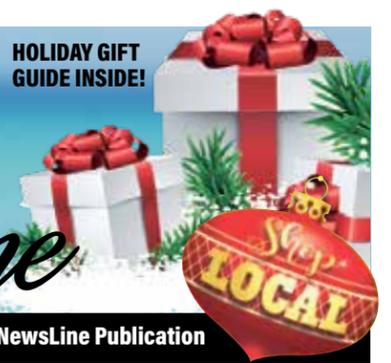


Ponte Vedra NewsLine

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE INSIDE!



DECEMBER 2018 Volume 5 Issue 12

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



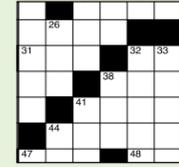
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Annual Palm Valley Boat Parade will spread holiday cheer

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

It's that time again. Bring your friends, chairs and Christmas spirit for the annual Palm Valley Boat Parade on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. For decades the residents of Palm Valley have delighted in coming together for the annual holiday boat parade and the 2018 event will not disappoint.



Photos courtesy Wendy Patton
Festive boats participate in the Palm Valley Boat Parade.

Often referred to as the Mardi Gras of lighted boat parades, the Palm Valley Boat Parade is known for its tremendous community involvement, in a friendly, laid back atmosphere. The spectacle covers more than seven miles of Palm Valley's Intracoastal Waterway and features a traditional parade experience for hundreds of uninterrupted docks, local restaurants and public viewing areas.

The parade will start one mile south of the Palm Valley Bridge and travel north to the last home in Marsh Landing.

Boat Parade cont. on pg. 8

Small feet leave big footprints in Uganda, Africa

By Heidi Brososky-Weaver
mail@floridanewslines.com

Tyler Workman laughs as he looks back at an old photo of himself as a Palm Valley two-year-old engulfed in a pair of men's boots. Little did he know that he would one day walk the dusty streets of Masaka, Uganda, in a pair of well-worn boots rescuing hundreds of children in dire need and empowering a village by providing jobs and hope. But that is exactly what Workman is doing through Okoa Refuge, the non-profit organization he founded with his wife, Liv, 10 years ago.



Photos by Heidi Brososky-Weaver
Tyler Workman holding his toddler picture.

When Workman, 32, recalls this "roller-coaster" of a decade, he is humbled at the positive impact Okoa Refuge has made in thousands of lives, but he is not surprised. Sean Yost, pastor of Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra, is not surprised either.

"I saw Tyler as a 13-year-old reading books about starting an orphanage. It's not what the average person is doing at that age," Yost said.

Yost spoke recently at "An Evening of Hope," the 10th anniversary celebration and fundraiser for Okoa Refuge at Bowing Oaks Plantation. He says his own children volunteered at Okoa's compound in Kayirikiti Village, and it inspires youth to see that "you should never give up on a dream just because there are obstacles."

While working in a Jacksonville book bindery from age 15 to 22, Workman spent his breaks drawing out plans for an orphanage. During this time, he met Liv, who shared his vision of going to Africa, and they opened Okoa Thrift Store to raise funds. Meanwhile, she earned a degree as an infectious disease nurse, and he obtained an AA degree and contractor's license. The two were able to open the orphanage in 2010 with 20 children and six volunteer caregivers and teachers.

In 2012, after building a girls' dormitory and starting a Bible school, the Workmans moved to Uganda permanently with their two young daughters, living on a sparse



Photo courtesy Sarah Eddy, Sarahdipity Photos
Tyler and Liv Workman and family in Africa

budget. Amid death threats and attempts to raid the orphanage, the couple persisted, opening a boys' dormitory, a baby home, and a church in 2014. After obtaining 15 additional acres, the first coffee crop was planted, providing jobs through Okoa's Community Empowerment Program, which trains adults in everything from raising pigs to computer skills.

In addition, Okoa started a medical and dental clinic, a career home for former prostitutes and abused women, Bible schools in three African countries, and (upon request from the government) a business center for people with disabilities. Okoa's mobile medical clinics have helped more than 45,000 people, and Workman says it is not uncommon for them to give out close to 6,000 prescriptions in one of their free care days.

A photographic timeline of Okoa's milestones was on display at the recent anniversary celebration, and many in attendance fondly remembered their own visits to the refuge, smiling at specific pictures that sparked memories.

"This girl, Nampija, loves to dance," Charlie Stoner pointed to a 2017 photo taken during her mission trip, when she assisted in one of Okoa's medical clinics and helped build a road and kitchens. "Okoa is well received in the community,

and everything that is donated is used to maximum capacity," Stoner said.

What's more, Okoa has earned the respect and trust of the locals and officials.

"The government comes to use for help with the hard cases," said Workman, relaying story after life-changing story. This year, he said Uganda ordered almost 600 international aid agencies to leave the country due to corruption. As a result, just three months ago, Okoa was designated as the only orphanage allowed to care for infants in the district. This means expansion is needed. At present, Okoa serves 200 children (85 live at the orphanage) and employs 80 staff members (30 work at the orphanage).

"Okoa is personal. Okoa is family. And what's left is for Okoa to grow," Workman said.

The Workmans host mission groups throughout the year, with Liv running the www.okoarefuge.org website at home while caring for her family of eight. Despite the many challenges, including bouts of malaria within their family, the dedicated couple is happy to see the fruits of their labor.

"It's been a wild ride. We could never have imagined what God had in store for us," said Workman, who looks forward to many more years walking through Masaka in his dusty boots.

Visit www.okoarefuge.org for more information.



Picture display for Okoa Refuge at An Evening of Hope.

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Whitehurst Campus
Tue., Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m.

Bartram Campus
Thu., Jan. 17, 9-11 a.m.

San Jose Campus
Fri., Dec. 7, 8 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 18, 8 a.m.

