



# Ponte Vedra NewsLine

DECEMBER 2017 Volume 4 Issue 12

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



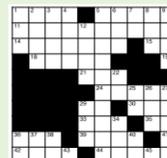
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St. Johns County School  
Board Member, District 4



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Karen Rothen



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## PVHS Ocean of Sound earns first-ever Grand Champion titles

By Marianne McNee  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Marianne McNee

The Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound earned Superior ratings at the Music Performance Assessment at Bartram Trail High School on Nov. 3.

The Ponte Vedra High School Marching Band has won the Grand Champion title two different FMBC Regional Band Competitions held this marching season. This marks the first time in school history that the band has earned these honors.

Featuring its 2017 show, "Jack," the Ocean of Sound placed first among 11 other bands at Middleburg High School's Echoes of Excellence Competition on Sept. 30. Additionally at this competition, the Ocean of Sound Color Guard earned the Best in Class honor in the 4A Class, another first-time honor. Two weeks later, on Oct. 14, PVHS again came out on top against 15 bands at the Golden Eagle Classic at Fleming Island High School.

In addition, at its most recent performance at Music Performance Assessment at Bartram Trail High School on Nov. 3, the Ocean of Sound was awarded a "Superior" rating by the Florida Bandmasters Association.

PVHS cont. on pg. 11

## Annual holiday boat parade set to spread cheer throughout Palm Valley

By Angela Higginbotham  
angela@floridanewsline.com

For decades the residents of Palm Valley have delighted in coming together for the annual holiday season lighted boat parade and the 2017 event is set to be an impressive one. Everyone is invited to attend the event on Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning at 6 p.m.

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. The final viewpoint will be reached by 9:30 p.m.

Public viewing areas will be open to all. There will be 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 Intracoastal Waterway are open to public viewing. Parking will be available. There are also multiple restaurants with great vantage points where

the parade can be viewed over dinner and drinks. These establishments along the waterway include Barbara Jean's, The Palm Valley Fish Camp, Lulu's and Palm Valley Outdoors. Patrons are encouraged to make restaurant reservations ahead of time.

As a long time partner of the parade and one of the area's most generous local businesses, Beach Marine on Beach Boulevard at the Intracoastal Waterway offers a night of free transient slips for all participants in the parade. This kind gesture makes it easier to stay overnight in the beaches area if participants wish. This does not include utilities. The marina is one mile past the conclusion of the parade route and provides a clean, safe overnight docking option for boats of all sizes.

"This festive tradition brings the Palm Valley and Ponte Vedra community together like no other. Everyone looks



Photos courtesy Palm Valley Boat Parade



forward to it all year long," said Palm Valley Boat Parade Public Relations Chair Wendy Patten. "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 nonprofit event, the parade'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 receive a \$5000 prize.

Visit [www.palmvalleyboatparade.com](http://www.palmvalleyboatparade.com) for more information and donation details.

## Ponte Vedra talent is part of annual Gingerbread Extravaganza

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread House Extravaganza, a local holiday tradition, will open for a three-week December run on Nov. 30. The event showcases dozens of gingerbread houses and confection creations made by area pastry chefs and everyday citizens. Ponte Vedra area residents are an important part of this annual event.

Stephanie and Vito Augusta and their children Zoe, Ashtan, and Dylan are builders for the Extravaganza. This year, they've created a dollhouse theme. The Ponte Vedra residents have participated in



Photos courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society  
The annual Jacksonville Historical Society Gingerbread Extravaganza runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, except Sundays.

the show for three years.

Beaches residents and first year builders, Samantha Long and Lisa Long, constructed from confection, "A Very Merry Camper Christmas." Their creation, as others in the show, is entirely edible or almost entirely edible.

The finished gingerbread houses and displays are featured along with dozens of other entries at

Jacksonville Historical Society's Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., across from the Veterans Memorial Arena.

The Gingerbread Extravaganza runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, except Sundays. It's open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. A donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children older than three is suggested. Parking is free.

The Junior League of Jacksonville Sustainers' Festival of Trees is part of the Extravaganza display. The trees range from holiday themes to Florida-related history themes.

Gingerbread cont. on pg. 8

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**Holiday**

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## Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet



**Meet Odie!**

Super sweet Odie is a seven-year-old Lab/Hound mix, whose family gave her up to St. Johns County Pet Center. She is very loving and calm. She is heartworm positive, so the adoption fee is waived and the Friends of the Pet Center are willing to sponsor up to \$250 towards the treatment of the heartworms.



**Meet Anna!**

Anna is a six-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. She was brought to the Pet Center by her owners because they could no longer care for her. Come visit Anna and Odie today at the Pet Center!

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**MYSTERY PHOTO**



Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to [mail@FloridaNewsLine.com](mailto:mail@FloridaNewsLine.com).

Last month's winner was Kathy Williamson.  
It was the Publix at Nocatee.

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answers to puzzles on page 12

N	A	E	S	A	G	A	S	S	T	O	K	E	
A	N	D	A	R	E	N	A	I	E	P	E	R	
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D	A	N	T	E	S	Y	N	C	S	T	I	N	

**Answers to puzzles on page 12:**  
A. movie B. animate C. mouse D. family

**CRYPTO FUN**  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. movie B. animate C. mouse D. family

# take 5

## Crafternoon for Kids scheduled

Crafternoon for Kids with the Arts in Motion Club has a new day and time — the event will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at



Photo by MetroCreative

the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Elementary school-aged kids and their caregivers are invited to get creative with the Arts in Motion Club teens of Nease High School. All supplies will be provided, no registration is required, and it's free. These special monthly events, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, foster creativity, friendship, and positive interactions between teens and kids. Note that all children attending must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of this event.

## Luncheon meeting to be held at historic Casa Marina

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 5 for a luncheon at the historic Casa Marina, 691 1st Street N. in Jacksonville Beach, from 11:30

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. After a brief meeting, the group will welcome performers from the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind. Guests will purchase their meal for \$25 to include a fresh market platter. The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club

is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life through charity, education and community service and all members are volunteers. Payment for this event can be made through PayPal on the website, [www.pontevedra-womansclub.com](http://www.pontevedra-womansclub.com). Reservations are necessary; email [social@pontevedrawomansclub.com](mailto:social@pontevedrawomansclub.com) no later than Nov. 30 by 12 p.m.

com. Reservations are necessary; email [social@pontevedrawomansclub.com](mailto:social@pontevedrawomansclub.com) no later than Nov. 30 by 12 p.m.

