the nasty fish from my plate.

The mini Dachsy, as you can imagine, soon blossomed into a robust 20 lb. hoglet, in dire need of a gym for dogs. Dad's cooking continued. In winter he loved to settle in on snowy, arctic weekends and cook up pies and cakes and casseroles all day. Sebastian, his most ardent consumer and family gourmand, scarfed all he was given with nary an Alka Seltzer in his bowl for dessert. He did have to — to be polite about it — be taken for many a walk on days when Dad played chef.

One year when I was in college, alas, he was ailing from something — perhaps dyspepsia. Mother slept in a sleeping bag near him on the kitchen floor many nights until he died at the age of 14.

When my son Jay was two years old, I gave in to his pleas for a dog. We chose a Samoyed whom I named Vodka. She was the softest, whitest dog I could find. I adored him as did Jay. I never did ask him if he would have preferred a hairless dog.

Your Vote Counts

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Elections ahead

Curious about what the General Election ballot will look like? Your November ballot is going to be a long one. As of April 1, there are already five constitutional amendments that have made ballot position. They are:

1. Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption
2. Limitations on Property Tax Assessments
3. Voter Control of Gambling in Florida
4. Voter Restoration Amendment
5. Supermajority Vote Require to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees

Amendments 1, 2 and 5 were placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature. Amendments 3 and 4 were placed on the ballot by the citizen initiative petition process. For further information on these amendments visit votesjc.com and look under 2018 Constitutional Amendments — November 6.

The Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC) is also in session reviewing the Florida Constitution considering which sections of our constitution need to be changed. The 2017 – 2018 Constitution Revision Commission is the third of its kind in Florida history. In 1968, Florida voters ratified three separate amendments rewriting significant portions of the Florida Constitution. One of those amendments included a provision requiring a CRC to convene and examine the Florida Constitution once every 20 years for possible changes, beginning in 1977. The first CRC convened in 1977 – 1978 and the second CRC convened

in 1997 – 1998. The 1978 CRC placed eight proposed constitutional amendments on the Florida ballot for voter consideration. None of the proposals were passed by Florida voters; however, proposals similar to the Commission's proposed changes were adopted in later years as part of the Florida Constitution or Florida Statutes, either by citizen ballot initiative or by legislative proposal. The 1998 CRC placed nine proposed constitutional amendments on the Florida ballot for voter consideration. Eight were passed by Florida voters. In 1998, CRC proposals required a simple majority to be passed by Florida voters (more than 50 percent).

As of 2006, at least 60 percent of the vote is required to pass a constitutional amendment. How many constitutional amendments the CRC will place on the ballot is unknown. They have an excellent website, www.flrc.gov, where you can view and track the proposals as they move along in the process. May 10 is the deadline for the CRC to file with the Secretary of State its proposed revisions to the Florida Constitution. When May 10 arrives, we will know how many total constitutional amendments will be on the General Election ballot. Once all of the ballot language is finalized, these new amendments will be added to the website and available for you to research at votesjc.com.

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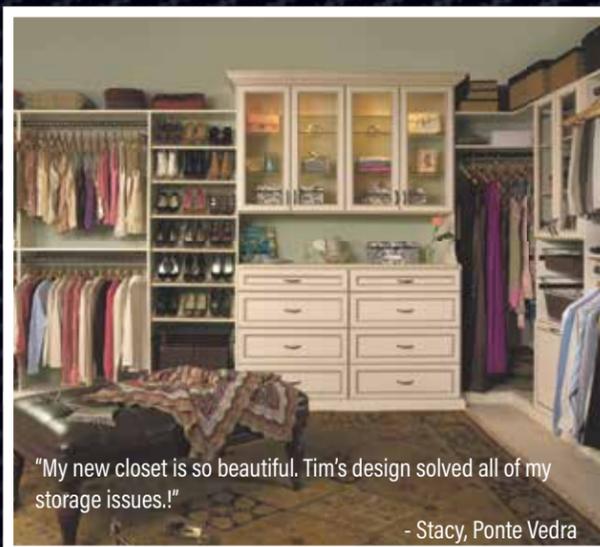
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PVHS Sports

Lacrosse player has a need for speed

By Jesse Hagy
 mail@floridanewslines.com

Some might say that Ponte Vedra senior Alex Hess has a need for speed. Lacrosse is a high-speed sport and Hess says her favorite part of the game is the speed that is required of each player on the field.

