

# Ponte Vedra NewsLine

APRIL 2019 Volume 6 Issue 4

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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## Florida NewsLine under new ownership

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Havana Publishing Group, Inc. has bought Florida NewsLine and all community newspapers published under its banner. Florida NewsLine publishes The CreekLine, Mandarin NewsLine, Ponte Vedra NewsLine, The Ocean Breeze and Players Journal.

This is a full-circle event for Havana Publishing Group owner and publisher, Mark Pettus, who previously was publisher of Florida NewsLine from late 2015 through early 2017.



Photo courtesy Mark Pettus  
Mark Pettus

“It is great to be involved with these amazing community newspapers again. I look forward to working with our great staff to ensure that we continue to be our readers’ favorite newspapers,” Pettus said.

Pettus, who took over the leadership of a 73-year-old newspaper company in Havana, Fla., just north of Tallahassee, in 2017 has a lengthy and varied newspaper background. He worked as a reporter, editor and publisher locally in the Northeast Florida area for 15 years.

Florida NewsLine began in 2001 as RT Publishing, Inc., when it published the first issue of The CreekLine, serving NW St. Johns County. Advertising sales representative Linda Gay was an original employee of the company, followed a year later by editor Martie Thompson. Both still perform these roles today.

Over the years, new periodicals were added: Mandarin NewsLine in 2006,

New Ownership cont. on pg. 11

## Therapy Animal Coalition aims to match up volunteer teams with organizations

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

When Kristi Leonard’s youngest child began school, she decided she’d like to get back into pet therapy, a volunteer hobby that she had been active in when she lived in California a number of years ago. Pet therapy animals are different from service animals and emotional support animals; service and emotional support animals serve their handler/owner, while therapy animals serve with their handler/owner to serve everybody else.

In California, Leonard said there was an organization that not only helped register pet therapy teams, but also helped find places for them to volunteer. There was not, in 2011, such an organization here. So, Leonard started calling local hospitals, trying to find a place to volunteer with her pet therapy dog.

“I found that there were about 100 local pet therapy teams that were registered and independently volunteering here,” she said. “But everybody was recreating the wheel. And it is not an easy process.”

After meeting with several other pet therapy volunteers, the idea was planted that the area needed an organization to help people become registered as pet therapy teams and to know where to volunteer. The group held an expo in October 2016, with the intention of getting all the organizations and all the interested parties together in one place. They anticipated attendance by 100 people and were pleased to actually welcome 250.

“We thought, ‘Maybe we are onto something,’” Leonard said.

The Therapy Animal Coalition, a true coming together of many local therapy animal groups, was formed as a 501 c 3

in March 2017. The coalition held its second expo in October 2017, this time a full day event. The most recent expo was held in March 2019.

Leonard said that the expos aim to reach three audiences: first, the expo acts as a recruiting tool for aspiring pet therapy teams. Registering to become a pet therapy team is not an easy process and requires training sessions of weeks or months, depending upon how well the animal is already trained. Dogs, for example, need to be able to obey basic commands like sit, stay and walk on a leash. “We are asking the animal to get in someone’s personal space,” Leonard said. “The animal must be calm and really love people. But the temperament of the animal if the most important aspect.”

Leonard said that of the approximately 225 pet therapy teams registered locally, the majority of the animals are dogs. But there are also three miniature horses, a full sized Clydesdale, three cats and a rabbit that are registered.

The second audience for the expo is the already registered teams. Leonard said the expo can act like continuing education for these teams, with workshops designed to help them find places to volunteer.



Photos courtesy Therapy Animal Coalition  
Sunday, a Goldendoodle, and his handler, Kristi Leonard, founding board chair of Therapy Animal Coalition, help a young boy practice reading at San Marco Library.

Finally, and new in 2019, the Therapy Animal Coalition partnered with the University of North Florida to offer a new program for animals and health care, particularly for mental health and physical therapy offices. Here, animals may be used as part of treatment and the expo offered training for medical professionals as to what pet therapy animals can do if they are prescribed. For instance, patients with some forms of traumatic brain injury might open a bag of dog treats or brush a dog.

Leonard said the Therapy Animal Coalition is always seeking new volunteer pet therapy teams as well as new organizations that could benefit from a pet therapy program. Besides obvious places like hospitals and schools, Leonard said pet therapy is available at the airport as well as the Duval County Courthouse.

“My favorite part about pet therapy is that we witness little miracles all the time,” Leonard said. “We’ve seen people absolutely come out of their shells when they see the pets.”

Visit [www.therapyanimalcoalition.org](http://www.therapyanimalcoalition.org) for more information.

## Nease NJROTC celebrates five in a row

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Nease NJROTC laid claim to its fifth consecutive Area 12 State Drill Championship on March 3 in Douglas, Ga., establishing itself as the one of northern Florida’s most dominating high school championship programs.

Nease competed against the top 16 Navy high school JROTC drill teams in Area 12, which includes all of northeastern Florida and the entire state of Georgia. Sixty NJROTC programs competed at local drill meets during the fall and winter with the top 16 advancing to the state championships. Nease earned its berth by winning first place at both the Mandarin and Terry Parker high school drill competitions earlier.