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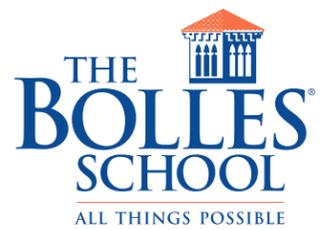
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Saturday, December 1
10 am to 5 pm

SHOPPING

Major Stores

CVS Pharmacy
Publix

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Carla Shoes & Accessories
Chico's
John Craig Clothier
Lemon Twist Boutique
Marcia's Place
Mon Amie Boutique
Scout & Molly's Boutique

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Pipin!



BREED:

Russell Terrier

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Chasing lizards and long walks

FAVORITE TREAT:

Zukes peanut butter oat treats

FAVORITE FRIEND:

Giraffe squeaky toy

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THIER NAME:

Pipin is also an apple variety, we named her this ...as she is the apple of our eye!

This month's sponsor:

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www.fluffycuts.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!

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A fitness gym?

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Ponte Vedra NewsLine - January Ad Deadline is DECEMBER 10th

DECEMBER
Special Section

PGS 14-15
Holiday Gift Guide

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?

Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was Lulu's on Roscoe Boulevard.
Our winner was Linda Limon. Congratulations!

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Dec

around town

save the date!

Through Feb. 3, 2019 - St. Augustine Nights of Lights
www.visitstaugustine.com

Jan. 8 - Feb. 12 - Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Now class
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

Jan. 25 - United Way of St. Johns County's 2nd annual Givers Gala
6 p.m.
Embassy Suites, St. Augustine Beach
Purchase tickets or to sponsor the event: bit.ly/giversgala2019

March 2019 - Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library reopens

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Dec. 1
Palm Valley Boat Parade
6 p.m.
South of Palm Valley Bridge to Marsh Landing

Dec. 2
HAWKE Fall Open House
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
HAWKE professional rehabilitation facility in Elkton
Email helphawke@windstream.net for directions

Dec. 2
North Florida Women's Chorale Holiday Concert
4 p.m.
Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1351 Sprinkle Ave.
Free event; www.womenschorale.org

Dec. 3
Current Events Discussion Group
10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
New location: Fionn MacCool's Irish Pub, 145 Hilden Road
adsilby@yahoo.com

Dec. 3
Beaches Toastmasters Club
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
cgs13@yahoo.com

Dec. 4
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com

Dec. 4
Parents with Hope (support for parents who have lost a child)
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
RSVP (904) 285-1130; www.pontevedravalley.com

Dec. 4
Helicopter Chanukah Gelt Drop and Light Show
6 p.m.
Nocatee Splash Water Park
www.jewishsjohnscounty.com

Dec. 6
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
7:30 p.m.
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
(904) 460-0243

Dec. 6 - 9
Holiday Pops
Jacksonville Symphony and Chorus
Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
www.jaxsymphony.org

Dec. 7
St. Johns County Legislative Delegation Meeting
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Johns County Commission Chamber Auditorium, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Dec. 7
GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road
(904) 823-4500

Dec. 10
Caregiver support meeting
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
(904) 297-0061

Dec. 10
Ponte Vedra Woman's Club luncheon meeting
11 a.m.
Ponte Vedra Lodge & Club
RSVP: programs@pontevedrawomansclub.com

Dec. 10
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Ponte Vedra MSD Offices
www.pvmsd.org

Dec. 11
Friends of the GTM Reserve Board Meeting
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center
(904) 823-4500.

Dec. 11
Lilies of the Valley widow support group
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
RSVP (904) 285-1130; www.pontevedravalley.com

Dec. 11
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring Florida School for the Deaf and Blind band, "Outta Sight"
11 a.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy, St. Johns Town Center
RSVP by Dec. 4; sjaird@comcast.net

Dec. 12
Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach
7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)
Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane
carmenjsardinas@gmail.com

Dec. 12
Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon
11 a.m.
Sawgrass Country Club
RSVP: www.newcomersofthebeaches.com

Dec. 13
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

Dec. 15
Nocatee Farmers Market: Winterfest
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Town Center Field, Nocatee

Dec. 18
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

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calendar@floridanewsline.com

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Holiday performance at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall are sponsoring a holiday event on Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall: "Miracles: Messiah Favorites and Carols of Mystery." The University of North Florida Chorale and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Cara Tasher, will present selections from Handel's "Messiah" interspersed with three settings of the famous "O Magnum Mysterium Text." Tickets are \$20 with general admission seating, and \$10 for students, seniors, teachers, military, sold at the Box Office only, with valid ID. The Friends organization is a 501 (c) 3 organization and all donations are 100 percent deductible. Visit www.friendspvch.org for more information.

St. Augustine Orchestra starts off December with Orchestral Sounds of the Season

The St. Augustine Orchestra will present the city's first holiday concert of the season at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 at the Lightner Museum, a spirited evening of classics spanning nearly 200 years from "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) first performed in 1818 to music from the 2004 movie "The Polar Express" and the Wizards of Winter arrangement based on the song from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The St. Augustine Orchestra, directed by Scott Gregg, will also perform "A Mad Russian's Christmas," which reimagines one of the most recognized pieces from

Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

Ticket prices are \$22 for adults 18 years and older; \$12 for youths aged 11 – 17 and free for children younger than 10. Tickets are available online at <https://staugustineorchestra.ticketleap.com/orchestral-sounds-of-the-season-2018/>.

FSDB "Outta Sight" Band to perform at December luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host its December luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 11, beginning at 11 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant, 10367 Midtown Parkway in the St. Johns Town Center. Attendees are invited to enjoy the magical sounds of the holidays presented by the "Outta Sight" high school band from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. The total cost for the December luncheon is \$30 for members and \$32 for guests. All reservations must be received by Dec. 4. This will be a Holiday Luncheon featuring family-style dishes of freshly baked ciabatta rolls, classic bruschetta, four-cheese ravioli fritte, italian tossed salad, vegetable penne primavera, baked ziti and sausage, oven-roasted pork loin in balsamic sauce, tiramisu and Gigi's butter cake with freshly brewed coffee, hot and iced tea and sodas. Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net to register for the luncheon or for more information about the Newcomers of North St. Johns.