Hess said, "At one moment the ball is on the ground, then a player is dodging and scoring a goal."

To improve speed, Hess targets fast twitch muscles through weights, footwork with ladders and sprints.

Hess started lacrosse in eighth grade because her brother was in love with the sport. Hess is a tough player on the field and has earned the respect of her peers. She has played on the Ponte Vedra lacrosse team since her sophomore year and is now a senior captain. As a defense player, Hess must ensure that any players attempting to score do not get close enough to do so.

She said, "I love when a girl drives to the goal thinking she's going to score, but instead finds that I'm right in their grill, ready to strip the ball and take it to the other side of the field."

During Hess' freshman year she played softball, which is played with a much slower pace than lacrosse. Hess had to work really hard to transition from softball to lacrosse and be at a level to compete on the varsity high school team.



Photo courtesy Alex Hess
 Alex Hess

To improve her level of playing, Hess practiced year-round and would often go to the field with her brother to learn and improve her abilities.

Hess helped lead her team to the 2017 state finals and because of her leadership, is now a senior captain. She was given the 2017 Most Improved Player award.

Five things about Alex Hess

- Favorite artists:**
Lumineers, Kenny Chesney, and Bruno Mars
- Favorite movie:**
The Harry Potter series
- Favorite class:**
Math
- Hobby:**
running
- Future career:**
Entrepreneurial business

Hess said lacrosse has taught her valuable lessons: "From my team, I've learned how to be accountable for my own performance and its cascading effect on the team."

Hess has also shown academic strength by keeping a GPA of over 4.0 and is involved with multiple honor societies.



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Get to Know . . .

Belinda Macek

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Born in Vienna, Austria, Belinda Macek made the move of a lifetime when she relocated to the United States 25 years ago. Her early career days were spent mostly doing administrative work in Europe before becoming a stay at home mom to her daughter, now a student at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

“Looking back. Staying home with my daughter was a very valuable time. I enjoyed being with her and having the time for volunteer work with her school and other things,” Macek said.

Macek began playing tennis 20 years ago as a hobby that quickly turned into a passion. She spends her days at The Oak Bridge Club as the Tennis Facilities Director, working behind the scenes to ensure a great experience for all Oak Bridge members. Macek has been a proud Ponte Vedra resident for just under two years.

1) What do you enjoy most about living and working in Ponte Vedra?

I love the weather here and all the trees. The small town feel is nice, yet it's so close to everything. The people are very welcoming and I like how family oriented the town is.

2) What do you enjoy most about your work at The Oak Bridge Club?

The facility has been around for a long time and it has been revamped. I enjoy working to increase our memberships and establish this great place again. I also enjoy being a part of the fundraisers and making a difference in the community. We have a fundraiser coming soon to benefit pediatric cancer research.

3) What would you consider your greatest accomplishment?

I would say just living my life to a point where I feel like I'm moving forward every day. Putting my heart into something and making other people's days better by having a positive impact.

4) What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I enjoy Zumba and yoga. I've been doing yoga for more than 20 years. I go to the beach a lot. Coming from a country where there are no beaches, it's great to be so close. I traded my ski boots for flip flops. Sometimes the more you work for a sport the less you actually play it, but I try to actually play tennis as much as possible. My family still lives in Austria, so time permitting, I go visit when I can.

5) If you could play a game of tennis with anyone, who would it be and why?

Maria Sharapova. She's had some controversy but I've always been intrigued by the way she grew up in another country and had to separate from her parents at a young age to follow her passion for tennis. I think that takes a lot of strength to do that. She would be so bored with me on the court though.



Photo courtesy Belinda Macek
Belinda Macek

Get to Know . . .

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Sea turtle cont. from pg.1

still endangered and unfortunately seem to be declining, based on a lower number of nests.

Loggerhead nests in 2017 were comparable to 2016, but last year was higher for green turtles. Moore said that normally the area he patrols has one to two leatherback nests, but there were none in 2017.

According to Mickler's Landing Turtle Patrol volunteer coordinator Nancy Condron, last year her group counted 90 nests in the four mile stretch of beach they monitor from Sawgrass south to the Old Ponte Vedra condominiums. Fourteen nests were lost to Hurricane Irma.