“Everyone contributed today,” said cadet battalion commander Peyton Gustafson. “Our athletic and drill teams picked the right moment to deliver their best performances.”

In addition to winning the overall championship, Nease claimed first place in Personnel Inspection, Overall Drill, Armed Exhibition and 16x100 Relay; second place in Overall Athletics, Unarmed Exhibition, Pushups, Situps and 8x220 Relay; and third place in Unarmed Basic.

Two cadets also earned individual medals for achievement: Elizabeth Villalba (302) in Situps and Erin Sass (103) in Pushups.



Photo courtesy Scott LaRochelle  
Cadet Brandon Mum leads the Armed Exhibition Drill Team to a first place finish during the NJROTC Area 12 State Drill Championships

Nease will now travel to the Navy National Drill Championships in Pensacola on April 5 – 6.

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Gary!



**BREED:**  
Rescue Mutt (his DNA showed 50% Staffordshire Terrier, 12.5% Siberian Husky, 12.5% Chow Chow, 25% Unknown)

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Digging in mud puddles and playing with other dogs

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Nudges meat sticks

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
His cousin, Ruger, a Pit Bull mix  
**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
There aren't enough dogs named Gary, so we thought it was a perfect fit!

**This month's sponsor:**  
Palencia Pet Clinic  
159 Palencia Village Dr #101  
www.palenciapetclinic.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!

Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?  
Email editor@floridanewslines.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

## May's Enhanced Section Summer Camps

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MAY Ad Deadline is APRIL 15th

## APRIL Special Section SUMMER CAMP



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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 the A1A entrance to GTM National Estuarine Research Reserve north beach parking. Our winner was Sandy Wong. Congratulations!

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**April 1**  
**Current Events Discussion Group**  
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
 New location: Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia  
 adsilby@yahoo.com

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

**April 2**  
**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting**  
 10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 pontevedrachapternsdar@aol.com

**April 2 - May 7**  
**Free Quit Smoking Now Class**  
 Tuesdays, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Flagler Hospital Wellness Center  
 Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

**April 3**  
**Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach**  
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)  
 Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane  
 carmenjsardinas@gmail.com

**April 4**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7**  
 7:30 p.m.  
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse  
 (904) 460-0243

**April 5**  
**GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation**  
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road  
 (904) 823-4500

**April 8**  
**Beaches Toastmasters Club**  
 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)  
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building  
 cgsm13@yahoo.com

**April 8**  
**Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting**  
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 545 A1A N.  
 www.pvmsd.org

**April 9**  
**Miriam's Seder by Beth El The Beaches Synagogue Sisterhood**  
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Beth El The Beaches Synagogue, 288 N. Roscoe Blvd.  
 Register at [https://besisterhood\\_miriams\\_seder.eventbrite.com](https://besisterhood_miriams_seder.eventbrite.com)

**April 10**  
**Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon**  
 11 a.m.  
 Sawgrass Beach Club, 975 Summer Place  
 RSVP: [www.newcomersofthebeaches.com](http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com)

**April 11**  
**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](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com)

**April 11**  
**American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring women's health issues with Kathleen Kavanagh, DMH, MSN, Ed RN**  
 11 a.m.  
 Walter's Reef Café at the First Coast Technical College, 2980 Collins Ave, St. Augustine  
 RSVP by April 5: (505) 980-7865 or pkinchen02@gmail.com

**April 12**  
**Food Truck Friday**  
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

**April 16**  
**Jacksonville Camera Club**  
 6:45 p.m.  
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
[www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com](http://www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com) (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

**April 16**  
**St. Johns CARES meeting**  
 7 p.m.  
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1  
[www.stjohnscares.org](http://www.stjohnscares.org)

**April 16**  
**Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon**  
 11 a.m.  
 Epping Forest Yacht Club, 1830 Epping Drive  
 RSVP by April 8: [sjaird@comcast.net](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net)

**April 17**  
**PVB Division Chamber After Hours**  
 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Arthur Rutenberg Homes, 181 Sea Glass Way, Ponte Vedra Beach  
 RSVP: [Sjcchamber.com](http://Sjcchamber.com)

**April 17**  
**Ponte Vedra Democratic Club Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Ponte Vedra Library, Friends of the Library meeting room  
 Newcomers welcome; [Facebook.com/PonteVedraDemocrats](https://Facebook.com/PonteVedraDemocrats)

**April 18**  
**Adult Coloring Club**  
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library  
 (904) 827-6950

**April 20**  
**St. Augustine Easter Parade**  
 9 a.m.  
 Starts at the Old Jail  
 (904) 829-3800 or [dchatterton@trolleytours.com](mailto:dchatterton@trolleytours.com)

**April 20**  
**Nocatee Farmers Market: Spring Fling**  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

**April 20 - 21**  
**51st annual Mandarin Arts Festival**  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday  
 Mandarin Community Club  
 12447 Mandarin Road  
[www.mandarinartfestival.org](http://www.mandarinartfestival.org)

**April 25**  
**Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Workshop: Working for the Federal Government**  
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive  
 RSVP: [pottesen66@gmail.com](mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com)

**April 27**  
**Relay for Life**  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Nease High School  
[www.RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl](http://www.RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl)



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# take 5

## Sierra Club offers tree protection program

The Sierra Club will host Anna Dooley, executive director of Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc. on Monday, April 1 beginning at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse of the Ocean Grove Condominiums at 1 Arbor Club Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. Dooley will discuss how Greenscape protects trees and promotes the planting of trees in Northeast Florida. Since 1975 Greenscape has added more than 300,000 trees to the local canopy. She will also discuss how citizens can get involved in protecting and promoting trees in their communities. All members and non-members are welcome; contact Brian Paradise at [bgparadise@comcast.net](mailto:bgparadise@comcast.net) for more information.