HAWKE announces fall open house

HAWKE, the Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education, Inc. will hold its fall open house on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at HAWKE's professional rehabilitation facility in Elkton. This event will directly benefit HAWKE's ongoing mission of rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of a second chance to freedom. This members-only event will feature personal tours of the rehabilitation facility, refreshments, and meeting the educational birds, including a Peregrine Falcon, Barred, Great Horned, and Screech owls, plus Mohawk the Red Shouldered Hawk. Meet the volunteers and officers of HAWKE and president Melanie Cain Stage will be glad to answer your questions. This is a chance to see where your donations go and learn environmental information and interesting facts about these amazing creatures. Become a member of HAWKE now by visiting www.hawkewildlife.org or sending a check to HAWKE, Inc. P.O. Box 188 Elkton, FL 32033.



Photo courtesy Melanie Cain Stage
Swallow tail kite

Library now open in temporary location

Pending renovations of its permanent building that will last until March 2019, the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is now open in its temporary location at the Ponte Vedra Annex, 5430 Palm Valley Road from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Patrons will be able to place and pick up holds at this location as well as pay fines via credit card. Since no after-hours drop box is available, patrons will be able to return library items only during open hours.


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Briefs

New feline rescue group forms

On Sept. 30, Love Me True Rescue opened its doors in Ponte Vedra Beach at 5150 Palm Valley Road, #403. Love Me True Rescue provides a home for kittens and cats before they find their forever home. Adoptions are held every Saturday between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

“Please stop in and see our beautiful faculty and meet our cats,” said volunteer Sandra Murray.

The group is looking for adult volunteers (aged 18 and older). Contact Peggy Hatfield at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net if you are interested or visit www.LoveMeTrueRescue.com for more information.

Light Up the Night festivities schedule announced

This year, St. Augustine’s Nights of Lights runs through Sunday, Feb. 3 with Light-Up! Night, the start of the event’s milestone 25 years in the historic city. The event is spotlighted by national and world-wide audiences and voted as one of the Top 10 “Best Holiday Lighting Displays in the World” by National Geographic.

St. Augustine invites all holiday guests and local businesses to join together during the festivities along with thousands of visitors who will ride the Old Town Trolley’s Famous Nights of Lights tour to experience the wonderland of more than three million white twinkling lights. During the tour, guests will be offered complimentary hot apple cider, homemade cookies and the 3D viewing glasses which dramatically illustrate the city’s lights and decorations while listening and caroling to holiday music favorites on the trolleys.

Through Saturday, Dec. 29 from 6 p.m.



Photo courtesy Old Town Trolley Tours
St. Augustine’s Nights of Lights runs through Sunday, Feb. 3.

– 8 p.m., Old Town Trolley presents its sixth year of free entertainment with St. Johns County school groups and local musical acts hosted at the City of St. Augustine Visitor Information Center on select nights:

Friday, Nov. 30 – Landrum Middle School Jazz Band and Drumline

Saturday, Dec. 1 – St. Augustine High School Band

Friday, Dec. 7 – Fruit Cove Middle School Jazz Ensemble

Saturday, Dec. 8 – St. Augustine High School Jazz Ambassadors

Friday, Dec. 14 - Nease High School Chorus Group

Saturday, Dec. 15 – St. Augustine High School String Ensemble

Sunday, Dec. 16 – Pedro Menendez High School Band

Wednesday, Dec. 19 – Showtime U.S.A.

Thursday, Dec. 20 – Gamble Rogers Middle School Jazz Band

Friday, Dec. 21 – St. Augustine Concert Band

Saturday, Dec. 22 – Voices of St. Augustine

Sunday, Dec. 23 and Tuesday, Dec. 25 – Ramona The Band

Wednesday, Dec. 26 – Saturday, Dec. 29 – The Ancient City Brass Band

Visit www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine for more information.



with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: Can you please shed some light on the requirements to claim homestead exemption and how the current statutes treat rentals of homesteaded properties?

A: Since St. Johns County is residential for the most part, and more than half of our residential properties are homesteaded, it is important to understand how Florida statutes treat homestead exemption, particularly with our growing population. First of all, I invite readers to please call our office if they have any questions at all about this topic.

The key point is that to legally claim homestead exemption, you must make the residence your primary residence as of Jan. 1 of the tax year, as evidenced by a Florida driver’s license or other acceptable ID card showing that address. You cannot also be receiving a homestead benefit, including a tax credit for homestead, from anywhere else in Florida or any other state.

Q: Once granted, how long does the property retain its homesteaded status?

A: Homestead exemptions renew every year unless the taxpayer notifies us otherwise or ongoing investigation by us proves otherwise. For instance, renting out all or a portion of your homesteaded property can affect your homestead exemption.

Q: What are the rules for renting out your homesteaded property to retain the exemption?

A: You may rent a portion of your property or all of your property if:

- 1) You do not rent it on Jan. 1 of the tax year.
- 2) You may not rent it more than 30 days in two consecutive tax years.
- 3) In any event, if you rent your property for more than six month in any tax

year, it is considered abandonment of homestead in Florida.

Q: What happens if the rental rules above are broken?

A: If we find a rental that does not meet the above criteria — and we have a number of ways to find out, including change of address forms and investigators — we are required by State statute to:

Remove the homestead exemption.

Remove the Save Our Homes portability.

Determine if the rental occurred prior to this tax year and if so, we will go back up to 10 years for back taxes and will file a lien on the property.

We are required to collect all back taxes and charge a 50 percent penalty on the property, in addition to 15 percent interest per year that is imposed by the tax collector.

It’s especially tough for us to have to impose these required punishments, particularly for unintentional violations. Again, I urge people to call us before they rent their home (Airbnb etc.) so we can give advice. The burden of proof for compliance is on the homeowner. If someone calls us, we will tell them how to stay in compliance. Our job is to make sure you get every exemption you’re entitled to ... and keep it.