## Host families needed for exchange student program

EF's Educational Homestay Program needs community volunteers to host international high school students during their summer language program. Host families share their home, culture and American way of life with visiting students, aged 14 – 18, from June 29 through July 21, 2018. EF staff will keep students busy during the weekdays; host families enjoy their company evenings and weekends. There are weekday bus stops throughout the area. Contact Ginger Manning, Recruiter and Program Leader, at (904) 446-5646 or [efgingwa19@gmail.com](mailto:efgingwa19@gmail.com) for more

information and to schedule an application and home visit.

## Democratic Club plans holiday party

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club announces its holiday party, to be held at TPC Sawgrass, Pub 17 from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Dec. 12. The club will be collecting gifts for needy children at the event. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats](http://www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats) for more information or to register.

## HAWKE to celebrate 30th anniversary with open house

HAWKE (Humane Association of Wildlife Care and Education) will hold a fall open house to celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Although the event is limited to current members of HAWKE, those who are not yet members can join online at [www.hawkewildlife.org](http://www.hawkewildlife.org) with their credit card (\$25 per year for an individual membership) and bring their receipt to the open house. The open

house will feature tours of the center's outside enclosures and inside facilities. HAWKE celebrities Athena the barred owl, Tewa the screech owl, and Dances with Clouds the swallow-tailed kite will make appearances. Founders Sam and Melanie Stage will host the event and HAWKE volunteers will be on hand to

answer questions about rehabilitation



Photo courtesy HAWKE

efforts as well as the experience of

volunteering for the association. A bird of prey that was rehabilitated will be released at 2:30 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be served. Visit [www.hawkewildlife.org](http://www.hawkewildlife.org) for more information.

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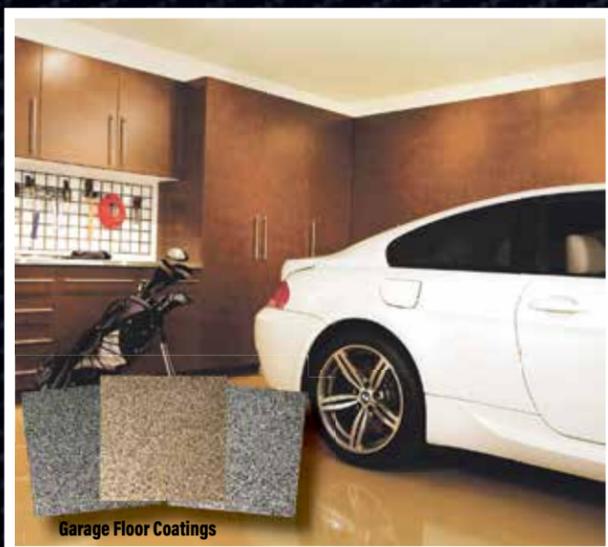
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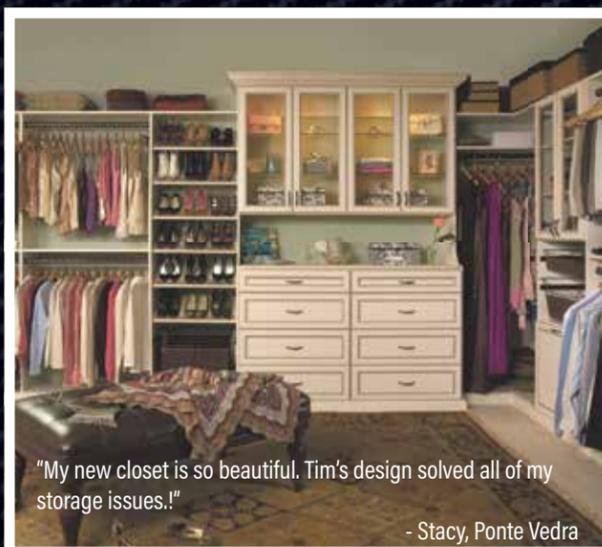
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dec.

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

### 1st - 3rd

#### 41st annual Art and Antiques Show: "London Calling"

Hosted by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital  
Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center  
www.artandantiquesshow.com

### 1st

#### GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation

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

### 2nd - 3rd

#### Katz 4 Keeps cat adoptions

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

### 4th

#### Current Events Discussion Group

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

### 5th

#### Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Ponte Vedra Chapter

10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com.  
**Ponte Vedra Woman's Club luncheon meeting**  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Casa Marina, 691 1st Street N., Jacksonville Beach  
RSVP by Nov. 30: social@pontevedrawoman-sclub.com

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

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road  
www.pontevedravally.com/grief-support  
**Adult Coloring Club**  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library  
(904) 827-6950

### 6th

#### Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach

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

### 7th

#### U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7

7:30 p.m.  
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse  
(904) 460-0243

### 7th - 10th

#### Jacksonville Symphony's Holiday Pops

7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m./8 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Jacoby Hall  
www.jaxsymphony.org

### 11th

#### Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting

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

#### Through Jan. 31, 2018 St. Augustine Nights of Lights

Nightly  
www.visitstaugustine.com/event/nights-lights

#### Jan. 4, 2018 Bettye LaVette at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

www.pvconcerthall.com/e9710-bettye-lavette.aspx

#### Jan. 6, 2018 Bird Walk: Owl Prowl at St. Joe Walkway

5 p.m.  
www.facebook.com/FlaglerAudubon/

#### Jan. 19, 2018 United Way of St. Johns County Givers Gala

Casa Monica Resort and Spa  
bit.ly/giversgala or (904) 829-9721

#### Jan. 24, 2018 Let's Go Science

10:30 a.m.  
Thrasher-Horne Center, Orange Park  
https://thcenter.secure.force.com/ticket#details\_a0S2A00000Yc00vUAB

#### Feb. 3, 2018 Fight For Air Climb to benefit American Lung Association

8:00 a.m.  
Bank of America tower, downtown Jacksonville  
http://action.lung.org/site/TR/Climb/ALASE\_Southeast?pg=entry&fr\_id=16325

#### Feb. 10, 2018 Florida STEM and Health Expo

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
River City Science Academy  
http://www.flstemexpo.com

save the date!