## Local cat rescue seeks volunteers

Love Me True Rescue, located at 5150 Palm Valley Road, #403, 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. The group is looking for adult volunteers (aged 18 and older). Contact Peggy Hatfield at [peggyhatfield63@comcast.net](mailto:peggyhatfield63@comcast.net) if you are interested or visit [www.LoveMeTrueRescue.com](http://www.LoveMeTrueRescue.com) for more information.

## Afternoon Insight program to feature right whales

Learn about right whales at the GTM Reserve's Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road in South Ponte Vedra Beach, on April 17 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. This is part of a series held on the third Wednesday of themed educational months (February, April, June and October) in which visitors get a closer look at a new topic led by knowledgeable volunteer docents, as well as researchers and members of environmental organizations. The program is free with free admittance to the Exhibit Hall prior to the lecture. Visit [www.gtmnerr.org](http://www.gtmnerr.org) to register.

## Relay for Life to honor cancer survivors

Relay for Life will take place at Nease High School on Saturday, April 27 from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m. The event will be fun-filled with fundraising teams selling food and goodies. Local entertainment, games, and food trucks will be on hand. The highlight will be the luminaria event, showcasing the names of people who have passed away from cancer, experienced it, or are fighting through it. Time will be taken to commemorate the ones lost and remind everyone why the fight for the cure continues on.

There is still time to register a team or join a team.

Simply download the Relay for Life app on the App Store or the Google Play Store and sign up for the Relay for Life of North St Johns County. Founded in 1986, Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The mission of Relay for Life is to honor cancer survivors of all ages. Visit [RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl](http://RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl) for more information or to make a donation.

## Ponte Vedra Beach Library to hold Book Sale

A book sale will be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. from April 10 through April 13. A special preview sale will be held on April 9 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. for members of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library only. The

sale on all the other days is open to the public. A bag of books will cost only \$10 on the last day of the sale, April 13. Visit the library's website, [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) for more information and daily sale times.



Photo courtesy Kim Aslan  
Relay for Life will be held April 27, 2019.



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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 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.



## with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

**Q: It's currently not election time. What does your office do when it is not an active election cycle?**

A: This time of year, we do a number of voter education programs. For instance, I and my staff go to all the area high schools and local colleges. Students in high school can pre-register to vote at age 16, and then when they turn 18, we send them their voter identification card and a sample ballot if it is near election time.

For high schools that request it, my office will conduct their student government elections onsite for them. We also recently led a civics program for all seventh graders at Switzerland Point Middle School. This took two full days.

**Q: What other programs do you offer to schools?**

A: Through April 11, we will visit 23 of 31 elementary and K - 8 schools, conducting their Sunshine State Young Readers program. This program is promoted by the school's media specialist and is designed to encourage students to read. Basically, students who read three of the 15 Sunshine State Young Readers Award books for their grade level are eligible to vote on their favorite. We set up the media center at the school as a polling place. We bring our precinct tabulator and voting booths, and, most importantly, the "I Voted" stickers. We typically visit two schools per day performing this service.

We also have a special program for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. With our ExpressVote, blind students can vote. We give a workshop about the importance of voting and how easy it is to vote, and then we prepare a mock ballot for them that contains questions from the workshop as well as fun questions like choosing their favorite movie or video game. Then we tabulate the results.

**Q: What other responsibilities keep you busy this time of year?**

A: There are voter registrations every day and address changes every day. We have voter list maintenance activities and my office is open 24/7 online. When interest piques in 2020 as an election year, we will have more community voter registration events. Did you know that we will have three elections next year? (Presidential Preference in March, the Primary in August and then the General Election in November) So planning has already begun for them as well. Additionally, I take every opportunity year 'round to educate voters and future voters in St. Johns County.

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

A: Readers can email me at voakes@votesjc.com or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, www.votesjc.com also has a wealth of information.