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.

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T P C S A W G R A S S



with Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School Board Member, District 4

Q: Can you share any information about the newly released app to support school safety?

A: The Fortify FL app is a statewide initiative launched by the Attorney General's office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Department of Education. It is in line with the "See Something, Say Something" initiative. It is free to download from the App Store and Google Play.

Q: So what does the Fortify FL app do?

A: It is important for people to understand that this is a community tool, not just a school tool. Anyone who has concerns of student and/or school safety can make a report. The reports are anonymous and the person making the report can choose from: "unsafe," "potentially harmful," "dangerous," "violent," or "criminal activity or threat of criminal activity." The information will be submitted directly to the appropriate school's administration as well as SJSO and the district safety director. People can also make reports at www.getfortifyFL.com if they don't have the app.

Q: Have you received any alerts from reports yet?

A: We have received seven so far, but most were Code of Conduct issues and not safety issues. The app is meant for the reporting of safety issues.

Q: Do you have any other updates in the area of safety?

A: To improve online safety and combat "phishing," folks will notice that the district is beginning to limit the contact information available on our websites for district staff and employees. We have unfortunately had some problems in

this area that caused us to make this decision. The principal's email will remain and parents can access their student's teacher's email via HAC, but there will be less information published on the websites.

Additionally, all counselors and principals have gone through the Youth First Aid workshop. Finally, we are expecting to get additional School Resource Officers on some campuses after the first of the year that will be in addition to School Safety Officers.

Q: Do you have any other interesting items to share?

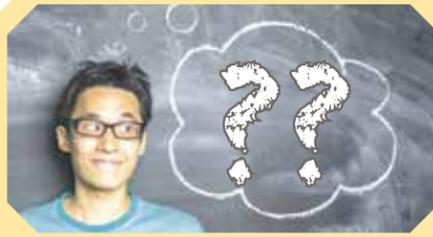
A: As we are purchasing new school buses, the school district plans to buy ones with air conditioning. We hope to retrofit older buses with air conditioning in phases, slowly, as we have money to do so. It will be a long process, but it's something I've advocated for a long time. I think it's the right thing to do for students riding the buses and for bus drivers who are working. Our next bus order, needed due to an increase in students, will hopefully be by the end of the year.

Q: What else is happening in District 4?

A: We are gearing up to finish the first semester strong. We have increased security at all events and increased signage at schools and athletic events as well.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Ponte Vedra 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 is the answer to the question we received this month:

Q: After two years of waiting, when is the boardwalk to the beach at Mickler's Landing going to be rebuilt? It has been two years since Hurricane Matthew. No longer is access for all available.

A: We reached out to Michael Ryan, Director of Communications for St. Johns County, who replied on behalf of the county's Parks and Recreation Department.

He said, "Our Parks and Recreation management team currently plans to replace the Mickler's Beach walkover sometime between December and March so it is in place before the beginning of the upcoming beach season. The walkway has already been designed and is funded through Impact Fees and Tourist Development Council TDC monies."

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcf.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, bcc1johns@sjcf.us, (904) 209-0301

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

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

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

District 5:
Henry Dean, bccd5hdean@sjcf.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:
Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501

U.S. Senate:
Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
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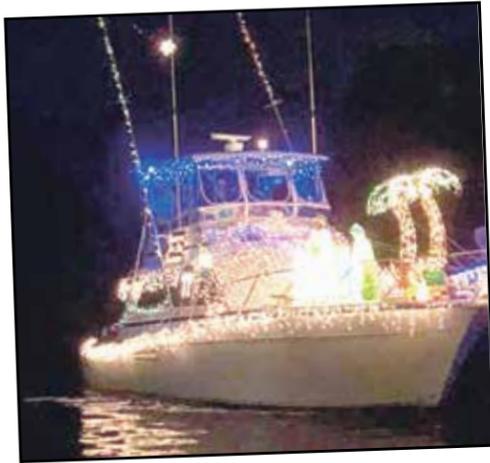
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904-257-5205

Boat Parade cont. from pg. 1

Public viewing areas will be open to all, with several options for spectators to come watch the exciting parade. Under the Palm Valley Bridge (County Road 210) and both the east and west sides of the Intra-coastal Waterway are open to public viewing. Parking will be available for the public. There are also multiple restaurants with great vantage points where spectators can view the parade over dinner and drinks. These wonderful establishments along the waterway include Barbara Jean's, The Palm Valley Fish Camp, Lulu's and Palm Valley Outdoors. The public is encouraged to make restaurant reservations ahead of time.

"This festive tradition brings the Palm Valley and Ponte Vedra community together like no other," said Wendy Patton, public relations chair for the event. "Everyone looks forward to it all year long. They start asking what the date for next year will be, almost immediately. This event is a great way to celebrate the holidays and bring people together."

Volunteers and donations are always welcomed and appreciated. As a completely



volunteer operated non-profit event and a supporter of the Palm Valley Community Center, the event's success and turnout is directly correlated to the generous fundraising of local residents and supporters. Sponsorships are also available to interested business owners. This year, the grand prize winner will again receive a \$5,000 prize. Smaller prizes will be given for dock winners.

"A lot depends on the weather, but we usually have 12 - 25 boats participating. The boats judge the docks and the dock owners judge the boats. It's a really fun event," Patton said.

For more information, visit <http://palm-valleyboatparade.com/>

Ocean of Sound proves it's not a one-season wonder

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound marching band wrapped up its regular season on a high note as they head for the FMBC state competition in Tampa on Nov. 17. The band earned its highest ever competition score of 89.25 for their finals performance at the Echoes of Excellence Regional Competition on Nov. 3, where they featured their eye-popping 2018 show, "The Mistress of All Evil," based on Maleficent and the classic Sleeping Beauty fairytale. The band placed second, just behind class 5A band Fleming Island High School which scored 89.7. The band also took home finals trophies for Best in Class Visual and Best in Class Music. During preliminary competition, drum majors Holly Anderson, Camilo Victoria and Riley Jett earned the Distinguished Drum Major award. The awards kept coming with Superior ratings in all remaining categories: Visuals, Music, General Effect, Percussion, Color Guard, and Overall Band Performance.