### 12th

#### Lilies of the Valley widow support group

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road  
www.pontevedravally.com/grief-support  
**Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon**  
11 a.m.  
Maggiano's Little Italy, St. Johns Town Center  
RSVP by Dec. 5, sjaird@comcast.net

### 13th

#### Adult Bingo for Bucks - Holiday Fun

3 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library  
(904) 827-6950

### 14th

#### Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)  
Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1  
Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

### 16th

#### Nocatee Farmers Market: Winter Fest

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

### 28th

#### St. Augustine/Jacksonville Newcomers Club Trivia evening/dinner

6 p.m.  
Contact Lea for name of restaurant and to be added to attendee list  
(904) 829-0643 or (904) 814-9612

#### Through Jan. 31, 2018

#### St. Augustine Nights of Lights

Nightly  
www.visitstaugustine.com/event/nights-lights

#### Through Dec. 31

#### Jax Illuminations drive through holiday lights

6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Morocco Shrine Center, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd. S.  
www.jaxilluminations.com

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

**Q: What is the latest on the rezoning for the new K-8 schools, opening next school year?**

A: At the school board meeting on Nov. 14, the board voted to approve Plan C for the rezoning. The board also agreed with Superintendent Tim Forson's proposal to open each of these new schools at the kindergarten through sixth grade level in 2018 – 2019, allowing rising seventh and eighth graders to be grandfathered in to remain at their current school. This will be a pilot program and was done to try to protect the emotional and social well being of middle school students. Seventh grade will be added to the schools in the 2019 – 2020 school year and eighth grade will be added for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The school district is dedicated to making sure the middle school experience for students will meet a range of student needs.

**Q: When can we expect the community building process of opening the new schools to begin?**

A: Once the second semester of this school year starts, we will be choosing the principals, who will then start forming the PTO and SAC, and choosing the school name, mascot and colors.

Additionally, the School District Curriculum Team and Student Services met with the PTO at Ocean Palms Elementary on Nov. 13 to field any questions about what they can answer at this point with regard to curriculum of the new schools prior to the new principals being hired. They will also attend the SAC meeting at Valley Ridge Academy on Dec. 12 at 3:30 p.m. As always, the SAC meeting is open to the public.

**Q: Can you offer any insight into the proposed impact fees that look like they will produce less**

**revenue for the school district?**

A: The school board has not yet made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, who are charged with deciding whether to approve the proposal or not. We have asked for more information from the study's author. The proposed change in revenue became significant when the study recommended changing the categories (that are based house sizes).

**Q: Do you have any other information to share from District 4?**

A: We have a lot of good things happening. First of all, I'd like to recognize the Teachers of the Year and Rookie Teachers of the Year from District 4 schools: Neeti Gregg and Karen Latzko from Ocean Palms; Mary D'Errico and Kaitlin Conrad from PVPV; Lauren Bayliss and Jessica Mora from Valley Ridge Academy; Laurie Stanton and Dawn Jerome from Landrum; Tina Willis and Justin Cooler from Nease; and Marissa Leonard and Katie Baer from Ponte Vedra High School.

Also, Valley Ridge and Ocean Palms both held successful Veterans Day observances, fall sports and homecomings are in full swing, the Nease ROTC cadets volunteered at the recent Jacksonville Air Show and the Ponte Vedra High School marching band has won numerous competitions. Finally, at the ASSIST dinner in October, Allison Nichols, who mentors students and also volunteers at Hugs Across the County, was honored as the volunteer of the year.

**Q: How can our readers contact you?**

A: They can email me at [kelly.barrera@st-johns.k12.fl.us](mailto:kelly.barrera@st-johns.k12.fl.us) or call me at (904) 547-7510.

**Relay for Life of North St. Johns looks ahead to 2018 event**

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County held its annual kick-off party at Nease High School on Oct. 12. During this meeting, school teams that raised a minimum of \$5,000 were awarded a Relay for Life Campus sign to post at the school. Connie VanWinkle from Swiss Point Middle School, Brooke Paget and Roisin Crowley from Durbin Creek Elementary School, and Cathy Ragusa from Julington Creek Elementary were presented this award.



Photo courtesy Kim Aslan  
Roisin Crowley, former Durbin Creek Elementary student and first student to form a Relay team at this school; Kim Aslan, Event Lead Team; and Katrina Stanton, kindergarten teacher at Durbin Creek Elementary.

"School participation in our community event is a vital part of this event's success and some schools have staff and/or student teams each year," Kim Aslan of Relay for Life North St. Johns County said. "Our committee applauds all our participants and teams who continue battling cancer. We look forward to another successful year."

The next monthly team meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Nease High School. Participant and team registration can be completed at [www.relayforlife.org/nstFL](http://www.relayforlife.org/nstFL).

Relay for Life of North St. Johns County is a community event that is seeking volunteers who are highly motivated and determined to battle cancer by joining our committee. There are volunteer opportunities for high school students allowing them to earn service hours. Lastly local businesses can become involved by becoming a sponsor for the event. Email [rfl.northsaintjohnscounty@gmail.com](mailto:rfl.northsaintjohnscounty@gmail.com) for more information.

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**Briefs**

**Sawgrass Storytellers celebrate 10 years**

Dedicated to spreading the magic of THE PLAYERS Championship and the legends to walk its fairways, TPC Sawgrass Storytellers will celebrate their 10th anniversary during an awards luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 12 p.m. in the Clubhouse Sunset Room.

At the event, the Storytellers will donate \$25,000 worth of tips collected throughout the year to five deserving charities. This year's beneficiaries include: veteran support groups St. Johns Veteran's Council and Rolling Thunder, whose members will initiate the ceremony with a ride up Championship Way, Florida Urgent Rescue, Healing Hearts Project at Wolfson Hospital and Therapy Animal Coalition.

"Our group of Storytellers is 50 strong," said Committee Chair Denny Lynch. "We're forever grateful for the generous contributions made by members and guests throughout the year. They give us the ability to turn our personal passion for golf into a chance to help out on some truly amazing projects in the community."

In addition, local men and women in uniform will also be recognized at the luncheon, as winners from this year's military tournament are announced. The event is co-sponsored annually by TPC Sawgrass and the Storytellers and allows troops stationed at the three area Naval bases to compete for proceeds in a fun environment.

The Storytellers are a group of volunteers providing year-round tours of the majestic, 77,000 square-foot Mediterranean Revival-style Clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass, as well as the historic finishing holes of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course. At the end of the year, the group collects tips for deserving charities in the local community. Since inception, the Storytellers have donated more than \$180,000.

**Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital announces 41st annual Art & Antiques Show**

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will welcome nationally acclaimed lecturers and internationally recognized art and antiques dealers to the 41st annual Art & Antiques Show, Dec. 1 - 3, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville. Proceeds fund state-of-the-art services, programs, equipment and facilities to provide healthcare for all children in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia region.