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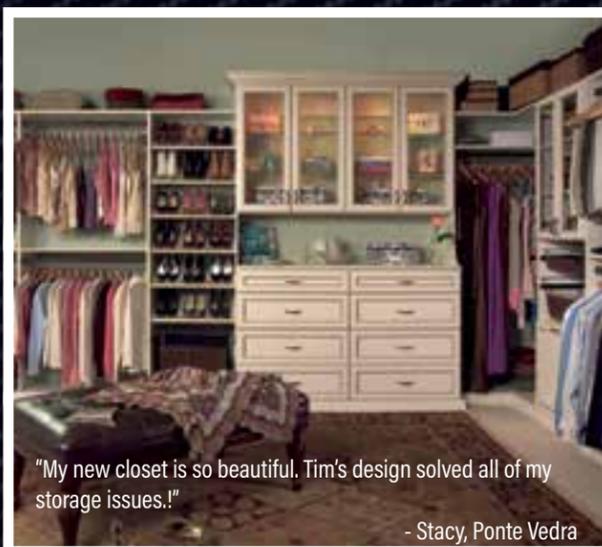
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**with Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School Board Member, District 4**

**Q: Can you give some background information about the events leading up to the change in school start and end times?**

A: The purpose of changing the start and end times was to give some breathing room for the bus runs. Over the years, we have been proactive with regards to transportation, including the pilot program for the strobe lights on the buses for safety, increased training for bus drivers, ramped up recruiting for bus drivers and the installation of software that allowed us to track buses for efficiency. St. Johns County has ranked either first or second in the state the past few years in bus efficiency.

Despite all this, we had late buses, due in large part to all the road construction associated with the growth in the county, which was impacting instructional time.

**Q: So how did the idea come about to change the times?**

A: In October 2018, Superintendent Forson put together a task force to look at alternatives to combat the problem of late buses despite all the proactive items we had implemented. We can't compromise safety, so what else could be done? This group of 20 people had representatives from ESE, academics, operations and principals from all levels. They considered possibilities and obstacles and vetted the most practical solution, which was deemed to be changing the start times. They even looked at combining the tiers (having students from different schools ride the same bus) and flipping the high schools to be the earliest tier, but discarded these ideas.

**Q: What exactly are the changes?**

A: We voted on the new times at our last meeting and were careful to make this change in plenty of time for parents to plan prior to implementation in the

2019 – 2020 school year in August. The biggest impact is on middle school, which now starts 20 minutes earlier (from 7:50 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.). Elementary schools start five minutes earlier and high schools start five minutes later. We needed to increase the transition time between the middle school and elementary school tier and again between the elementary school and high school tier.

With projected growth of 500 – 700 riders each year, we need to continue to hire more bus drivers as well as buy more buses. Superintendent Forson also said that this is our plan for next year, but it might change again after that. The district has been very proactive in responding to growth. We haven't changed start and end times in 10 years and that is a testament to the proactive response.

**Q: What should someone do if they are interested in being a bus driver?**

A: There is actually a nationwide shortage of bus drivers. The St. Johns County School District now hires bus drivers, as well as substitute bus drivers and substitute teachers, year round. Those interested should visit our website, [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/jobs](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/jobs) for bus drivers and [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/subs](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/subs) for substitute teachers, and fill out an application.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 4?**

A: On March 14, Staci Boyer, the secretary/bookkeeper from Freedom Crossing Academy, was named the 2018 – 19 School Related Employee of the Year. I'd also like to highlight our District 4 personnel: Carrie Baides, secretary/bookkeeper at Landrum Middle School;

Kelly Barrera cont. on pg. 12



**with Jeremiah Blocker, St. Johns County Commissioner (District 4)**

**Q: Can you give us an update on attempts to alleviate the traffic situation on State Road A1A, particularly as it pertains to Dolphin Cove?**

A: This situation has been brought to our attention by residents and our staff was able to quickly jump on finding a solution by working with our state legislators. The issue was that traffic on A1A travelling north and south was blocking ingress and egress to the Dolphin Cove neighborhood. A1A is a state road and the county is limited as to what it can do, but we were able to secure some state appropriations for signs and pavement markers that state "Do Not Block." Based on Florida Department of Transportation studies, these types of signs tend to improve the situation, but if we find that they do not, we will continue to address the problem

**Q: What can be done about the sound issues along A1A?**

A: This is a tougher nut to crack. Certainly the sound volume has increased as the traffic has increased. Again, the county is limited as to what it can do with a state road like A1A. There probably won't be sound barriers erected at this point, but we can put them on our wish list with the state.

**Q: What is the latest (as of interview date, March 12) with beach renourishment?**

A: We are presently working on a beach renourishment plan and it is not just to satisfy the small segment of St. Johns County that lives along the beach, but the entire county. The beach is of benefit to our entire community, based on quality of life, tourism and economics. If these homes lose property value, we also lose tax revenue to the county that

could be used for things like roads. Every other county in Florida has a beach erosion plan.

Currently, there are two erosion projects under consideration, one in Ponte Vedra Beach and one in Vilano Beach. We need to get funding from the state and federal governments, but first we need an ongoing local/county source of revenue in order to qualify for matching funds. Some options are tourism funds and the MSTU and the public needs to weigh in on this decision. We do need to get our act together quickly and will vote in late March on whether to allocate tourism dollars as our local funding source. St. Johns County is competing against other parts of the state for these dollars, particularly the Panhandle, which was hit with a major storm most recently.