Mickler's Landing Turtle Patrol volunteers begin walking their stretch of beach each morning beginning April 15, while the Ponte Vedra Sea Turtle Patrol begins its inspections a bit later, on May 1. This

group uses an ATV to cover the beach using fewer volunteers.

“We normally don't see nests until about May 15, so that's why we begin patrols on May 1,” Moore said. “Sometimes leatherbacks lay eggs as early as April 15, before we begin our patrols, but their tracks look like a monster truck coming ashore, so we always get calls about it from beachgoers.”

The leatherback turtle, Moore said, is by far the largest sea turtle and can be up to eight feet long and a thousand pounds.



A hatchling.

Moore said each morning, one volunteer, on a rotating basis, goes on the beach on the group's ATV around sunrise to check for nests laid the previous night. Moore was happy to report that the group recently purchased a new John Deere Gator for their patrols, thanks to generous adopt-a-nest donations.

For both groups, volunteers are responsible for marking any new nests by putting up stakes around them with tape and recording the GPS location. Approximately two months later, volunteers return to look for signs

of a nest hatching. Three days after this, at dusk, they return to perform a Nest Hatching Success Survey, where whole (unfertilized) eggs are counted as well as partial eggs and any dead hatchlings.

Moore has some advice for beachgoers who are interested in helping to preserve sea turtles: pick up tents and chairs and litter from the beach as well as fill in any holes in the sand, which may trap mother turtles on their way to lay their eggs or prevent hatchlings from returning to the sea.

“Basically, we hope people enjoy the beach during the day, but leave it as they found it for the night time,” Moore said.

Visit www.facebook.com/PonteVedraSeaTurtlePatrol to learn more about Ponte Vedra Turtle Patrol or www.facebook.com/groups/MicklersTurtlePatrol



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STEPHANIE THOMAS - "BACKSTAGE MOM"

Her experiences as a mom traveling with a 6-year old actor/son and 2-year old across the United States.... How she survived and coped with the ups and downs. Here are a few topics she will discuss: What to expect & what is expected of you as a stage parent, How to instill professionalism in your child, but still keep them a "kid"! Advocating for your child on set, Work/play/school balance strategies + more! Look for her ad on our website. Stephanie is a professional headshot photographer in NYC - - Special Offer - \$99 Photo Session

TONI CASALAS - "CHILDREN IN FILM" Founder

In this informative presentation, you will learn' What a great headshot looks like....how to properly format a child actor resume.... Difference between a Talent Agent & a Manager....How to navigate school on set....All about work permits and blocked trust account requirements. Which Labor Laws And Union rules apply to you...and much more!

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SEBASTIAN THOMAS - Teen Actor

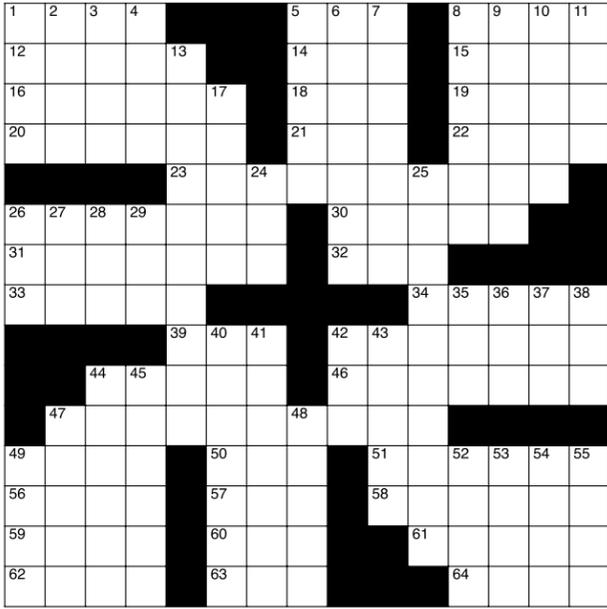
Sebastian started his acting career at the early age of six, he was "Chip" in a tour of "Beauty & The Beast", he performed on Broadway in two other shows, Pricilla, Queen of The Desert and Kinky Boots, that won the Tony that year! He is now 14 years old, and wants to share his experiences with other kids interested in the Arts.