At the Golden Eagle Classic on Oct. 13, the Ocean of Sound successfully defended its title as Grand Champion against 14 other bands and was the only band to receive a Superior rating during their preliminary performance in all categories: Music, Visual, General Effect, Percussion, Auxiliary and Drum Major. For their finals performance, the band received awards for Best General Effect, Best Visual and Best Music, contributing to an overall score of 75.40 and edging out the Spruce Creek High Steppin' Hawks, a class 5A band. Riding the wave of that win, the band earned straight Superior ratings at their Musical Performance (MPA) assessment held at Bartram Trail High School on Oct. 27.

The Ocean of Sound started its competitive marching season by placing second out of 14 bands at the First Coast Marching Invitational on Oct. 6 at Nease High School. Kicking off the evening by winning the 4A class in preliminaries, the band also took the awards for Best Music, Visual Performance and General Effect. In finals performance, they scored 72.8, just behind class 5A band Sebastian River High School's 75.5 score.

Expectations for the band have been high this year as they reflect on their breakout season in 2017 during which they secured Grand Champion awards in two FMBC Regional Band Competitions and placed ninth out of 14 bands in Class 4A semifinals at the state FMBC Championships.

"Last year was such a terrific year for this group and we're building off of that momentum. We still have a lot of work to do to prepare for State, but these performances prove that we're not a one-season wonder," said Band Director Jermaine Reynolds. "We know we are only as good as our last performance and are pushing ourselves to have our best run every single time we take the field."

The Ocean of Sound is comprised of 107 musicians and 13 color guard, having graduated 22 seniors in 2017 and welcomed 28 freshman this year. In his third year as PVHS band director, Reynolds contributes the band's growth and success to many things including hard work and dedication by the students, his top-notch staff including auxiliary director Lauren Nock, and the many parent volunteers and Band Boosters who make the program possible.

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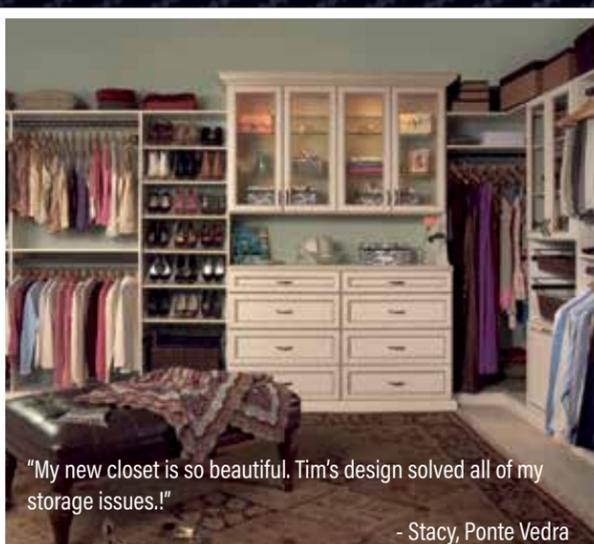


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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Amendments, we can agree on

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

There is a popular meme flying around the internet that says, "Given a choice between ice cream and a kick in the head, Florida would vote 50.5 to 49.5." We laugh because it's true; at least it seems true at times. Florida has been the sight of lots of nail-biting elections. Anyone remember Bush v. Gore in 2000? In this last election, three statewide races went to a recount. As I write this, I do not know how those elections will come out. What I do know is that we have a hard time choosing between Republicans and Democrats and that both parties have fervent followers.

However, when we were faced with choices that did not have a D or an R after them, we were remarkably unified. There were 12 Constitutional Amendments on the ballot this cycle and we passed 11 of them, most by a pretty wide margin. It turns out that while we cannot agree on who should be the governor, almost 70 percent of us are against offshore oil drilling and vaping indoors, the same percent that dislike greyhound racing. Eighty percent of us oppose lobbying and abuse of office. I guess that is not a big surprise.

The other thing that is shocking is that the electorate did not seem to be overly affected by advertising. The vaping amendment passed by a huge margin with very little financial support. The founder of Broadcom, Disney, and the Seminole Tribe spent more than \$90

million to pass Amendments 3 and 6. Those did not pass by as wide a margin. Kelsey Grammer practically lived on our TV screens and we barely passed his amendment.

I imagine that if all ballot questions were presented in the same manner, without party reference, that we would all agree a lot more than we do. Who isn't in favor of better schools? Or higher property values? I am sure we would vote for clean water and a lot of other things as long as we did not see them as partisan issues.

If they put an Amendment on the ballot calling for higher stock market values, would you vote for it? Most of us would, I think. The good news is that we do not need an Amendment for that. It turns out that the stock market pretty much always goes higher. Since 1980, the value of the S&P 500 has increased about 2,500 percent, since 1950 about 14,000 percent. Of course, it is important to remember that the market's rise is never a straight line! The stock market advance is often more like a drunk stumbling down the sidewalk. Stocks can and do go down, but over the long run they have provided substantial returns for wise investors.

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

Baptist Health plans comprehensive health campus in Nocatee

Baptist Health has recently acquired 12 acres of land in the master planned community of Nocatee for a new health campus. Groundbreaking for the comprehensive health campus will take place in early 2019.



Graphic courtesy Baptist Health

"The new health campus will provide Nocatee residents and adjacent communities access to expanded clinical services, tailored programming and state-of-the-art facilities," said Keith Tickell, vice president of strategic assets/real estate at Baptist Health. "Our goal is to design and plan based on the active, high-quality lifestyle already embodied by local residents."