**Q: Do you have any announcement as to your proposed office hours in Ponte Vedra Beach?**

A: Office hours will be starting in April on Fridays at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. More days may be added in the future if necessary. I think it is important to be available to meet citizens closer to their home. These office hours are by appointment only and citizens should call my office at (904) 209-0304 and staff will schedule an appointment.

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

A: Readers can email me at [bcc4j-blocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4j-blocker@sjcfl.us) or call me at (904) 679-2620.

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with St. Johns County Property Appraiser  
**Eddie Creamer**

**Q: Can you give some background on tangible personal property?**

A: Tangible personal property, which we call "TPP," is unclear, confusing and even unknown by many businesses, especially small businesses. It is subject to tangible personal property tax, which is an ad valorem tax and applied according to value. All business owners are required to file a tangible personal property return that lists the assets used to run the business, including furniture, computers, printers and copiers. The value of these items, less depreciation as determined by the State of Florida depreciation tables, is taxed at the county millage.

**Q: Are there any exemptions?**

A: Each filer is entitled to a \$25,000 exemption, which will be enough for many small business owners, but to get this exemption, the business owner must file a tangible personal property return at least once. If not filed, the Property Appraiser's Office, which can match business licenses to returns filed, will estimate the value of the tangible personal property. Again, Florida Statute says a business must file a return to

receive the exemption, so if the Property Appraiser's Office estimates the value for the business, there is no exemption.

**Q: When are returns due?**

A: The tangible personal property returns are available on our website to be downloaded and filled out. By next year, this return will be automated and able to be filled out online. The deadline for filing is April 1, but if a business owner contacts our office, we will grant an automatic 30 day extension.

We have a lot of new businesses starting up in St. Johns County, including pressure washing companies and landscapers, who in most cases will be exempt — but they must file the return. Identical to real property, tangible personal property filers will receive a TRIM notice in August.

**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](mailto:Eddie@sjcpa.us) or call me at (904) 827-5500.

### FYI Contact Numbers

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

**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff David B. Shoar, [dshoar@sjso.org](mailto:dshoar@sjso.org), (904) 824-8304  
Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

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

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

**Tax Collector:** Dennis Hollingworth, [taxcollector@sjctax.us](mailto: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@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc1johns@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0301  
District 2: Jeb Smith, [bcc2smith@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc2smith@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0302  
District 3: Paul Waldron, [bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0303  
District 4: Jeremiah Blocker,

[bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0304  
District 5: Henry Dean, [bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc5hdean@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](mailto:kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us), (904) 547-7510

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146  
State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, [Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov), (904) 823-2300

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

**Federal Elected Officials**

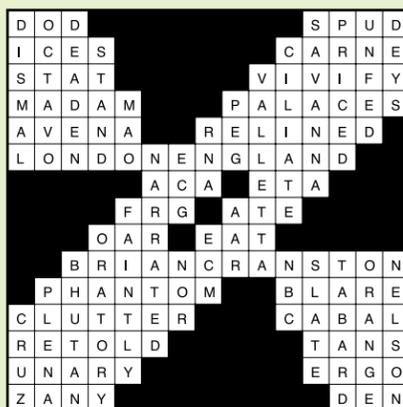
U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501

U.S. Senate:  
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041  
Senator Rick Scott, (202) 224-5274

Answers to puzzles on page 12

## Answers

to our  
**Puzzles**

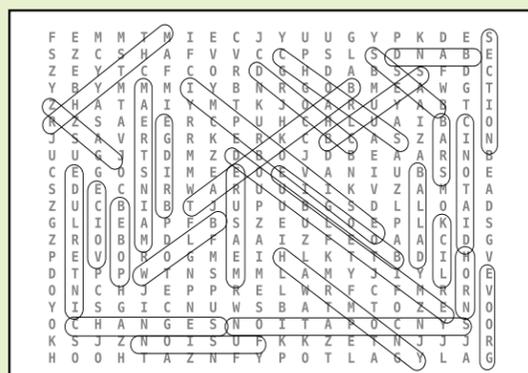


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**CRYPTO FUN**

Telephone the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. band B. music C. trumpet D. south



# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



### Karl Lagerfeld's Cat

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

In the winter of 1925, there was an outbreak of diphtheria in Nome, Alaska that threatened to turn into an epidemic. The town's only doctor estimated the mortality rate could reach 100 percent. Several children had already died. Desperate pleas for diphtheria-antitoxin were sent out by telegraph. The serum that might save the lives of every man, woman, and child in Nome was in Seattle. When efforts to deliver the serum by plane and boat failed due to the weather, a plan was devised to deliver the serum by dog sled.

Relays were established along a route, with different teams assigned to run each leg. A famous driver named Seppala organized the "Serum Run" and selected a particularly difficult leg for himself and his famous dog, Togo. A Siberian Husky named Balto was assigned one of the more dangerous legs. The weather worsened and Balto's team missed the first checkpoint and continued on. At the next checkpoint, the relief team was nowhere to be seen. Balto and his team mushed on through one of the worst blizzards on record, braving blinding snow and the -70 degree wind chill of the long cold winter night.