"We invite everyone to the Art & An-

tiques Show to hear engaging speakers and view art and antiques from national and international dealers while contributing to a cause that is vital to children in Northeast Florida," said Jan Kirby, who is chairing this year's show with Frances Hutto and Kelley Kunz.

Guest speakers include designers Maria Crosby Pollard, India Hicks, Kathryn Ireland, Toma Clark Haines, Juli Catlin and William Nash IV. In addition to the celebrated lecturers and more than 40 antiques dealers from around the country and Europe, the 41st anniversary Art & Antiques show will feature a Booth Crawl with The Antiques Diva®, the Royal Affair Gala with the RiverTown Band and the Children's Fashion Show featuring current and former Wolfson patients.

Show hours are from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission to the show is \$15 and lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets to the "Paddington at the Palace" Children's Fashion Show are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free to children age five and under. Tickets are available online at [www.artandantiques-how.com](http://www.artandantiques-how.com), by email at [womensboardwch@bmcjax.com](mailto:womensboardwch@bmcjax.com) or by calling (904) 202-2886.

**Newcomers of North St. Johns to meet for holiday luncheon**

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host a holiday luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 11 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy at the St. Johns Town Center. This luncheon will be held in Maggiano's large banquet rooms decorated for the holidays. Attendees will enjoy the sounds of the holidays presented by Roger Dodd and Doel Burgos.

This luncheon will feature family-style dishes of freshly baked ciabatta rolls, bruschetta, chopped apple and walnut salad, Italian tossed salad, baked rigatoni and meatballs with smoked Italian cheese, chicken marsala, baked eggplant parmesan, tiramisu, New York style cheesecake and freshly brewed coffee, hot and iced tea and sodas.

The total cost for the luncheon is \$28 for members and \$34 for guests. All reservations must be received by Dec. 5. Contact Sue Aird at [sjaird@comcast.net](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net) for a registration form.

Newcomers of North Saint Johns offers a wide variety of activities for camaraderie and fun, including lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, Bunco, day trips, and cultural events.

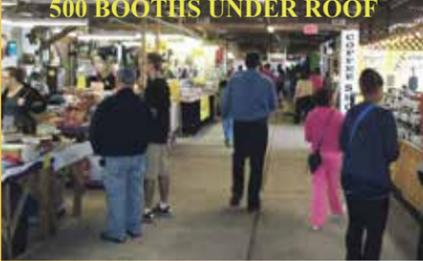
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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

### Double, Bubble, Toil, and Trouble

Tulip Mania swept across Europe in the 1600s. The first bulbs had arrived from Turkey in the hands of an ambassador of the Holy Roman Empire in the late 1500s. They were immediately coveted. Prices rose rapidly and the higher the price went, the more precious the flowering bulbs became. Trading in tulip bulbs reached near hysteria in the Netherlands, where futures markets were founded to trade in bulbs that had not even arrived yet. Prices rose to inexplicably lofty levels, convincing speculators to sell everything to capture the future gains that seemed certain. At the height of the mania, a single bulb brought the price of a 12-acre estate. After the market crashed in 1637, that same bulb was worth no more than the cost of an onion.

Bubbles thrive on human emotion. As prices rise, more and more people get drawn in, afraid they will be left behind and convinced that easy money is at hand. Each of these speculators knows they are behaving foolishly and overpaying and each expects to find a "greater fool" to buy their overpriced asset in the future. At some point, the bubble bursts and the speculators are ruined. Bubbles are usually easy to recognize in the beginning, but they tend to run on and up, defying all logic until they no longer seem illogical.

There are three rules for bubbles. They tend to last much longer than expected. They tend to accelerate at the end. They tend to burst only after everyone is sucked in.

There has been a lot of talk recently about a stock market bubble. I agree. I think we are in one — but I think we are still in the

initial stages. Stock prices have gone up a lot, but there are still plenty of sceptics out there convinced that the market will crash soon. The time to worry is usually when everyone believes! I think this could be a very powerful bubble, one that carries the stock market to dizzying levels. There are no guarantees, the market might correct or crash tomorrow, but it feels to me like a powerful bubble is brewing on the horizon. It might run on for several years.

There is another bubble out there. Rampant speculation has driven the price of BitCoins to dizzying heights this year. In 2010, a bitcoin was worth less than a penny. Today each one is valued at more than \$7000. The first real world purchase using bitcoins took place right here in Jacksonville. A man bought a pizza for 10,000 bitcoins. Today those same coins would be worth more than \$70 million. That's an expensive pizza! Unlike the stock market bubble, I think this one is getting long in the tooth. In April, bitcoins were at \$1200. They are now over \$7000. More distressing, I have heard many start to rationalize why they will keep going higher. The argument is that they are used by criminals on the "dark web."

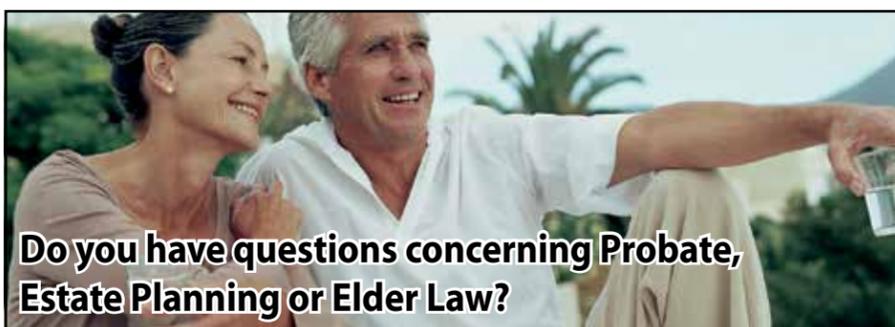
I have been picking investments for people professionally for more than 35 years. I am Scottish. When I see something go from the price of a meal to the price of a yacht in a mere seven years, I suffer from a natural incredulity. Needless to say, I won't be buying any bitcoins.

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).

Are you interested in promoting your business in St. Johns Business Monthly, a feature section included in both The CreekLine and Ponte Vedra NewsLine?



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## Got the entrepreneurial itch?

By Marge Cirillo  
[mail@floridanewline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewline.com)

I was reading an article by Phillip Harper the other day on the 10 best businesses to start in 2018 and beyond according to NBC. Of course, just because everybody's doing it doesn't guarantee success. Any decision to go it alone needs to be informed. Markets never remain static and what's hot today could be as cold as a collection agent's heart a year or so from now.

There's no ironclad way to pick the next big thing — or to avoid buying into the small-business equivalent of the Edsel — but there are ways to insulate yourself from truly unwise decisions. Mostly this involves paying attention to society's big demographic shifts. Ask the right questions and consult the right sources and you can learn who has the money and how they're likely to spend it. Then, think about how you can leverage your knowledge and talents to capture a slice of that market.