Committed to bringing health care to this community from the beginning, Baptist Health opened a Baptist Primary Care location in Nocatee Town Center in early 2015. Offering newly extended service hours and an expanded team of caregivers, this primary care office will relocate to the new building when it opens. A variety of services will be incorporated in the single location.

"Our vision is to create a highly convenient, innovative center for health care and wellness services for the whole family," said Matt Zuino, president of

physician integration at Baptist Health.

The facility, located just west of Nocatee Town Center and the Lakeside neighborhood facing Nocatee Parkway, will utilize the space to its fullest potential. The building will face a lake and be accessible via walking paths and golf cart paths in the community.

Health care providers and educators on this expansive new campus will focus on delivering interactive experiences and events designed for residents of all ages, including health and safety programming provided by THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"Convenience is key," said John Wilbanks, FACHE, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Baptist Health. "So we're bringing together comprehensive services tailored to the needs of this vibrant community."

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly



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This 'n That

By Mims Cushing
mail@floridanewsline.com

Seven little words that changed my life

One day, 35 years ago, I received a flyer inviting me to attend Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the granddaddy of all writing conferences. It is a 10-day nest for fledging as well as for more established writers. Started in 1926, it takes place every summer at Middlebury College in the green hills of Vermont.

I'd been writing a weekly lifestyle column for a supplement to a local newspaper in my hometown, Stamford, Conn. I wanted to branch out and write for more publications, so I signed up. Getting a plethora of rejections from magazines coast to coast disappointed me. I wanted a coach. Breadloaf would assign a mentor to me, and mine was Ron Powers. It was a thrilling thought, though intimidating. Powers is an Emmy winner and also won a Pulitzer prize for criticism. He has written 10 books.

Classes taught by established authors run all day. In the evening writers read from their as yet unpublished works.

John Irving read from his draft of one of his unpublished books. We were spellbound. We were riveted. And exhausted.

Eventually Powers and I met in the cafeteria. I'd sent a writing sample to him in advance as requested.

"You're a good wordsmith," he said. "You string words together well. But..." (ah, that scary word) "you are just writing essays. You need to interview people and do profiles."

Now, this is where I blew it.

I replied, "Oh, I can't do that. I am way too shy."

And then he said in a thunderous voice the seven words that bounced into my very core. "There is no such thing as shy!" Was the entire cafeteria staring at us?

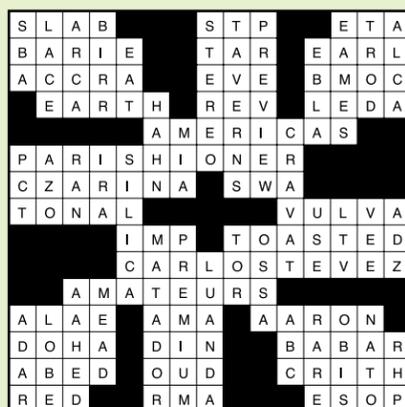
This 'n That cont. on pg. 12

Answers to puzzles on page 12

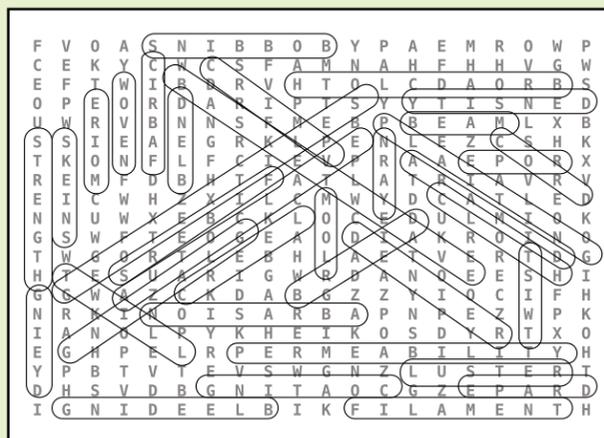
Answers

to our

Puzzles



Answers: A. fiber B. clothing C. yarn D. manufacture



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Get to Know . . .

Kelly Altosino-Sastre

By Ken Gillespie
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Kelly Altosino-Sastre
Kelly Altosino-Sastre

After Kelly Altosino-Sastre and I spent an hour talking in her Nocatee home I first came away at a loss for words as to how to capture her essence. To get around temporary writer's block I turned to the classic reference book "Roget's Thesaurus." The book's pages indeed triggered a number of word choices that best describe her persona: liveliness, animation, vivacity, spiritedness, bubbiness, and effervescence. Slang terms would be pizzazz, pep and moxie. All these characteristics power a purpose-driven individual with a clear focus on mission and goals.

Altosino-Sastre currently serves as founder and president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, which is Florida's newest club. Altosino-Sastre and husband Aristides relocated to Nocatee from Coral Gables four years ago to be near their three adult children and six grandkids. Also, Altosino-Sastre's 97-year-old dad lives nearby in Del Webb. Altosino-Sastre has long worked with nonprofits and presently has her own consulting business working with nonprofit executive boards on strategic planning.

Q: What things are you most proud of in your life?

I got married when I was 18, went to college and earned a bachelor's and master's degree while raising three children, working, coaching and running a soccer league, and serving on several nonprofit boards. I am proud of the countless Rotary projects that I have worked on to make people's lives better. I am most proud to have wonderful children whose life's work is service: Aris is a family

medicine physician; Cameron works with students with disabilities; and Stacci is a deputy with the St. John's Sheriff's Office. They all have amazing families.

Q: Tell us about your involvement with Rotary.

I was invited to join The Rotary Club of Coral Gables in May 1996. At that time there were not many women in the club of 170 members; women were not able to join Rotary until 1989. I quickly jumped in by serving on just about every committee, and then over time was appointed to serve as chair of those groups. I was elected president for the 2003 – 2004 Rotary year. I have also served on leadership teams at the district level as well as an instructor for All Florida Rotary PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar)

Q: What are some principles you live by?

Be good in the world ... be honest and authentic ... make things happen ... always have a Plan B ... be resilient.