Musher Gunnar Kaasen, who drove the team, said that he could barely see his hand in front of his face let alone the snow swept trail, but Balto seemed to know the way. When the sled arrived in Nome with the life-saving serum at 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 2, Kaasen walked to the front of the team and collapsed from exhaustion. Bystanders claimed he muttered the words "damn fine dog" as he fell.

The citizens of Nome were saved, and Alaskans annually remember the "Serum Run of 1925" by staging the world's most famous dog sled race, The Iditarod. After the serum run, there was an ongoing feud between the two dogs.

Explorer Roald Amundsen honored Seppala and Togo. President Calvin Coolidge and the public celebrated Balto. The public erected a statue of Balto in Central Park in New York City. Balto and his team toured the United States until his death in 1933. His remains were mounted and are still on display in Cleveland at the Museum of Natural History.

We love our pets. There are about 90 million dogs in the United States and 95 million cats. Famed designer Karl Lagerfeld recently passed away. He is possibly as well known for his cat, Choupette, as for his designs. Lagerfeld loved Choupette, which is French for "sweetheart." Upon his death, it was immediately suggested that Lagerfeld might have left his \$300 million fortune to his cat. If that is true, Choupette will become the second richest animal, and wealthiest cat, of all-time. The wealthiest animal on record was a German Shepherd named Gunter the Fourth. Gunter inherited \$375 million from his owner, German Countess Carlotta Liebenstein.

Gunter and Choupette are both German. Germany allows pets to inherit. The United States does not. If you want to provide for your beloved pet after your death here in the States, you will need to set up a special trust and find someone you have faith in to act as trustee and care for your pet after you are gone. Florida pet trusts are controlled by state statute. The statute allows you to leave money in trust for your pet, but only if the trust assets do not exceed "the amount required for the intended use."

*Scott A. Grant is President of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at [scottg@standfastic.com](mailto:scottg@standfastic.com).*

## Consolidating accounts can lead to clear financial strategy

By Karsten Jacobson  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

None of us can completely control all the things that happen to us. Yet, when it comes to achieving your long-term financial goals, including a comfortable retirement, you do have a great deal of power — as long as you follow a clear, well-defined financial strategy. And one way to help build and maintain such a strategy is by consolidating your financial accounts.

Over the course of their lives, many people pick up a variety of financial accounts from multiple sources. They might have a few IRAs from different providers, a couple of old 401(k) plans from past employers, an insurance policy (or two) purchased many years ago, and a scattershot of stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and other investments.

If this picture describes your situation, you may want to think about consolidating. For one thing, having a variety of accounts can run up a lot of fees. Furthermore, you'll have lots of paperwork to keep track of all your accounts, including several different tax statements. Plus, just by having so many accounts, you risk forgetting about some of them — and if you don't think you'd ever forget about your own money, consider this: Well over \$40 billion in unclaimed cash and property, including 401(k)s, pensions and IRAs, is awaiting return to the rightful owners, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

But beyond reducing your possible fees, paperwork and potential for lost assets,

consolidating your accounts with one provider can give you a centralized, unifying investment strategy, one that can help you in the following ways:

- **Diversification:** If you own several different financial accounts, including IRAs, 401(k)s and online accounts, you might have many similar investments within them. You might even own a cash-value insurance policy containing investments that closely track the ones you have in the other accounts. This type of duplication can be harmful, because if a market downturn primarily affects one type of asset, and your portfolio is dominated by that asset or similar ones, you could take a big hit. But if you have all your investments in the same place, a financial professional can review your holdings and recommend appropriate ways to diversify your investment dollars. (Be aware, though, that while diversification can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.)

- **Staying on track:** With all your accounts in one place, you'll find it easier to keep the big picture in mind and make the moves necessary to help you progress toward your financial goals. Two main actions include buying or selling investments and adjusting your portfolio to make it more aggressive or conservative, depending on your situation.

- **Avoiding mistakes:** If you own several separate accounts, you could see a loss

Financial Strategy cont. on pg. 11



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# SUMMER CAMP

## Guide

### Get prepared for summer camp season

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Summer camp season is just around the corner. Each summer, millions of children depart for campsites around the country to swim, hike, craft, and enjoy the companionship of friends.

Summer camps in North America were first established in the 1880s and were attended by children without their parents for overnight stays. By the 20th century, summer camps had become an international phenomenon, and various organizations hosted traditional summer camps or camps geared toward religion, sports, music and other subjects and activities. According to the American Camp Association, each year more than 14 million children and adults in the United States attend camp. America is home to more than 14,000 day and resident camps (8,400 are overnight camps and 5,600 are day camps). Non-profit groups are the largest sponsors of summer camps.

Many people put off summer camp planning until it is too late. Parents should keep in mind that camps begin registration early in the year and have specific cut-off dates for enrollment. Parents who want to beat the crowds this year can use this guide to help plan a summer camp agenda.

- Attend an orientation seminar. Take the time to visit prospective camps for a tour and use this open house as an opportunity to learn more about the programs offered. If available, find a camp employee to discuss your child's eligibility for enrollment. Some camps may offer webinars for convenience.
- Fill out the enrollment package completely. Each camp has their own requirements for registration. Expect to submit some personal information, including a medical background and proof of insurance, names and numbers

of emergency contacts, and any other pertinent information as it applies to the camper. This may include allergies, fears, physical or mental disabilities or even preferences in camp courses.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Start gearing up now for summer camp plans to guarantee kids attend the camps they prefer.