There's no substitute for doing your own research, but to help you start the process here are 10 business ideas that figure to be hot for the foreseeable future.

1. Home elder care I. Thanks to the miracle of modern medicine, members of the so-called "greatest generation" are able to live independently, but frequently not without help. Businesses that provide personal services to the elderly — grocery shopping, chauffeuring, and physical therapy — are good bets for the sole operator.

2. Home elder care II. Because of temporary or permanent illnesses and disabilities, part-time assistance may not be sufficient to allow the elderly to remain in their own homes. Sometimes round-the-clock skilled nursing care is required, and agencies that supply competent and honest help are and will be much in demand.

3. Retirement real estate. The elderly like it hot, and boomers will be no exception. Properties in temperate climates, particularly those within easy striking distance of the coast, have begun to go through the roof. Selling retirement real estate, or providing services to firms that do, figures to be a growth industry.

4. Trust and investment services. Helping boomers manage the vast wealth they collectively possess will provide plenty of work for accountants, investment advisers, insurance agents, lawyers specializing in trusts and estates and everyone in between.

5. Personal improvement. Long obsessed with how they look and feel, boomers won't hesitate to spend retirement dollars on regimens and treatments that let them cling to at least the illusion of youth. Entrepreneurs who effectively deliver such nostrums as Pilates and yoga, Botox and other beauty treatments and nutritional counseling will tap into a gold mine.

6. Retirement recreation. One of the benefits of good health is the ability to remain active, and boomers will pursue vigorous activities in retirement as no generation before. Golf, fly fishing, hiking, bicycling are just a few of the pursuits on which retirees will drop lots of money.

7. Resort services. Active boomers and younger enthusiasts will fuel a development boom in the most scenic parts of the country. Overcrowding in the national parks and the rapid development of the intermountain West are two signs of this. With more residents comes the need for more services: restaurants, dry cleaners, copy centers — name it.

8. Outsourcing I. Not all of the jobs being outsourced by U.S. corporations are heading overseas. Plenty of the work is staying at home in the hands of independent contractors in the areas of accounting, law, human resources.

9. Outsourcing II. Not all outsourcing takes place beyond the corporate walls. Often the work is performed by temps supplied to companies by agencies. An agency with a particular "hook" — in other words the ability to provide competent workers a demonstrated sought-after skill — figure to do well in the current and future business environment.

10. IT consulting. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts eight of the 10 fastest growing jobs will involve computer technology. Clearly, the world is becoming more wired and consultants who can help users adopt new hardware and software products and resolve problems will not have a difficult time finding work.

Marge Cirillo is the Florida Small Business Development Council consultant for St. Johns County. She can be reached at [m.cirillo@unf.edu](mailto:m.cirillo@unf.edu) or (904) 209-1295.



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# Holiday Gift Guide 2017

**Gingerbread** cont. from pg. 1

“This is an event for all ages,” said Jacksonville Historical Society Executive Director Emily Lisska. “It’s also the most creative art show in town.”

Special Gingerbread Extravaganza activities and field trips are also available to schools, seniors and other groups. Visit [info@jaxhistory.org](mailto:info@jaxhistory.org) or call (904) 665-0064 for more information.



Photos courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society  
The annual Jacksonville Historical Society Gingerbread Extravaganza runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, except Sundays.

## How shopping locally can help you and your community

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

The benefits associated with shopping locally are many, and the following are just a few reasons why shoppers may want to look no further than their own communities when planning their next shopping excursions.

**Keeps money in the local economy:** Locally-owned businesses often put a larger share of their revenue back into their communities. Small business owners may be more inclined to employ local residents, giving more people in the community solid employment. Business owners may reach out and support other neighborhood efforts, such as fundraising initiatives for charities and schools. By shopping at local stores, you have a hand in supporting these efforts as well.

**Save money:** When factoring in travel time and the cost of fuel, shopping locally makes more sense than driving to a faraway mall. In addition, repeat customers who establish a rapport with a local business owner may find that such owners are more inclined to price match or work with loyal customers to find lower prices through suppliers.

**Diversify your home and lifestyle:** Shoppers who prefer more unique styles may find local businesses cater to their needs better than large chain stores. Local shops tend to produce more unique items that are not available nationwide.

**Promote entrepreneurship:** Small businesses are an essential element to the country’s economic growth. By shopping locally, consumers are showing their support for this important segment of the national economy.

**Help establish local pride:** Independent shops contribute to the fabric of a community and what makes it special and unique. Tourists and other visitors will be much more inclined to remember a local shop rather than a big chain in a particular neighborhood.

**Attract other businesses:** Private and public sector businesses tend to gravitate around anchor stores. Should a local store be successful, banks, restaurants, salons, and other businesses may move in as well.

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## Hope for the Holidays returns to help food-insecure children

By Willow Logue  
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Dec. 7 in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation will continue its tradition of packing holiday meals for less fortunate children in the area.

Hope for the Holidays started six years ago with student volunteers from local elementary schools packing 500 bags for children identified by Blessings in a Backpack as being food insecure. This year, thanks to funds generated during the annual Furyk & Friends Concert and Celebrity Golf event as well as donations from PepsiCo, the foundation will pack more than 3,500 bags with canned ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cornbread, cereal and a special treat of hot chocolate and candy canes.

“This event is about kids and families sharing in the gift of giving by packing bags for those less fortunate,” said Tabitha Furyk.

Data provided by Feeding North-East Florida reports there are 81,660 children in the area who are unsure of where the next meal will come from and the foundation has seen the need increasing from year to year. In addition, according to a Unilever study, 20 percent of food-insecure children live in households who earn too much to qualify for most of the federal nutri-



Photos courtesy Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation  
2016 Hope for the Holidays

tion-assistance programs. Instead, these families rely on charities and nonprofit organizations to put enough food on the table.

Recognizing the need to reach more children, the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation has continued to work with many charities who have kids in need of some help this holiday season. This year’s recipients of the holiday bags will include students from the First Coast Blessing in a Backpack program in Duval and St. Johns counties, the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation, Hugs across the County, Anthony J. Stinson Association for Change along with other smaller organizations requesting assistance.