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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



- CLUES ACROSS**
- In bed
 - Project portfolio management
 - ___ Bator: Mongolian capital
 - Roamed
 - Notre Dame legend Parseghian
 - Nothing (Spanish)
 - Not level
 - Self-contained aircraft unit
 - Baseball broadcaster Caray
 - ___ Tomei, actress
 - "The Raven" writer
 - Bathrooms
 - Skilled inventors
 - Forcefully silence
 - Remove
 - The arrival of daylight
 - Split lentils
 - "Walking Dead" actress
 - A lazy person
 - Doctors' group
 - Crooks

- Fragrant essential oil
- Conjured
- One who predicts
- Scarlett's home
- Television network
- Something comparable to another
- What a thespian does
- Word element meaning life
- Italian island
- "King of Queens" actress Remini
- Jogged
- Norse gods
- Lazily
- Midway between northeast and east
- Hindu queen

- Tufts of hairs on plant seeds
- Edited
- Portuguese archipelago
- Your parents' brothers
- Pakistani city
- Farewell
- Short sleep sessions
- Remove salt
- Drug officers
- One and only
- The Golden State
- Fabric baby carrier (abbr.)
- Quid pro ___
- New England research university
- Baseball pitcher's stat
- Western India island
- ___ Angeles
- Midway between east and southeast
- British singer Stewart
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Riding horse

- Where wrestlers work
- Regions
- Of a main artery
- Not classy
- Competed against
- Biscuit-like cake
- Large ankle bones
- Computer company
- "Friends" actress Kudrow
- "Chocolat" actress Lena
- Brain folds

- CLUES DOWN**
- Top Rank boxing promoter
 - ___ fide (Latin)
 - At all times
 - Hindu female deity

CONSTRUCTION WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BASEBOARD
- BATTEN
- BEAM
- BOW
- BRIDGING
- CABINET
- CASEMENT
- CATHEDRAL
- CEILING
- CHAIR RAIL
- COFFERED
- DORMER
- DRYWALL
- EAVES
- ELECTRICAL
- ELEVATION
- FASCIA
- FIXTURES
- FLASHING
- FOOTING
- FOUNDATION
- GABLES
- GUTTERS
- JOIST
- LANDING
- MOLDING
- PLUMBING
- ROOFING
- SHEATHING
- TRADITIONAL
- TRIM
- TRUSS
- WALLS
- WINDOW

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

⊙ * ⚡ ⚙ ⚗ ⚛ ⚔ ⚕ ⚖ ⚗ ⚘ ⚙ ⚚ ⚛ ⚜ ⚝ ⚞ ⚟ ⚠ ⚡ ⚢ ⚣ ⚤ ⚥ ⚦ ⚧ ⚨ ⚩ ⚪ ⚫ ⚬ ⚭ ⚮ ⚯ ⚰ ⚱ ⚲ ⚳ ⚴ ⚵ ⚶ ⚷ ⚸ ⚹ ⚺ ⚻ ⚼ ⚽ ⚾ ⚿

CRYPTO FUN

☪ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to home sweet home.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 10 = o)