• Establish payment schedules. Summer camps vary in price. The ACA says camp costs range from \$100 to more than \$1,500 per week. However, many accredited camps offer some sort of financial assistance for children from families with limited financial means. If cost is a factor, be sure to broach the subject.

• Prepare children for the physical challenges a camp may present. Summer camp activities may be rigorous, and campers may need to be cleared by a physician before starting. Be sure to

schedule your child a physical and bring along any pertinent forms. Children also can increase their levels of physical activity compared to the often sedentary nature of

winter. Such preparation can prevent injuries when engaging in outdoor and physical activities.

• Shop for supplies. Camps are likely to provide a list of requirements with regard to clothing and other equipment campers will need. Make sure kids have enough shorts, T-shirts, socks, athletic shoes, swimsuits, toiletries, and other camp necessities before they leave.

• Keep children in the loop. Engage children in the planning process to help alleviate their fears and get them excited about summer camp.

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# Life

travel · pantry raiders · gardening  
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## Get to Know . . .

*Lindsay Hardy*

By Ken Gillespie  
mail@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Lindsay Hardy  
Lindsay Hardy

Lindsay Hardy has found a career in the travel business and it couldn't be a better match for her passion — even her major at Florida Atlantic University was in geography. Early on, her parents recognized her curiosity about places and cultures. They encouraged her travel bug and frequently asked her to accompany them on business trips, including many trips to Washington, D.C. with her dad, who worked as a contractor for the Department of Defense.

travel business as a reservations agent with Windjammer Barefoot Cruises. It wasn't much of a transition to eventually becoming a full fledged travel agent. In 2008 I joined Travel Leaders, an agency affiliated with the world's largest travel network. Originally hired in their Palm Coast office, I've since climbed the ladder and am now president of the company.

**Q: How did you come to Florida?**

A: Sorry, but I've always been here! I'm a Florida native as well as a Jacksonville native. It's a terrific place to live, especially since just about all my extended family live nearby. When we celebrate holidays and special occasions our total gathering numbers almost 50 – 60, including many boisterous Italians. My own two children will grow up with a strong sense of family.

**Q: How did you get started in travel?**

A: In my early 20s, I had wanderlust. Took a year off from college and surprised everyone by moving to Maui, Hawaii. Loved it there. Later returned to Florida, this time to Miami where I continued my education. During my studies I formally entered the

**Q: What travel destinations are especially hot right now?**

A: Iceland has been a unique destination for several years and prices are finally starting to stabilize, making it more affordable. Italy is and probably will be the top travel destination for years to come. There is so much to do and see ... you could visit annually and still find a new village to explore. And a number of our clients are asking about Antarctica. Both cruise and air travel suppliers are expanding their itineraries for these locations.

**Q: What tips do you have for travelers?**

A: For air travel, I urge clients to book flights early. The myth that waiting till near your travel date is just a myth. Airlines open their seating 11 months prior and prices tend to rise as flight time approaches. Another tip: pack light. I know this is difficult, but due to baggage fees and limited overhead

storage on planes it's more costly and troublesome to overpack. My own practice is to pack a suitcase, set it aside for a day, then remove a third of everything. I also advise travelers not to worry about language differences. I've only spoken English when visiting more than 20 countries and not had issues; however, I do encourage clients to at least learn how to say "Hello" and "Thank You" as respect for the culture.

**Q: How do you disconnect from the business for relaxing and other activities?**

A: As a mom with two kids aged six and four, there's not lots of available time for doing other things. My husband Quincy and I are members of a local beach club, where we enjoy family time. My daughter loves looking for sharks teeth and it's amazing how many she finds. Of course we also like to travel. Both kids started traveling at just three months. I'd like my children to widen their perspective about the world as I did while young. This year, we're all heading to Costa Rica for Easter.

**New Ownership** cont. from pg. 1

Ponte Vedra NewsLine in 2013, and quarterly publications The Ocean Breeze in 2003 and Players Journal in 2007.

During that time Mandarin advertising sales representative Heather Seay joined the growing company, as did creative director Julie Gerona, bookkeeper Emily Whitehead, and Ponte Vedra advertising sales representative Jeremy Moriarty.

RT Publishing, Inc. and its community newspapers became Local Community News, Inc., when the company was purchased by Florida Sun Printing in 2015. Pettus joined Local Community News shortly after the purchase and served as publisher until 2017, when he bought the Havana newspapers. Havana Publishing Group, Inc. purchased Florida NewsLine and the other assets of Local Community News on Feb. 1, 2019.

**Financial Strategy** cont. from pg. 9

in one or more of them and overreact by selling investments that could still be valuable to you. But with a consolidated investment platform, you can see more clearly that the impact of a loss may be small, relative to the rest of your holdings.

As we've seen, consolidating your investment accounts with a single provider can have several advantages. So think carefully about bringing everything together — you may find that there's strength in unity.