Q: Anything on your Bucket List?

Three very different items. 1. To hear Andrea Bocelli sing "Sogno" (Dream) in the Teatro del Silenzio in Tuscany, Italy. 2. I love photography and sports, and would like to take an award-winning soccer photo, not for the award, but to capture an incredible moment in a game for others to enjoy. My love of photography was instilled in me by my father-in-law. I started photographing my children as babies, at their sporting events, then moving on to flowers and nature. Now I take pictures of my grandchildren. 3. To raise a million dollars for my Rotary club's foundation so we can continue doing good both locally and globally.

Get to Know . . .

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



Photo courtesy Erin Frauenheim

Flag football enjoyed by all

According to Ponte Vedra Beach resident John Carson flag football games at Sunshine Park and UNF every Saturday have drawn tremendous interest from local residents. He said, "The parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and family members yell their hearts out at every game." Lucas Snyder of i9 Sports, which hosts the games, pointed out that their leagues provide equal playing opportunities regardless of skill level and without the pressure of tryouts. "While we do keep score attempting to promote the important life lessons of building character through winning and losing, our goal is to provide a safe environment where players can learn and enjoy the great game of flag football in an organized league," Snyder said. Visit www.i9sports.com for more information or to find a local league.

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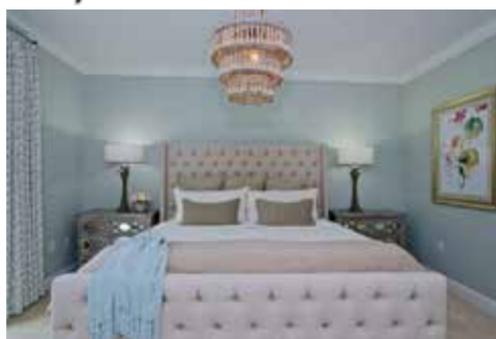
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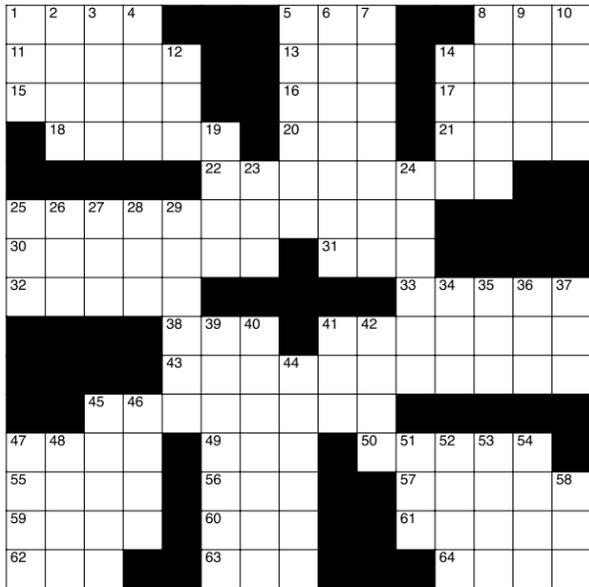
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 10
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thick piece of something
- 5. Engine additive
- 8. Anticipated arrival time
- 11. French commune
- 13. Cigarette (slang)
- 14. Nobleman
- 15. Ghana capital
- 16. Adam's wife
- 17. Most popular student
- 18. Where you currently are
- 20. Increase motor speed
- 21. Queen of Sparta
- 22. North, South and Central
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Russian empress
- 31. Female daredevils organization
- 32. Relating to music
- 33. Female body part
- 38. Tyrion Lannister
- 41. Honored

CLUES DOWN

- 43. Argentine footballer
- 45. Novices
- 47. Wings
- 49. Doctors' group
- 50. Packers' QB
- 55. Qatar capital
- 56. Unpleasant noise
- 57. Lovable elephant
- 59. Sleeping
- 60. Lute
- 61. Weight of a liter of hydrogen
- 62. Crimson
- 63. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 64. Employee plan

CLUES DOWN

- 5. Audio-system
- 6. Places to grab a drink
- 7. What's coming
- 8. Designed chairs
- 9. Stepped on
- 10. Genus of birds
- 12. Consume
- 14. Ancient Syrian city
- 19. Australian brewery
- 23. Not present
- 24. Necktie
- 25. What part of (abbr.)
- 26. Type of compound
- 27. Jogged quickly
- 28. Roth is one type
- 29. Mineral
- 34. Purpose
- 35. Financial term (abbr.)
- 36. Orange is the New Black character
- 37. Used to cut and shape wood
- 39. Bullfighter

- 40. Top of the line
- 41. Hill
- 42. Greek mountain
- 44. Angola's capital
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Fermented honey beverage
- 47. Month in the Jewish calendar
- 48. Frontal is one type
- 51. Basics
- 52. Uncommon
- 53. Broad kimono sashes
- 54. European defense organization
- 58. Box score term



Solve the code to discover words related to textiles.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 23 = a)

A. 26 1 8 15 25

Clue: Thread or filament

B. 16 14 17 4 18 1 3 13

Clue: Covers the body

C. 10 23 25 3

Clue: Thick thread

D. 21 23 3 9 26 23 16 4 9 25 15

Clue: Make something

TEXTILE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ABRASION
- ARAMID
- AUTOCLAVE
- BASKET WEAVE
- BEAM
- BLEEDING
- BLEND
- BOBBINS
- BRAID
- BROADCLOTH
- CLOTH
- COATING
- CORD
- CREEL
- CRIMP
- DENIER
- DENSITY
- DRAPE
- DYEING
- FABRIC
- FIBERS
- FILAMENT
- GEOTEXTILES
- GLAZING
- LOOM
- LUSTER
- MOIRE
- PERMEABILITY
- PLAITING
- ROPE
- SKEINS
- STRENGTH
- TWILL
- TWIST
- WOVEN
- YARN

This 'n That cont. from pg. 10

I can't remember anything else after that. Shyness had held me back in all phases of my life. I was tired of being shy. So I decided not to be shy any more.