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation is dedicated to helping children and families in need. By providing project

Hope for the Holidays cont. on pg. 12

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#### Middle School (6-8)

#### Open House for Parents

Bartram Campus

Jan. 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

#### Lower School (PreK-5)

#### Open House for Parents

Whitehurst Campus

Jan. 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

#### Upper School (9-12)

#### Open House for Parents

San Jose Campus

Jan. 5, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

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## Ponte Vedra Woman's Club hosts charity event

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club hosted a Wine and Apps charity event on Oct. 26 at Pusser's Caribbean Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds will benefit local charities which this year include BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), Gabriel House, Rethreaded, SAYS (St. Augustine Youth Services) and the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind. The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club was established in 1970 by 15 women who wanted to work together for a charitable cause. Their focus was to hold social events and fundraisers for the benefit of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. As the Ponte Vedra and surroundings communities grew, so did membership in the club. With increased membership, the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club was able to support a few more local charities, and that trend continues. Visit [www.pontevedra-womansclub.com](http://www.pontevedra-womansclub.com) for information on how to become a member.



Photo courtesy Ponte Vedra Woman's Club



## This 'n That

By Mims Cushing  
mail@floridanewsline.com

### Texting sure can be a production

If you're ever feeling blue because you miss your far-away family, here's something that can act as a pick-me-up. Choose a special word, add it to your email address list, and write down all the family members you want to text at the same time. So when you see that special word on your cell phone, it means something's going on that everybody wants to know about, or perhaps they have a question for you. Last Saturday. I had a question for them.

Mims: "Hey guys, who can recommend a good vodka?" I have a friend coming over who prefers vodka, not wine, before we go out to dinner.

Jay (my son, the girls' fun uncle): "That's some kinda friend!"

Mims: "She's been in Paris for months caring for her ailing brother. She just came back to Jacksonville for a week to check things out at her home.

Mims: (I expect my granddaughters to weigh in any minute. They do.) (Please know they have just heard about the stuff. They are still under the legal age for drinking.)

Mackenzie (the oldest, 20): "Gray Goose or Titos."

Kallie (the middle one, 18): "Ketel One. It helps my stocks!" (Uncle Jay got her "into the market" for her birthday and bought her a few shares.)

Jay: "Right on, Kal!"

Dave, her father, signs on with the thumbs up Emoji.

Jay: "It's all just rotting potatoes anyway."

We are only going a few hundred yards away from my house to dinner in Sawgrass so we only have to drive a short mile to get home after dinner.

Melissa (my daughter, a trained EMT): "Vodka will diminish worries about her brother. Get Popov."

Mims: "She's bringing tonic. I like vodka and tonic."

Schuyler (the youngest, 16): "Going wild, Grammie!"

Mackenzie (a junior in college who knows a thing or two about not driving under the influence): "Uber! No need to drink and drive!"

And on it went. I decided to get vodka at Publix. A wine seller stopped me in the middle of the wine section when I asked where the vodka was.

She said, "We only sell wine here. Where are you from?"

I thought that was rude. I told her I live nearby.

"Well, you can go to ABC Liquors in back." I forgot that Publix doesn't sell hard liquor.

Over to ABC. When I was moving last year I probably raided their empty box stash to use for packing 20 times. It was about time I made a purchase. I went with Tito's, half the price of the imported stuff.

Home I went with the bottle tucked under my arm, and then ... more email drama. (Did you know the average person checks on his or her cell phone 74 times a day, according to The Wall Street Journal?)

Jay (Just back from the vet): "Brodie hurt his leg and has a cast on it." (Brodie is his Wheaten Terrier)

Linda (Jay's fiancée): "It's a stylin' blue. Fashionista!"

Schuyler: (the dog's primo sitter): "OMG AWWW!!!"

Mackenzie: "OMG. He needs a wheelchair."

Mims: "Can I send him my cane? Crutches? Walker?"

Kallie: "Aw..."

Melissa: "Can I sign his cast?"

My friend comes over. We have a snifter of vodka and retire to Aqua Grill. I let her take the rest of the bottle home.

A day passes. Jay goes to the vet and returns.

Jay: "He bit his way through the cast in 24 hours! He's way low Bro. Somebody is a really lousy patient. He got coned."

Melissa: "OMG! Not the cone?? Maybe dip his leg in vodka?"

All things come back to vodka... I am sure Jay has vodka for Brodie's leg.

We were done with the Vodka Summit. If you're wondering how we ever get any work done with all this texting going on, so am I.

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- Ruth H.

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

### Karen Rothen

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Nocatee resident Karen Rothen happened upon the interior design business while working another job in New York City that she didn't love. Rothen and her husband, Ed Rothen, were both originally from Connecticut, but his job took them to NYC when they were in their 20s. She found a job in Manhattan for a marketing research firm, but it didn't take long to realize that wasn't for her. The entry level position she found at the commercial design office instead would set the tone for her career.

Despite moving back to Connecticut, having a daughter, Erica, and then eventually moving to Ponte Vedra Beach, she maintained her interest in interior design and even started her own firm. The family moved to Marsh Landing in 1999 and Rothen was able to do design work part time while she spent time with her daughter, who was in elementary school at the time. As Erica grew, Rothen spent more time honing her craft.

"What really escalated my business was moving to Nocatee about four years ago," Rothen said. "We downsized once Erica was in college and I was able to meet a lot of people moving to the area from out of town who needed help with design."

Now, her business runs the gamut from new construction to single room redesigns to hurricane restoration and renovation.

#### 1. What do you like most about living in Nocatee?

I love the feeling of being away from the hustle and bustle. I feel a sense of calm and peace when I enter my neighborhood. Also, everyone is very friendly and willing to make new friends, since nearly everyone has moved here from somewhere else.

#### 2. What is the most unique or interesting design job you have tackled?

I would say a home I worked on in Marsh Landing several years ago. The client had traveled the world and had many artifacts collected from those travels. They wanted them incorporated in the design. There was a canoe hanging from the ceiling and secret doors in the library.

#### 3. If you could give everyone just one piece of design advice, what would it be?

The main thing is to take your time and think about how you live — before you go out and make purchases. Also, remember that a designer does not have to cost a fortune and can actually save you money in the long run from impulse purchases.

#### 4. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I see myself working — and maybe even more so. I'll stay very current, of course. Even in my own home, I stay current. But it's important to remember that you can always change pillows or wall colors, while large items should be timeless.

#### 5. What are some of the latest colors and design trends?

Blues are very "in" and a blush color is also becoming popular. Greys are safe ... I don't really recommend a lot of beige because you have to be careful due to the undertones. Also, gold is coming back. Gold light fixtures, plumbing fixtures. Shiny brass is coming back in style.