*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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Photo courtesy Nocatee

**Cruisin' Car Show headlines Nocatee Farmers Market**

The Nocatee Farmers Market: Cruisin' Car Show took place on Saturday, Feb. 16. The Sunshine State Chevilles hosted a car show with a variety of classic cars. Additionally, the event featured crafts and face painting, bounce houses, and shopping from more than 70 local vendors.

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**2018 - 2019 St. Johns County School Calendar**

**APRIL 2019**

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Teacher Optional Planning  
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## Saltwater Fishing

### The Art of Boat Launching: How to put your boat from the trailer into the water

By Capt. Kirk Waltz  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

Some folks find it easy to back a boat from the ramp into the water. Others, though, do not find the task easy or simple. I have for years found doing it over and over again has made it a breeze. Practice makes perfect.

Here are some points for easy boat launching:

1. Always make sure that you have adjusted all three mirrors and that you can see out of both side mirrors without any obstructions.
2. Make sure that the back seat or window does not block your ability to see behind you should you need to turn around.
3. Be patient and drive slowly when backing up. Don't rush.
4. Make sure you have released the tie-down straps so the boat can slide free of the trailer.
5. Make sure you do not release the winch from the bow hook on the front of the boat before it is in the water. Do this too soon and the boat could slide off the trailer onto the ramp.
6. Make sure you have placed the plug in the boat securely. Failure to do this will cause the boat to sink.
7. Make sure the motor is tilted up to avoid damage to the lower unit of the motor.
8. Look behind you to ensure that there is nothing or no one in your way.
9. Before you launch look at the wind and tide. Try to see what these factors will do when the boat goes into the water.

10. Have all your electronics in the boat ready to go. Don't do this on the ramp when others might be waiting to put their boats in.

11. Make sure you have bumpers and boat lines on the boat in the cleats ready to be tied to the dock, especially if you are alone. (If possible, get someone to help you rather than launch alone.)

Another tip: Go down to the ramp without your boat and watch how some folks go through the boat launching procedure. Take a chair and a glass of tea and spend an hour or two watching those with experience. Another great tip is to try it on a slow day during the middle of the week to get some experience, rather than the weekend.

Spring is upon us and I believe the fishing is going to be excellent. Warm weather will push schools of fish onto the rocks and into the inlet. Reds, sheepshead, jacks, ladyfish, trout, drum and a host of others will seek food in this early warming trend. Look for the bait to gather on the beaches and the offshore reefs. This will bring in kingfish, cudas, jacks, snapper, grouper, sailfish, bonita, sharks and tarpon in big numbers. Whether you fish the creeks, river, inlet or the offshore waters — get out and have fun.

*Capt. Kirk Waltz can be heard on the Outdoors Show every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on 1010 am or 92.5 fm giving out tides, weather, and local reports on what's biting with Capt. Kevin Faver and Jaguar Color Analyst Jeff Lageman. For more information call (904) 626-1128 or visit [www.Enterprisefishingcharacters.com](http://www.Enterprisefishingcharacters.com) or [www.outdoorsshow.com](http://www.outdoorsshow.com).*

# Save the Date for the 5th Annual Hug A Survivor Festival!





We invite everyone in the community to join us for this fun, family-friendly and free event to **support all fighters** and **celebrate all survivors!**

When: **May 4th, 2019**  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Where: **University of North Florida's Osprey Plaza**



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**Somebody told  
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dead.  
They lied.  
The proof is in  
your hands.**

## The Truth

Every issue of Ponte Vedra NewsLine reaches more Ponte Vedra homes and businesses than anyone else.

An advertising message here will be seen by more Ponte Vedra residents than through any single outlet on television or online and nearly 4 times as many readers as our closest competitor in print.

While it's true that subscription newspapers everywhere are struggling with lost circulation, free community newspapers like Ponte Vedra NewsLine and its sister papers, The CreekLine and Mandarin NewsLine are growing at unprecedented rates.

### The reasons are simple

**1 - Total Market Coverage:** Ponte Vedra NewsLine is delivered directly to every mailbox in Ponte Vedra (ZIP Codes 32081 and 32082) for free. No subscriptions to cancel, no cable to cut. As Ponte Vedra grows, so does our circulation.

**2 - Quality Content:** Ponte Vedra NewsLine delivers the kind of hyper-local news that readers need and want to receive, which means Ponte Vedra NewsLine makes its way into more readers' homes than direct mail advertising, which often gets no farther than the recycling bin - 95 percent of our readers keep their copy of Ponte Vedra NewsLine for two weeks or longer.\*

**3 - Audience Reach = Results:** If your target audience is Ponte Vedra residents and businesses, with Ponte Vedra NewsLine you will reach your entire target audience with every ad, which means you'll see much better results than with scatter-shot distribution systems like subscription newspapers, search engines and social media advertising.

\*The Circulation Verification Council surveyed NewsLine readers and learned that they are more likely to have higher household incomes and more education than the general population and we beat market demographics in every age group between 35 and 75. When asked if they frequently purchase products or services from our advertisers, 68.4 percent said they do.



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