A. 5 10 10 22
Clue: Covers house

B. 24 23 5 12 3 23 12 5 17
Clue: Building

C. 22 10 12 9 21 6 23 1 10 9
Clue: Bottom of home

D. 26 1 9 21 10 26
Clue: Lets light in



Misty Phillips
(904) 962-5119
YourPerfectSpot@comcast.net



Kathy Akel
(904) 673-9886
kathyakel@watsonrealtcorp.com

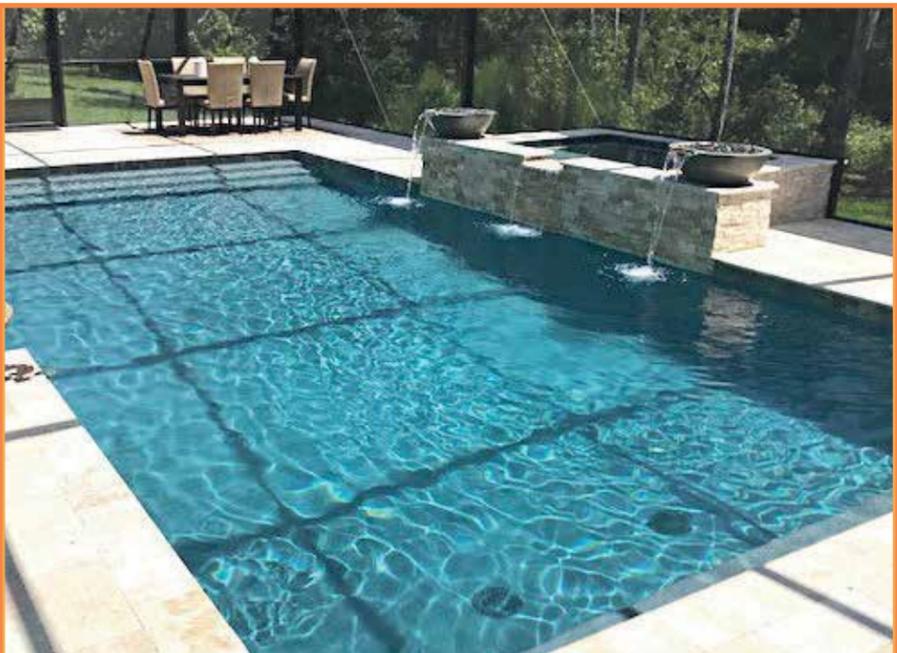
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Wine Country as a spring getaway

By Lindsay Hardy
mail@floridanewsline.com

With hundreds of wineries, Michelin-starred restaurants, breathtaking natural beauty and luxurious resorts, northern California's wine country is a great spot for a fun getaway.

While Napa and Sonoma counties experienced some wildfires, the damage was confined to a small area and vineyards were largely spared. The wine industry and tourism provide about 100,000 jobs and generate billions annually, making them vital to the region's economic health. Officials want travelers to know that wine country — 60 to 90 minutes from San Francisco — is ready and eager to welcome visitors.

Northern California's Mediterranean climate — warm days, cool evenings and dry summers — makes it an ideal spot to grow grapes for fine wines. The history of winemaking in the region dates to the mid 19th century, but really took off in the 1960s and 1970s.

Today, no matter where you go, you're never far from a tasting. Full-bodied Cabernets, fruity Merlots and buttery Chardonnays are just some of the dozens of varieties you'll find at the more than 400 wineries that dot the region. At large operations, like Robert Mondavi in Napa Valley, with its graceful, California Mission-style architecture, you

can not only sample wine but also take a tour that follows the path of grapes from the vineyard to the finished product. Or try the Napa Valley Wine Train, a three-hour trip served with wine and a multiple course gourmet meal.

Travelers who want a taste of the great outdoors along with their wine will find plenty of opportunities.

Wine country is a great place to see California's towering redwood trees. Take a drive along the 10-mile Bohemian Highway in Sonoma County, one of the state's most scenic routes. It winds through the redwoods and past organic farms, wineries and towns with unique shops and restaurants. Also in Sonoma, visit the home of writer and adventurer Jack London, known for books like "The Call of the Wild." The area, now a state park, has miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, as well as historic buildings from the time when London lived there. In Napa, take a walk through Yountville and enjoy its small-town charm. If you can't get a reservation at the famed French Laundry,



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

you can always walk across the street to explore the public garden, where many of the vegetables used in the restaurant are grown.

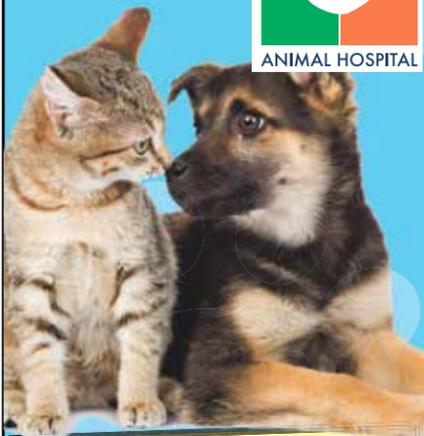
Sonoma County's Hot Air Balloon Classic takes place June 9 –10. If you visit during harvest time, beginning in mid-August and running through the end of October, some wineries, like Grgich Hills Estate in Napa Valley, will let you stomp in a barrel of freshly picked grapes.

Lindsay Hardy, ACS, LCS is owner of Travel Leaders of Jacksonville in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email lindsay@travelleader-spc.com for more information.

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