Photo courtesy Jenna Alexander

Karen Rothen, owner of Karen Rothen Interior Design

PVHS cont. from pg. 1

"I could not be prouder of each and every band member," said Band Director Jermaine Reynolds. "They have played their best runs of the show at the most important moments, with emotion and commitment."

This is the eighth year of the marching band at PVHS, but last year was the first time the Ocean of Sound had official band uniforms, a big step in attaining performance impact and stature. The band made its FMBC State Competition debut in 2016, a valuable experience for everyone.

The size of the band has also increased this year, with more than 100 students including Elie Hill, a PVPV/Rawlings fourth grader, who portrays Jack with great style and energy.

"To get to the next level, we have to focus on all of the little things we're always talking about in practice. Sustaining energy throughout the entire show. Maintaining the sound through every phrase. More emotion," said Reynolds. "It's easy to move from a 70 to a 75 in competition, but much, much harder to move from 78 to 80."

The Ponte Vedra High School Marching Band will compete at the 2017 FMBC State Championships on Nov. 18 in Tampa.

Visit [www.pvband.com](http://www.pvband.com) for more information.

## Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at [editor@FloridaNewsLine.com](mailto:editor@FloridaNewsLine.com)

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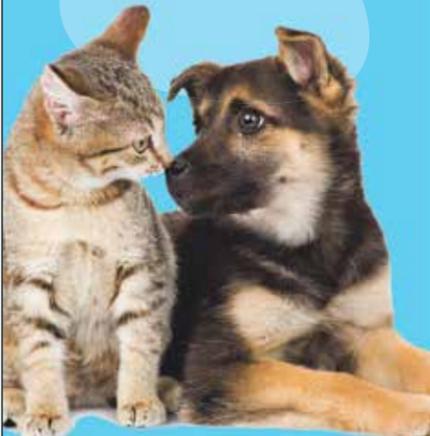
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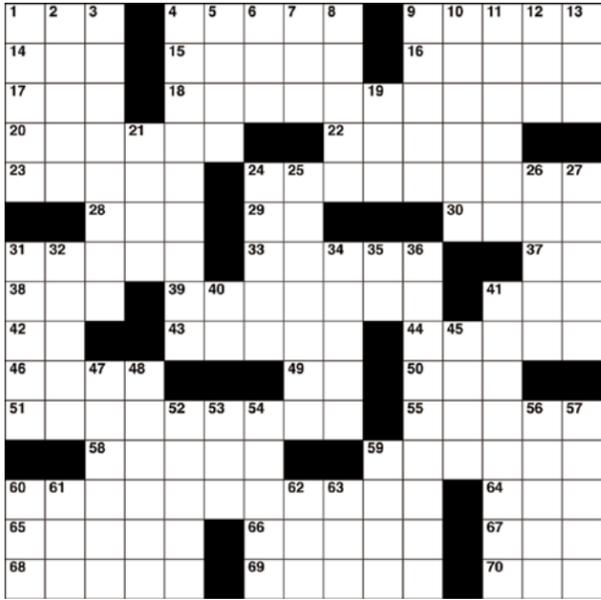
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# Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. No (Scottish)
4. Heroic tales
9. A way to tend
14. Not or
15. Where rockers play
16. Dutch name for Ypres
17. Ingested
18. A resident of California
20. Unfounded rumor
22. Oats
23. Type of women's coat
24. Life forms
28. Every
29. Alternating current
30. Withered
31. "Gymnopedies" composer
33. Plate glasses
37. Muscial artist \_\_\_ DeBarge
38. Before
39. Arrange in steps of size
41. Electron cloud model

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Civil Rights group
2. Early Slavic society
3. Mammals that lack incisors and canines
4. Blasphemy
5. Israeli city
6. Put this in your hair
7. Black tropical American cuckoo
8. Month in the Islamic calendar
9. Begets
10. Court game
11. Painkiller
12. New Zealand parrot
13. Suffix
19. Egg cells
21. Another name for Thor
24. About pontiff
25. The academic world
26. Raise
27. Civil rights city in Alabama
31. Encompasses
32. Helmet
34. Nostrils
35. Lovable Spielberg alien
36. Divides
40. Ruthenium
41. Preceding all others in time
45. Past participle of lie
47. Fastener
48. Overindulged
52. Ancient lyric poem
53. Ardent supporter
54. Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire
56. A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
57. Semitic fertility god
59. Millisecond
60. Cool!
61. "Take on Me" singers
62. ESPN sportscaster Bob
63. Accommodating place

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Walt Disney.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 20 = m)

**A. 20 8 7 15 14**

Clue: Film

**B. 17 12 15 20 17 5 14**

Clue: Make to move

**C. 20 8 6 1 14**

Clue: Mickey is one

**D. 3 17 20 15 22 18**

Clue: Relatives

## READY-TO-WEAR WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- BLOUSE
- BUTTONS
- COAT
- COLLAR
- CORSET
- COTTON
- COUTURE
- CREASE
- CLIFF
- DESIGN
- DRESS
- FROCK
- HEM
- INSEAM
- JACKET
- LAPEL
- LENGTH
- LINGERIE
- PLEAT
- POCKET
- POLYESTER
- SEAM
- SEASONAL
- SHELL
- SHIRT
- SILK
- SKIRT
- SLACKS
- SPORTS COAT
- SPORTSWEAR
- SWIMSUIT
- TAILOR
- TUCK
- UNDERWEAR
- WOOL
- ZIPPER

# Faith News

**Through Dec. 6:** Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, will have Christmas trees available for sale at the church from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. on weekends and 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. on weekdays. Proceeds benefit youth summer missions. Visit [www.pvpc.com](http://www.pvpc.com) or call (904) 285-8225 for more information.

**Dec. 8 – 10:** Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, will host A Bethlehem Visit from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. each evening. More than 200 costumed cast members will recreate the city of Bethlehem as it might have been on the night of Jesus' birth. After a walk through

the city, free cookies and hot chocolate are available. The event is free; parking is \$5 per vehicle. Free shuttles will operate from the PGA Tour (TPC) parking lot located just west of A1A on Palm Valley Road to the church. Call the church at (904) 285-8225 for more information.

**Dec. 12:** Chabad@the Beaches will host its annual community Chanukah celebration at the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center, 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach. The children's Chanukah Wonderland, fire juggling show, fun fair concluding with a concert featuring Israeli violinist

Faith News cont. on pg. 14

**Hope for the Holidays** cont. from pg. 9

specific funding, the Foundation can supply food for underprivileged students, care for children with life-limiting or threatening conditions, and help provide the support that families need through shelter, health-care and safety programs. The Furyk & Friends event and generous sponsors help the foundation continue to contribute to the mission of Blessings in a Backpack, Community Hospice, and Wolfson Children's Hospital among others. Visit [www.jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com](http://www.jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com) for more



Photos courtesy Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation  
2016 Hope for the Holidays

information about the foundation or the Hope for the Holidays event.