When I returned home I started interviewing people on my block, in my town and beyond. Some articles turned into cover stories for B-list magazines. I interviewed more than 50 people including a Buchenwald survivor, biographer Anne Edwards, business moguls, and Bobby Rosengarden, the drummer. I shook Hulk Hogan's mammoth hand at JFK, and wrote about WWF; Dizzy Gillespie on a jazz cruise; the artist Charles Wysocki; interviewed the father of the ATM, and wrote a cover story about Martha Stewart.

Four years later, by 1986, I had written more than 30 articles for local magazines. "Yankee Magazine," "Cosmo," and other national magazines still rejected me, though the New York Times Sunday edition published several opinion pieces of mine and paid me. It was the time of my life. It made me (and still makes me) happy to bring a little cheer into readers' lives, or information, or entertainment.

Did I become overwhelmed at the thought of talking to big name celebrities? Well, Ron Howard lived one town over from me in Connecticut. The thought of even driving up his driveway made my shyness skyrocket.

The funny thing is what I enjoy doing

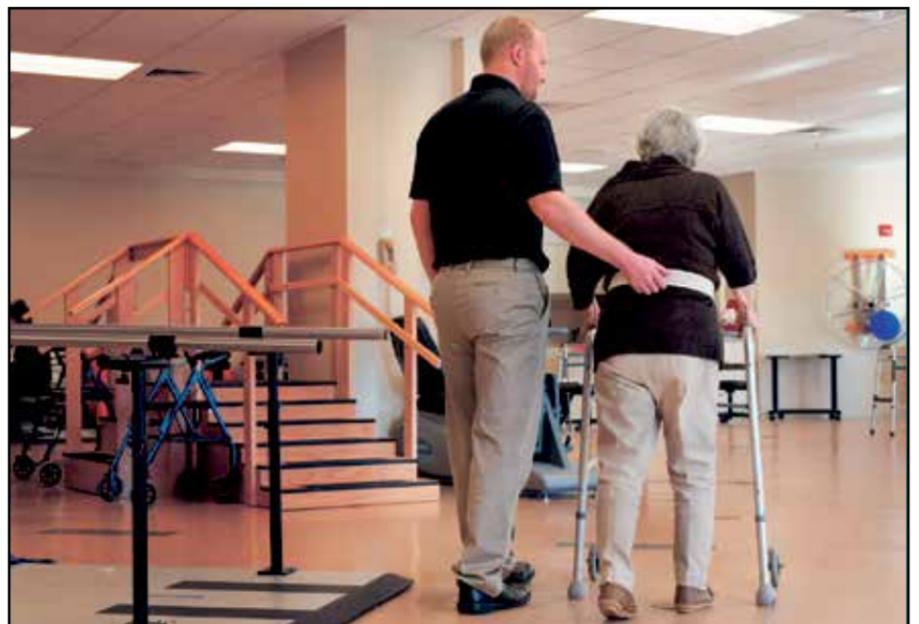
most in 2018 is writing essays and book reviews. You know what? When you hit your 70s, you ought to write — and do — whatever you want. But if I'm asked to interview someone who intrigues me, I will do it. Unless you're Ron Howard.

We think adults can't change, but we can. Powers switched me from being a shy mousekin into someone who loves opening people up about themselves. "There is no such thing as shy!" Who knew how much seven little words could change my life? But they did, and I am grateful to Ron Powers. You can change if you want to. People can change you. Be on the lookout for them!

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| DECEMBER 2018 | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 31 | | | | |

- Teacher Optional Planning
- Teacher Planning (non-student day)
- Teacher Inservice (non-student day)
- Classes Resume
- Student/Teacher Holiday
- End of Quarter
- Underline = testing dates



Holiday Gift Guide

JUST IN TIME FOR SHOPPING!

Hottest Holiday Gift Ideas from Your Local Businesses

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Shopping is a big part of the holiday season, when families and friends gather to reconnect and exchange gifts. The benefits of shopping locally go beyond convenience — shopping locally can directly benefit your community and the people who call it home. Put money back into the local economy and promote entrepreneurship; consider doing some of your holiday shopping in your community this year. Following are some suggested gift ideas by some of our local businesses:

Travel Leaders:

Give the gift of travel this holiday season with a gift certificate to Travel Leaders, which has been assisting travelers in the greater Jacksonville area since 1988. Our independently owned Jacksonville franchise affiliated with the Travel Leaders Network is a leader in both leisure and business travel. As professional travel agents, travel is our passion and our life work. It's what we do all day every day. We have personally been to destinations worldwide, stayed at the resorts, sailed aboard the cruise ships and taken the off-the-beaten path tours, so we know what to recommend and what not to recommend to our clients.

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gym in the 904” for two years running. Visit www.bodycontrolgym.com for more information.

Holiday gift drive for Betty Griffin Center

The community is invited to help make the holidays special for the women and children of the Betty Griffin Center. Drop off the following items (new and unwrapped) at the St. Johns Golf Club pro shop, 4900 Cypress Links Blvd. in Elkton, now through Thursday, Dec. 13:

Puzzles, card games, books, gift cards, hair accessories, infant clothing, baby blankets, board games, Disney toys, Legos, action figures, art supplies, Play-doh, infant pajamas, crafting kits, women's sleepwear, socks, video games, electronics for teens, and sporting goods.

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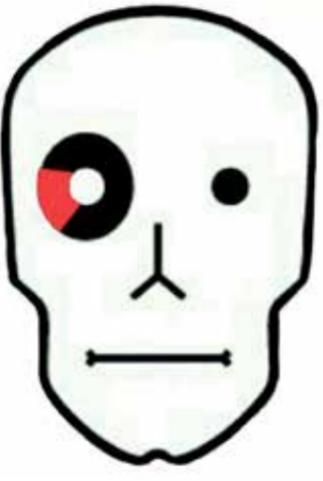


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