Celebrate Christmas with us!

**Christ Church Ponte Vedra**  
400 San Juan Drive  
Ponte Vedra Beach

**Christmas Eve**  
2 p.m. Traditional  
Main sanctuary

2 p.m. Contemporary  
with Christmas pageant  
Contemporary worship center

4 p.m. Contemporary  
Contemporary worship center

6 p.m. Traditional  
with Christmas pageant  
Main sanctuary

8 p.m. Traditional  
Main sanctuary

10 p.m. Traditional  
Main sanctuary

**Christmas Day**  
10:00 a.m. Traditional  
Christmas Eucharist  
Main sanctuary

**Christ Church Serenata**  
South Ponte Vedra  
Civic Association

**Christmas Eve**  
3 p.m. Informal  
Christmas Eucharist

[christepiscopalchurch.org](http://christepiscopalchurch.org)

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# Salt Water Fishing

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewline.com

Once again it's the time of year to find the perfect gift for the fishing people in your life this holiday season. When shopping there is always that little bit of uncertainty as to whether the gifts you buy are actually something they need or will even use. Your goal is to find the perfect gift, but your confidence to do so just isn't quite there. Here are a few ideas that will hopefully make this year's shopping a little easier:

If money is not an object, then definitely a new fishing boat is the way to go. Ranging in price from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars, this is an idea that probably will not be on too many people's shopping lists; however, a fishing kayak is a different story.

Kayaks provide a fishing platform capable of chasing down multiple species of fresh and saltwater fish. From rivers, to creeks, lakes, ponds, marshes, and even the ocean, one could expect a kayak to provide the access required to catch bream and bass on one day, trout, reds, and flounder on another and even kingfish and cobia on yet another day. Because of their relatively low costs to purchase (usually a few hundred dollars up to a couple thousand), and little to no cost to own after purchase (no gas, no maintenance, no registration fees), a fishing kayak really could make a great

gift for someone wanting to take their fishing talents to another level.

For the new or established fishing person you may be shopping for, there are still many more gift ideas that won't put as big of a dent in the wallet. Here are a few more ideas:

Wearable inflatable life vests, additional life jackets, proper Coast Guard equipment, first aid box, and any other items that might relate to the safety of a fishing trip. Fishing tools, such as bait knives, filet knives, and fishing pliers. New generation coolers, which can hold ice and cool contents for days instead of hours. Additional tackle boxes or trays to increase tackle storage. New marine electronics such as GPS, sonar, and marine radios, and finally something really easy: clothing. Not just shirts and shorts, but also the products that are designed to protect against UV rays including sunglasses and hats.

Fishing Report: Speckled perch, also known as Crappie, should be turning on in area creeks and lakes during cooler weather periods with live minnows for bait. On the warmer days, switch to worms for bait and a possible shellcracker bite.

Whether you catch one, some or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.

Faith News cont. from pg. 12

Boris Savchuk will be featured. Family fun begins at 5 p.m. followed by a menorah lighting with free chanukah delicacies at 6 p.m. Dinner packages with a choice of Zahava's famous falafel or a kiddie hot dog package will be available for purchase. The event is open to the public and there is no charge, but donations are always appreciated. Visit [www.ChanukahWonderland.com](http://www.ChanukahWonderland.com) for more information or call (904) 543-9301.

**Dec. 12:** Chabad of St. Johns is sponsoring a Chanukah Light Show and Helicopter Gelt Drop at Nocatee Splash Park at 6 p.m. The show will be accompanied by lively music and a smorgasbord of Chanukah treats. This celebration is free and open to the public. Visit [www.JewishStJohnsCounty.com](http://www.JewishStJohnsCounty.com) or [www.facebook.com/JewishStJohnsCounty](http://www.facebook.com/JewishStJohnsCounty) for information about more Chanukah events and public Menorah lighting ceremonies,

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## Sharks cross country team goes to state competition

By Willow Logue  
mail@floridanewsline.com

It was an exciting Saturday in Lake City on Nov. 4 as, for the first time ever, the Ponte Vedra High School cross country boys team qualified to compete at the State Championships. Their third place finish placed them ahead of St. Johns Country rivals Bartram Trail and Creekside high schools. Caleb Davidson and Cameron Heinz earned All Region individual honors by placing ninth and 13th, respectively.



Photos courtesy Willow Logue  
Cameron Heinz, Parker Romero, Caleb Davidson at the Oct. 28 FHSAA 3A District 4 Cross Country meet.

11, Moritz finished in eighth place with a time of 18:39 as the girls' team placed fourth. The boys' team earned seventh place as Romano recorded the fastest time for the Sharks, crossing the line in 16:48, followed closely by Heinz.

Previously, on Oct. 28 the runners laced up on their home course for the FHSAA 3A District 4 Cross Country meet. The boys took home third place overall while marking a new record of 17:02 as the team average. Juniors Davidson and Parker Romero along

with sophomore Heinz finished in the top 10 of all racers. The first seven to finish for the boys' Ponte Vedra team all had their personal best times. The Lady Sharks won second place overall. Seniors Moritz, Reagan Darrah and Avery Knehans were recognized for finishing in the top 10.

The Ponte Vedra High School cross country varsity girls also dominated in the toughest region in 3A competition, but this meet was all about the number four. The girls finished fourth at the meet, it will be their fourth visit to the State Championship and team captain, Claire Moritz, claimed individual honors with a fourth place finish overall.

At the state meet in Tallahassee on Nov.



Lauren Bing, Avery Knehans, Reagan Darrah and Claire Moritz at the Oct. 28 FHSAA 3A District 4 Cross Country meet.

## Ocean Palms students collect coupons for troops

The fourth grade students at Ocean Palms Elementary are conducting a yearlong service project called Coupons for Troops, which specifically benefits military families stationed in Germany. Since coupons are not readily available overseas, commissaries have an agreement with the manufacturers that allow the use of expired coupons on overseas bases. Collection bins for current and expired coupons are located at the front entrance to the school. Food coupons are especially in high demand to help these families save money. The school has partnered with Post 233 American Legion Auxiliary, Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley to send the coupons to two adopted bases in Germany.



Photo courtesy Pam Riley

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